



MERRIMACK COLLEGE



PROVOST BRIEFING

May 8, 2017

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

- Important Blackboard Migration and Outage Reminder
- CETL Workshop: Anti-Oppressive Teaching Techniques, May 8
- Pivot Software - Sponsored Funding Database Training, May 10 & May 25
- Proposal Writing Institute
- Becoming an NSF Peer Reviewer
- McQuade Library: Temporary Collection Changes in May
- Chronicle of Higher Education Online
- New Resources from McQuade Library
- Faculty Development Grants
- Higher Education in Ireland: Study Abroad Graduate Student Presentation, May 9
- Open Office Hours with the Provost, every Wednesday
- Open Office Hours with Melissa Siegel (Director of Sponsored Programs), every Friday

- Commencement Weekend, May 19-21
 - CETL May - Faculty Development Opportunities
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Important Blackboard Migration and Outage Reminder

Blackboard is being upgraded to deliver a better user experience for students and faculty. Working in conjunction with the Office of the Provost and the Registrar, the dates below present the least impact to our students with minimum interruption to their course work. Among other features, the new Blackboard platform will provide a more stable LMS environment campus-wide and will allow for easy scalability during high usage and zero downtime during future updates.

To accomplish this upgrade, **Blackboard will be down beginning 12:00 AM, Monday, May 15th through 12:00 AM Monday, May 22nd.** To minimize any inconvenience, here are some key pre-outage preparation and dates to remember:

- 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 and download Grade Center to spreadsheet [Watch the instructional video here.](#)
- For more information about this outage, visit the [Academic Technology Resources site.](#)
- May 15 - 17 Bb migration to SaaS. **Blackboard will be unavailable**
- May 18 - 21 Test environment. **Blackboard will be unavailable**
- May 22 - Blackboard returns live

CETL Workshop: Anti-Oppressive Teaching Techniques

Monday, May 8

12:00 - 1:30 PM

Meeting Room B, Sakowich Campus Center (Lunch will be provided)

[Registration Link](#)

Join us for a workshop on intersectional feminist pedagogy for social justice, with guest speaker [Dr. Shannon Weber](#). The workshop will include tips for developing syllabi that foster inclusive teaching techniques and greater diversity. The workshop will also feature tips for dealing with microaggressions in the classroom. This workshop is sponsored by CETL and is the culmination of a year-long Teaching Circle on Anti-Oppressive conducted by Drs. Debra Michals and Raechel Tiffe in Women's and Gender Studies.

Pivot Software - Sponsored Funding Database Training

May 10 & May 25, 12:00 - 1:00 (Lunch will be provided)

Provost Conference Room, Austin Hall

The search for private and federal funding opportunities has just gotten easier! Merrimack has purchased a license agreement to Pivot, which is a comprehensive funding opportunity database. Pivot also enables users to create individual profiles based on research or program interests, opening up opportunity for collaboration with other Merrimack faculty or the broader international research community. Users will be able to run their own funding searches and/or request the assistance of Corporate and Foundation Development (CFD) and the Office for

Sponsored Programs (OSP). Please join us for an overview of how to make the Pivot Software system work for you.

[Registration](#)

Proposal Writing Institute

May 10, 2017 internal deadline

May 22, 2017 CUR deadline

The Office of the Provost will reimburse up to three Merrimack faculty to participate in the July 13-17, 2017 Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) [Proposal Writing Institute](#) at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. This Institute is designed for faculty who have already identified an external funding opportunity or agency and are currently working on a draft proposal. The four-day institute will consist of one-on-one work with a mentor, writing, small group discussions, and critiquing of proposals. The institute has been developed to assist novice to experienced proposal writers in drafting complete proposals for submission.

By **May 10, 2017**, please send a two-paragraph outline of your proposal and the name of the intended funding agency and/or program to Melissa Siegel, Director of Sponsored Programs, at siegelm@merrimack.edu for internal review.

Becoming an NSF Peer Reviewer

Are you interested in pursuing a federal grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF)? A great way to gain a better understanding of what NSF is looking for in a proposal is to become a volunteer peer reviewer. The experience is invaluable and will give insights into what successful proposals look like. [How to become an NSF Peer Reviewer](#).

Faculty Development Grants

Congratulations to the 2017 Faculty Development Grant Awardees! Click [here](#) for a list of recipients and their project titles.

McQuade Library: Temporary Collection Changes in May

Beginning May 15, parts of the library collection will be temporarily unavailable. The books from the 3rd floor will be moved to a newly renovated home on the lower level. McQuade librarians are ready to help you with alternatives, whether e-books or materials borrowed from other libraries.

Chronicle of Higher Education is *Online*

Did you know that Merrimack has a campus subscription to Chronicle.com? On campus you can go to Chronicle.com and read articles and share. Register with your Merrimack email address, and you will be able to log into the Chronicle on and off campus, on a mobile device or computer, as well as sign up for email alerts. If you have questions, contact your favorite librarian or Mcquade@merrimack.edu.

New Resources from McQuade Library

Available now - [Early American Newspapers 1780-1809](#) and [Early American Imprints: Series 2: Shaw-Shoemaker 1801-1819](#) (books). This collection expands our Early American Newspaper collection providing primary sources for study of the Federalist period. Funded by the School of Liberal Arts.

Coming soon - **Morningstar Direct** provides data, analysis and tools for managing mutual funds, equities, EFTs, and more. Students will have access to a tool used in the workplace, and Finance professors will help the rest of us who may want to know more about own portfolios.

Testing...[AccessScience](#) and [AccessEngineering Library](#) from McGraw Hill with reference articles for all the science disciplines including videos and animations as well as curriculum maps. The **AccessEngineering Library** includes many engineering handbooks such as Standard Handbook for Electrical Engineers, Marks' Standard Handbook for Mechanical Engineers, and Standard Handbook for Civil Engineers as well as Schaum's Outlines. It also includes related tools and books on business skills, operations management and makerspace.

Contact Frances Nilsson or your favorite librarian for more information on these and other library resources.

Other Events this Week

May 9th

Higher Education in Ireland: Study Abroad Graduate Student Presentation

2:00 - 4:00 PM

Merrimack Club

Please join us to hear about lessons learned from our visit to Irish universities in Dublin, Cork and Galway.

May 10th (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.

May 12th (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 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.

Future Events

Commencement Weekend

Friday, May 19, 2017

Graduate Commencement Exercises

6:00 PM Merrimack Athletics Complex

Faculty lineup at 5:00 PM in Class 1182 (formerly CETL, near The Writers House), Merrimack Athletics Complex. Please arrive dressed in regalia. Refreshments will be served. A reception will immediately follow the commencement ceremony in the Sakowich Campus Center.

Saturday, May 20, 2017

Legacy Reception

11:00 AM - Cascia

Honors Convocation

1:00 PM - Merrimack Athletics Complex

Faculty line up is at 12:30 pm in Class 1182, (formerly CETL, near Writers House). Please arrive dressed in regalia, refreshments will be served.

Baccalaureate Mass

4:00 PM - Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher

Faculty lineup at 3:30 p.m. in front of Austin Hall. Please arrive dressed in regalia (no caps). A reception will immediately follow Mass in the Sakowich Campus Center.

Sunday, May 21, 2017

Undergraduate Commencement

10:00 AM - Merrimack Athletics Complex

Faculty lineup at 8:30 a.m. in McQuade Library, first floor. Please arrive dressed in regalia. A continental breakfast will be served. A reception immediately follows the commencement ceremony in the Sakowich Campus Center.

For more information, please visit the [Faculty Commencement](#) page.

CETL May - Faculty Development Opportunities

Edtech Training with Sue Burch from Apple

Tuesday, May 23

9:00 - 10:00, Action Research: Creating and Implementing Assessment Plans for iBooks Author

Provost Conference Room

Description: If you are using or thinking of using iBooks Author, this session will help you create and/or revise your assessment strategy that will inform your teaching practice

10:15 - 11:30, Make it and Take it - Using any Tools!

Mack Club, Sakowich Center

Description: This content development session is driven by you and your needs; bring your existing content in whatever form (worksheets, PowerPoints, PDFs, etc.) and transform into a seamless workflow. Tools include iWork Apps, iMovie, GarageBand, and iCloud.

**11:45 - 1:00 (Lunch session), Merrimack Instructional Innovators "One Best Thing"
Mack Club, Sakowich Center**

Description: Come learn with your MC colleagues to gather and share ideas!

**1:15 - 2:30, Top 10 Basics
Mack Club, Sakowich Center**

Description: Is your iPad still in the bottom drawer? This session will get you up and running with your iPad in the classroom. We promise! Topics include: Control Center, Icon Management, Apps and iOS Management, Spotlight Search, Camera Basic, Personalization through Setting, Safari Reader, and How to Play Videos!

3:00 - 4:00, Sign up for a personal appointment with Sue

**Edtech Training with Sue Burch from Apple
Wednesday, May 24**

All sessions will take place in the Provost Conference Room, Austin Hall

9:30 - 11:00, Top 10 Basics

Description: Is your iPad still in the bottom drawer? This session will get you up and running with your iPad in the classroom. We promise! Topics include: Control Center, Icon Management, Apps and iOS Management, Spotlight Search, Camera Basic, Personalization through Setting, Safari Reader, and How to Play Videos!

11:15 - 12:45 (Lunch Session), Make it and Take it - Using any Tools!

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1:00 - 2:30 Creative Engagement: Flip an assignment, a lesson, or flip your entire class!
Leverage the mobile platform to create engaging learning experiences for your students. Learn to: Provide incentives for students to prepare for class; flip assignments using Explain Everything, Numbers, and iMovie; and provide a mechanism to assess student understanding using Google forms or using responseware in class.

2:45 - 4:00 Productivity and Creativity Tools and Workflow

Move around the room and complete activities using tools that will promote creativity and productivity in your classroom. Featured Modules: Capturing and Sharing Learning with Keynote, Flipping Content with Explain Everything, Strengthening Learning by creating a Podcast with GarageBand, and Label, Learn, and Reflect with Notes and iMovie.

**Experiential Education Workshop with Marty Ford from [WACE](#),
Wednesday, May 24**

9:00 - 12:00

Mendel 169. Lunch will be provided.

This interactive workshop will help you to integrate experiential learning opportunities into your curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment. Whether you are brand new to experiential education or are an EE veteran, this workshop will be individualized to meet your needs.

Reacting to the Past Workshop with Columbia's Dr. Rebecca Jane Stanton

Thursday, May 25

9:00 - 3:00 (Lunch will be provided)

Mendel 169

Join this highly interactive workshop with Reacting to the Past (RTTP) facilitator [Dr. Rebecca Stanton](#) from Columbia University. RttP consists of elaborate interdisciplinary games, set in the past, in which students are assigned roles informed by classic texts in the history of ideas. Class sessions are run entirely by students; instructors advise and guide students and grade their oral and written work. It seeks to draw students into the past, promote engagement with big ideas, and improve intellectual and academic skills. Reacting to the Past was honored with the 2004 Theodore Hesburgh Award (TIAA-CREF) for outstanding innovation in higher education. Learn to facilitate RttP class sessions by playing one yourself! This interactive session will introduce you to one of RttP's most popular games, Greenwich Village. For more information on RttP, visit [Reacting](#). **Participation is limited to 20.**

Game Details: Greenwich Village, 1913, Suffrage, Labor and the New Woman

For additional background information on the game: [Greenwich Village RTTP Game](#)

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