



## PROVOST BRIEFING

April 30, 2018

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*The Office of the Provost congratulates **Dr. Marie A. Plasse**, professor of English, as this year's recipient of the **Hogan Award for Excellence in Collegial Governance**. Shown above is Dr. Plasse receiving the award from Dr. Michael DeCesare at the recent awards ceremony. Dr. Plasse joins a distinguished group of Merrimack College faculty who have also been honored; a list of past recipients can be found at the [Merrimack College AAUP Website](http://www.merrimack.edu/aaup). (Photo Credit: Dr. Anthony Laramie)*

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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
- Research and Creative Achievement Conference, May 3 & 9
- Summer Semester Courses
- Call for Nominations for Last Lecturer 2018
- Reflections on an Interdisciplinary Journey: A Conversation with Dr. Jane Caputi, April 30
- General Education Faculty Dialogue, May 16
- Faculty Scholarship Support
- Reflections on an Interdisciplinary Journey: A Conversation with Dr. Jane Caputi, April 30
- Last Day of Spring Classes, May 2
- Annual Dennis McLaughlin Lecture, May 2
- Open Office Hours with the Provost - Now on Thursdays
- Life in a Day
- Reading Period, May 3 & 4
- Save the Dates: CETL:
  - Creating Multi-Touch iBooks, May 22
  - Merrimack Innovates! Faculty Tech Fair, May 23
  - Team-based Learning with Dr. Jane Parent, May 24
  - Experiential Education Workshop with Donna Qualters, May 29
  - Community Engagement Institute, May 29 & 30
- Save the Date: Assistive Technology Workshop May 23

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## 2018 Commencement Weekend

May 19-20

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### Saturday, May 19

#### Legacy Reception

10:30 AM - Merrimack Stadium Viewing Patio

#### Honors Convocation

1:00 PM - Hammel Court, Merrimack Athletic Complex

**Faculty lineup** is at 12:00 pm in the Writers House. Please arrive dressed in regalia, refreshments will be served.

#### Graduate Hooding Ceremony

4:00 PM - Hammel Court, Merrimack Athletic Complex

**Faculty lineup** is at 3:00 pm in the Writers House. Please arrive dressed in regalia, refreshments will be served. A reception will immediately follow the ceremony in the MAC Lot.

#### Baccalaureate Mass

4:00 PM - Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher

**Faculty lineup** at 3:30 p.m. in front of Austin Hall. Please arrive dressed in regalia (no caps). A reception will immediately follow Mass in the Crowe Hall Patio.

## **Sunday, May 20**

### **Commencement (combined Undergraduate and Graduate)**

10:00 AM - Merrimack Stadium

**Faculty lineup** is at 8:30 am in the Writers House. Please arrive dressed in regalia, refreshments will be served. A reception will immediately follow the ceremony in the MAC lot.

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## **2018 Research and Creative Achievement Conference**

**May 3, 3:30 - 5:30 PM Undergraduate Session - MPR**

**May 9, 3:00 - 6:00 PM Graduate Session - MPR and Cascia Hall**

**Light refreshments will be served.**

You're invited! This conference celebrates the academic and creative excellence of undergraduate and graduate work. We are also honored to highlight mentored student work based on the College's commitment to engagement with our community partners. These reciprocal and collaborative partnerships serve to enrich the scholarship, research, and creative activity of our students and faculty while strengthening our institutional mission of fostering civic responsibility, addressing societal issues and contributing to the public good.

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## **Proposal Writing Institute with the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR)**

**May 9, 2018 internal deadline**

**May 15, 2018 CUR deadline**

The Office of the Provost will reimburse up to three Merrimack faculty to participate in the July 12-16, 2018 Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) Proposal Writing Institute at Georgia College in Milledgeville, GA.

This Institute is designed for faculty who have already identified an external funding opportunity or agency and are currently working on a draft proposal. The four-day institute will consist of one-on-one work with a mentor, writing, small group discussions, and critiquing of proposals. The institute has been developed to assist novice to experienced proposal writers in drafting complete proposals for submission.

By **May 9, 2018** please send a two paragraph outline of your proposal and the name of the intended funding agency and/or program to the Director of Sponsored Programs, Melissa Spragens at [siegelm@merrimack.edu](mailto:siegelm@merrimack.edu), for internal review.

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## **General Education Faculty Dialogue**

**Wednesday, May 16**

**1:00 - 3:00 PM**

**Executive Room, Crowe Hall**

The General Education Committee invites all faculty to a conversation about potential new structures of General Education at Merrimack College. The Committee will update the faculty on their work and present examples from our environmental scan, consultations with other Schools and work with Huron Consulting. Following a brief presentation, the Committee will engage the faculty in a facilitated general discussion. This faculty dialogue is a continuation of the previous discussion held on April 12th.

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## **Faculty Scholarship Support**

The Office of the Provost is committed to supporting faculty scholarship in all its forms across the humanities, social sciences, business, education, science, engineering and the health sciences. This year the Office of the Provost is pleased to have coordinated and overseen a substantial increase in funding for faculty development and scholarship. This increase is due to several factors including sustained funding for established funding and grant programs (Faculty Development Grants, Provost Innovation Fund, Murray Fellowship, Davis Educational Foundation, CETL Fellows) as well as new endowed funding streams (Sakowich Charitable Foundation, McLaughlin-Martin Environmental Innovation Fund, Zampell Family Faculty Fellowship Program) spawned by the College's Capital Campaign.

The result is that faculty can now participate in a much deeper and more diverse pool of funding opportunities to support their work. For academic year 2018-2019, the total funds that will be distributed for faculty development and scholarship are almost \$500,000. In addition, the increase in funding has resulted in an increase in the number of faculty being supported. Combined, funding for 2018-2019 will be provided to nearly 100 full-time faculty members across all five Schools.

While we are pleased to be able to provide more scholarship funding for the faculty, our work continues together, to explore new funding options, communicating the exciting and diverse array of scholarship activities both internally and externally, and expanding research opportunities for our undergraduate and graduate students. We look forward to partnering with the faculty to help them pursue their interests and passions.

A summary of funding being offered this summer and over academic year 2018-19 is provided in the table below. Information on Faculty Development Grant recipients will be sent to faculty by the Faculty Development Committee.

Project Leader	Department	Project
<b>Sakowich Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities - SCURCA</b>		
Taesoo Ahn	Sport Management	Understanding Internship and Job Markets in Sport Industry
Brandi Baldock	Chemistry and Biochemistry	Fluorescent Silver Nanoparticles for Plant Uptake Studies
Rickey Caldwell	Mechanical Engineering	PID Controller Optimization for Position Control
Cynthia Carlson	Civil Engineering	Biotic and Abiotic Assessment of the Shawsheen River
Juliana Cohen	Health Sciences	Impact of Marketing in Fast Food Restaurants
Anthony Fernandez	Chemistry and Biochemistry	Halide Ligand Studies
John Gallagher	Mechanical Engineering	Characterization of Photorestrictive Polymers
William McDowell	Biology	Biotic and Abiotic Assessment of the Shawsheen River

Lisa Perks	Communication and Media	Coping Through the Cancer Diagnosis Process
Brian Provencher	Chemistry and Biochemistry	Synthesis and Characterization of Aryly Piperdines
Alison Russell	Political Science	Cyber Warfare Strategies
Andrew Tollison	Communication and Media	Coping Through the Cancer Diagnosis Process
Omer Unsal	Accounting and Finance	Product Market Fluidity and Innovation
<b>Provost Innovation Fund</b>		
Taesoo Ahn	Sport Management	Ticket Building Promotion in Lowell Spinners
Traci Alberti	Health Sciences	Community Health Education
Ellen McWhorter	English	Finding Anne Bradstreet
Jessica Molignano	Health Sciences	Merrimack's Campus Kitchens Project
Anna Silva	Finance	Impact of Financial Coaching
Christina Hardway	Psychology	Impact of Financial Coaching
Allison Seitchik	Psychology	Impact of Financial Coaching
Jane Parent	Management	Impact of Financial Coaching
Joseph Vogel	English	Man in the Music
<b>Zampell Family Faculty Fellowships</b>		
Sadegh Asgari	Civil Engineering	Simulation and Analysis of Construction Markets Using Agent-Based Modeling
Isabelle Cherney	Education	Promoting and Enhancing Mission-Centered 21st Century Pedagogical Development in Nigeria
Anne Gatling	Education	Promoting and Enhancing Mission-Centered 21st Century Pedagogical Development in Nigeria
James Kaklamanos	Civil Engineering	Enhancing the Prediction of Earthquake-Induced Ground Motion
Amelia Mallona	Education and Community Studies	Promoting and Enhancing Mission-Centered 21st Century Pedagogical Development in Nigeria
<b>Davis Educational Foundation Grants (Summer 2018)</b>		

Brandi Baldock	Chemistry and Biochemistry	Forensic Chemistry Laboratory Crime Scene Investigations
Sarah Benes	Health Sciences	Enhancing Experiential Education and Assessment in Two Foundational Health Science Courses
Laura Kurdziel	Psychology	Development of an Experiential Learning Course in Equine Therapy
Omer Unsal	Finance	Financial Valuation Class (Special Topics in Finance)
<b>CETL Faculty Fellows (Fall 2018 - Summer 2019)</b>		
Anthony Fernandez	Chemistry	Collecting, Curating, and Sharing: Deepening Learning with Mobile Technology and iBook Creation
Raymond Lavoie	Marketing and Sport Management	Facilitating Flow in Learning Environments

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## Call for Nominations for Last Lecturer 2018

The Merrimack College Honors Program is pleased to invite nominations for the Annual Last Lecture at Merrimack College. The Last Lecture will be delivered on November 13 in the Fall 2018 semester by a faculty member who will share with the community their research, values, and passions. This is their chance to share their wisdom as if it were the last opportunity they would have to speak to a group of students.

All members of the community are encouraged to nominate those faculty members who you believe exemplify the values of the Merrimack College community. We encourage you to think specifically about those faculty members who have had a positive effect on you in some way, or who were engaging, motivated, passionate, and inspiring. Self-nomination is acceptable and encouraged.

To nominate a faculty member, please fill out this [form](#) with the faculty member's full name and a brief, detailed description of why he or she should deliver the last lecture. Nominations are due by **Friday, May 11, 2018**.

The Honors Student Council in consultation with the Honors Program Director will review the nominations and select the 2018 Last Lecturer.

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## Other Events this Week

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### April 30

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.

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## May 2

### Last Day of Spring Classes

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## May 2

### Annual Dennis McLaughlin Lecture

3:30 - 4:30 pm

#### The Writer's House

The Department of Psychology will be holding its annual Dennis McLaughlin lecture. This year's speaker will be Jessica Peacock, PhD, from the School of Health Sciences.

*The Impact of Fluid Parameters On Performance In Extreme Environments:* Hydration status is a critical factor in the maintenance of physiological function. Adequate hydration aids in the body's ability to maintain cardiovascular and thermoregulatory efficiency in all environmental conditions, both at rest and during exercise. When an individual fails to rehydrate during exercise performance, fluid loss exceeds fluid intake, resulting in dehydration. To gain clarity and further understanding on this topic, I have researched the impact of fluid parameters on exercise parameters in a thermoneutral, hot and simulated altitude environment.

Light refreshments will be served.

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## May 3

### Open Office Hours with the Provost - **Now on Thursdays**

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 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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## May 3

### Life in a Day

Prescreening lecture 6:30 PM

Film 7:00 PM

#### The Rogers Center for the Arts

What do you get when you ask the people of the world to chronicle a single day in their lives? Filmmakers, Kevin Macdonald and Loressa Clisby received 80,000 submissions and 4,500 hours of raw footage from 192 countries. They edited it all into a fascinating 90-minute film to illustrate what it meant to be alive on July 24, 2010. This is a free event.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

\*Films are shown as a part of the Tambakos Film Series, honoring the life and passion of Demmy (Peter) Tambakos ('74), and supported by an endowment created by George Furth, playwright, actor and screenwriter.

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## May 3 & 4

## Future Events

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### Save the Dates (Times TBA)

CETL: Creating Multi-touch iBooks, May 22

CETL: Merrimack Innovates! Faculty Tech Fair, May 23

CETL: Team-based Learning with Dr. Jane Parent, 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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### Save the Date: May 23

Assistive Technology Workshop

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Alden Classroom, 3rd floor McQuade Library

Come and learn more about TextHelp Read&Write software and how it can help English language learners, people with learning disabilities, and others.

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#### MERRIMACK COLLEGE PROVOST

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