



PROVOST BRIEFING

July 30, 2018

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

- Now Taking Faculty Regalia Requests
- CITI Training is Here
- Blackboard Changes for All Fall Classes 2018
- Get Ready for Blackboard Ultra!
- McQuade Messenger; Summer Edition Available
- Open Office Hours with the Provost, Every Thursday
- Last day to convert to Pass/Fail for Summer Term 2, August 3

- Last day to withdraw with a “W” from Summer Term 2, August 3
- Gerry Johnston, Classical Guitar, Wednesday, August 15
- The Jazz Disciples, Wednesday, August 22
- Cold Chocolate, Wednesday, August 29
- Graduate Student Welcome Event, August 30
- Opening of the 2018-19 Academic Year
- Second Tuesday First-Year Student Advising Meetings, September 11

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 by clicking on the request linked below:

[Faculty Regalia Request](#)

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

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.

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.

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.

August 9 - Course Communication
August 23 - Assessment and Grading

[Registration Link](#)

McQuade Messenger; Summer Edition Available

The Summer 2018 edition of the McQuade Messenger has been published. Learn about new streaming video options, an ipad lending program, hot titles for beach reads, and more [here](#).

Other Events this Week

August 2

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 Thursday 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.

August 3

Last day to convert to Pass/Fail for Summer Term 2

Last day to withdraw with a "W" from Summer Term 2

Future Events

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.

August 30

Graduate Student Welcome Event

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.

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.

Second Tuesday First-Year Student Advising Meetings

Tuesday, September 11

4:00 PM

The Academic Success Center has organized our annual "Second Tuesday First-Year Student Advising Meeting", which takes place on the the second Tuesday of the semester during the

free block. The primary goal is to give first-year students an opportunity to meet their primary advisor earlier. Last year's inaugural event was met with resounding praise.

Faculty who have first-year student advisees will meet with a group of their advisees. The meeting will take place in the faculty office - if the group is small enough - or in a classroom. For more information on how this serves as an opportunity for advisors, visit the [Second Tuesday First-Year Student Advising](#) page.

MERRIMACK COLLEGE PROVOST

315 Turnpike Street | North Andover, MA 01845

(978) 837-5114 or

provost@merrimack.edu

www.merrimack.edu/provost

<https://www.facebook.com/merrimackprovost>

