



# MERRIMACK COLLEGE



## Message from the Provost

Dear Colleagues,

Many thanks to everyone who participated in Admitted Student Day this past Saturday. The excitement of the students and their families was palpable as they toured our beautiful campus and participated in numerous academic activities. Such admission events bode well for another terrific entering class.

Allan Weatherwax, Provost

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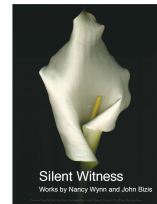
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## Silent Witness Exhibit Opens at the McCoy Gallery

Associate Professor of Visual and Performing Arts, Nancy Wynn, exhibits her new series Silent Witness at the [McCoy Gallery](#) at Merrimack College. Her new series was exhibited, as a solo exhibition, from November to December 2016 at the [Clare Gallery in Hartford, Connecticut](#). It has now moved to the McCoy Gallery with the addition of floral sculptures by artist John Bizis.



You can visit [nancywynn.com](http://nancywynn.com) for more information on the artist.

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## CETL Session

**Fake News: Teaching in the "Post-Truth" Era with Dr. Melissa (Mish) Zimdars, Assistant Professor of Communication**

**February 14 at 12:00-1:30 in Murray Lounge (lunch will be served)**



This session focuses on navigating and teaching about the credibility of online sources in the "post-truth" era, which is characterized in part by "fake news" and vast networks of misinformation. We will generate ideas for maintaining openness, inclusiveness, and balance in the classroom in relation to partisan misinformation in the "news." We will also consider professorial expertise in a time when our credibility is being questioned as much as journalists, whether socially, politically, or just on campus.

Together we'll consider several questions, including how to construct spaces privileging well-researched argumentation when all information is seemingly up for debate and/or viewed as being on an equal playing field? How do we most effectively explain the differences between personal political bias and critical scholarship or teaching? Finally, how do we adapt tools for media literacy and identifying credible sources of information to account for these changes and challenges? Staff from McQuade Library will be available to answer questions and share new approaches and resources available to faculty at the College.

**Register Now**

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## CETL Course Design Tip

### Using the Assistive Feature Speak Selection

Hearing a word as it's being read can help with comprehension for a wide range of learners. Speak selection can read your email, messages, web pages, and ebooks out loud. A great tool for students to use to "proof" their text-based assignments before delivering, eliminating common grammatical mistakes like from/form, identifying unclear sentences, and if tone is

appropriately active or passive. Turn it on for yourself and show students how powerful it can be!

To turn on Speak Selection: Go to Settings > General > Accessibility > Speak Selection. There you can also adjust the speaking rate and highlight text as it's read. To have text read to you simply swipe down from the top of your iPad with two fingers.

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## McQuade Library Awarded STEMsmart Teachers' Grant

McQuade Library was recently awarded a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant from the [Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners MBLC](#). This one year project is entitled "*STEMsmart Teachers: Bringing Hands-On Learning from the Library to the Classroom.*" With this grant, McQuade librarians, in collaboration with School of Education faculty, will select, acquire, and promote STEM resources for McQuade's Education Resource Center (ERC) to support Merrimack's growing STEM Education major.

McQuade Library will also host a series of "STEMsmart" workshops for aspiring teachers on how to integrate hands-on STEM resources in the classroom.

Librarian Lyena Chavez is serving as Project Director. She will be working with Janet Graham, ERC Coordinator, and School of Education Faculty this year.

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## Council on Undergraduate Research

We are pleased to announce that Merrimack College has become an enhanced institutional member of the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR). CUR is a not-for-profit educational organization whose mission is to support and promote high-quality undergraduate student-faculty collaborative research and scholarship.



One of the great benefits of a university becoming an enhanced member with CUR is that their faculty, staff and students are eligible to join CUR as individual members at no cost. In the link below, you will find information outlining some of the member benefits included in a CUR membership and instructions on how to join.

### To Join CUR:

Please visit: [https://members.cur.org/members\\_online/members/newmember.asp](https://members.cur.org/members_online/members/newmember.asp)

After you enter your name and title, please be sure to select Merrimack College from the institutions drop down box (do not type it in manually). The system will recognize that Merrimack College is an enhanced member, and you will be able to complete the registration process at no cost.

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## Other Events this Week

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### February 6th

#### HURON CONSULTING GROUP

#### Presenting the LS Core Evaluation

Peter Stokes from the Huron Consulting Group will be presenting the results of the Liberal Studies Core evaluation to each school. The schedule is below. Please try to attend your school's meeting if possible, but if you have a conflict, feel free to attend another meeting.

- **School of Education and Social Policy**, Cascia Hall / 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
  - **School of Science and Engineering**, Cascia Hall / 11 AM - NOON
  - **School of Liberal Arts**, Murray Lounge / 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM
  - **Girard School of Business**, O'Reilly Hall room 310 / 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
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## **February 6th (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](mailto:hardwayc@merrimack.edu) or [nielsenk@merrimack.edu](mailto:nielsenk@merrimack.edu)

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## **February 6th**

### **First Year Experience Program: Call for Instructors**

#### **Deadline to apply**

For more information please review the [role of FYE Instructors and application form](#).

Completed application forms should be sent via email to Dr. Jacob Turner at [turnerjs@merrimack.edu](mailto:turnerjs@merrimack.edu) or hard copy to 17 Cushing Hall, the Main Office for the Department of Communication and Media.

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## **February 7th**

**Tolle Lege**

**4:00 PM**

**Writers House, Merrimack Athletics Complex**

Please join us for a reception to congratulate your colleagues on their 2016 contributions to this collection of Merrimack scholarship and creativity.

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## **February 8th (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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## February 8th

**Think Globally/Act Locally: Feed Your Neighbor**

**11:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**Sakowich Campus Center**

Join us again this year for a day of interfaith service! Pack nutritious meals for the Merrimack Valley Food Bank at a time of year when supplies are low.

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## February 10th (and every Friday)

**Open Office Hours with the 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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## Future Events

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### Newly Tenured Faculty Reception

**Wednesday, February 15, 2017**

Merrimack Club, Sakowich Campus Center

5:00-7:00 p.m.

RSVP to Vicki Bianchini

[bianchiniv@merrimack.edu](mailto:bianchiniv@merrimack.edu)

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### CETL Book Group Call

***Minds on Fire* by Mark C. Carnes**

**Group Facilitator: Dr. Sally Shockro, Associate Professor of History**

[\*Minds on Fire\*](#) explores the value of role-immersion games in learning and seeks to answer the question, "Why are so many students intellectually disengaged?" Author Mark Carnes argues that we can channel students' competitive and sometimes "mischievous" impulses into deep learning experiences through the use of role-playing pedagogies. Filled with concrete examples of how this innovative method is deployed for maximum benefit, this book advocates for transformative learning experiences that affect students' motivation to learn and their overall quality of learning.

Registrants will receive a free copy the book (please indicate preference for e-Pub or hard copy on registration form). Bi-monthly Lunch meetings will begin Tuesday, March 7. **Please register by February 17.**

**Register Now**

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