



PROVOST BRIEFING

July 09, 2018

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Merrimack's new raised bed garden project site off of Rock Ridge Road funded by the McLaughlin Martin Family Environmental Innovation Fund.

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

- Now Taking Faculty Regalia Requests
- Hands to Help School Supplies Drive

- Summer Orientation: Session 3, July 17
 - "How Major Is Your Major?", July 24
 - Blackboard Changes for All Fall Classes 2018
 - Summer Term 2 classes begin, July 9
 - Open Office Hours with the Provost, every Thursday
 - Last day for adding and dropping Summer Term 2 courses, July 16
 - Last day for converting to or from Audit for Summer Term 2, July 16
 - Last day to convert to Pass/Fail for Summer Term 3, July 16
 - Last day to withdraw with a "W" from Summer Term 3, July 16
 - Gerry Johnston, Classical Guitar, Wednesday, August 15
 - The Jazz Disciples, Wednesday, August 22
 - Cold Chocolate, Wednesday, August 29
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Now Taking Faculty Regalia Requests

We are taking requests for faculty regalia rentals. If you are in need of regalia for the 2018 Academic Convocation, please let us know if you need rental regalia by clicking on the request linked below:

[Faculty Regalia Request](#)

Please submit your request by **August 17, 2018**.

Hands to Help School Supplies Drive - Last Chance to Donate

We are asking for your generosity in helping provide school supplies for children in need. Since every new academic year brings a financial strain for our families in Lawrence, your donations will help ease this burden and send the students back to school prepared to succeed. All donations (school supplies or money) can be dropped off at Alisha Reppucci's office, **Suite 370 on the 3rd floor of the Sakowich Campus Center by July 12**.

A list of needed supplies and additional information can be found [here](#).

Summer Orientation: Session 3

July 16-17, 2018

Advising will take place on **Tuesday, July 17** from 9am-12pm in **Multi Purpose Room** of the Sakowich Center. For Session 3, we expect a smaller number of students and will only need a limited number of faculty members. **Please check with your department or dean if you are able to attend.**

If you have any questions or suggestions about Summer Orientation, please feel free to contact Mary McHugh, Peter Ellard, Diane Shaw, or Allison Pukala.

The Orientation Committee also would like to invite everyone to the Family Cocktail Reception on **Monday July 16** from 3:30 - 4:30 pm in the **Crowe Executive Room**.

Thank you, as always, for your assistance as we all look forward to welcoming the Class of 2022!

"How Major Is Your Major?"

Tuesday, July 24

9:30 AM - Noon

Location: TBA

The Academic Support and Advising department of the Academic Success Center invites you to attend a workshop delivered by the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). Harry Twyman and his team from the University of Connecticut are the 2018 Best of Region presenters. This presentation will focus on the importance of elevating the student approach to major exploration by acknowledging and correcting student misconceptions and demonstrating that choosing a major isn't quite so major. The presenters will also provide information on how the University of Connecticut's The Major Experience (TME) program is addressing this notion and will allow attendees to brainstorm how they can best support students in this decision-making process. A light breakfast and refreshments will be served. If interested in attending, please complete this form: [RSVP](#) here.

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.

Other Events this Week

July 9

Summer Term 2 Classes Begin

July 12

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.

Future Events

July 16

Last day for adding and dropping Summer Term 2 courses
Last day for converting to or from Audit for Summer Term 2
Last day to convert to Pass/Fail for Summer Term 3
Last day to withdraw with a "W" from Summer Term 3

Gerry Johnston, Classical Guitar

Wednesday, August 15

7:00 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts

Gerry Johnston has become a Rogers Center favorite as audiences request the beautiful sounds of this classical guitarist over and over again. Grab your chance to hear this incredibly talented artist play! This event is free and open to the public.

The Jazz Disciples

Wednesday, August 22

7:00 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts

Another Rogers Center favorite, the Jazz Disciples, led by David Hastings, return to "The Rog" with cool arrangements, smoky vocals, and all that jazz! This event is free and open to the public.

Cold Chocolate

Wednesday, August 29

7:00 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts

What do you get when you fuse bluegrass, folk, and rock into the new sound of Americana? A tasty treat! With tight three-part harmony and skillful musicianship, this Boston-based trio has impressed audiences throughout New England and beyond! This event is free and open to the public.

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