



MERRIMACK COLLEGE



PROVOST BRIEFING

December 4, 2017

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

- Academic Affairs and Mission Committee
- Reading Days, December 12 & 13
- A Festival of Lessons and Carols, December 4
- A Celebration of Light and Hope, December 5
- Morningstar Direct Database, December 6
- Blackboard Course Creation and Student Enrollment
- Tolle Lege Submissions
- Winter Session Registration
- Open Office Hours with the Provost, every Wednesday
- Employee Development & Well-Being Workshops: Everything DiSC, December 6
- Emergency Preparedness Training, December 7

- Mturk Workshop, January 12, 2018

Academic Affairs & Mission Committee: Board of Trustees

A Brief Update

Last Thursday, the Academic Affairs and Mission Committee met as part of the larger Board of Trustees meeting at Merrimack College. Some highlights include the unanimous approval of the *Catholic School Leadership Graduate Certificate Program*, which enhances the leadership development of students by giving them skills to excel in Catholic Schools. Also approved was the M.S. in Engineering Management. This joint program was developed by the School of Science and Engineering in collaboration with the Girard School of Business and will prepare engineers and scientists with the skills needed to advance into technical management careers. In addition, Dr. Ellen McWhorter and three students gave an overview of the Honors program, highlighting how the Honors students share their skills, enthusiasm and leadership with the rest of the Merrimack College community. The following faculty members shared stories of how they are integrating academic technology to enhance teaching and learning:

- Dr. Cynthia Carlson presented on the use of the ArcGIS geographic information site license, training for faculty and students and interdisciplinary applications;
- Dr. Fan Chen presented on the use of the Morningstar Direct and Capital IQ Databases in the Girard School of Business;
- Dr. Nancy Wynn presented on the Flipped Classroom and the integration of mobile technology in Liberal Arts;
- Prof. Andrew Cannon presented how the newly-acquired Antomage Virtual Dissection table is being used in Health Sciences; and
- Dr. Jimmy Franco presented on the use of virtual reality (VR) 3-D goggles and their use in Chemistry, and the departments' development of interactive, multi-media iBooks.

Reading Days

December 12 & 13

A reminder that the instructional period of the semester consists of class meetings, followed by reading days, followed by final examinations. The reading period serves as a bridge between the end of classes and the beginning of final exams, allowing for active engagement between students and instructors for reviews, feedback, and consultation. Reading days may not be used to give examinations.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Monday, December 4

7:30 PM

Roger Center for the Arts

A centuries-old tradition, *Lessons, and Carols* is a heartwarming journey that leads you through centuries of prophecy, culminating in the birth of Christ. This traditional program blends the lyricism of spoken sacred texts with the joy of live choral music from time-honored hymnody and carols of the season for all to reflect upon and enjoy. Performed on the main stage in the Rogers Center, as we journey through the quiet of Advent towards the Feast of Christmas, *Lessons, and Carols* is a poignant way to pause and mark this important time of the year.

A Celebration of Light and Hope

Tuesday, December 5

5:15 PM

Rogers Center for the Performing Arts

The Annual Lighting of the Campus Christmas Tree will be immediately followed by food and drink in the DiCroce Family Lobby and open skating in Lawler Rink (skates provided). All are welcome, and all are welcome to bring their families especially children.

Morningstar Direct Database

How to use this tool to evaluate potential investments through TIAA Cref

Wednesday, December 6

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Mucci Capital Markets Lab, at Crowe Hall

The research team by Stephen Janeczko, Niall Coughlin, Fan Chen, and Mary Papazian will talk about the mutual funds offered by the TIAA CREF and demonstrate how to utilize the newly acquired Morningstar Direct Database to help identify the dozens of mutual funds your retirement portfolio. Stephen and Niall will also share their first-hand results from empirically analyzing the medal (analyst) rating of equity mutual funds to draw recommendations when it comes to the fund ratings.

Blackboard Course Creation and Student Enrollment

As the fall semester winds down, the CETL and the Academic Technology Team would like to make you aware of some important Blackboard dates for the Winter Session and Spring Semester. If you have any questions or concerns please send an email to Karen Slaton (slatonk@merrimack.edu).

Winter Session:

DECEMBER 5 - Course shells will be created and are available for editing. Contact Janet Syed (syedj@merrimack.edu) for assistance with setting up your course.

DECEMBER 19 - Student enrollments will begin feeding to Blackboard course shells.

Spring Semester:

DECEMBER 18TH - Full semester (R3) courses, and courses that run in the first half of the semester (R1) will be created and made available for editing. *We are rolling these out a week earlier than usual to give faculty the opportunity to begin working on them before leaving for break.* Contact Janet Syed (syedj@merrimack.edu) for assistance with setting up your course.

JANUARY 8 - Student Enrollments will begin feeding to R1 and R3 Blackboard course shells.

FEBRUARY 19 - Courses that run second half of the spring semester (R2) will be created.

MARCH 4 - Student enrollments will begin feeding to R2 Blackboard course shells.

Tolle Lege Submissions Due December 8th

McQuade Library recognizes the academic scholarship of the Merrimack College community by collecting published works by faculty, staff, students and alumni for the Tolle Lege Collection.

Each winter, authors of books, journal articles and papers published during the previous academic year are honored with a reception. This year, we've moved the annual Tolle Lege Reception to March instead of the customary February date. It will be held at the Writers House on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 4:00 PM.

We at McQuade Library ask the Merrimack community to please submit copies and/or citations of any book(s), article(s) or papers that were published between January 1, 2017, and December 31, 2017. Please submit all materials/citations (including submissions expected to be published in December) by **Friday, December 8, 2017**, to Frances Nilsson, nilssonf@merrimack.edu and/or to Michaela Keating, keatingm@merrimack.edu.

Tolle Lege materials [or citations] can also be added to Merrimack ScholarWorks, the College's open access publishing platform. ScholarWorks promotes the use of the college's unique academic and artistic achievements to a global audience of students and scholars while ensuring its long-term preservation.

Winter Session Registration

Students can register for an online Winter Session course until December 20. Students can view course listings and register at www.merrimack.edu/winter

Other Events this Week

December 6th

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.

December 6th

Employee Development & Well-Being Workshops: Everything DiSC

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Murray Lounge, Sakowich Campus Center

Every organization has a hidden diversity – the diversity of styles. Leveraging these different styles can produce effective collaboration, stronger relationships, greater productivity and enhanced business results. This session* will help you understand your own work style and the style of your colleagues. *Only available to those who have not yet taken this session. Pre-work is required.

December 7th

Emergency Preparedness Training

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts

The Merrimack College Police Department will offer this training session about campus emergency response and answer all your questions. Faculty and staff are invited to attend (no registration required). If you are unable to attend, more sessions will be planned for the new year.

Future Events

Mturk Workshop

January 12, 2018

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Psychology Group Testing Room, Ground Floor of O'Reilly

The Psychology Department invites you to attend a workshop on the process of collecting data through mturk. You can learn more about mturk here: <https://www.mturk.com/mturk/welcome>. Mturk can be combined with Qualtrics (to which the College already subscribes) to collect data from a diverse pool of participants (both nationally and internationally). Please see the following link for a description of that process: <https://blog.mturk.com/tutorial-getting-great-survey-results-from-mturk-and-qualtrics-f5366f0bd880>. Adam Berinsky will conduct this workshop and cover the following topics:

1. The logistics of setting up data collection with mturk
2. Who the participants are in these studies and how they are reimbursed
3. The ethics of using mturk to collect data
4. Best practices in survey design and collection
5. Collecting panel data
6. Running experiments with incentives

Workshop participants will leave with an understanding of how to set up mturk data collection in an ethical manner as well as an understanding of the pros and cons to this way of collecting data. Members of Merrimack's IRB will also be attendance.

If you are interested, please sign up here: <https://goo.gl/forms/vgoEW4P2xOjicG3D2>. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Christina Hardway at hardwayc@merrimack.edu. Readings will be disseminated prior to the workshop.

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