



# MERRIMACK COLLEGE



## PROVOST BRIEFING

August 21, 2017

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

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- Dr. Kyle McInnis named Founding Dean of the new School of Health Sciences
- Dr. Charlotte Berkes appointed the Laurence M. Demers Professor in Life Science
- Teaching with Tech in Crowe Hall, August 21-23
- Blackboard Reminders
- New GEO Website and Important Fall Dates
- Registrar Search Commences
- Open Office Hours with the Provost, every Wednesday
- Feast of St. Augustine of Hippo, August 28
- Opening of the 2017-18 Academic Year

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## **Dr. Kyle McInnis dean of the new School of Health Sciences**

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I announce Dr. Kyle McInnis as the founding dean of the new School of Health Sciences at Merrimack College (A formal opening ceremony for the School of Health Sciences is planned for later this fall).

A nationally recognized leader in the field of exercise science and sports medicine, Dr. McInnis has an extensive background as a teaching-scholar and innovator. Under his leadership during the past six years at the college, health sciences has grown from an academic department of 170 students with three undergraduate programs to one that now has over 550 students, offering five undergraduate and four graduate degrees.

During his tenure at Merrimack, Dr. McInnis has recruited top faculty, created an impressive administrative leadership team, and was instrumental in the planning of new facilities and equipment resources for teaching, learning and research. Dr. McInnis has also secured \$1.6 million in research funding from the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for his nationally acclaimed Active Science program for underserved children.

Before joining Merrimack, Dr. McInnis was a faculty member and chair of exercise and health sciences at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. Dr. McInnis began his career at UMass in 1991 after receiving his doctoral degree in applied anatomy and physiology from Boston University.

Dr. McInnis has served in many leadership roles in the field of exercise and health sciences and is a fellow and trustee of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), the world's preeminent sports medicine organization. He has also published over 100 scientific papers and given numerous presentations related to his work in areas such as child obesity, clinical exercise testing, and medical emergency preparedness in the exercise setting. His professional experience includes clinical and community-based research projects involving strategies aimed at increasing physical activity in underserved populations.

His professional affiliations have included the Dana Farber Cancer Institute/Harvard Cancer Center, Boston University Medical Center, and the Division of Nutrition and Metabolism at Massachusetts General Hospital. His work as the founding director of the GoKids program with UMass Boston and Children's Hospital Boston received a recognition service award from the U.S. surgeon general. As an innovator, Dr. McInnis has helped lead the way for using exercise technologies to improve health in children.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. McInnis in this important role and offer him all your support as he leads our new School of Health Sciences and works to continue the great momentum of Merrimack College.

With best regards, Allan Weatherwax, Provost

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## **Dr. Charlotte Berkes appointed the Laurence M. Demers Professor in the Life Sciences**

Dear Colleagues,

I'm delighted to announce that the first-ever Laurence M. Demers Professorship in Life Science will be awarded to Dr. Charlotte Berkes, associate professor in the Department of Biology.

The Demers Professorship has been made possible by a generous and impactful gift from Dr. Laurence M. Demers '60 and Susan Demers '62.

The Demers Professorship was established to attract and retain outstanding faculty who have distinguished themselves through their teaching, research, scholarship and creative works. Appointment to a named professorship is intended to be the college's most prestigious recognition for continuing scholarly achievement and distinction.

In the selection of an individual for these appointments, teaching ability, character, industry, dedication, promise, stature and productivity in research and scholarship, artistic and creative accomplishment, and the best interests of the college are taken into consideration.

Dr. Berkes, who earned her Ph.D. in molecular and cellular biology at the University of Washington and joined our faculty in 2010, is an outstanding choice for the professorship. This opportunity will provide support to continue her mid-career development as a teacher and her research and scholarship on fungal pathogenesis, antifungal drug discovery and innate immunity.

Dr. Demers is distinguished professor emeritus of pathology and medicine at the M.S. Hershey Medical Center of The Pennsylvania State University. He was the founding director of clinical chemistry and the endocrine laboratory in the University Hospital and director of the clinical research center core laboratory. Dr. Demers also served as chair of the Board of Trustees at Merrimack and remains deeply involved as a member of the College Leadership Council.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Berkes on this achievement, and expressing our gratitude to Dr. and Mrs. Demers for their significant support for teaching and learning at Merrimack.

With best regards, Allan Weatherwax, Provost

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## **Teaching with Tech in Crowe Hall**

**Monday, August 21st**  
**3:30-5:00 PM**

**Tuesday, August 22nd**  
**12:00-1:30 PM**

**Wednesday, August 23rd**  
**9:30-11:00 PM**

Please sign up here: [Registration Link](#)

In preparation for teaching and learning in Crowe Hall and to support your transition into the newly-designed innovation classrooms, the CETL and IT have created a series of workshops. The first sessions will be offered August 21-23. Crowe Hall classrooms will be equipped with a PC laptop at the teaching podium and the newest Apple TV. If you are not already doing so, we recommend also using iPads for increased mobility and student engagement.

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## Blackboard Reminders

**Fall Enrollment:** On Tuesday 8/22, students will have access to Blackboard shells. For assistance with setting up your course please contact Janet Syed in the CETL at [syedj@merrimack.edu](mailto:syedj@merrimack.edu).

**Enrollment Lists:** One of the best new features resulting from the upgrade in May is that faculty no longer need to maintain their Blackboard enrollment list through the add/drop period. As students add and drop courses, enrollment lists will be updated automatically to reflect any changes.

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## New GEO Website and Important Fall Dates

The Office of Global Education has a new website: <http://merrimack-geo.terradotta.com/> complete with information for faculty and advisors as well as for students. On the Faculty & Advisors tab we offer information to assist your work with students interested in global education. You'll find a link to the GEO program map, and you'll also find a download to the GEO Course Approval Form from there. There's also a tab with some dates for faculty interested in teaching international/off-campus courses through the GEO.

Students can find information on timelines and deadlines, links to cross-cultural aids, as well as search our new program pages. To search programs by major, go to <http://merrimack-geo.terradotta.com/?go=ProgramSearch>

Four dates for your calendars:

- September 13, 2016, 4-6: Global Education Fair
- September 26, 2017, 4-5 PM: Panel Discussion on Faculty-led Programs: Panel includes Dr. Daniel Herda of Sociology and Dr. Sara Benes of Health Sciences
- October 6: Deadline for online applications for Spring 2016 Semester programs (a few programs have earlier deadlines)
- October 15, 2017: Deadline for Faculty proposals for FALL 2018 Faculty-led Short-Term Courses with January on-site.

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## Registrar Search

We have composed the Search Committee for Registrar. The following faculty have volunteered to serve: Rickey Caldwell, Susan Marine and Azam Noori. Associate Registrar Christy Salinas will also be serving on the Committee. I can't thank them enough for their willingness to serve the institution in our collective quest to hire a new Registrar. If you have any questions or comments regarding this search, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Provost. Updates on the search will be forthcoming in the Provost Briefing.



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## Other Events this Week

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### August 23rd

**Open Office Hours with the Provost**

**9:00 - 10:00 AM**

**Provost's Suite, Austin Hall**

The Provost will have open office hours for faculty to drop in every Wednesday from 9:00 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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## Future Events

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### Feast of St. Augustine of Hippo

**Monday, August 28**

**12:30 PM**

**Chapel of Our Mother of Good Counsel**

Please plan to join the Augustinian Friars in celebrating the feast of the saint that is the foundation and inspiration of our study, our work, and our community at Merrimack College for Mass at 12:30 PM in the Chapel of Our Mother of Good Counsel on the second floor of Austin Hall followed by lunch in the foyer of Austin Hall.

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### Opening of the 2017-18 Academic Year

**Tuesday, September 5, 2017**

**Mass of the Holy Spirit**

**4:15 PM**

**Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher**

**Community Barbeque**

**Immediately following Mass of the Holy Spirit**

**Sparky's and tent**

**Thursday, September 7, 2017**

**Classes are dismissed at 3:30 PM**

**Academic Convocation**

**4:00 PM**

**Hamel Gym, Merrimack Athletics Complex**

Faculty line up is at 3:30 pm, first floor of McQuade Library. Please arrive dressed in regalia, (no tams).

**Tuesday, September 12, 2017**

**Second Tuesday First Year Advising Meetings**

**4:00 PM**

The primary goal is to give first year students an opportunity to meet their primary advisor earlier than they do now. The Academic Success Center will centrally organize this endeavor. This

includes the marketing, securing spaces, communicating with faculty, students, and Orientation staff. More information can be found on the Academic Success Center [webpage](#).

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