



# MERRIMACK COLLEGE



## PROVOST BRIEFING

January 22, 2018

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

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- Faculty Panel on Developing Global Courses, January 30
- Davis Educational Foundation Grant Proposals
- Faculty Development Grants: Call for Proposals
- CETL Teaching Circles
- Tech in the Classroom: Tips, Tricks, and Start-up Reminders
- The First Year Experience Program is Now Accepting Applications
- Open Office Hours with the Provost, every Wednesday
- The Senior Capstone Project One-Acts, February 22 and February 24
- Columbinus, by Stephen Karam, P.J. Paparelli and others, February 23

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## Faculty Panel on Developing Global Courses

Tuesday, January 30

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Meeting Room B, Sakowich Center

Have you ever considered incorporating an international component into one of your courses? Have you wanted to develop a course abroad, but had no idea where to start? If so, then this workshop is your opportunity to learn about the possibilities to get started.

The panel will include faculty who will be taking students internationally for the first time in 2018 as well as “veterans” of teaching global courses.

The Spring 2018 panel includes:

- Dr. Kathleen Cain, Office of Global Education
- Dr. Debra Michals, Department of Women's and Gender Studies
- Dr. Melissa Zimdars, Department of Communication and Media
- Erika Bass, Global Education

Sponsored by the Office of Global Education

For more information, please contact Prof. Kathleen Cain, [caink@merrimack.edu](mailto:caink@merrimack.edu)

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## Davis Educational Foundation Grant Proposals

**Call for Proposals: Spring 2018**

The Davis Educational Foundation Grants (DEFG) will support experiential learning course development with stipends of \$1,000 for up to three faculty during the Spring 2018 semester. Proposals should result in a new or improved experiential education course or program with a preference for courses geared toward first and second-year students. Experiential components include work-integrated learning (co-op, internship, externship); undergraduate research; study abroad; study away; service learning; travel stipend for student/professor conference paper presentation; and community engagement. Proposals should be one page and include proposal title, and a brief plan for peer dissemination and implementation. Send proposals to Dr. Patricia Sendall, Dean of Experiential Education, to [officeoftheprovo@merrimack.edu](mailto:officeoftheprovo@merrimack.edu).

**Spring Awards** Three (3) \$1000 awards

Proposals due **January 31**

Awards announced February 15

Reports due April 15

**Summer Awards**

Up to two Davis grants will be awarded for work done in the summer. Look for a call for proposals in the March/April time frame.

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## Faculty Development Grants

Call for Proposals for 2018-19

The Faculty Development Grant Committee is now accepting proposals. Five (5) copies of all completed and signed application forms and supporting information should be sent to Dr. Norma Rueda, Mendel Hall 221, Mail Stop N5. **The deadline for applications is February 1, 2018.**

Application forms and details on application procedures are available in the Faculty Handbook under "Faculty Development Grants."

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## **CETL Teaching Circles - Spring**

Consider joining a faculty-led Teaching Circle this spring. Circles are composed of faculty from across departments. 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. See the offerings below and contact the faculty facilitators or the CETL to join.

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

**Facilitators:** Dr. Debra Michals and Dr. Simona Sharoni

**Meeting Dates:** February 9, 1 - 2 PM & March 9, 1 - 2 PM; Third date TBA

**Location:** English Conference Room, 2nd Floor of Sullivan Hall

Overview: With the new Interdisciplinary Institute at Merrimack College, many of us have been considering the potential of interdisciplinary approaches in the courses we currently teach or the new courses we are developing. Research suggests that along with providing varied lenses through which to address complex social questions, interdisciplinary approaches can inspire curriculum innovation, faculty collaboration and improve student learning, especially in the area of critical thinking. But how and where does one begin to develop an interdisciplinary approach? This teaching circle will provide a space to discuss and share ideas about how to incorporate interdisciplinary approaches into our teaching, including the nuts-and-bolts of crafting a truly interdisciplinary syllabus. We treat interdisciplinarity as a language that can foster conversations and collaborations between faculty and students across schools and disciplines. By focusing on curriculum innovations and pedagogy, we seek to reach faculty who have been curious about interdisciplinarity.

### **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

**Meeting Dates:** January 31, Noon - 1PM; February 21, 2 - 3PM; April 9, Noon - 1PM

**Location:** Mack Club on the 2nd floor of Sakowich. Lunch will be provided. RSVPs will help us reserve adequate space.

Overview: Faculty members have an important role to play in addressing gender-based violence in the classroom and on campus. Join us as we explore the causes and conditions that contribute to campus sexual violence, consider ways to address it (and respond to it compassionately) in our teaching, classroom community-building, and scholarship, and explore "best practices" for faculty involvement in this issue. We will share ideas and techniques for engaging students in learning about this complex topic, and understanding how each member of a campus community can play a role in changing it.

### **Encouraging Reflection in the Classroom**

**Facilitators** Dr. Rory Tannebaum and Mary McHugh

**\*Meeting dates and times are currently being set. Please contact facilitators to express interest.**

Overview: This Teaching Circle seeks to engage faculty members regarding practical means for



incorporating various forms of meaningful reflection into coursework. The topic of reflection will be explored on two fronts: a) strategies for engaging students in meaningful reflection and, b) strategies for engaging faculty in self-reflection. Though these two topics are certainly not mutually exclusive, they will initially be approached as isolated aims – but will ultimately be merged together to create a Teaching Circle meant to develop classroom contexts where reflection occurs on teaching, learning, and content by all parties in the classroom.

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

**Facilitators: Dr. Sarah Benes and Dr. Leah Poloskey**

**Meeting Dates: Feb 1, March 8, & April 5, 11 am - 12 noon**

**Location: The Sanctuary**

Overview: Are we really meeting the changing needs of students through the same old activities? Have we actually evaluated the extent to which these activities are working? Have we sought out activities that could work even better? Are we still excited about coming to class every day? The truth is, teachers can get bored, sometimes without even knowing it. A lack of instructional vitality can leave us feeling drained and unable to be fully present when teaching. It can become easy to go through the motions of teaching. So, how do we keep our teaching fresh and preserve our vitality as a teacher? This question will be the foundation for the Teaching Circle.

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## **Tech in the Classroom: Tips, Tricks, and Start-up Reminders**

- If you are using your own personal computer, bring it into IT so you can connect to the MC Employee Network; do not use HotSpot.
- Remind students not to use personal HotSpots as they can disrupt Merrimack WiFi.
- To minimize messaging distractions, ask students to place their devices in Do Not Disturb (DND) mode for the duration of your class. DND can be found in "Settings."
- Return the classroom to its original seating configuration before leaving with boards erased and materials gathered. Encourage students to discard their trash.
- When using the classroom computer and departing, be sure to log off but do not turn off. This allows an easier start up for the next instructor.
- In Crowe Hall, if you have disconnected the HDMI cable to use in your personal device, **please reconnect it to the classroom laptop before you leave.** This will promote a seamless start-up for incoming instructors. In other classrooms with a dedicated classroom PC, please do not disconnect any cords.
- ***Please make sure the Apple TV remote is back in place.***
- Please do not remove any cords or remotes from the room.

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## **The First Year Experience Program is Now Accepting Applications**

Faculty and staff members interested in serving as instructors for the First Year Experience (FYE 1000) program during the fall 2018 semester can apply using the link below.

[FYE1000, Instructor Description and Application Link](#)

First Year Experience Instructor candidates must have a master's degree, have been an employee of the College for a full year at the start of the fall 2018 semester, obtain the signature

of a current supervisor/department chair, and if they are a new applicant they must also attend a brief interview with one of the FYE Co-Chairs in the spring semester. The academic department in which an applicant has received their terminal degree will certify the qualifications of each FYE Instructor. To apply, please complete the application form and send it via email to Dr. Jimmy Franco, Associate Professor and Chair, Chemistry and Biochemistry at [francoj@merrimack.edu](mailto:francoj@merrimack.edu) no later than **February 10, 2018**.

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## Other Events this Week

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### January 24th

**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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## Future Events

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### The Senior Capstone Project One-Acts

**Thursday, February 22 and Saturday, February 24**

**7:30 PM**

**Rogers Theater for the Arts**

**The Actor's Nightmare by Christopher Durang & If I Didn't Have You by Sarah Casey**

**Two plays, one great experience...**

**THE ACTOR'S NIGHTMARE** When an accountant is mistaken for an ailing actor's understudy, he's forced to perform in a play. There's just one problem: He has no idea what to do, and no one seems sure of even which play is being performed! By the end, dream and reality blur in this hilarious farce! Directed by John Barbetto, '18.

**IF I DIDN'T HAVE YOU** (Premiere) It's a classic story: Boy meets girl, and boy falls in love with girl. But how far will he go to prove that he's really her fairytale Prince Charming? Written by Sarah Casey '18.

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### Columbinus, by Stephen Karam, P.J. Paparelli and others

**Friday, February 23**

**7:30 PM**

**Rogers Theater for the Arts**

Sparked by the April 1999 massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, CO, Columbinus blends fact and fiction to illuminate the realities of adolescent culture, by exploring the events surrounding the shootings. Discussions with parents, survivors, and community leaders, as well as police evidence, are woven together to bring the dark recesses of American adolescence to light. The play received five Helen Hayes Award nominations including the Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play. Directed by Olivia Lombardo, '18.

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#### MERRIMACK COLLEGE PROVOST

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