



MERRIMACK COLLEGE



PROVOST BRIEFING

April 10, 2017

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

- Liberal Studies Core Dialogue: Number 3, April 18
 - Father John J. McKniff, O.S.A. Service Honor Society: First Induction Ceremony, April 19
 - 2017 Layton Award Call for Nominations
 - Upcoming Federal Sponsored Funding Opportunities
 - Guided Meditation Sessions, every Monday
 - Create Your Impact: Networking Reception, April 10
 - Open Mic Night, April 10
 - Faculty Senate Meeting, April 11
 - Open Office Hours with the Provost, every Wednesday
 - Hands to Help's Open House, April 12
 - Easter Break - College will be closed
 - Upcoming MINTS Opportunities
 - Migration of Blackboard environment to a SaaS solution
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Liberal Studies Core Dialogue: Number 3

Tuesday, April 18

Stevens Auditorium

4:00 - 5:00 PM

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 Joe Kelley, Autumn Ridenour, Mark Allman, and Father Ray Dlugos will facilitate this dialogue. Please RSVP at: <https://goo.gl/forms/o3v7F14lwjonbSJv1>

Father John J. McKniff, O.S.A. Service Honor Society: First Induction Ceremony

Wednesday, April 19

Austin Hall, First and Second Floor Lobbies

5:00 PM

The Office of Mission and Ministry has established an Honor Society to recognize students, faculty, staff who have engaged in extraordinary amounts and types of service to others from Merrimack College. Called the Father John J. McKniff, O.S.A. Service Honor Society, it is named for an Augustinian Friar who is currently being considered for canonization as a Saint of the Catholic Church after a life of Missionary Service to the poor in Cuba, the Philippines, and Peru.

Inductees will be graduating seniors who have completed the equivalent of 150 hours of service to others through Service Learning, Alternative Break Service Trips, Jump Start, Hands to Help, or extraordinary outreach to places like Haiti and Nepal in the aftermath of devastating earthquakes. Members of the Faculty and Staff who have made significant contributions to Merrimack's Outreach efforts will also be considered for induction.

The inaugural group of inductees will include 27 graduating seniors, 1 Faculty Member, and 2 Staff Members. The first induction ceremony will take place on Wednesday, April 19 at a reception beginning at 5:00 in the lobbies of the first and second floors of Austin Hall and a prayer service in the Austin Hall Chapel at 5:30 PM. At this event we will also recognize our students who have been engaged in community service during both semesters of their first year in College.

You can learn more about Father John McKniff, OSA at this link:

<https://www.midwestaugustinians.org/john-j-mckniff/>

2017 Layton Award Call for Nominations

The Layton Award emphasizes community-engaged scholarly work across faculty roles. The scholarship of engagement represents an integrated view of faculty roles in which teaching, research/creative activity, and service overlap and are mutually reinforcing, is characterized by scholarly work tied to a faculty member's academic expertise, is of benefit to the external community, is visible and shared with community stakeholders, and reflects the mission of the Institution. For instructions and a nomination form, visit: https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B--WpdF7aC1_U1VjTWJJEQ1dfV28

Nomination deadline: May 1, 2017

Upcoming Federal Sponsored Funding Opportunities:

Testing Interventions for Health-Enhancing Physical Activity (R01)

National Institutes of Health

The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to fund highly innovative and promising research that tests multi-level intervention programs of 1 to 2 years in length that are designed to increase health-enhancing physical activity: 1) in persons or groups that can benefit from such activity; and 2) that could be made scalable and sustainable for broad use across the nation.

Proposal deadline: June 5, 2017

Fiscal Year 2018 Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP)

Department of Defense

Dept of the Army -- Materiel Command

A central purpose of the DURIP is to provide equipment and instrumentation to enhance research-related education in areas of interest and priority to the DoD.

Pre-proposal deadline: June 16, 2017

Proposal deadline: July 7, 2017

Faculty Early Career Development Program

National Science Foundation

CAREER: The Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program is a Foundation-wide activity that offers the National Science Foundation's most prestigious awards in support of early-career faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization.

Proposal deadlines by Directorate:

BIO, CISE, EHR: July 19, 2017

ENG: July 20, 2017

GEO, MPS, SBE: July 21, 2017

Other Events this Week

April 10th (and every Monday)

Guided Meditation Sessions

12:00 - 12:20 PM

Sullivan Hall, Room 205

With support from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Dr. Christina Hardway from the Department of Psychology will be offering 20-minute guided meditations on campus at noon every Monday this semester.

No formal meditation experience or equipment is required. There is no need to register in advance; feel free to drop in if you are interested. Please direct all questions or inquiries to hardwayc@merrimack.edu or nielsenk@merrimack.edu

April 10th

Create Your Impact: Networking Reception

3:30 - 5:30 PM

Cascia Hall

Join the Create Your Impact steering committee and women of Merrimack College for an afternoon of networking, special programming and to celebrate the launch of CYI: Development and Leadership Initiative.

Register [here](#)

April 10th

Open Mic Night

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Sanctuary Coffeehouse

Share something you've written, would like to perform, or spoken word. The vision is to see how storytelling can inspire change -- that through sharing our stories, we invoke empathy and perhaps even activism. In essence, the concept is that our stories, our words, can change the world.

Co-sponsored by Women's and Gender Studies, the Writers House and WMCK

April 11th

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Murray Lounge, Sakowich Campus Center

For more details and meeting agenda, visit the [Faculty Senate Blackboard Site](#)

April 12th (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.

April 12th

Hands to Help's Open House

3:30 - 6:00 PM

Merrimack's Community Resource Center

Please join us for Hands to Help's Open House at Merrimack's community resource center, 301 Haverhill Street, Lawrence, MA. All Merrimack employees are welcome.

Please RSVP to Alisha Reppucci, reppuccia@merrimack.edu

April 13th - April 17th

Easter Break - College will be closed

Future Events

Upcoming MINTS Opportunities

Coding with Robots: From Kindergarten to Career

Wednesday, April 26th

3:00 - 5:00 PM

Mendel 273

Meet Root, the robot that brings coding to life! Developed by Harvard's Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering, Root is a robot that is ready to draw, erase, play music, and explore its world using over 50 sensors and actuators — making coding relevant to many age groups and experience levels. Root allows you to instantly set up, create, and share coding activities in an unusually interactive way.

For more information on the event and to RSVP, please visit www.merrimack.edu/mints

Co-sponsored by McQuade Library at Merrimack College, Kappa Delta Pi Education Honors Society, and the Merrimack Institute for New Teacher Support (M.I.N.T.S.).

M.I.N.T.S. Presents: The 2nd Annual New Teacher Support Symposium

Saturday, May 6th

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Sakowich Campus Center, Merrimack College

Join the School of Education & Social Policy, presenters, and participants for a day-long symposium to address how to empower and motivate new and developing teachers. The event will feature prominent education speakers and a variety of breakout sessions focused on new teacher support.

To RSVP and to view the full agenda, please visit www.merrimack.edu/mints

Migration of Blackboard environment to a SaaS solution

The Academic Technology Team is migrating our current Blackboard environment to a SaaS solution. The migration process will require 3 days of downtime, followed by testing. In looking at the academic calendar we have scheduled this project to take place on the following dates:

Bb Migration to SaaS (downtime)	Monday 5/15 - Wed 5/17
Test Environment (downtime)	Thurs. 5/18 - Sunday 5/21
Go Live with start of summer session	Monday 5/22

For our users, Bb Learn in the SaaS environment will look the same as our current Bb Learn 9.1 user environment with a few new enhancements.

Important Notes for the Upgrade:

- We are asking faculty to complete grading and download the grade center to a spreadsheet by Sunday, May 14th. Grades and student submissions will not be available in Blackboard from 5/15 - 5/21.
- **Faculty teaching summer courses will not have access to Blackboard for course set-up from 5/15 - 5/21.**
- **Requests for course copies and course merges for summer session courses should be submitted to AskIT no later than Thursday, May 11th.**
- Students will not have access to their summer session courses until Monday, May 22nd.

- Users trying to access Blackboard between 5/15 and 5/21 will be presented with an informative Splash page to hopefully minimize questions and concerns.

Some of the advantages of this migration are:

- No impact to our faculty and students during system maintenance updates.
- The SaaS model allows for fixes, enhancements and new features on the production environment to happen faster.
- The cloud platform easily scales during periods of high usage.
- Availability to Blackboard's new Ultra experience. See https://en-us.help.blackboard.com/Learn/Instructor/Getting_Started/What_Is_Ultra

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