



# MERRIMACK COLLEGE



## PROVOST BRIEFING

April 18, 2017

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***Here are some of this week's top stories and a look ahead.***

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- Liberal Studies Core Dialogue: Number 3, April 18
- CETL Tech Training with Sue Burch, April 18 & 19
- Faculty Panel on Experiential Education @ Merrimack, April 20
- Technology Design Tip of the Week
- News from Academic Technology: Blackboard Outage Reminder
- Upcoming Federal Sponsored Funding Opportunities
- Open Office Hours with the Provost, every Wednesday
- Sharing Our Stories: Disability Awareness Training for Faculty, April 19
- Take Back the Night, April 19
- Create Your Impact: DiSC Assessment, April 20
- Alpha Phi Sigma Criminology Honor Society Induction, April 20
- Open Office Hours with Melissa Siegel, every Friday
- KDP (Kappa Delta Pi) Induction, April 22
- Introduction to Plain Language for Health Communication and MedlinePlus, April 26
- Community-supported Agriculture (CSA)

- Merrimack College Research and Creative Achievement Conference, May 2

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## **Liberal Studies Core Dialogue: Number 3**

**Tuesday, April 18**

**4:00 - 5:00 PM**

**Stevens Auditorium**

The General Education Committee has been leading a series of dialogues to think about how to restructure the Liberal Studies Core. As faculty have expressed a strong interest in a dialogue that focuses on how we can use the Mission Statement and Augustinian Values to help create a meaningful and distinctive General Education Curriculum, you are invited to attend a third dialogue to discuss mission, values, and the LS Core. The General Education Committee, along with Drs. Joe Kelley, Autumn Ridenour, Mark Allman, and Father Ray Dlugos will facilitate this dialogue. Please RSVP at: <https://goo.gl/forms/o3v7FI4lwjonbSJv1>

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## **CETL Tech Training with Sue Burch**

**April 18 & 19**

April's sessions have been designed on your feedback and include individual appointment opportunities. Register or just stop by to learn new ways to invigorate your teaching, collaborate with colleagues, engage your students and deepen their learning. Times and session descriptions can be found here: [Registration Link](#)

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## **Faculty Panel on Experiential Education @ Merrimack**

**Thursday, April 20**

**4:00 - 5:00 PM**

**Mendel 169**

Please join us!

Faculty from all academic areas will share how they integrate experiential learning opportunities into their curriculum. The panelists will describe their course or program and how they incorporate assessment and student reflection to create a meaningful experience for the student. They will also speak to what works and areas for improvement. Light refreshments will be served. Topics to be covered will include:

- Internships & Cooperative Education
- Faculty/Student Research
- Global Education
- Service Learning
- Clinical & Practicum

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## **Technology Design Tip of the Week**

Google Docs provides many ways to go paperless through sharing and collaboration options. Many of the tools and features can be used on their own or in combination to meet varying needs. This weeks tip shows you how to use the commenting feature with your students. [Click here to watch the video.](#)

*Brought to you by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and Academic Technology.*

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## **Important Blackboard Outage Reminder**

**News from Academic Technology**

Blackboard is being upgraded to deliver a better user experience for students and faculty. To accomplish this upgrade, **Blackboard will be down beginning midnight, May 15th - midnight May 22nd**. To minimize any inconvenience, here are some key Pre-Outage Preparation & Dates to Remember:

- April 18th - SU2017 Bb Course Shells will be created & faculty will be enrolled
- May 8th - Students will be enrolled into Bb SU2017 course shells
- May 11th - Deadline for requests for Bb course copies and merges for SU2017  
Requests after this date will be completed when migration is complete
- May 14th - Deadline to complete grading & download Grade Center to spreadsheet  
[Watch the instructional video here.](#)
- For more information about this outage visit the [Academic Technology Resources site](#).

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## **Upcoming Federal Sponsored Funding Opportunities:**

### **Fiscal Year 2018 Air Force Young Investigator Research Program (YIP)**

**Department of Defense**

**Air Force Office of Scientific Research**

The Air Force YIP supports scientists and engineers who have received Ph.D. or equivalent degrees in the last five years and show exceptional ability and promise for conducting basic research. The objective of this program is to foster creative basic research in science and engineering; enhance early career development of outstanding young investigators; and increase opportunities for the young investigator to recognize the Air Force mission and related challenges in science and engineering. **Proposal deadline: June 1, 2017**

### **Facilitating Research at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions:**

#### **National Science Foundation**

The Research in Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) and Research Opportunity Awards (ROA) funding opportunities support research by faculty members at predominantly undergraduate institutions (PUIs). RUI proposals support PUI faculty in research that engages them in their professional field(s), builds capacity for research at their home institution, and supports the integration of research and undergraduate education. ROAs similarly support PUI faculty research, but these awards typically allow faculty to work as visiting scientists at research-intensive organizations where they collaborate with other NSF-supported investigators.

**Proposal deadline:** Proposals Accepted Anytime. Submission deadlines vary by program and proposals must meet program-specific requirements to be considered for review. PIs should contact cognizant program officers for guidance.

#### **CISE Research Infrastructure**

#### **National Science Foundation**

The CISE Research Infrastructure (CRI) program drives discovery and learning in the core CISE disciplines of the three participating CISE divisions by supporting the creation and enhancement of world-class research infrastructure that will support focused research agendas in computer and information science and engineering. This infrastructure will enable CISE researchers to advance the frontiers of CISE research. Further, through the CRI program CISE seeks to ensure that individuals from a diverse range of academic institutions, including minority-serving and predominantly undergraduate institutions, have access to such infrastructure.

**Proposal deadline: January 17, 2018**

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## **Other Events this Week**

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## **April 19th (and every Wednesday)**

**Open Office Hours with the Provost**

**8:30 - 10:00 AM**

**Provost's Suite, Austin Hall**

The Provost will have open office hours for faculty to drop in every Wednesday from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM. Whether you have a specific topic or just want to say "hello," all faculty are welcome to visit.

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## **April 19th**

**Sharing Our Stories: Disability Awareness Training for Faculty**

**12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch will be provided**

**Provost's Conference Room, Austin Hall**

A collaboration by Accessibility Services, the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning, and the Higher Education Graduate Program

Students with disabilities make up about 11% of all college students. Colleges are charged with being inclusive and nondiscriminatory, but it can be hard to know how best to support college students with disabilities. This is a pilot training, and we look forward providing tips, support, and to hearing your feedback as a means to better support students and the faculty who teach them. We hope you will consider participating in this professional development opportunity!

**[RSVP: "Sharing Our Stories: Disability Awareness Training for Faculty"](#)**.

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## **April 19th**

**Robert Orsi, Author of *History and Presence***

**4:00 PM**

**Writers House**

Robert Orsi is Professor of Religious Studies and History and Grace Craddock Nagle Chair in Catholic Studies at Northwestern University. He researches, writes, and teaches about religion in the United States, in the past and in contemporary contexts, with a particular focus on American Catholicism. Find out more about Robert Orsi's work [here](#).

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## **April 19th**

**Take Back the Night**

**Wednesday, April 19**

**7:00 PM**

Staff, faculty, and students invite the community to this year's Take Back the Night, (TBTN) event, which aims to build awareness of and end all forms of sexual violence. TBTN is a national effort dating to the 1960s. Please encourage your students and/or offer course credit as you see fit. Professor Debra Michals will open the event this year.

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## **April 20th**

**Create Your Impact: DiSC Assessment**

**8:30 - 10:30 AM**

**Cascia Hall**

For more information, visit the [Create Your Impact](#) site.

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## **April 20th**

Alpha Phi Sigma Criminology Honor Society Induction

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Cascia Hall

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## **April 21st (and every Friday)**

Open Office Hours with Melissa Siegel

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Provost's Suite, Austin Hall

Melissa Siegel, Director of Sponsored Programs, will hold hours in the Office of the Provost every Friday from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. This is your opportunity to stop by with any and all questions about sponsored activities, programs, or grants. Please e-mail [siegelm@merrimack.edu](mailto:siegelm@merrimack.edu) to set up an appointment or just plan on swinging by to say "hello." Melissa is excited to learn more about you and your teaching, scholarship and research interests.

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## **April 22nd**

KDP (Kappa Delta Pi) Induction

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Cascia Hall

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## **Future Events**

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## **Introduction to Plain Language for Health Communication and MedlinePlus**

Wednesday, April 26

6:00 - 7:00 PM

Alden Classroom 3rd Floor of McQuade Library

Librarian C.J. Wong, M.S., will lead a workshop on using plain language and culturally sensitive materials to effectively communicate health information to audiences with literacy and language challenges.

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## **Community-supported Agriculture, (CSA)**

McQuade Library has partnered with Farmer Dave's to provide sustainably grown and local fruits and vegetables to the Merrimack Community. Vegetable shares are available in small and large sizes and fruit shares are also available. The full season is 20 weeks, but you can sign up throughout the season. Contact Librarian C.J. Wong (wongc) at McQuade if you are looking to share a share. If you are ready for a convenient way to get your produce then [visit Farmer Dave's CSA page!](#)

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## **Merrimack College Research and Creative Achievement Conference**

Tuesday, May 2

4:00 - 6:00 PM

The Office of the Provost and the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning is pleased to announce the second annual Merrimack College Research and Creative Achievement Conference that will take place on Tuesday, May 2nd from 4 - 6 pm. This event is a college-wide conference and celebration designed to highlight the academic and creative excellence of your work, to foster engagement among faculty members, students, their families, and the community, and to develop presentation skills needed for graduate school and the workplace. Taking an inclusive approach, the conference invites and encourages undergraduate and graduate representation from all four schools and all majors; as such, diverse formats are encouraged. The Conference Planning Committee imagines the possibilities including posters, talks, videos, papers, recitations, and other forms of creative expression. Printing and poster board costs as well as workshops will be provided for by the CETL. Both faculty (on behalf of their class) and individual students can submit their work by clicking on the link below.

**Register Now**

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