



MERRIMACK COLLEGE



PROVOST BRIEFING

September 18, 2017

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

- An Evening with Dr. Charles Thomas, Jr., September 21
- Socrative is Here!
- Zimdars Receives Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation Grant
- Want to Present a Live Lecture to our Partners in India?
- Faculty Senate, September 19
- Spirituality Lecture Series, September 19
- Open Office Hours with the Provost, Wednesday September 20
- Fresh Check Day, September 21
- Rogers Center Film Series Presents: The Ataxian, September 23
- Faculty Workshop on Leading Short-Term Global Courses, September 26 (updated time)
- Making in Education Workshop, September 28
- Aquila Theater Co, HAMLET, September 28 and 29
- President's Speaker Series: Ben Nemtin October 3
- WACE Experiential Education Institute at Merrimack October 22-25. Deadline: Oct 2

An Evening with Dr. Charles Thomas, Jr. Breakthrough: Stories of Resilience, Tragedy, and Triumph

September 21

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Murray Lounge, Sakowich Campus Center

Dr. Isabelle Cherney invites you to a presentation and Q&A with Dr. Charles Thomas Jr., multi-award winning social entrepreneur, educator, published author, radio personality, and Concerned Citizen™. Charles has committed himself to service and philanthropic efforts and has varied experiences in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Charles strives to live according to the Renaissance ideal of broad learning and full engagement in life as a demonstration of human potential.

Light refreshments will be served and books will be available for purchase. This event is free and open to the public.

Questions: 978.837.5339 or pingetonk@merrimack.edu

Quiet class? Formative check needed for student understanding? Socrative is Here!

Socrative is here to help. Quickly access students with prepared activities or on-the-fly questions to get immediate insight into student understanding and effectively drive learning. Students respond from any device - mobile phones, iPads, or PC's. Full reports of results can be saved for reviewing later. Download the "teacher app" on your iPad or create an account at www.socrative.com.

Zimdars Receives Whiting Foundation Grant

Melissa "Mish" Zimdars received an international travel and research grant from the Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation. The grant supports travel to the U.K. and Ireland to conduct interviews with both media producers who create and media audiences who watch content exploring fat embodiment. This project will be the first in a series of international case studies comparing media industry practices and viewer perceptions of television in the context of the obesity epidemic.

Want to Present a Live Lecture to our Partners in India?

Mack-GPS India

Opportunity for Faculty to Deliver Live Lectures

The Office of the Provost would like to introduce a new global outreach program that provides an opportunity and technological support for faculty to deliver lectures/seminars/webinars to undergraduate partner institutions in India. This is an opportunity to deliver live classroom to classroom exchanges. Funding is available for faculty through the Office of the Provost.

If you are interested in learning more and/or participating, please email Vice Provost Jon Lyon (lyonj@merrimack.edu) by **September 22nd**. All faculty in all disciplines are welcome.

Other Events this Week

September 19th

Faculty Senate

4:00-5:00 PM

Executive Room, Crowe Hall

Additional information and agenda can be found on the Faculty Senate Blackboard site.

September 19th

Spirituality Lecture Series: *Augustinian Spirituality in the Christian Tradition*

7:00 PM

Stevens Auditorium, Cushing Hall

A presentation by Rev. Raymond F. Dlugos, OSA, Ph.D. Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian Muslim Relations and the Department of Religious and Theological Studies.

September 20th

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 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.

September 21st

Fresh Check Day

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

O'Brien Plaza (rain location, MPR)

On Thursday, September 21st, Merrimack is again hosting "Fresh Check Day", a mental health awareness fair. This fair-like event will be held outside on O'Brien Plaza (green outside of Sakowich) and is comprised of several booths, each having an active message re: mental health and an interactive activity promoting awareness, wellness, and self-care. There will be music, food, giveaways, and raffle prizes - and the general takeaway is an amazingly positive, contagious energy.

September 23rd

FILM: The Ataxian

4:30 PM

Rogers Center for Arts

The Ataxian is a documentary about a man faced with a debilitating terminal disease (Friderich's Ataxia) who inspires thousands when he races his bicycle across America in one the world's toughest sporting events. The film features ERIN O'NEIL '03, who also has this terminal disease. She and producer Sarah Dewitt will be on hand for a Q & A after the screening. Erin is available for interviews, as is Sarah. A suggested donation to help fund medical research will be collected at the door from those who are able.

Future Events

Faculty Workshop on Leading Short-Term Global Courses

Tuesday, September 26

4:00-5:00 PM (updated time)

Sakowich Campus Center - Meeting Room B (218)

Have you ever considered incorporating an international component into one of your courses? Have you wanted to teach a course abroad, but simply had no idea where to start? If so, then this workshop is your opportunity to learn about the possibilities and how to get started. The panel includes faculty who will be taking students internationally for the first time in 2018 as well as “veterans” of teaching global courses. For additional information, please contact Kathleen Cain, caink@merrimack.edu.

Making in Education Workshop

Thursday, September 28th

4:00pm-5:30 PM

McQuade Library ERC (2nd floor)

McQuade Library and the School of Education & Social Policy invite you to a workshop entitled, "Making in Education: A Closer Look at the Maker Mindset." Join us for a hands-on workshop to explore the essence of making and **the** power of inquiry-based challenges that inspire deep learning, creativity, and play.

This [STEMsmart Teachers](#) program is brought to Merrimack College with federal funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Aquila Theater Co, HAMLET

September 28 and 29

7:30 PM

Rogers Center for Arts

Shakespeare's famous tragedy comes to the Rogers Center in a new, high-voltage production starring some of the hottest young professionals from London and New York. Called "a classically trained, modernly hip troupe" by the New York Times, Aquila Theater is known for its bold and exciting reinterpretations of classical plays for contemporary audiences. Merrimack Employees, Alumni, tickets are only \$10 each. The first 100 Merrimack students get in for free.

President's Speaker Series: Ben Nemtin

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

6:00 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts

Please encourage your students to join [Ben Nemtim](#) for his poignant and inspirational keynote "How to Cross Anything Off Your Bucket List." Nemtim is the Creator and Executive Producer of MTV's hit series *The Buried Life* and #1 New York Times Bestselling Author of *What Do You Want To Do Before You Die?*

For more information and to reserve your seat, visit www.merrimack.edu/speakerseries

This event is Sponsored by At&T, Robert McCusker '68 and the Office of the President.

WACE Experiential Education Institute at Merrimack College

October 22 – 25, 2017 (Sunday afternoon to Wednesday noon)

Crowe Hall Executive Room

Registration Deadline: October 2, 2017

The Institute is free of charge to Merrimack College faculty and staff. However, you must register in order to attend at: <http://www.waceinc.org/merrimack2017/onlinereg.html>

Please complete the online registration form and indicate “check” in the payment section. You will be processed as complementary.

Institute Summary: Advancing High Impact Experiential Education programs for your campus is an effective way for your institution to address issues of retention, graduation rate, and student expectations and success both before and after graduation. Whether you want to implement new Experiential Education programs and/or move your current programs to a higher level of student learning and program impact, this WACE Institute will help you achieve your goals through a unique combination of expert faculty lectures, facilitated plan development and sustained group interaction (both formal and informal) with faculty and other participants.

During the Institute, participants will have an opportunity to design or refresh their own institutional plans for advancing their experiential education programs and portfolio.

Additionally, all participants, whether they come as teams or as individuals, will develop their “Individual Action Plan” (IAP) with input, feedback and suggestions from Institute Faculty and colleagues. The IAP will be used throughout the Institute to support your reflections and learning from the seven learning modules and round table discussions.

More information can be found [here](#).

MERRIMACK COLLEGE PROVOST
315 Turnpike Street | North Andover, MA 01845
(978) 837-3563 or
provost@merrimack.edu
www.merrimack.edu/provost
<https://www.facebook.com/merrimackprovost>

