



# PROVOST BRIEFING

April 15, 2019

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*[Gina McCarthy](#), Former EPA Chief, speaking at the Religion, Science and Ecology Conference. This Merrimack College conference brought together religious leaders and scientists to amplify the urgent call for [ecological responsibility](#).*

Photo Credit: Mary Schwalm

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

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- Open Office Hours with the Provost Cancelled this Week
- **2019 Commencement Weekend, May 18-19**
  - Legacy Ceremony, May 18
  - Honors Convocation, May 18
  - Baccalaureate Mass, May 18
  - Graduate Hooding, May 18
  - Commencement Ceremony, Undergraduate and Graduate, May 19
- Weaving the Maps: Tales of Survival and Resistance, April 15
- 3rd Annual Induction Ceremony of the Father John McKniff, OSA Honor Society, April 16

- My Song Is Love Unknown: A Festival of Readings and Songs for Holy Week, April 15
- Faculty Open House at the Writing Center, April 16
- Towards Global Interdisciplinary Studies, April 16
- CETL Workshop: Active Learning Strategies, April 16
- Blackboard Ultra
- Merrimack College Faculty-Led Global Education Courses for 2019-2020
- Christian Wiman, April 23
- Northeast STEM Network: STEM Play Date, April 23
- Social Justice, Civic Engagement, and Identity Transformation: Reflections on Research and Practice, April 24
- Faculty Retreat, April 26 & 27
- Matthew Jaskot: Piano, April 17
- **No Classes, College Closed, April 18-22**
  - Holy Thursday
  - Good Friday
  - Easter Monday
- Healthcare Leadership Summit - Social Determinants of Health, April 29
- Civic and Community Engagement in Times of Crisis: Faculty Roles and Responsibilities, May 1
- 2nd Annual Community Engagement Institute: Save the Dates, May 22 & 23

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## **Open Office Hours with the Provost Cancelled this Week**

There will be no office hours with the Provost this week. Office hours will return on **Thursday, April 25th**.

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## **2019 Commencement Weekend**

### **Saturday, May 18th**

#### **Legacy Ceremony**

10:30 AM - Rogers Center for the Arts

#### **Honors Convocation**

1:00 PM - Lawler Rink, Merrimack Athletics Complex

Line up 12:15 PM - Writers House

#### **Baccalaureate Mass**

4:00 PM - Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher

Student/faculty line up 3:30 PM in front of Austin Hall

#### **Graduate Hooding Ceremony**

4:00 PM - Lawler Rink, Merrimack Athletics Complex

Line up 3:15 PM - Writers House

### **Sunday, May 19th**

#### **Commencement - Undergraduate and Graduate**

10:00 AM - Duane Stadium  
Faculty line up and additional details still to come.

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## **Social Justice Month**

**March 30th – April 30th**

Social Justice Month is an annual collaboration between academic departments and student organizations focusing on positive efforts to address issues of social justice. This year's events focus on: the environment, gender, migration, politics, the plight of Native Americans, racism, the experience of transgender persons, climate change, violence, education, and so much more. For more information contact Mark Allman ([allmanm@merrimack.edu](mailto:allmanm@merrimack.edu)).

Sponsored by the Social Justice Program. [See a full list of events](#)

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## **Weaving the Maps: Tales of Survival and Resistance**

**Monday, April 15th**

**12:30 – 1:45 PM**

**Cascia Hall**

Please join us for a multimedia performance by Dr. Laila Farah and Dr. Isis Nusair. Sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Institute. Refreshments will be served.

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## **3rd Annual Induction Ceremony of the Father John McKniff, OSA Honor Society**

**Monday, April 15th**

**6:00 PM**

**Cascia Hall**

The Father John McKniff, OSA Honor Society was established in 2017 by the Office of Mission and Ministry to recognize and honor graduating seniors, faculty, staff, and our community partners who have offered their hearts, their time, and their talents in extraordinary ways to serve those in need. Father John McKniff, OSA, for whom this Honor Society is named, was an Augustinian Friar who spent his entire life as a missionary in the service of the poor in Cuba and Peru. Father McKniff has been recognized by the Church for his holiness and has been given the official title "Servant of God," the first step in the process of being considered for canonization as a saint. You can read more about Father McKniff at this link [Father John McKniff, OSA](#). The ceremony will be preceded by refreshments on the patio outside of the Sakowich Campus Center starting at 5:30. You are most welcome to attend.

[See a list of the Inductees here](#)

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## **MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN: A Festival of Readings and Songs for Holy Week**

**Featuring Merrimack Schola**

**Monday, April 15th**

**7:30 PM**

**Rogers Center for the Arts**

The Passion is central to this year's sacred music program presented by the Merrimack College Schola, under the direction of Dr. Hugh Hinton. Music, Scripture, poetry and prose combine to create a reflective evening of sacred art for the soul. This hour-long program, occurring on the Monday of Holy Week, will relate the story of Jesus' Passion through readings, poems, choral anthems and familiar hymns, such as "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded;" "Ah, Holy Jesus;" and "All Glory, Laud and Honor." Cosponsored by the Rogers Center and the Grace J. Palmisano Center for Campus Ministry at Merrimack College.

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## **Faculty Open House at the Writing Center**

**Tuesday, April 16th**

**9:00 AM – 6:00 PM**

**Room 346, McQuade Library**

The Writing Center invites all faculty to enjoy light refreshments while learning how the Writing Center can support you in promoting strong writing in your classes, department, and school. Connect with Writing Center Director Dr. Rob Koch and meet new Assistant Director Kate Parsons. Suggest new approaches and resources. Explore existing and new ways to work together. Drop in anytime, but please RSVP [here](#). Questions? Contact Kate Parsons, [parsonsk@merrimack.edu](mailto:parsonsk@merrimack.edu) or 978-837-5715.

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## **Towards Global Interdisciplinary Studies**

**Tuesday, April 16th**

**12:00 – 1:30 PM**

**CETL Conference Room (B-2) Sullivan Hall**

Please join us for a conversation about Curriculum Transformation and Innovative Pedagogy, with Dr. Laila Farah (DePaul University) and Dr. Isis Nusair (Denison College). Sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Institute. Lunch Provided.

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## **CETL Active Learning Strategies**

**Tuesday, April 16**

**2:30 - 3:30 PM (coffee & snacks provided)**

Engage students in the learning process with activities like writing talking, problem solving or reflecting. Register here: [CETL Professional Learning 2019](#)

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## **Blackboard Ultra**

Have you heard? Merrimack College is moving all courses to Blackboard Ultra (Course) View for Fall 2019. Checking your content is essential for a smooth Fall start as content may display differently than expected. Log into Blackboard and look for your Fall Ultra course. [Click here](#) for full details on how you can be prepared for Fall. The CETL will gladly assist you with course (re)design needs. Email us at [cetl@merrimack.edu](mailto:cetl@merrimack.edu) to set up an appointment or feel free to drop in.

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## **Merrimack College Faculty-Led Global Education Courses for 2019-2020**

The Office of Global Education is pleased to announce the [faculty-led courses for 2019-2020](#). We are delighted to be able to offer students field experience all over the globe from Hawaii to Nepal, from Thailand to Berlin. Please take a look at the program webpages and encourage

your advisees to explore next year's options. Applications are now open. Spring Courses (with either Spring Break or Summer on-site portion) have an October 20, 2019 deadline. The Summer Intensive has a February 1, 2020 deadline. (Costs will be finalized by July.) [Timelines and Deadlines](#) for all GEO programs can be found on the website. For questions, please reach out to [geo@merrimack.edu](mailto:geo@merrimack.edu).

## 2020 SPRING SEMESTER

- **[BIO3090](#) *Global Field Studies Program: Hawaiian Ecology, Culture, and Economy*** (LS: X)
  - Faculty: Azam Noori
  - Summer On-Site: Oahu, Hawaii
- **[BUSXXXX](#) *Doing Business in Emerging Markets Course With An Embedded Trip To Thailand*** (LS: X)
  - Faculty: Valerie Bell
  - Summer On-Site: Bangkok, THAILAND
- **[HED585](#) *Higher Education Policy and Practice in Ireland*** (Graduate),
  - Faculty: Elaine Ward
  - Spring-Break On-site: in Dublin and Galway, IRELAND
- **[PHL3650](#) *Aesthetics (Philosophies of Art and Beauty in Italy)*** (LS: Ethics, X)
  - Faculty: William Wians
  - Summer On-Site: Florence, Rome, ITALY
- **[RTS2425](#) *Pellegrinaggio in Italia*** (LS: A&L, X)
  - Faculty: Joseph T. Kelley,
  - Spring Break On-Site: Cassago Brianza, Milan, Pavia, San Gimignano, Rome, Ostia Antica, ITALY
- **[SOC3650](#) *Crossing Borders: The Sociology of Immigration*** (LS: Div, X, Soc)
  - Faculty: Daniel Herda
  - Summer On-Site: Berlin, Hamburg, Wolfsburg, GERMANY
- **[WGS3360](#) *Fieldwork in the Southwest*** (LS: Div, X, Soc)
  - Faculty: Mary Beth Salerno
  - Summer On-Site: New Mexico, Arizona
- **[SUMMER INTENSIVE in NEPAL](#): *Earthly Space and Divine Grace at the Top of the World*** (2 4-credit courses, students take both)
  - **RTS1010 World Religions** (LS: RTS)
    - Faculty: Laurie Cozad
  - **CEN4060 Geology** (LS: STEM)
    - Faculty: Joel Kuszmaul

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## Christian Wiman

Tuesday, April 23rd  
4:00 PM

### **The Writers House**

Christian Wiman is Professor of the Practice of Religion and Literature in the Yale Divinity School. He is the author, editor, or translator of ten books, including *Hammer is the Prayer: Selected Poems* (FSG, 2016), *My Bright Abyss: Meditation of a Modern Believer* (FSG, 2013), and *Stolen Air: Selected Poems of Osip Mandelstam* (HarperCollins/Ecco, 2012).

Wiman's particular interests include modern poetry, the language of faith, "accidental" theology (that is, theology conducted by unexpected means), and what it means to be a Christian intellectual in a secular culture.

Of his work as a whole, Marilynne Robinson writes, "His poetry and scholarship have a purifying urgency that is rare in this world. This puts him at the very source of theology, and enables him to say new things in timeless language, so that the reader's surprise and assent are one and the same."

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## **Northeast STEM Network: STEM Play Date**

**Tuesday, April 23rd**

**4:00 – 6:00 PM**

**Arcidi Center, Room A**

The Northeast STEM Network invites everyone to an open play date to explore materials and resources for teaching technology, computer science, programming, science, engineering and more! We will be raffling off two \$500.00 STEM curriculum vouchers at the event. All grade levels welcome. Registration is required so we can plan for the hands on activities. [REGISTER HERE](#)

This event is co-sponsored by the Merrimack Institute for New Teacher Support (MINTS) and the STEM Education program at Merrimack College.

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## **Social Justice, Civic Engagement, and Identity Transformation: Reflections on Research and Practice**

**Wednesday, April 24th**

**12:30 – 2:00 PM**

**Sullivan Hall, CETL Conference Room B-2**

This round-table will include a conversation with graduate fellows in the Higher Education and Community Engagement Programs, sharing insights and reflections from their capstone projects. Lunch provided.

This event is co-hosted by the Interdisciplinary Institute and the Teaching Circle "Civic and Community Engagement in Times of Crisis: Faculty Roles and Responsibilities," co-facilitated by Dr. Elaine Ward and Dr. Simona Sharoni

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## **Faculty Retreat**

**Interdisciplinary Team Teaching and Curriculum Transformation:**

**Linking Innovative Pedagogies, Student Success, and Faculty Development**

**Friday & Saturday, April 26th & 27th**

**10:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

### **Sullivan Hall, CETL Conference Room B-2**

The retreat will be facilitated by Dr. Joye Hardiman, Interim Director of the Washington Center and Professor Emeritus of Arts and Humanities at the Evergreen State College. In response to interest and inquiries from colleagues who are unable to attend the entire two-day retreat, we are happy to welcome people to attend selected sessions as time permits. Lunch and refreshments provided.

You can access the detailed program of the faculty retreat [HERE](#)

For questions and more information please contact [director.institute@merrimack.edu](mailto:director.institute@merrimack.edu)

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## **Other Events this Week**

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### **April 17th**

**Matthew Jaskot: Piano**

**12:30 PM**

**Rogers Center for the Arts**

Classical pianist Matthew Jaskot brings us his own composition, REJUVENATED (Variations on a Youthful Theme) and the contract of Beethoven's Piano Sonata in E Major, Op. 109. Listen, relax, and enjoy the beauty in the differences and similarities of both exquisite pieces.

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### **April 18th**

**Holy Thursday**

**No Classes, College Closed**

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### **April 19th**

**Good Friday**

**No Classes, College Closed**

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### **April 22nd**

**Easter Monday**

**No Classes, College Closed**

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## **Future Events**

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### **Healthcare Leadership Summit - Social Determinants of Health**

**Monday, April 29th**

**7:15 – 8:00 AM Registration, Rogers Center Lobby**

**8:00 AM – 12:00 PM Summit, Rogers Center Auditorium**

**12:00 – 1:00 PM Lunch, MPR**

The social determinants of health are the economic and social conditions that influence the health status of both individuals and entire communities. They are the health-promoting factors related to living and working conditions (such as distribution of income, wealth, influence, and power), rather than the individual factors that influence the risk of a disease, or vulnerability to disease or injury. Lawrence General Hospital's sixth annual Healthcare Leadership Summit will

bring a range of national and regional thought leaders and experts together to discuss the social determinants of health and the impact they have on vulnerable patient populations.

This event is free, but registration is required. Registration deadline is Friday, April 19. A light breakfast and lunch provided. Open to all Merrimack faculty, staff and students. Click here for [registration, speaker list and agenda](#).

Brought to you by Lawrence General Hospital and sponsored by Merrimack College, School of Health Sciences.

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

**Wednesday, May 1**

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

**Sullivan Hall, CETL Conference Room B-2**

This is the last meeting of the teaching circle co-facilitated by Dr. Elaine Ward and Dr. Simona Sharoni. Lunch provided

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## **Merrimack Institute for New Teacher Support (M.I.N.T.S.)**

**Presents: New Teacher Support Symposium**

**Saturday, May 4th**

**8:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

**Merrimack College.**

This year's theme is "Inclusion and Innovation." This year's plenary sessions will be highlighting speakers who have been particularly successful at fostering supportive and engaging learning environments where their students can thrive. The dynamic breakout sessions, led by Merrimack faculty, will provide opportunities to explore innovations in teaching practices, student supports, and interventions.

Breakfast, lunch, and a chance to network with your peers will also be provided.

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## **2nd Annual Community Engagement Institute: Save the Dates**

Please [RSVP Here](#) by May 14.

**Wednesday, May 22nd & Thursday, May 23rd**

This institute provides an opportunity for local colleges and community organizations to come together to dialogue, network and learn from one another. We will deepen our understandings of how to learn with and in the community in just and equitable ways. We will reflect on and support one another in identifying how we can apply these understandings to our community engaged work.

**Wednesday, May 22nd**

**5:00 – 7:00 PM**

Please join us for dinner and dialogue. We will celebrate our collective accomplishments in



community-engaged practices, honoring a Merrimack student and a community partnership.

**Thursday, May 23rd**

**8:00 AM – 6:30 PM**

**Crowe Executive Room and Lawrence Site Visits**

The schedule will include panels, presentations, and breakout sessions at Merrimack College, El Taller, and community organizations. All sessions provided will center around this year's theme: "Learning With & In the Community" and will be presented by community-engaged Merrimack faculty, staff, students, Lawrence community leaders and service-learning practitioners at local higher education institutions. Lunch and dinner will be provided. Van transportation will be provided to and from Merrimack College.

Sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

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**MERRIMACK COLLEGE PROVOST**

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