



MERRIMACK COLLEGE



PROVOST BRIEFING

November 6, 2017

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

- CETL and Academic Technology Offer Digital Teaching & Learning Workshop Series
- Open Office Hours with the Provost Moved to Thursday - This Week Only
- CETL 2017/18 Teaching Circles (Invitation to Join)
- The Writers House Presents Carl Safina, November 14
- Office of Global Education Open House, November 16
- CETL Faculty Fellow Call
- Provost Innovation Fund - Call for Proposals
- Merrimack's New Student Interdisciplinary Journal: Intersections
- Faculty Senate Meeting, November 7
- Open Office Hours with the Provost, every Wednesday
- Atrium Series Previews *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, November 8
- The Mystery of Edwin Drood, November 16-18

CETL and Academic Technology Offer Digital Teaching & Learning Workshop Series

All Sessions: 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Location: Provost Conference Room

Join Janet, Karen and your faculty colleagues in sharing strategies and take-a-ways around hot topics in today's classrooms. Sessions are interactive and light fare will be offered.

[Registration Link](#)

Promoting Academic Integrity, Ownership, and Responsibility (November 8)

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Share and discuss strategies for self-motivation and accountability in your daily classroom, when assessing online and when students are collaborating during group work.

Designing Formative Assessments and Rubrics (December 4) 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Let's discuss and design formative assessments - both formal and informal. We'll also review the benefits of using rubrics for students proficiency and instructor sanity with grading. Rubric templates will be shared.

Open Office Hours with the Provost Moved to Thursday - This Week Only

8:30 - 10:00 AM

Provost's Suite, Austin Hall

The Provost will have open office hours for faculty to drop-in Thursday, November 9, 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.

CETL 2017/18 Teaching Circles (Invitation to Join)

The CETL is able to provide funding to four Teaching Circles this academic year. Circles meet over the course two semesters to focus on an issue related to improving teaching and learning. The circle is composed of faculty from across departments and is self-directed within the general structure of the teaching circles. The collegial nature of the circle is intended to foster openness, mutual support, and innovation and is founded on the idea that teachers can learn from each other. Please contact the faculty facilitators or the CETL to join or for additional information.

Professional Development and Growth as an Educator: Getting Uncomfortable with the Comfortable

Facilitators: Dr. Sarah Benes and Dr. Leah Poloskey

First meeting: Nov. 9, 11AM - Noon in the Sanctuary Coffeehouse

Cultivating Interdisciplinary Teaching, Learning, and Pedagogy: Fostering Curriculum Innovations

Facilitators: Dr. Debra Michals and Dr. Simona Sharoni

First meeting: Nov. 10, 11AM—1PM in the Sanctuary Coffeehouse

Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence on Campus: The Role of Faculty In and Outside the Classroom

Facilitators Dr. Simona Sharoni and Dr. Susan Marine

First meeting: Nov. 30 4-5 PM in the SESP Conference Room, 2nd Floor Austin Hall

Encouraging Reflection in the Classroom

Facilitators Dr. Rory Tannebaum and Mary McHugh

First meeting: Nov. 9, 11AM- Noon in the SESP Conference Room, 2nd Floor Austin Hall

The Writers House Presents Carl Safina

Tuesday, November 14

4:00 PM

The Writers House

Award-winning writer and conservationist [Carl Safina](#) will discuss his latest book, *Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel*. Safina is the first Endowed Professor for Nature and Humanity at Stony Brook University, where he co-chairs the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science and runs the not-for-profit Safina Center.

For more information about this and other events, please visit the Writers House website:

<https://www.merrimack.edu/academics/the-writers-house/>

Office of Global Education Open House

Thursday, November 16

The "Red House" at 23 Rock Ridge Road (behind Crowe Hall)

2:00-3:30 PM All Students Welcome

4:30-6:30 PM "Thirsty Thursday" for Faculty and Staff

The Office of Global Education (GEO) is hosting an Open House from 2-3:30 p.m. for all students on November 16 to discover what "global education" is all about at Merrimack College. Light refreshments will be served. Please encourage your students to attend!

A special invitation is extended to all faculty and staff to celebrate Global Ed's one-year anniversary in the "Red House" from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Take a tour, meet the staff, and learn what international opportunities that GEO has to offer our students and you. Join us for informal conversations over drinks and hors d'oeuvres. We hope to see you then.

Sponsored by the Offices of the Provost and Global Education

CETL Faculty Fellow Call

As part of its mission to engage faculty in developing creative, effective, and innovative pedagogies that enhance student learning and support academic success, and in support of its goal of developing a program of sponsored research to analyze, develop, adopt and assess best practices in teaching that draw on a scientific understanding of how students learn, the Merrimack College Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) is pleased to announce a call for applications for CETL Faculty Fellows program for the Spring-Fall 2017/18 academic year. Deadline for applications is **November 17**. Please see email invitation or contact Dr. Kathryn Nielsen for further information.

Provost Innovation Fund - Call for Proposals

The 2017-2018 Provost Innovation Fund (PIF) Call for Proposals is focused on supporting innovative and collaborative faculty-led initiatives that employ interdisciplinary approaches to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom, laboratory, field and/or studio. Proposals should demonstrate clear linkage to the College's *Agenda for Distinction*.

The 2017-2018 grant program is open to all levels and types of interdisciplinary approaches, including but not limited to faculty collaborations, new program exploration, interdisciplinary seminar development, classroom/studio/lab enhancements and short-term study abroad proposals. All faculty applying for projects will need to demonstrate at least inter-Departmental level impact for their proposal. Priority will be given to proposals that emphasize fully interdepartmental or inter-School collaborations. In addition, collaborations between faculty and campus offices such as the McQuade Library, Global Education Office, the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and other Centers are encouraged.

To download the Call for Proposals and the proposal guidelines, please click [here](#). Proposals are due **November 21st**. If you have any questions or inquiries, please contact the officeoftheprovost@merrimack.edu

Merrimack's New Student Interdisciplinary Journal: *Intersections*

This new journal will feature interdisciplinary work, integrating knowledge, methods, and modes of thinking drawn from two or more disciplines. Submissions can include scholarship, research, and creative work. To be eligible for publication, all submissions must be from by a student or students at Merrimack, graduate or undergraduate and all must be mentored by a Merrimack faculty member. The inaugural issue of *Intersections* is scheduled for May 1, 2018. Faculty are needed to identify and mentor students to submit work to the journal and to serve as co-editors and editorial board members. Please see the attached [CFP, cover letter and submission guidelines](#).

Submissions ideally will be given to the student's faculty mentor by **December 15** for review. The deadline for submissions to *Intersections* is **January 20, 2018**. For all suggestions and questions please contact, Jane Caputi, Visiting Scholar, caputij@merrimack.edu.

Other Events this Week

November 7th

Faculty Senate Meeting

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Murray Lounge

The agenda for the November 7, 2017 Faculty Senate meeting has been posted on Blackboard.

November 8th

**Atrium Series: PREVIEW the OnStagers production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*
12:30PM**

Rogers Center for the Arts

Get a taste of musical theatre as you enjoy your lunch! The OnStagers club presents several of the musical numbers from their upcoming production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Based on the unfinished novel by Charles Dickens, this exciting music hall-style murder-mystery lets you, the audience, choose its ending. Come to the Atrium series preview and get a sneak-peek at the possible murderers! Put on your deerstalker, grab your magnifying glass and search for the clues that will help you cast your votes at the full performances Nov. 16th through 18th.

Future Events

The Mystery of Edwin Drood

November 16-18

Rogers Center for the Arts

The WHO-DONE-IT musical Comedy adaptation of Charles Dickens' last (and unfinished) novel lets the audience decide who did it, and who gets to live happily ever after!

For more information, visit the [Rogers Center for the Arts](#) webpage

CETL Mobile Tech Working Group

November 15, 12:30 - 2:00 (Lunch Session)

Provost Conference Room

Join CETL Faculty Fellow, Dr. Jimmy Franco and faculty colleagues over lunch for an idea-swap and working session on advancing your projects and deepening your development of mobile technology inside and outside the classroom. Projects include: creating iBooks, becoming an Apple Teacher, creating an iTunesU course and more. Save the date!

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