



MERRIMACK COLLEGE



Faculty Retirement and Emeriti Reception

PROVOST BRIEFING

April 16, 2018

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A Note from the Provost: Last week we celebrated peers, mentors, teachers and scholars, not for their retirement from active teaching, but for careers spent in service of others. These professors represent decades of great works at Merrimack College - generations of alumni and students for whom that one moment, that one lab or lecture, that one semester, or that one year with a professor made all the difference to their future. These women and men lit flames, raised hopes, guided intellects and nurtured spirits as young men and women found the best within themselves. There is no nobler profession than education, and we can all hope our careers live up to the passion and dedication embodied by these colleagues. If we can see farther today, it is simply because we stand on the shoulders of giants like these. Thank you!

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
 - Open Office Hours with the Provost has changed to Thursdays
 - 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
 - AAUP Thomas P. Hogan Award Ceremony and Reception, April 25
 - 15th Annual Tolle Lege Reception, April 26
 - McQuade Summer Hours
 - Book Orders are Due!
 - Claire Messud, April 17
 - Spring Employee Development & Well-Being Workshops, April 17
 - Chair Massage
 - Glucose Screening
 - Blood Pressure Screening
 - Spring Employee Development & Well-Being Workshop: Everyday Stress Management, April 18
 - Analyzing Structures Power and Privilege: Reflections on Interdisciplinary Teaching and Pedagogy, April 18
 - Spring Employee Development & Well-Being Workshops, April 19
 - Workplace Exercise
 - Productivity: Busters and Boosters
 - Native Resistance in the Age of Trump Presented by Nick Estes, Ph.D., Harvard University, April 23
 - Robin Becker, April 24
 - International Tea, Tuesday, April 24th
 - Climbing PoeTree, April 26
 - Annual 2018 Spring Concert Featuring Flo Rida, April 26th
 - Reflections on an Interdisciplinary Journey: A Conversation with Dr. Jane Caputi, April 30
 - Save the dates: CETL:
 - Creating Multi-Touch iBooks, May 22
 - Faculty Tech Fair, May 23
 - Team-based Learning, May 24
 - Experiential Education Workshop with Donna Qualters, May 29th
 - Community Engagement Institute, May 29th & 30th

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.

Open Office Hours with the Provost moves to Thursdays

8:30 - 10:00 AM

Provost's Suite, Austin Hall

The Provost will have open office hours for faculty to drop in every Thursday 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.

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

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](#).

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.

McQuade Summer Hours

For your summer planning...

We will maintain our semester schedule through finals, including 24-hour operations on the weekend of May 5 & 6, and close Fri May 11 at 4:30. The week of May 14-18 we will be open 8:30-4:30. We will be open for Commencement Sun May 20 7am-3pm.

For the rest of the summer we will be open 8:30am-7:00pm M-T, 8:30am-4:30pm F, closed weekends. If we get 'summer Fridays' off again this year, we will be closed on those days. We will be closed on Memorial Day Mon May 28 and Wed July 4th.

As we did last year, we will offer extended hours at the end of each of the summer sessions to help with studying, projects, etc.: Sun Jun 24 1:00--5:00 pm, Mon Jun 25 8:30 am--10:00 pm, Sun Aug 12 1:00--5:00 pm, Mon Aug 13 8:30 am--10:00 pm.

Our hours can always be found on the McQuade Daily Calendar and the McQuade homepage.

Book Orders are Due!

Fall 2018 semester textbook orders are now **past due**. Please submit all orders into faculty portal at facultyportal.com This includes textbooks that have been previously used and orders for "no textbook required", as orders are not automatically renewed. If your textbook requires access codes or online components, please specify. **Remember, you can assist students in lowering costs** by leveraging the use of e-Pubs and other electronic resources as next academic year all undergraduate students will have iPads in hand. Please contact the CETL for assistance with locating and integrating e-Pubs, apps and Open Educational Resources. Please feel free to contact the Bookstore at X5431 or by email at merrimackbookstore@bbasolutions.com if you have any questions.

Other Events this Week

April 17

Claire Messud

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.

April 17

Spring Employee Development & Well-Being Workshops

Murray Lounge, Sakowich Campus Center

Chair Massage

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 PM

Back by popular demand! If you didn't get a chance to participate in the fall, sign up and take some time to de-stress and get a relaxing chair massage.

Glucose Screening

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 PM

This baseline screening will test participants for high blood glucose levels, which may be indicative of diabetes. When detected and treated properly, diabetes can be controlled, and risk for disease can be greatly reduced. In addition to receiving individual results, each participant receives educational materials, and nutrition recommendations based on their dietary needs and eating patterns.

Blood Pressure Screening

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 PM

Uncontrolled high blood pressure is a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke. When detected and treated properly, it can be controlled, and the risk for disease and stroke greatly reduced. At this screening, participant blood pressure will be checked and results will be explained by a health professional.

April 18

Spring Employee Development & Well-Being Workshop: Everyday Stress Management

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Murray Lounge, Sakowich Campus Center

Learning how to manage stress effectively is essential for maintaining health and well-being. High levels of stress contribute to health problems such as ulcers, high blood pressure, headaches, and depression, so learning to manage and minimize it is important. Learning to break the stress cycle is an invaluable skill. In this seminar, you will learn positive and appropriate coping skills to handle the stresses of everyday life.

April 18

Analyzing Structures of Power and Privilege: Reflections on Interdisciplinary Teaching and Pedagogy

12:00-2:00 PM

Austin Hall, 3rd floor conference room

The roundtable will feature a discussion among three Interdisciplinary scholars and innovative teachers:

- Anna Agathangelou, Associate Professor, Departments of Politics, Social and Political Thought, Gender and Women's Studies, New York University.
- Heather Turcotte, Crime and Justice studies, Black studies Programs, Women and Gender Studies, Sustainability Studies, and Urban Studies, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
- Catia Cecilia Confortini, Associate Professor and Co-Director of Peace and Justice Studies Program, Wellesley College.

Please RSVP [here](#)

Co-sponsored by the Teaching Circle on Interdisciplinary Teaching and Pedagogy.

April 19

Spring Employee Development & Well-Being Workshops Murray Lounge, Sakowich Campus Center

Workplace Exercise

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Learn how to do simple exercises throughout the day to keep your neck and back healthy. This interactive one-hour presentation teaches you how to incorporate exercise at their desk or at their workplace.

Productivity: Busters and Boosters

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Stress, burn-out, and competing commitments can have employees feeling “stuck” or at best, spinning their wheels. In this seminar, you will identify the factors that impede productivity and uncover the root causes of procrastination. You will take home valuable time management and goal-setting skills. Highlighting the art and science behind habit-forming, this session promises to help employees focus, follow-through, and achieve.

Future Events

Native Resistance in the Age of Trump Presented by Nick Estes, Ph.D., Harvard University

Monday, April 23

4:00-5:00 PM

Murray Lounge

Following the aftermath of the historic resistance against the Dakota Access Pipeline at Standing Rock, what does the future of Native resistance look like? This take offers a meditation on the history of Native resistance and contemporary Native organizing around state violence against Native lands and bodies and environmental justice. Wine, beer and hor d'oeuvres will be served starting at 3:30.

Robin Becker

Tuesday, April 24

4:00 PM

The Writers House

Robin Becker is a poet, critic, feminist, and professor. She is the author of eight collections of poetry, including, most recently, *The Black Bear Inside Me*, *Tiger Heron*, and *Domain of Perfect Affection*.

Learn a little about Robin Becker's process when composing the poem "[Hospice.](#)"

International Tea

Tuesday, April 24

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Unity House

27 Rock Ridge Rd.

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!

Climbing PoeTree

Thursday, April 26

Performance 2:00-3:15 PM

Workshop 4:00-5:15 PM

Murray Lounge

Co-Creators Alixa Garcia and Naima Penniman are cultural architects committed to reframing 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. Light refreshments will be served.

Cosponsored by the Department of Women's and Gender Studies.

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.

Reflections on an Interdisciplinary Journey: A Conversation with Dr. Jane Caputi

Monday, April 30

12:00-1:30 PM

Blue Line Club

Dr. Caputi, Inaugural Visiting Scholar of the Interdisciplinary Institute, will discuss turning points in her career with special attention to how the interdisciplinary engagements have enriched her scholarship, teaching and activism. The event is also an opportunity to bid farewell to Dr. Jane Caputi.

Save the Dates (Times TBA)

CETL: Creating Multi-touch eBooks, May 22

CETL: Faculty Tech Fair, May 23

CETL: Team-based Learning, May 24

CETL: Experiential Education Workshop with Donna Qualters, May 29th
Community Engagement Institute

- Dinner, May 29 (5-7pm)
 - Institute Sessions, May 30
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