



PROVOST BRIEFING

October 15, 2018

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

- Faculty and Staff Campaign Celebration, October 25
- Open Office Hours with the Provost Cancelled for the Next Two Weeks
- Davis Educational Foundation: Funding Opportunity and CFP
- Fall Writer-in Residence, October 16-18
- Graduate Open House, October 17
- Environmental Film Series: Death by Design, October 17
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- CETL Ed Tech with Sue Burch from Apple, October 23 & 24
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- Where We Come From: Request for Photos
- Spring at Merrimack and Around the World
- Tuition Exchange Program - Now Accepting Applications for Sponsorship

- Building Community, Reaching for Justice Fall 2018 Speaker Series: Marquis Victor, October 15
- Thomas Merton and the Religions: An Interfaith Conference, October 16
- Faculty Senate Meeting, October 16
- Karen Burciaga and Ulster Landing, Irish Pub Tunes and Sing-A-Long, October 17
- Create Your Impact: Personal HERstories, October 18
- National Interdisciplinary Honor Society, October 18
- Midpoint of semester, October 19
- Undergraduate Open House, October 20
- The International Observe the Moon Night 2018, October 20
- Merrimack Family Astronomy Night, October 24
- Homecoming Weekend, October 26-28
- Feast of All Saints, November 3
- Feast of All Souls, November 2
- MACK GIVES BACK, November 1-9

Faculty and Staff Campaign Celebration

Thursday, October 25

4:00-6:00 PM

Multipurpose Room (MPR), Sakowich Campus Center

As Merrimack College faculty and staff, we share in the pride of the Together for Good Campaign's accomplishments. President Hopey invites you and your colleagues to a special event to announce and celebrate a pivotal moment at Merrimack.

Featuring great food, cocktails, and a special multimedia show!

<http://www.merrimack.edu/celebrate>

Open Office Hours with the Provost Cancelled for the Next Two Weeks

There will be no office hours with the Provost for the next two weeks. Office Hours will return the following week on **Thursday, November 1**.

Davis Educational Foundation: Funding Opportunity and CFP

The David Educational Foundation Grants (DEFG) support experiential course development with stipends of \$1,000 for up to 6 faculty for the 2018-2019 academic year. Proposals should result in a new or improved experiential education course or program with a preference for experiences geared toward first- and second-year students. Experiential components include work-integrated learning (co-op, internship, externship); undergraduate research; study abroad; study away; service learning; community engagement. Proposal should be one page and include a title, abstract, description and brief plan for dissemination and implementation. Send proposals (and any questions) to sendallp@merrimack.edu and copy nielsenk@merrimack.edu.

Fall Awards

Three (3) \$1000 awards

Proposals due: **October 15**

Awards announced October 30

Spring Awards

Three (3) \$1000 awards

Proposals due: January 31

Awards announced February 15

Fall Writer-in Residence: James Wood

October 16-18

Our Fall Writer-in-Residence 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.

Graduate Open House

Wednesday, October 17

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Crowe Hall, Executive Room

The Graduate Open House 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.

[Register Here](#)

Environmental Film Series: Death by Design

Wednesday, October 17

7:00 PM

Stevens Auditorium

This 2016 documentary explores the relationship between our addiction to new electronic devices and the human health and environmental impacts of these toxic choices.

Light refreshments served. All are welcome!

Co-sponsored by the McQuade Library, the Green Team, and the McLaughlin Martin Family Environmental Innovation Fund.

Gender and Race in the Narratives of Crossing of Syrian Refugees into Germany

A Talk by Dr. Isis Nusair, Denison University

Thursday, October 18

2:00 - 4:00 PM

Cascia Hall

Join us for a presentation based on extensive ethnographic research conducted with Syrian refugees in Germany in the past three years. Dr. Nusair explores how gendered and racialized bodies of refugees become the site for the negotiation of the meaning and practice of both “refuge” and “border.” The narratives of refugees underscore the search for an alternative to war and displacement and for new modes of transnational social and political transformations.

Sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Institute. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please visit [Event Page on Facebook](#).

CETL Ed Tech with Sue Burch from Apple

October 23 & 24

Light plates provided and all levels welcome!

All sessions held in the new CETL space in Sullivan Hall.

Whether you're new to teaching and learning with mobile technology or a seasoned mobile instructor, we encourage you to further your pedagogical reach by registering for development sessions with one of Apple's best faculty developers. Consider one of the following sessions and register here: [Registration Link](#)

Tuesday, October 23

Create and Publish Content, Personalized for *Your* Students

9:00 - 10:00 AM

Designed as an info session for instructors curious about creating multi-touch books, study guides, reference materials, or book chapters. In addition to a demo, faculty currently using multi-touch books will share their own books and how they have benefitted students in the classroom by tailoring instruction and reducing costs. In January, Sue will return to run a bootcamp for folks interested in creating with their own materials.

Interested in becoming a recognized Apple Teacher? Planning to apply for Apple Distinguished Educator?

10:30 - 11:00 AM

This info session provides a space to learn about the self-paced Apple Teacher certification program for iPad and Mac. Perfect for instructors and instructors seeking to promote digital competency among their students. It's also the perfect time to learn about the application process for becoming an ADE and to begin gathering your materials.

Top Ten Strategies for iPad as a Learning and Teaching Tool

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM (lunch session)

Explore teaching and learning strategies leveraging your iPad in creative and productive ways to engage students, save you time, and make you a rockstar in the classroom!

Wednesday, October 24

Breakout Escape Room Activity!

9:00 - 10:15 AM

Put on your super-sleuth hat and find clues to solve problems with your colleagues. Use your critical thinking skills, collaborate with peers, and most of all muster your perseverance. Leveraging your iPad apps to escape and eventually find your way out, you will learn valuable tips and tricks to use in the classroom!

Request an Individual Appointment with Sue

CETL Teaching Circle Enrollment

The CETL is pleased to announce the 2018/19 faculty-led Teaching Circles. Circles are composed of faculty from across departments and founded on the idea that teachers can learn from each other. The collegial nature of the circle is intended to foster openness, mutual support, and innovation. Please contact the faculty facilitators below to join or for more information contact nielsenk@merrimack.edu.

Civic and Community Engagement in Times of Crisis: Faculty Roles and Responsibilities

Drs. Elaine Ward and Simona Sharoni

Fall Meeting Dates: Thursday 10/25 12:00 - 1:30 PM & Tuesdays 11/6 and 12/4 3:30 - 5:00 PM

Location TBD

Following the gas explosions in Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover on September 13, 2018, a group of faculty suggested that faculty members have a particular responsibility to our institution, our students and our communities and therefore have an important role to play during the unfolding crisis and its aftermath. This teaching circle is designed to foster conversations on our roles and responsibilities as educators in times of crisis. We will explore relevant curricula, pedagogical innovations, and the institutional capacity required to graduate civic-minded and democratically-engaged professionals, experienced working with communities, and to enhance the college's ability to respond to crises and to serve as regional resource in times of crisis.

Increasing Student Motivation in Introductory Science Courses

Dr. Brandi Baldock

First Meeting Date: Thursday 10/25 - 3:00 PM

Sullivan Hall, Room 301

College science courses can be challenging for students because they require the use of quantitative analysis and abstract reasoning skills. Students often view these required courses as stepping stones that they must pass on their actual program of study, rather than making an inherently valuable investment to their understanding of their major. Because these courses are challenging and students may not see their inherent value, students can be less motivated to study for these courses. This teaching circle will focus on ways to increase student motivation in introductory science courses. Participants will examine pedagogical approaches currently used and work to design approaches that foster relevance and motivation among learners.

Participant-Centered Learning: Teaching with Case Studies

Dr. Rodrigo Bandeira de Mello

First Meeting Date: Monday, 10/22 4:00-5:00

The Sanctuary Cafe

This teaching circle aims at adapting and developing the case study teaching method to the Merrimack College's context. We will discuss not only the fundamentals of this teaching method, but also how it can add value to our students. We plan to meet twice per month to discuss a) Participant-centered learning philosophy and the role of the instructor in the case study method; b) developing a syllabus and selecting the cases; c) preparation of participants and instructor prior to the analysis session; d) collaborative case analysis: from individual answers, small-group answers, to class answers; e) developing a board plan: collecting and organizing participants' insights on the board; f) making questions to participants; g) navigating through "pastures" and reaching a closure; h) discussing the case takeaways and incorporating theory and research in case analysis.

Teaching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students

Dr. Stephanie Garrone-Shufran

First Meeting Date: Wednesday, 10/31 at 1:00 PM

Location TBD

Merrimack's student population is becoming more diverse each year. This teaching circle will create a space in which participants can discuss the elements of college that culturally and linguistically diverse students may find challenging, including classroom culture and practices, reading, writing, and institutional policies. Once we narrow our focus to specific topics, we will work collaboratively to create supports and strategies that can be used to promote the success of all students at Merrimack.

Important Advising Information to share with students

This advising period, please share information about two great opportunities for your undergrad students. You'll be receiving printed materials to share during your advising meetings.

- **GRAD Advantage:**
 - The Grad Advantage program allows students with a gpa of 3.0 or above to take up to 8 credits toward a graduate degree during their senior year. The GRAD Advantage scholarship covers the tuition costs of the eight credits.
 - Students whose schedules are unable to fit additional courses can use the Grad Advantage scholarship and fast track application after graduation.
 - Please talk with your advisees who qualify for this opportunity as they plan their future schedules so that they can take advantage of this great benefit.
 - Learn more about the program and participating degrees at merrimack.edu/gradadvantage
- **Winter Session: January 2 – 15, 2019**
 - Registration for more than two dozen online undergraduate Winter Session courses will open on October 25. It's a great way for your advisees to earn four credits.

- See the list of courses at Merrimack.edu/winter. Contact the Office of Professional and Continuing Studies at professionalstudies@merrimack.edu or x3563 for questions.

Where We Come From: Request for Photos

Thagaste Gallery, Rogers Center for the Performing Arts

Opens: November 1

All are invited to participate in creating an art exhibition unlike anything we've done before.

Where We Come From draws off the longstanding tradition of honoring our ancestors and personal family histories through photography. We would like to create a living history of our community by offering the opportunity to contribute photographs representing our families' past, and relationships from several generations past up to more recent and immediate relationships.

Please send chosen photos to Father Rick Piatt at piattr@merrimack.edu or mail a COPY (please, do not send the original), to: Fr. Richard Piatt, O.S.A, Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike Street, North Andover, MA 01845, by **October 20**. You may submit as many as you'd like. All photographs will be handled with great care and respect.

Please, identify the person or people by name and birth and death dates (if known) and share any information, from nick names to military service to their love for ice cream or something they said that impacted your life.

Spring at Merrimack and Around the World

Deepen your understanding and explore our common world one of Merrimack's Spring Semester Faculty-Led International Courses. Applications are open now. All these courses are on-campus for Spring Semester with an off-campus/on-site portion either over Spring Break or in May-June. To find out more or start your application, go to www.merrimack.edu/GEO

- [RTS2450 Pellegrinaggio in Italia](#)
- [HSC3150 Public Health Issues Abroad: UK](#)
- [WGS 3360 Fieldwork in the Southwestern U.S.](#)
- [BIO3090 Hawaiian Ecology, Culture, and Economy](#)

Applications are due by **October 19**

Tuition Exchange Program - Now Accepting Applications for Sponsorship

The Office of Human Resources is now accepting applications for sponsorship for the 2019-2020 Tuition Exchange Program. Interested families must complete and return the attached application by Monday, **October 29th**. For further information, please review the [tuition exchange materials](#). Questions, concerns, and completed applications can be directed to Patricia Sonia at soniap@merrimack.edu or x5472.

Other Events this Week

October 15

Building Community, Reaching for Justice Fall 2018 Speaker Series: Marquis Victor

5:00 - 6:30 PM

Crowe Hall, room 210

Marquis Victor is the Founding Executive Director of [Elevated Thought](#). Elevated Thought is an art and social justice Lawrence-based organization that actively serves and develops communities through youth empowerment curriculum, beautification projects, youth organizing, and public outreach.

October 16th

Thomas Merton and the Religions: An Interfaith Conference

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Crowe Hall 206

Join us to celebrate the life and legacy of Father Louis, OCSO (Thomas Merton) on the 50th Anniversary of his death. This day long conference aims to extend Merton's impact as a 20th century guide to spiritual exploration - and its link to a life of mercy, justice and peace - to another generation of students and to our wider community. Attend one session or come for the day; a [detailed schedule](#) is available. More information can be found on our [webpage](#). Please share this event using our [Facebook](#) page.

[RSVP](#) is appreciated, especially if you will send students.

October 16th

Faculty Senate Meeting

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Arcidi Center, Meeting Room A

The meeting agenda can be found on Blackboard.

October 17th

Karen Burciaga and Ulster Landing, Irish Pub Tunes and Sing-Along

12:30 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts Atrium

What is better than an afternoon of Irish dance and pub music for fiddle and voice?

Experiencing it live!

October 18th

Gender and Race in the Narratives of Crossing of Syrian Refugees into Germany

A Talk by Dr. Isis Nusair, Denison University

2:00 - 4:00 PM

Cascia Hall

Join us for a presentation based on extensive ethnographic research conducted with Syrian refugees in Germany in the past three years. Dr. Nusair explores how gendered and racialized bodies of refugees become the site for the negotiation of the meaning and practice of both "refuge" and "border." The narratives of refugees underscore the search for an alternative to war and displacement and for new modes of transnational social and political transformations.

Sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Institute. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please visit [Event Page on Facebook](#).

October 18th

Create Your Impact: Personal HERstories

2:30 - 4:30 PM

Arcidi Center, 2nd Floor

A Fireside Chat with Dr. Christine Riordan, President of Adelphi University, Cynthia Paris, Lawrence Superintendent of Schools and Erin Hamlen, Head Coach of Women's Ice Hockey at Merrimack College.

October 18th

National Interdisciplinary Honor Society

3:30 - 5:00 PM

Cascia Hall

The Interdisciplinary Institute is in the process of launching our chapter of [Alpha Iota Sigma](#), the national honor society for students of interdisciplinary studies. On Thursday 10/18, around 3:30, following the event listed above, we will hold an information session for students.

For more information see the attached flyer and facebook event page for the [honors society meeting](#).

October 19th

Midpoint of Semester

October 20th

Undergraduate Open House

Sessions at 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM. It's your all-access pass to everything Merrimack has to offer including an academic & campus fair, academic breakout sessions, financial aid workshops, and a campus tour.

October 20th

The International Observe the Moon Night 2018

6:00 - 11:00 PM

Merrimack College Observatory

This is a perfect choice for folks who simply want to observe the moon through the observatory.

Future Events

Merrimack Family Astronomy Night

Wednesday, October 24 (the full 'Hunter's Moon')

6:00 - 8:00PM

Mendel Hall

Come by Merrimack College for a night filled with astronomy activities for all ages. Activities will include use of the Merrimack Observatory, Mars Rover programming, civilian science, and more. Snacks will be provided as well.

Please register you and your family here: <http://bit.do/MCAstronomyNight>

Homecoming Weekend

October 26-28

Join us for a crisp fall weekend to celebrate all things Merrimack. [Homecoming](#) has grown into one of Merrimack's most beloved traditions. A time when alumni, parents, and friends return, relive their Merrimack experience, and reconnect with the best parts about being a Warrior!

First Faculty Research Luncheon Group Financial Coaching: A New Approach for Building Financial Capability?

Monday, October 29

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Provost Conference Room

Please join us to learn about an exciting collaborative project, involving three faculty members, affiliated with the Interdisciplinary Institute: Jane Parent, Management, Girard School of Business, Allison Seitchik, Psychology, School of Liberal Arts, and Ana Silva, Finance, Girard School of Business.

Lunch will be served. RSVPs are encouraged at director.institute@merrimack.edu

Feast of All Saints

Thursday, November 1

12:30 PM

Chapel of Our Mother of Good Counsel, Austin Hall

Join us for a Mass celebrating the Feast of All Saints.

Feast of All Souls

Friday, November 2

12:30 PM

Chapel of Our Mother of Good Counsel, Austin Hall

Join us for a Mass in memory of all members of our community and loved ones of members of our community.

MACK GIVES BACK

November 1-9

Remembering the roots of Merrimack College as an institution founded to serve the educational needs of military veterans of World War II, we honor those who served by serving others. In order to maximize the number of people able to volunteer, to spend a few hours recalling the what we ask of those willing serve in the military, and to maximize the quality of the service we are able to offer to our community, [MACK GIVES BACK](#) will take place throughout this week.

MERRIMACK COLLEGE PROVOST

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