



# MERRIMACK COLLEGE



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**Merrimack College welcomes new dean of the Girard School of Business, Catherine Usoff, Ph.D.**

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## PROVOST BRIEFING

**February 26, 2018**

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

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- Spring 2018 Davis Grant Recipients
- Campus visits for Scholar-in-Residence, Interdisciplinary Institute, February 26-March 3
- Research and Creative Achievement Conference Update and Submission Information, March 1
- Social Justice "Week" March 6-15
- From the Four Corners, March 6

- 15th Annual Tolle Lege Reception, March 8
- M.I.N.T.S. Event: Knowledge is Our Power: Finding Your Voice About Islam and Muslims, March 8
- Dean's List Recognition Ceremony for First Year Students, March 13
- Micro-Grants for Interdisciplinary Courses or Research
- 2nd Annual Lenten Backpack Drive, February 14th - April 5th
- Alison Russell, Ph.D. Receives 2018 Achievement Award for Early Outstanding Contributions to U.S. Intelligence and National Security
- Director Search: Interdisciplinary Institute
- The 9th Annual First Lecture
- Open Office Hours with the Provost, every Wednesday
- Exhibitions Opens: Paintings by Pam Tarbell, March 1
- 16th Annual A Cappella Night: Five O'Clock Shadow featuring Boston Jazz Voices, March 3
- Faculty Retreat, May 14-16

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## Spring 2018 Davis Grant Recipients

Congratulations to the following faculty on receiving a Spring 2018 Davis Education Foundation experiential education grant. Each recipient will share their experiences with the community upon completion of their project. Stay tuned!

|                                    |                            |  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Baldock, Brandi                    | Chemistry & Biochemistry   | Student Investigations of Nanoparticle Structure-Property Relationships          |
| Finn, Kevin & MacDonald, Jacquelyn | Health Sciences            | Assessing and Restructuring Service Learning in Health Sciences                  |
| Gallagher, John                    | Mechanical Engineering     | Global Education in Mechanical Engineering through Study Abroad                  |
| Lavoie, Ray                        | Marketing                  | Development of 2nd year international field work class for Business majors       |
| Mitchell, Natalie                  | Marketing                  | Development of a faculty-led short-term study abroad Marketing course in Asia    |
| Perks, Lisa                        | Communication & Media      | Transforming COM 2010 into a service learning project                            |
| Sharoni, Simona                    | Women's and Gender Studies | Incorporating experiential learning into the Feminist Theories and Action course |

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## Campus visits for Scholar-in-Residence, Interdisciplinary Institute

Three candidates will be on campus this week. We hope you would consider attending their public presentations, which are listed below. For more information on the candidates and/or for an opportunity to meet with them in person, please contact Dr. Simona Sharoni at [sharonis@merrimack.edu](mailto:sharonis@merrimack.edu)

"Art and Interfaith Dialogue in the Public Sphere"

**Monday 2/26, 4:00 - 5:15 PM**

"Race, Class, and Gender in the Age of Trump (and school shootings?)"

**Wednesday, 2/28, 4:00 - 5:15 PM**

"Rethinking the Approach to Global Development with Sustainability as the Bottom Line:  
Lessons and Reflections from Africa and Southeast Asia"

**Friday, 3/2, 4:00 - 5:15 PM**

**All public presentation will be held in Crowe Hall Room 126.**

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## **Research & Creative Achievement Conference Submission Information (Student Intent-to-Present Forms due Mar. 1)**

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 to Dr. Kathryn Nielsen, [nielsenk@merrimack.edu](mailto:nielsenk@merrimack.edu) and/or Dr. Michael Stroud, [stroudm@merrimack.edu](mailto: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 \(Info & Submission Link\)](#)

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## **Social Justice Week**

**March 6 - 15**

The annual Social Justice "Week" includes films, lectures, art performances, training sessions, discussions, and celebrations about social justice and making the world a better place for all. For an overview of the events click [here](#).

**Feed the Green: Feminist Voices for the Earth.**

**Thursday, March 8 (6:00 - 7:30 PM) Stevens Auditorium**

This documentary film, by Dr. Jane Caputi (the Interdisciplinary Institute Visiting Scholar), highlights an active global resistance movement and an alternative imagery communicating resistant green consciousness. Dr. Caputi will field questions after the film. For more click [here](#).

### **Climbing PoeTree**

**Tuesday March 13 (2:00- 3:15 PM) Cascia Hall**

Climbing PoeTree is an award-winning multimedia theater, dual-voice spoken word, visual art, sustainable touring, and community organizing duo. Co-creators Alixa Garcia and Naima Penniman are cultural architects committed to re-framing the story through multi-voice spoken word, hip hop, world music, and multimedia theater that translate deep research around the most pressing issues of our time into stunning artistry that catalyzes their audiences to activate the transformation they wish to cultivate within themselves and their communities. For more visit their [website](#) or watch this [video](#) or download this [poster](#).

### **Native Resistance in the Age of Trump by Nick Estes, PhD**

**Wednesday March 14 (2:00 - 3:00 PM) Cascia Hall followed by faculty and staff reception (4:00 - 5:00 PM) in the Merrimack Club.**

Dr. Estes is currently a fellow at Harvard. His research focuses on the Missouri River's environmental history and politics using indigenous studies, oral history, decolonization methodologies, settler colonial theory, affect theory, and new materialism. For more, click [here](#).

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## **From the Four Corners**

**Tuesday, March 6  
4:00 - 5:00 PM**

**Murray Lounge, Sakowich Center**

The Office of Global Education invites you to a panel of returning study abroad and international students who will share their learning experiences and challenges of studying abroad. The panel includes:

- Nora Baker, (Psychology and Spanish), Buenos Aires Global Institute
- Caitlin Broderick (International Business), London Global Institute
- Sergio Martinez (Mechanical Engineering), Merrimack College (Tamaulipas)

If you've ever wondered about the experience of the international students in your classes or our students around the world, join us and hear what they have to say.

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## **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.

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## **M.I.N.T.S. Event: Knowledge is Our Power: Finding Your Voice About Islam and Muslims**

**Thursday, March 8  
3:30 - 7:30 PM**

**Cascia Hall, Merrimack College**

[RSVP Here!](#)

The Merrimack Institute for New Teacher Support (MINTS) and the Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations, co-sponsored by the Abdelkadar Education Project, is

hosting a dinner, dialogue, and practice for educators to help increase confidence and capacity to deal with difficult topics in the classroom - namely, the Muslim-American experience, terror, and Islamophobia.

The event will feature Daisy Khan, Founder and Executive Director of WISE (Women's Islamic Initiative in Spirituality & Equality) and former Executive Director of the American Society for Muslim Advancement.

Program:

3:30 pm - Check-In & Welcome

3:45 pm - Keynote Address: Daisy Khan

5:00 pm - Break & Merrimack Concert Choir

5:15 pm - Abdelkader in the Classroom & Harvard Pluralism Project Case Studies: Tamar Miller

6:00 pm - Dinner & Dialogue

7:00 pm - Deepening Knowledge, Continued Support & Follow-Up, Debrief & Conclusion

PreK-12 classroom teachers can earn a certificate of participation towards professional development or PDPs. This event is free and open to the public; dinner will be provided. Please contact Tim LeBel ([lebelt@merrimack.edu](mailto:lebelt@merrimack.edu)), New Teacher Support Specialist, with any questions.

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## **Dean's List Recognition Ceremony for First-Year Students**

**Tuesday, March 13th**

**4:00 - 5:00 PM**

**The Rogers Center for the Arts**

Please join us for the Dean's List Recognition Ceremony, which will celebrate the academic achievement of our first-year students. All faculty and staff are welcome.

Refreshment reception to follow.

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## **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 Dr. Mark Allman, Interim Director at [allmanm@merrimack.edu](mailto:allmanm@merrimack.edu). Application deadline is **March 15**.

[Micro Grant Application](#)

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## **2nd Annual Lenten Backpack Drive**

**February 14th - April 5th**

Last year during Lent, the Grace J. Palmisano Center for Campus Ministry sponsored our first annual Backpack Drive. This drive is different than the other drives we sponsor, such as the toy and gift card drive during Advent and Christmas that brings happiness into the life of the child. This collection is more somber and certainly more sad. This drive is in coordination with the Massachusetts Department of Children and Family Services. We have been asked for help as they deal with the tragic brokenness of families and the unfortunate need to relocate children in danger to safety. Specifically, they are requesting donations of items that would fill overnight backpacks with supplies a child or a teenager would need when they must be placed in Emergency Foster Care for one or two nights.

Please see the [list](#) for the type of items that would be appropriate to donate. Backpacks

themselves may be gently used but the clothing and other supplies should be new. Donations can include anything from fully loaded backpacks to single items on the list. We also welcome donations of cash with which we will purchase needed items. Please bring any donations you would like to the Grace J. Palmisano Center for Campus Ministry on the 3rd Floor of the **Sakowich Campus Center (suite 350)**.

For more information or questions please contact our Augustinian Volunteer, Maggie Morrin at [morrinm@merrimack.edu](mailto:morrinm@merrimack.edu)

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## **Alison Russell, Ph.D. Receives 2018 Achievement Award for Early Outstanding Contributions to U.S. Intelligence and National Security**

Announcements were made by the Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA) today. According to the INSA, "the awards recognize junior or mid-career professionals for exceptional leadership, mentorship, and contributions to U.S. intelligence, national security, or homeland security." Click [here](#) to read more.

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## **Director Search: Interdisciplinary Institute**

The Interdisciplinary Institute is accepting applications for a Director. It is a three-year term and includes one course release per semester. For more information click the link below or contact Dr. Mark Allman, Interim Director at [allmanm@merrimack.edu](mailto:allmanm@merrimack.edu). Application deadline is **March 2, 2018**.

[Call for Director: Interdisciplinary Institute](#)

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## **Other Events this Week**

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### **February 27th**

**The 9th Annual First Lecture**

**7:00 PM**

**The Rogers Center for the Arts**

The Merrimack College Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the Merrimack College Honors Program, and the Division of Mission and Student Affairs are happy to announce that the 2018 First Lecture at Merrimack College will be delivered by Alfred Larsson of the Class of 2018.

The First Lecture will follow the Open Forum for Students with President Hopey that begins at **4:30 PM** in **Cascia Hall**.

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### **February 28**

**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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### **March 1st**

**Exhibitions Opens: Paintings by Pam Tarbell**

**McCoy Gallery, Rogers Center for the Arts**

The exhibition runs through April 8. A reception is scheduled for March 15, 5:30–7:30 PM.



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## March 3rd

**16th Annual A Cappella Night: Five O'Clock Shadow featuring Boston Jazz Voices**

**7:30 PM**

**The Rogers Center for the Arts**

Throughout its 23-year history, Five O'Clock Shadow has redefined the possibilities of vocal music. By incorporating mouth percussion, real-time digital effect processing and innovative arrangements, these six vocalists produce rock solid leads and harmonies, while exploring instrumental mimicry and unique textures. Critically acclaimed, Five O'Clock Shadow has excited, entertained and inspired audiences around the world. This special evening will open with the sounds of Boston Jazz Voices and their special guest, Mackapella.

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## Future Events

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### Faculty Retreat

**"Through Knowledge to Wisdom: Curriculum Wide Engagement in Questions of Meaning, Purpose, and Values through the Catholic, Augustinian Tradition."**

**May 14 - 16**

**Wylie Inn on the Campus of Endicott College**

As we continue our efforts to embody our Mission as a Catholic College in the Augustinian Tradition, we would like to invite you to gather with your colleagues for a Faculty Retreat beginning with dinner on Monday, May 14 and ending with lunch on Wednesday, May 16.

Thanks to the generous support of President Christopher Hopey and Provost Allan Weatherwax, as well as support from the Lily Foundation, there will be no charge to participants for accommodations, meals, and refreshments during the retreat. Space, however, may be limited.

While the retreat will include some input to stimulate our conversations with one another, the retreat will primarily be an opportunity for participants to get away and spend some time reflecting on how we might use the opportunities available to us as professors to help students engage questions important to the process of becoming enlightened, engaged, and empowered persons. We will use the wisdom of the Catholic and Augustinian Tradition as starting points and guides to our reflection.

Participants will be invited to bring the syllabus of an already existing course or a course they would like to teach. The retreat will offer the opportunity to consider how that course might be structured to better engage students in the deep human questions of meaning, purpose, and values.

If you would like to be part of this experience of reflecting, relaxing, and sharing the best of our professional experiences and insights with each other, please complete and return the [registration form](#) to Father Ray Dlugos by **March 1, 2018**. Each participant would also receive a \$500.00 stipend for their time and effort.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact Father Ray Dlugos, OSA, Ph.D. at [dlugosr@merrimack.edu](mailto:dlugosr@merrimack.edu).

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**MERRIMACK COLLEGE PROVOST**

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