



## PROVOST BRIEFING

December 03, 2018

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### Apple Distinguished School designation presented to Merrimack College

(Photo: Allan Weatherwax, MJ Blatt, Apple Inc., Paul D'Ascoli, Apple, Inc., President Hopey, Ian Camera, Apple, Inc., Cheryl Low, Apple Inc., and Kathryn Nielsen. Photo cred Mary Schwalm)

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

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- Merrimack College becomes Apple Distinguished School
- Christmas at Merrimack College
  - A Celebration of Light and Hope, December 4

- The Festival of Lessons and Carols, December 10
  - GAUDETE! (Rejoice!), December 18
  - Christmas Mass followed by the Employee Christmas Party, December 21
  - CETL Faculty Teaching Circle: Civic and Community Engagement in Times of Crisis, December 4
  - CETL Workshop: Promoting Meaningful Reflection with Dr. Rory Tannebaum, December 6
  - Interdisciplinary Research Forum: Faculty Research Forum on Sponsored Teaching, Research, and Advocacy in Precarious Political Times, December 7
  - Faculty Teaching Circle: Information session for Presidential fellowships, December 11
  - 2019 Employee Benefits Open Enrollment begins on Wednesday, November 28, 2018
  - Faculty Development Grants: Call for Proposals
  - Tolle Lege Call for Submissions
  - Changes to Human Subjects Research/IRB Guidelines
  - Save the Date - 2019 Research and Creative Achievement Conference, May 2
  - Teaching and Tech Tips
  - First Year Experience (FYE) Mentor 2019 Nomination Form
  - Aidan Scrimgeour Trio, December 4
  - Last day to withdraw with a "W" for Fall Session 2 graduate online courses, December 5
  - Open Office Hours with the Provost, Every Thursday
  - 2018 Murray Symposium, December 6
  - MINTS Presents: Teaching the Holocaust: Empowering Students, December 6
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## Distinguished School

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Recognized by Apple as a distinguished school for continuous innovation in learning, teaching, and the school environment.

## Merrimack College becomes an Apple Distinguished School

Merrimack College has been designated an Apple Distinguished School in recognition for its clear vision on using technology-rich environments to support learning goals. Merrimack joins 400 schools worldwide, with a select 23 drawing from higher education, in this impressive distinction. The Office of the Provost and the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning wish to recognize the collective efforts of faculty, students, staff, and administrators who inspire student creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking and who cultivate environments in which students are excited and curious about learning.

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## Christmas at Merrimack College

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for any or all of these events to help you get in the Christmas Spirit:

### A Celebration of Light and Hope

**Tuesday, December 4**

**5:15 PM**

**Rogers Center for the Arts and the Merrimack Athletic Complex**

All students, faculty and staff are invited and are invited to bring their families, especially young children. In addition to the traditional lighting of our Campus Christmas Tree, this year we will also mark the third night of Hanukkah with the blessing and lighting of the Menorah. Following the Tree Lighting, all are welcome to enjoy food and drink in the DeCroce Family Lobby of the Merrimack Athletic Complex and enjoy the chance to ice skate on Lawler Rink. Skates will be provided for those who do not have their own.

**The Festival of Lessons and Carols**

**Monday, December 10**

**7:30 PM**

**Rogers Center for the Arts**

Begun in England, Lessons and Carols services have become a Christmas tradition around the world. The Festival of Lessons (Scripture) and Carols (Song) combines short readings that tell the Christmas story with choral music sung by the Merrimack Schola and familiar Christmas Carols for everyone to sing.

**GAUDETE! (*Rejoice!*)**

**Tuesday, December 18**

**4:30 PM**

**St. Ambrose Friary**

The Augustinian Community welcomes all employees of the College to their home at St. Ambrose Friary starting at 4:30 PM for Christmas Cheer during this third week of the Season of Advent.

**Christmas Mass followed by the Employee Christmas Party**

**Friday, December 21**

**12:30 PM**

**Chapel of Our Mother of Good Counsel in Austin Hall**

Join with your colleagues in prayer and worship together before we go our separate ways for Christmas. This Mass features the Faculty/Staff Choral Ensemble making their one and only appearance of the year.

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**CETL Faculty Teaching Circle:**

**Civic and Community Engagement in Times of Crisis**

Co-facilitated by Elaine Ward and Simona Sharoni

**Tuesday December 4**

**3:30 - 5:00 PM**

**Sullivan B-2 (CETL classroom)**

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**CETL Workshop with Dr. Rory Tannebaum**

**Exploring how Educators Promote Meaningful Reflection Amongst Traditional Undergraduate Students: A Multi-Case Study**

**Thursday, December 6, 2:00 PM**  
**CETL Classroom, Sullivan B-2. Refreshments served**

[Event Registration](#)

This workshop will explore how educators who teach at the college-level effectively encourage students to reflect on the content and experiences they are afforded in college. The workshop will be grounded in the findings of a semester-long empirical study that sought to learn about how six faculty members thought about their content and pedagogy and the ways in which they assisted students to see beyond an "instrumentalist view" of college toward a perspective of both social and academic growth.

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## **Interdisciplinary Research Forum**

### **Teaching, Research, and Advocacy in Precarious Political Times**

**Friday, December 7**

**12:00 - 2:30 PM**

**Sullivan B-2 (CETL classroom)**

Sandra Raponi, Philosophy, Melissa "Mish" Zimdars, Communication & Media, & Simona Sharoni, Women's and Gender Studies will discuss their scholarship and current debates on the topic. The event is sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Institute and will conclude with an end-of-semester/holidays party. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to

[director.institute@merrimack.edu](mailto:director.institute@merrimack.edu)

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## **CETL Faculty Teaching Circle:**

### **Information Session for Presidential Fellowships**

**Tuesday, December 11**

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Sullivan B-2 (CETL classroom)**

For more information email [director.institute@merrimack.edu](mailto:director.institute@merrimack.edu)

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## **2019 Employee Benefits Open Enrollment begins on Wednesday, November 28, 2018**

The office of Human Resources is pleased to announce information regarding the Employee Benefit Plan Offerings for the 2019 plan year (January 1 - December 31, 2019), as well as information on the corresponding Open Enrollment period, which will take place from **November 28-December 12, 2018**. For more details visit the [2019 Employee Benefits Open Enrollment Page](#).

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## **Faculty Development Grants: Call for Proposals**

The Faculty Development Committee would like to announce that applications are now being accepted for 2019-20 Faculty Development Grants. This includes both academic year grants, which cover specific expenses related to a planned project, and summer 2019 grants, which can cover specific expenses or offer salary support for work undertaken during the summer.

The deadline for applications is **February 1, 2019**.

**Electronic Submission NEW THIS YEAR:**

Electronic Submissions are optional, but encouraged. If you choose the electronic submission option, email one PDF file attachment of all completed and signed application forms and supporting information to: [fdg@merrimack.edu](mailto:fdg@merrimack.edu)

For more information [click here](#) or refer to the Faculty Handbook, Section 5.9.

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## **Tolle Lege Call for Submissions**

McQuade Library recognizes the academic scholarship and creativity of the Merrimack College community by collecting published works by faculty, staff, students and alumni for the Tolle Lege Collection. Each winter, authors of books, journal articles and papers published during the previous year are honored with a reception. This year's reception will be held at the Writers House on Thursday, **February 7, 2019** at 4:00 PM (snow date: Feb 14th at 4:00 PM).

We at McQuade Library ask the Merrimack community to please submit copies and/or citations of any book(s), article(s) or papers that were published between **January 1, 2018** and **December 31, 2018**. Please submit all materials/citations by Wednesday, **December 12, 2018** to Frances Nilsson, [nilssonf@merrimack.edu](mailto:nilssonf@merrimack.edu) and/or to Michaela Keating, [keatingm@merrimack.edu](mailto:keatingm@merrimack.edu).

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## **Changes to Human Subjects Research/IRB Guidelines Revised Common Rule Takes Effect January 21, 2019**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and fifteen other Federal Departments and Agencies have issued the new Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects, known as the Common Rule. Starting on January 21, 2019, the Merrimack College Institutional Review Board (IRB) will begin following the guidelines outlined in the revised Common Rule. For detailed information, [click here](#). All IRBs nationwide will be required to operate under the provisions of the revised Common Rule.

The implementation of the new Common Rule will require researchers to fill out a revised application form on Merrimack's Cayuse IRB online application system. All researchers will be required to fill out the new form for all applications submitted on or after January 21st 2019. To avoid having to redo an application in process, the IRB strongly recommends that all researchers wishing to submit under the existing provisions do so before **December 15, 2018**. This will allow the IRB to review all applications before the January 21 transition date.

All IRB proposals received on or after January 21 will have to follow the new application process. Details on the new application process and an outline of the changes in the Common Rule will be made available in early November 2018 on the Merrimack IRB Website.

It should also be noted that research studies already approved as exempt, expedited or full (convened IRB review) before January 21, 2019 will not be required to comply with the changes

in the revised Common Rule. Such research may continue to completion or closure under the old rules. If you have any questions please contact the IRB at [irb@merrimack.edu](mailto:irb@merrimack.edu).

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## **Save the Date for the 2019 Graduate and Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Conference**

**Thursday, May 2**

The Office of the Provost and The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning are excited to announce that the 2019 Research and Creative Achievement Conference will take place May 2 for graduate and undergraduate students. Please let your fall students know of the upcoming opportunity. More details to follow.

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## **Teaching and Tech Tips**

Assistance is here for your Blackboard Ultra course. Consider a remote session with CETL Associate Director/Lead Instructional Designer Janet Syed on [December 5 10:00 - 10:45](#) or [December 12: 12:00 - 12:45](#) to ask questions or to learn more. Simply click on the link to join at the designated time.

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## **First Year Experience (FYE) Mentor 2019 Nomination Form**

The First Year Experience Office asks that you recommend any student(s) that you feel would benefit from and enjoy being a FYE Mentor. If you would like to recommend someone, please fill out [this form](#) by **December 19th**. Please note that a nominated student does not have to apply and, if they apply, they are not guaranteed a position. FYE Mentor applications will go live on December 3rd.

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## **Other Events this Week**

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### **December 4th**

**Aidan Scrimgeour Trio**

**4:00 PM**

**The Writers House**

Come join us for an evening of holiday cheer when the Aidan Scrimgeour Trio performs Vince Guiraldi's *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Festive treats will be served. All welcome.

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### **December 5th**

Last day to withdraw with a "W" for Fall Session 2 graduate online courses

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### **December 6th**

**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.

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### **December 6th**

## **2018 Murray Symposium**

**4:00 PM**

### **Mendel 169**

Please join us for the 2018 Murray Symposium where 2017 - 2018 Murray Fellow and Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Azam Noori will present her work titled: "Plant Molecular and Physiological Responses to Silver Nanoparticles"

(hot cider and donuts will be served).

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## **December 6th**

### **MINTS Presents - Teaching the Holocaust: Empowering Students**

**4:30 - 7:30 PM**

#### **Executive Room, Crowe Hall**

The Merrimack Institute for New Teacher Support is hosting a professional development workshop for students and K-12 teachers on resources for teaching the Holocaust across a variety of classroom disciplines. The workshop will be facilitated by Echoes & Reflections, a professional development organization specializing in increasing competency and capacity around teaching the Holocaust. Food and refreshments will be served, and certificates of participation will be awarded for the event.

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#### **MERRIMACK COLLEGE PROVOST**

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