

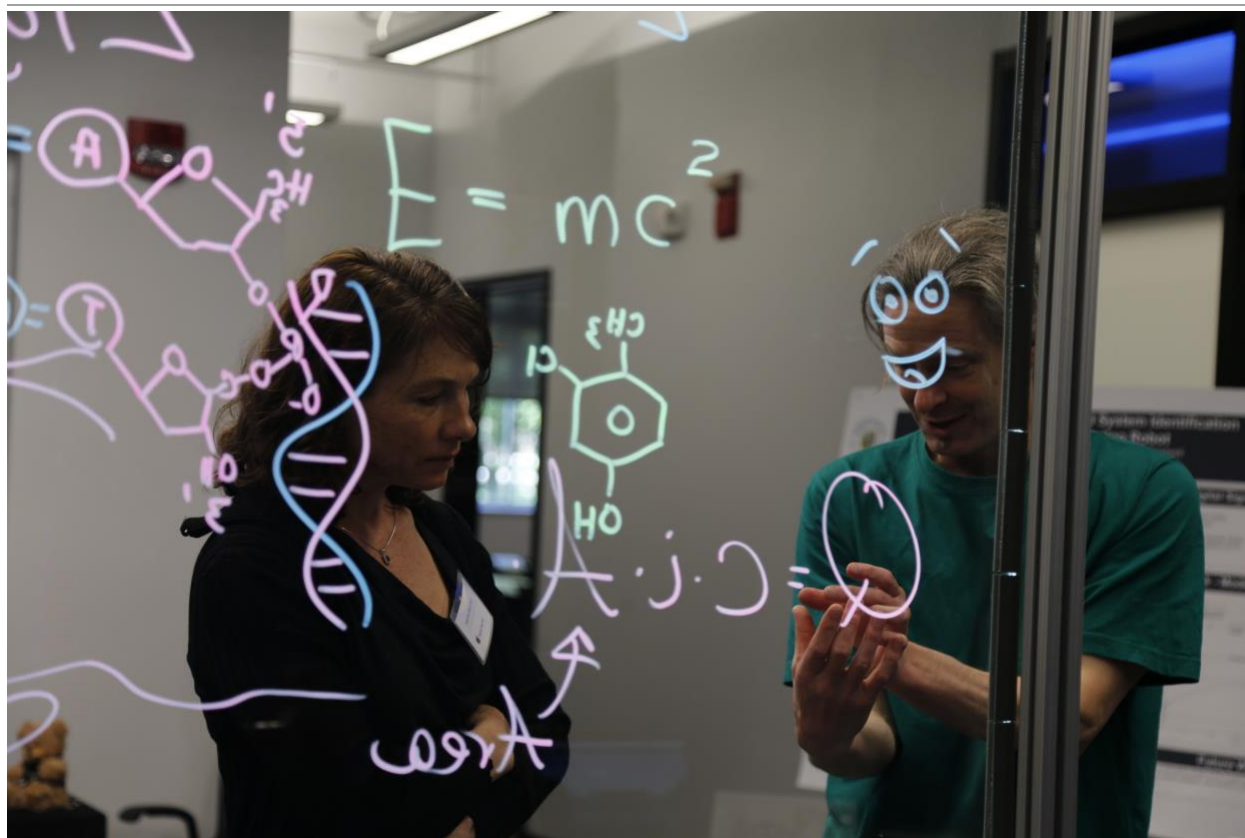


## PROVOST BRIEFING

June 11, 2018

[www.merrimack.edu/provost](http://www.merrimack.edu/provost)

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At the CETL-sponsored event *Merrimack Innovates!* Dr. Joanna Blanchard learns how to use the Lightboard built by Dr. Craig Looney and funded by the Provost Innovation Fund.

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

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- Blackboard Course Archive
- Learning Management System Changes for all fall classes 2018
- Graduate Information Session, June 13
- Open Office Hours with the Provost, every Thursday
- Last day for conversion of "N" grades for Spring 2018, June 15
- Last day to convert to Pass/Fail for Summer Term 1, June 15
- Last day to withdraw with a "W" from Summer Term 1, June 15
- Summer Orientation, June 20-21, June 25-26, and July 16-17

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## Blackboard Course Archive

In order to manage storage capacity and to reduce the ever-increasing number of courses in our production Blackboard system, all 2014 and 2015 courses in Blackboard will be archived on June 19th and as a result will no longer be visible in your active course list. The course data will be safely preserved and can be restored if necessary by submitting a ticket to [askit@merrimack.edu](mailto:askit@merrimack.edu).

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## Blackboard Changes for All Fall Classes 2018

There are important changes coming that you will need to know for all of your fall classes. The College is in the process of updating Blackboard to the new **mobile-friendly version** called Ultra. This transition will occur in stages, beginning fall 2018. In addition to a new navigation bar on all course shells, faculty may also opt-in to the new full-course Ultra version this summer. To prepare, please review the LMS updates and changes here: [Blackboard updates](#). To determine if you are a good candidate for Ultra right now, please take this [Blackboard usage survey](#) and the CETL will contact you to provide next steps.

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## Other Events this Week

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### June 13

#### Graduate Information Session

6:00 - 8:00 PM

#### Crowe Hall

The Graduate Information Session is a great opportunity for prospective graduate students to talk directly with a program director and learn more about our career-focused curriculum, field experience, and faculty. Admissions, student services, financial aid and career counselors will also be there to answer any questions they may have about the application process, scholarships, and more.

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### June 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 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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### June 15

Last day for conversion of "N" grades for Spring 2018

Last day to convert to Pass/Fail for Summer Term 1

Last day to withdraw with a "W" from Summer Term 1

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## Future Events

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## Summer Orientation

The Orientation Committee has begun planning for Summer Orientation would like to request the faculty's assistance for advising and registration. Since the College is welcoming over a thousand students to campus this fall, we need to adjust the orientation sessions and to add a third session! Here is the schedule for the three sessions:

- Session 1: **June 20-21, 2018**
- Session 2: **June 25-26, 2018**
- Session 3: **July 16-17, 2018**

Advising will take place on Thursday, **June 21st**, Tuesday, **June 26th** and Tuesday, **July 17th** from **9 am - 12 pm** in **Hamel Court** in the Merrimack Athletic Complex.

This year the Committee is again asking for assistance at any or all of the sessions to advise our incoming first-year students. To the best of our ability, we will match students with their academic advisor or a member of their department, and we will need additional assistance for those students who are undeclared. For Session 1 and 2, we are hoping for a minimum of two people per department with extra faculty in the larger majors. For Session 3, we expect a smaller number of students (and we know that faculty are not usually around in the summer) but will know our needs as we get closer to July. Please know that ANY AND ALL faculty members are welcome to participate. Please send Mary McHugh the names of the faculty members who can attend by **Monday, June 11th** at [mchughm@merrimack.edu](mailto:mchughm@merrimack.edu).

If you have any questions or suggestions about Summer Orientation, feel free to contact your school's representative on the Committee, Mary McHugh, Peter Ellard, Diane Shaw, or Allison Pukala.

The Orientation Committee would also invite everyone to the [Family Cocktail Receptions](#), which will be on Wednesday, June 20, Monday, June 25th and Monday July 16th from 4:30 - 6:00 PM in the Blue Line Club.

**Thank you** in advance for your assistance as we all look forward to welcoming the Class of 2022!

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### MERRIMACK COLLEGE PROVOST

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