



MERRIMACK COLLEGE



Newly-tenured faculty congratulated by President Christopher Hopey (third from right): Drs. Catherine Usoff, Zi Yan, Christopher Stuetzle, James Kaklamanos, Gavril Bilev, Bryan Bannon

PROVOST BRIEFING

April 9, 2018

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

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- 2018 Commencement Weekend, May 19-20
 - Legacy Reception, May 19
 - Honors Convocation, May 19
 - Baccalaureate Mass, May 19
 - Graduate Hooding Ceremony, May 19
 - Commencement (combined undergraduate and graduate), May 20

- Now Taking Regalia Rental Requests
- Edward G. Roddy Outstanding Teacher Award 2017-2018
- CETL Mobile Training with Sue Burch from Apple, April 10
- Virtual Reality in the Classroom Info Session, April 9-16
- Working with Students with Anxiety in the Classroom, April 19
- Distinguished Lecture: The Impact of Prevention On the Global Burden of Chronic Disease, April 19
- 15th Annual Tolle Lege Reception, April 26
- Spring Employee Development & Well-Being Workshops: Having Difficult Conversations, April 10
- Javier Zamora, April 10
- Faculty Senate Meeting, April 10
- Open Office Hours with the Provost, every Wednesday
- Spring Employee Development & Well-Being Workshops: Balancing Work and Family, April 11
- Ryan Patrick McLaughlin: 30 Minutes, 3,500 Words, April 11
- Building Community, Reaching for Justice Speaker Series Presents: Amy Rutstein-Riley, April 11
- 18th Annual St. Germain Memorial Lecture, April 11
- Spring Employee Development & Well-Being Workshops: Capitalizing on Your Strengths, April 12
- Noises Off, by Michael Frayn, April 12-14
- Claire Messud, April 17
- International Tea, Tuesday, April 24th
- AAUP Thomas P. Hogan Award Ceremony and Reception, April 25
- Annual 2018 Spring Concert Featuring Flo Rida, April 26th

2018 Commencement Weekend

May 19-20

Saturday, May 19

Legacy Reception

11:00 AM - Merrimack Stadium Viewing Patio

Honors Convocation

1:00 PM - Hammel Court, Volpe Athletic Center

Baccalaureate Mass

4:00 PM - Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher

Graduate Hooding Ceremony

4:00 PM - Hammel Court, Volpe Athletic Center

Sunday, May 20

Commencement (combined undergraduate and graduate)

10:00 AM - Merrimack Stadium

Faculty line up and additional details still to come.

Faculty Regalia Request

We are taking requests for faculty regalia rentals. If you are in need of regalia for the 2018 Commencement, Honors Convocation, and/or Baccalaureate Mass, please access the Regalia Form via the following link: [Request Form](#). There is an option rent or purchase this year. Rental

costs will be paid by the College, however purchases will not. Please submit your request by **April 13, 2018**.

Edward G. Roddy Outstanding Teacher Award 2017-2018

Edward G. Roddy, 1921-1985, Merrimack College Professor of History and scholar who throughout his life demonstrated a devotion to teaching excellence, care and concern for students and a deep dedication to learning.

NOMINATIONS: Faculty and graduating seniors are asked to nominate a full-time Merrimack College professor for the honor of the *Edward G. Roddy Outstanding Teacher Award*. Students and faculty should consider a wide variety of qualities when submitting a nomination, which may include but are not limited to:

- Ability to engage and inspire student learning, creativity, and independent thinking inside and outside the classroom
 - Encouragement of student participation
 - Enthusiasm and vitality toward teaching and learning
 - Effective and/or creative course design and redesign
 - Employment of pedagogical techniques that are fair and respectful of differences among students
 - Advisement and/or mentoring of students that reflect care, concern, and expertise
 - Adjustment to interests and needs of students based upon formal and informal assessments
 - Active involvement in student research projects
 - Significant effort in promoting mobile, tech-enriched teaching and learning environments
 - Comments: Please include specific details of how the above qualities are exemplified by this nominee. Nominations will be accepted until **April 15** using this [nomination form](#).
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CETL Mobile Training with Sue Burch from Apple

Tuesday, April 10

Provost Conference Room, Austin Hall

Whether you're new to teaching and learning with mobile technology or a seasoned mobile instructor, we encourage you to further your pedagogical reach by registering for this week's development sessions with one of Apple's best faculty developers. Consider one of the following sessions and register here: [Registration Link](#)

Make it and Take it - Your way! 12:30 - 2:30 PM (Lunch & Learn, all levels welcomed)

During this interactive session, explore strategies to engage students and deepen learning among colleagues. Bring your ideas and fully charged/updated device.

- Create interactive content with iMovie, GarageBand, and Explain Everything
- Explore creative classroom management strategies with Apple Classroom, Plickers, Socrative, and Poll Everywhere
- Create virtual packets (Numbers) and reflective journals (Keynote)

You set the agenda! Book an individual session with Sue (various appointment slots throughout the day)

Personalized 15-minute appointments

Virtual Reality in the Classroom - Info Session

Register for a small-group session during the weeks of April 9th and 16th (see registration link for specific dates/times) [Registration Link](#)

VOLPE 1182

Interested in how Virtual Reality can be used in the classroom? CETL and IT invite you to come try on the goggles, check out some of the apps, learn a few basics, and discuss with faculty colleagues the possibilities for implementing VR in your classroom.

Save the Date: April 19

Working with Students with Anxiety in the Classroom

Offered twice at 10:00 - 11:00 AM and 4:00 - 5:00 PM

[Registration Link](#)

“Dear Professor: I wish you knew how anxious (depressed/distractible) I am... Even though I won't tell you...”

Research confirms, each year more students are arriving to college with mental health related obstacles. These include anxiety, depression, ADD, and even self-esteem issues. All too often, mental health problems mask themselves as attitude or classwork performance problems. Students may appear to be irresponsible or unengaged when they are really just struggling to juggle life's demands. Join us for a workshop in which you'll learn concrete and effective ways to identify, reach out and help such students when they need you most. We will also hear from students who are managing first-hand with these issues.

Workshop led by: Jodi Rachins, Director of Accessibility Services Office, Jennifer Evans Director of Compass, and Dr. Michael Mascolo, Academic Director of Compass in collaboration with Academic Services, the CETL, and the Office of the Provost

Distinguished Lecture: The Impact of Prevention On the Global Burden of Chronic Disease

Thursday, April 19

Welcome Reception: 3:00 - 3:30 PM

Event: 3:30 - 4:30 PM

Rogers Center of the Arts

Presented by **Dr. Howard Koh**, Professor of Practice in Public Health Leadership, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Harvard Kennedy School. Dr. Koh served as the 14th Assistant Secretary of Health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), after being nominated by President Barack Obama and being confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

[RSVP HERE](#)

Sponsored by the School of Health Sciences

15th Annual Tolle Lege Reception

Thursday, April 26

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.

Other Events this Week

April 3-13

Live 2 Give: Relay for Life Purple Toilet Fundraiser

The student organization that plans Relay for Life, Live 2 Give, will be doing their annual "Purple Toilet" Fundraiser to help raise awareness for cancer research and promote the Relay for Life event on campus on Friday, April 13th in Lawler Rink from 6:00pm-6:00 am. The purple toilet will be making its way around campus April 3rd - 13th to different departments and offices. Faculty and staff have an opportunity to send it to each other. It is \$5 to send the purple toilet to someone and/or \$3 to simply remove the toilet from your office. It has been one of the most successful fundraisers done by the committee and is a fun and easy way to raise awareness and donations for a great cause.

April 10

Spring Employee Development & Well-Being Workshops: Having Difficult Conversations
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Murray Lounge, Sakowich Campus Center

Having difficult conversations are a necessary part of good communication. Being both direct and diplomatic is the key to effectively communication. In this session, you will learn how to positively address a range of issues and behaviors with co-workers, clients, and other people in the workplace through direct communication, effective feedback, and managing up.

April 10

Javier Zamora

4:00 PM

The Writers House

Javier Zamora was born in La Herradura, El Salvador, in 1990, and migrated to the United States in 1999. He is the author of *Unaccompanied*. He has received fellowships from CantoMundo, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Poetry Foundation, among others.

You can read more about Javier Zamora's life and work [here](#).

April 10

Faculty Senate Meeting

Stevens Auditorium

4:00 - 5:00 PM

April 11

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.

April 11

Spring Employee Development & Well-Being Workshops: Balancing Work and Family
9:00 – 10:00 AM

Murray Lounge, Sakowich Campus Center

Juggling the demands of children, home, a partner, work, and community can be overwhelming. This workshop focuses on how to manage these many important responsibilities. By reducing our stress level, learning how to set priorities, delegating, and managing time more efficiently,

we are able to achieve a better balance. Topics covered include examining our expectations, personality dynamics that interfere with reducing our stress, and managing time.

April 11

Ryan Patrick McLaughlin: 30 Minutes, 3,500 Words

12:30 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts

Ryan Patrick McLaughlin (Lecturer in Religious and Theological Studies) performs a tribute to fast-paced songs, including REM's "End of the World", Barenaked Ladies' "One Week", and Eminem's "Lose Yourself." The Rogers Center lobby will be filled with the poetry of music and even a light lunch (provided by Sodexo). Free event.

April 11

Building Community, Reaching for Justice Speaker Series Presents: Amy Rutstein-Riley

4:00 - 5:30 PM

Crowe Hall, Room 208

Dr. Rutstein-Riley, Dean of Faculty and Director, Center for Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship at Lesley University, will discuss the Girlhood Project, an initiative focused on positive youth development, intergenerational connections, and feminist processes.

Sponsored by the Community Engagement Program School of Education & Social Policy

April 11

18th Annual St. Germain Memorial Lecture

Guest Speaker: Robert G. Bell

Reception: 6:00 PM

Lecture and Honor Society Inductions: 7:00 PM

Cascia Hall

Robert G. Bell retired last year from the US Government following a 45-year career, most recently as the Senior Civilian Representative in Europe for four Secretaries of Defense.

Presented by Merrimack College's Department of Political Science & International Studies Program.

April 12

Spring Employee Development & Well-Being Workshops: Capitalizing on Your Strengths

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Murray Lounge, Sakowich Campus Center

Playing to one's strengths at work tends to leave people feeling more energized and purposeful. In this highly interactive session you will focus on uncovering some of your strengths and learn how to utilize them through powerful positive change questions, compelling communication, and collecting useful feedback and "feedforward".

April 12-14

Noises Off, by Michael Frayn

7:30 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts

Get ready for an outrageously funny look at the love, lies, and deceit that take place behind the scenes, as a group of ridiculously inept actors rehearse for a Broadway-bound play! Just when

members of this chaotic cast finally get their performances right, everything starts going wrong! Directed by Evan Kelly (Avenue Q!).

Future Events

Claire Messud

Tuesday, April 17

4:00 PM

The Writers House

Our spring Writer-in-Residence will be Claire Messud, acclaimed author of six works of fiction, including her most recent novel, *The Woman Upstairs*. She is the recipient of Guggenheim and Radcliffe Fellowships, as well as the Strauss Living Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Messud is currently a senior lecturer at Harvard University.

This program made possible with generous support from the Andrea '79 and Ken Robertson Writers House Innovation Fund.

International Tea

Tuesday, April 24

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Unity House

The International Tea is our wrap-up event of the academic year, where treats and tea from around the world can be enjoyed by all. Please join us for delicious refreshments, all students, faculty and staff are welcome!

AAUP Thomas P. Hogan Award Ceremony and Reception

Wednesday, April 25

3:30 - 5:00 PM

Crowe Hall, Executive Room

The Merrimack College chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) established the Hogan Award in 1988 to recognize those members of the college community who have contributed to furthering equity, openness, and joint professional responsibility as principles of collegial governance. The award is named for Tom Hogan, professor emeritus of economics and longtime academic dean. This year's recipient of the Hogan Award is **Dr. Marie A. Plasse**, professor of English. Light refreshments will be served.

More information about the Hogan Award, including a list of past recipients, can be found [here](#).

Annual 2018 Spring Concert Featuring Flo Rida

Thursday, April 26

Lawler Rink, Merrimack Athletic Complex

Doors: 7:00 PM

Show: 8:00 PM

The Office of Student Involvement is excited to announce the 2018 Spring Concert featuring Flo Rida. Tickets for Faculty and Staff are on sale now at www.merrimack.edu/springconcert. Tickets are \$40. This is an 18+ show and all ticket sales are final. If you have any questions please email osi@merrimack.edu.

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>

