



## PROVOST BRIEFING

July 23, 2018

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

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- Now Taking Faculty Regalia Requests
- Open Office Hours with the Provost Cancelled This Week
- CITI Training is Here
- "How Major Is Your Major?", July 24
- Blackboard Changes for All Fall Classes 2018
- Get Ready for Blackboard Ultra!
- Do You Have a Book Coming Out?

- Gerry Johnston, Classical Guitar, Wednesday, August 15
  - The Jazz Disciples, Wednesday, August 22
  - Cold Chocolate, Wednesday, August 29
  - Opening of the 2018-19 Academic Year
  - Dan Kaufman, September 25
  - Fall Writer-in Residence, October 16-18
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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**.

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## Open Office Hours with the Provost Cancelled This Week

There will be no office hours with the Provost this Thursday, July 26th. Office Hours will return the following week on **Thursday, August 2**.

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## CITI Training for IRB

The Merrimack College Institutional Review Board (IRB) would like to remind you that CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative) training is now required for all faculty and students interested in getting certification to work on human subjects. Beginning in September 2018, we will no longer accept NIH training certification for any research requiring IRB review.

Why the transition to CITI? CITI training is a nationally recognized human subjects research and compliance training program. CITI provides a comprehensive and holistic training certification that is more widely recognized and accepted than our previous NIH training.

If you are not familiar with the CITI Program site, you can click [here](#) for a quick tutorial.

If you are familiar with the CITI Program site, you can click [here](#). Please remember to change your affiliation to Merrimack College if you registered while at another institution.

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## "How Major Is Your Major?"

**Tuesday, July 24**

**9:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Location: Cascia Hall**

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 by 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.

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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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## Get Ready for Blackboard Ultra!

Consider signing up for one or more sessions while in the convenience of your home office. Sessions are held via Collaborate, Merrimack's new web conferencing tool. All sessions led by Janet Syed, CETL Associate Director/Instructional Designer.

July 26 - Course Set Up and Design  
August 9 - Course Communication  
August 23 - Assessment and Grading

[Registration Link](#)

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## Do You Have a Book Coming Out?

McQuade Library would love to host a signing event for your new book. Please contact Kathryn Geoffrion Scannell, [geoffrionsck@merrimack.edu](mailto:geoffrionsck@merrimack.edu) with the details.

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## Future Events

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### 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.

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### 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.

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## **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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## **Graduate Student Welcome Event**

**Thursday, August 30**

**6:00 PM**

**Hammel Court**

The Graduate Student Welcome event is for all incoming graduate students. It starts with a quick information session about Merrimack College and the different services available to our graduate students. After that session, students are invited to socialize with the provost, vice provosts, deans, program directors, faculty, staff and fellow students. This event is a wonderful way to help students celebrate the start of their graduate programs at Merrimack College.

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## **Opening of the 2018-19 Academic Year**

**Tuesday, September 4, 2018**

**Mass of the Holy Spirit**

**4:15 PM**

Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher

**Community Barbeque**

Immediately following Mass of the Holy Spirit

Location: TBD

**Thursday, September 6, 2018**

**All classes will be dismissed at 3:30 PM**

**Academic Convocation**

**4:00 PM**

Hamel Gym, Merrimack Athletics Complex

Faculty line up is at 3:30 pm on the first floor of McQuade Library. Please arrive dressed in regalia (no tams). Regalia rentals can be picked up at line-up.

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## **Dan Kaufman**

**Tuesday, September 25**

**4:00 PM**

**Writers House**

Dan Kaufman will read from/discuss his new book, *The Fall of Wisconsin: The Conservative Conquest of a Progressive Bastion and the Future of American Politics*. Kaufman's writing has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine* and *The New Yorker*.

A review of *The Fall of Wisconsin* in *The New York Times*:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/11/books/review-fall-of-wisconsin-dan-kaufman.html>

A piece in *The New Yorker*:

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-fall-of-wisconsin-and-the-rise-of-randy-bryce>

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## **Fall Writer-in Residence: James Wood**

**October 16-18**

Our Fall Writer-in-Residence this fall will be James Wood. Wood is Professor of the Practice of Literary Criticism at Harvard University and a longtime staff writer at *The New Yorker*. Widely considered to be the preeminent critic of his generation, Wood is the author of *How Fiction Works*, as well as the essay collections *The Broken Estate* and *The Irresponsible Self*, and the novels *Upstate* and *The Book Against God*. **His keynote/reading will be on Thursday, October 18 at 4pm.**

A recent piece on Philip Roth here:

<https://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/the-unceasing-necessity-of-philip-roth>

A recent interview with Wood:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/mar/02/james-wood-interview-upstate>

The Writer-in-Residence program is made possible with generous support from the Andrea '79 and Ken Robertson Writers House Innovation Fund.

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