



MERRIMACK COLLEGE



PROVOST BRIEFING

February 12, 2018

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

- Welcome Reception for Catherine Usoff, Change of Venue, February 22
- CETL Faculty Development with Sue Burch from Apple, February 22
- Five Minutes and a Mic, February 22
- CETL Lunch & Learn: February 26 & March 1
- FYE Call for Instructors
- Introduction to Academic Governance, April 3
- Research and Creative Achievement Conference Update and Submission Information
- 15th Annual Tolle Lege Reception, March 8
- Micro-Grants for Interdisciplinary Courses or Research
- Provost to Reinstitute Faculty Regalia Program

- Open Office Hours with the Provost, every Wednesday
- Stress Reduction with Mindfulness
- Empowered Breathing and Meditation for Anxiety and Stress Reduction
- Environmental Movie Nights

Welcome Reception for Catherine Usoff

Thursday, February 22

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Executive Room, Crowe Hall (**Change of Venue**)

Please join the President and Provost for a reception to welcome the new dean of the Girard School of Business.

RSVPs should be sent to Vicki Bianchini at bianchiniv@merrimack.edu by Monday, February 12.

CETL Faculty Development with Sue Burch from Apple

Thursday, February 22

Provost Conference Room, Austin Hall

[Registration Link](#)

Make it and Take it! Lunch Session (11:30 AM - 1:00 PM) - Registration requested.

Explore **learning continuity and creativity** and make 2-5 minute digital resources for your students. Using tools such as podcasting, short videos, and virtual packets, you can flip parts of your course and keep the learning interactive and engaging especially in the event of illness, conferences, or snow. Participants will be grouped according to creations desired; Garageband, iMovie, and Numbers or application of your choosing. Bring a paper assignment, leave with a digital copy!

You set the agenda! Personalized, 15-minutes appointments are available from **8:00 - 8:30 AM, 1:00 - 1:30 PM, or 4:00 - 4:30 PM**. Click on the registration link to sign up.

Five Minutes and a Mic

February 22, 4:00 PM

The Writers House

No notes, no slides. Just Merrimack professors talking ***very briefly*** about the work they do and why they love it. With **Drs. Brittne Aiello, Rickey Caldwell Jr., David MacLaren, Natalie Mitchell, and Dan Vlahos**.

Sponsored by the Writers House and CETL.

CETL Lunch & Learn: February 26 & March 1

February 26, 12:00 - 1:00 PM Types of Learners and Classroom Strategies

March 1, 11:30 - 12:30 PM Small Teaching Strategies

Faculty Facilitators: Drs. Roselita Fragoudakis, Katelyn Kurkul, Alicia Malone, Azam Noori, and Nancy Wynn.

[Registration Link](#)

Workshop Description: The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning awarded five faculty members the opportunity to attend the Best Teachers Institute's "Summer Institute"

during June 2017. The Summer Institute was a three-day intensive symposium on how best to teach; engage students; what types of learning environments are beneficial; how to infuse creativity into the classroom; assessment; and what techniques can easily be incorporated in your curriculum moving forward. Please join the faculty members as they share their insights from the symposium in a friendly and informal lunch and learn presentation.

FYE Call for Instructors

The First Year Experience Program is now accepting applications from faculty and staff members interested in serving as instructors for the First Year Experience (FYE1000) program during the fall 2018 semester.

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

First Year Experience Instructor candidates must have a master's degree, be 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 by **February 23**.

Introduction to Academic Governance

Date: Tuesday, April 3

Time: 4:00 - 5:00 PM

Location: Crowe Hall, Room 210

There will be a presentation given by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Merrimack AAUP Chapter introducing academic governance at Merrimack. This is part of the new faculty orientation and all faculty are welcome and encouraged to attend. There will be an opportunity for discussion at the event and light refreshments will be served.

The event is being co-sponsored by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the Merrimack Chapter of the AAUP, and the Office of the Provost.

Research and Creative Achievement Conference Update and Submission Information

The Office of the Provost, The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and representatives from each of the academic schools will be working together to organize and celebrate the diverse work across campus at the upcoming Merrimack College Research and Creative Achievement Conference.

The college-wide event is designed to highlight the academic and creative excellence of student (both undergraduate and graduate) and faculty work, to foster engagement among faculty members, students, their families, and the community, and to develop presentation skills needed for future endeavors. The conference invites and encourages representation from all five schools and all majors; as such, diverse formats are encouraged including, but not limited to posters, talks, videos, papers, recitations, and other forms of creative expression. The purpose of the conference is not only to provide an outlet for student work, but also means for integrative pedagogy and allowing students opportunities not typically available through the traditional classroom.

Please encourage students to present their work by sharing this message and general information with them. Please direct questions and input to Dr. Kathryn Nielsen, nielsenk@merrimack.edu and/or Dr. Michael Stroud, stroudm@merrimack.edu.

General Information

- Dates/Times: May 3 from 3:30 - 5:30 PM (Undergraduate Session) and May 9 from 3:00 - 6:00 PM (Graduate Session)
- Student Submission Deadline (Intent to Present Form): **March 1**
- Form must be completed by student presenter(s). Group submissions send in one form

[Research And Creative Achievement Conference \(Info & Submission Link\)](#)

15th Annual Tolle Lege Reception

Thursday, March 8
4:00 PM

Writers House

Please join us and congratulate your colleagues. This year's speakers include April Bowling, Cynthia Carlson, Fan Chen, Anne Flaherty, Autumn Ridenour, Rory Tannebaum, and Allan Weatherwax. Refreshments will be served.

Micro-Grants for Interdisciplinary Courses or Research

The Interdisciplinary Institute is offering \$1,000-2,000 micro-grants to support development of interdisciplinary courses and research. For more information click the link below or contact Mark Allman, Interim Director at allmanm@merrimack.edu. Application deadline is **March 15**.

[Micro Grant Application](#)

Provost to Reinstitute Faculty Regalia Program

The Office of the Provost is reinstituting the tradition of purchasing regalia for faculty when they are granted tenure. Being granted tenure is a significant event that warrants special measures. Given that the tradition of issuing regalia has not been observed in many years, the Provost will be implementing a 3-year plan to issue regalia to faculty who have been tenured previously. Faculty will have the freedom to choose certain regalia options. The Office of the Provost will be contacting faculty individually to notify them of the timeline and guidelines for receiving regalia.

Other Events this Week

February 14

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.

Future Events

Mindful McQuade Programming Spring 2018

Made possible by the 2017-2018 Provost Innovation Fund

Stress Reduction with Mindfulness

Dates: Tuesdays, March 6,13,20 April 3

Time: 4:00 - 5:00 PM

Location: McQuade Library Meditation Room Lower Level Room

Instructor: Jim Howland, Ed.D., LICSW, Hamel Health and Counseling

Are you having sleep difficulty? Do you find your mind is racing? Do you have difficulty concentrating in class or on your assignments? Are you looking to enhance and improve your well-being?

Participants will learn mindfulness and meditation to help calm and focus the mind.

Commitment to attend all 4 groups is recommended. Pre-registration is required by emailing howlandj@merrimack.edu or phoning 978-837-5441.

Empowered Breathing and Meditation for Anxiety and Stress Reduction

Dates: Thursdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, April 5, 12, 19, 26

Time: 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Location: McQuade Library Meditation Room Lower Level Room

Instructor: Danielle Federico

Danielle is skilled and trained to coach/teach Breathwork styles and principles. Danielle is a professional Life Coach, Certified Yoga Instructor and Breathwork Facilitator.

The students will be led through varying Pranayam practice (specialized breathing sequences and techniques). Using the breath as a focus can be a very simple way to calm the body and mind as well as connect the two. I teach various breathing practices designed to stimulate the parasympathetic system, countering the overstimulation our bodies and mind go through when in times of stress. Using the breath in this way allows energy to flow and move around the entire body. The effect can be energizing, relaxing and healing.

The focus will be on the following:

- Workings of the brain in relation to stress
- Our bodies and stress
- Tools and strategies for managing stress
- Mindfulness -what is it and how can it help us
- Introduction to Meditation
- Breath Work as a Yoga

Students may like to bring a notebook and pen to record any experiences that may arise in class. Classes are 60 minutes. Drop-ins welcome, registration requested by emailing C.J. Wong, wongc@merrimack.edu or phoning 978-837-5350.

Environmental Movie Nights

Co-Sponsored by the Green Team and the McLaughlin Martin Family Environmental Innovation Fund

Wednesdays March 7, 14, 21, 22, April 4, 11, 18

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Stevens Auditorium, Cushing Hall

March 7	Inconvenient Sequel
March 14	Tapped
March 21	If a Tree Falls
April 4	Great Yellowstone Thaw
April 11	Dam Nation
April 18	Coal Rush

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>

