



PROVOST BRIEFING

April 1, 2019

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Newly Tenured Faculty

Left to right: Dr. Andrew Tollison, Dr. Michael Corcoran, President Hopey, Dr. Laura Hsu, Dr. Lisa Perks, Dr. Cynthia Carlson, Dr. Ann Faherty, Dr. Zachary Kissel, Prof. Nancy Wynn, Provost Weatherwax.

Photo Credit: Mary Schwalm

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

- 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
- Edward G. Roddy Outstanding Teacher Award 2018-2019: Call for Nominations
- Social Justice Month, March 30 - April 30
- Bob Hicok, April 2
- From Merrimack to India and Back: Faculty and Students Reflect on a Global Interdisciplinary Field Experience, April 3
- Tapped: A Documentary about the Bottled Water Industry, April 3
- Burned: The Movie with Guest Dr. William Moomaw, April 5
- Research and Creative Achievement Conference, May 2 - Registration/Website is Open!
- Advising Information for Summer Session 2019
- Book Orders are Due!
- Backpack Drive 2019
- CETL Open Classroom Week April 8 - 12
- Academic Technology is pleased to Announce a pilot of Respondus Lockdown Browser.
- Accommodation Conundrums: What to do when students request non-traditional accommodations, April 9
- Screening of the acclaimed film Angst with Facilitated Discussion, April 9
- Religion, Science & Ecology: Shared Responsibility for the Future, April 10
- Health Sciences Graduate Networking Reception, April 11
- Faculty Retreat: Team Teaching and Curriculum Transformation, April 26 & 27
- 2nd Annual Community Engagement Institute: Save the Dates, May 22 & 23
- Wellness Fair, April 2
- Staff Forum Meeting, April 2
- Practice of Mindfulness, April 3
- Shannon Heaton: Songs and Stories from Ireland, April 3
- Open Office Hours with the Provost, Every Thursday
- Financial Management at Merrimack, April 4
- Civil Conversations about Contentious Issues, April 4
- LUCKY STIFF: A Drop Dead Funny Musical Comedy, April 4-6
- Last day to convert to pass/fail, April 5
- Last day to withdraw with a "W", April 5
- Weaving the Maps: Tales of Survival and Resistance, April 15
- Healthcare Leadership Summit - Social Determinants of Health, April 29

2019 Commencement Weekend

May 18-19

Saturday, May 18

Legacy Ceremony

10:30 AM - Rogers Center for the Arts

Honors Convocation

1:00 PM - Lawler Rink, Volpe Athletic Center

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, Volpe Athletic Center
Line up 3:15 PM - Writers House

Sunday, May 19

Commencement - Undergraduate and Graduate

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

Edward G. Roddy Outstanding Teacher Award 2018-2019

Edward G. Roddy, 1921-1985, Merrimack College Professor of History. A scholar who throughout his life demonstrated a devotion to teaching excellence, care and concern for students and a deep dedication to learning.

NOMINATIONS: Faculty and graduating students, undergraduate and graduate, are asked to nominate a full-time Merrimack College professor for the honor of the *Edward G. Roddy Outstanding Teacher Award*. Students and faculty should consider a wide variety of qualities when submitting a nomination, which may include but are not limited to:

- Ability to engage and inspire student learning, creativity, and independent thinking inside and outside the classroom
- Encouragement of student participation
- Enthusiasm and vitality toward teaching and learning
- Effective and/or creative course design and redesign
- Employment of pedagogical techniques that are fair and respectful of differences among students
- Advisement and/or mentoring of students that reflect care, concern, and expertise
- Adjustment to interests and needs of students based upon formal and informal assessments
- Active involvement in student research projects
- Significant effort in promoting tech-enriched teaching and learning environments

Please include in your comments any of the above qualities. Nominations will be accepted until **April 15** using this [nomination form](#).

Social Justice Month

March 30 - April 30

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 Dr. Mark Allman at allmanm@merrimack.edu.

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

Bob Hicok

Tuesday, April 2

4:00 PM

The Writers House

Bob Hicok is the author of ten books of poetry, including his most recent, *Hold*. His awards include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and The Guggenheim Foundation. He is a professor of creative writing at Virginia Tech.

From Merrimack to India and Back: Faculty and Students Reflect on a Global Interdisciplinary Field Experience.

Wednesday, April 3

4:00 - 5:30 PM

Cascia Hall

Dr. Ellen Fitzpatrick, Dr. Simona Sharoni, Dr. Elaine Ward, Tiana Lawrence, and Eden MacDugall will reflect on their experiences and learning during a field experience in India over Spring Break. Sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Institute. Refreshments will be served.

Tapped: A Documentary about the Bottled Water Industry

Wednesday, April 3

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Crowe Hall 126

Please join us for a screening of *Tapped*, a film about the impacts the bottled water industry has on human health, climate change, and water rights. Presented by McQuade Library, Center for Sustainability and the Environment, and the Green Team. Free and open to the public.

Burned: The Movie with Guest Dr. William Moomaw

Friday, April 5

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Conference Room A, Arcidi Center

Please join a screening of the movie *Burned*, followed by a discussion with Dr. William Moomaw, Professor Emeritus of International Environmental Policy at Tufts, who served on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Presented by North Parish UU Climate Justice and the Merrimack College Center for Sustainability and the Environment.

Research and Creative Achievement Conference

Registration is Open!

Thursday, May 2

3:30 - 6:30 PM

MPR, Sakowich Center

Mark your calendar for the campus-wide celebration of student research and creative achievement! Please encourage your graduate and undergraduate students to present on May 2 and share with them the website link below that includes forms, resources, and general information, and registration and submission links. Students must register to present and share their presentation information by **April 3**. Posters must be submitted by **April 17**. Questions?

Email: researchconference@merrimack.edu

[Research and Creative Achievement Conference Website](#)

Advising Information for 2019 Summer Sessions

During the upcoming advising periods, please talk with your advisees about taking a course during the summer. It's a great way for them to earn credits towards graduation.

Summer Session: I - May 20 – June 28

II - July 8 – August 16

III - May 20 – August 16

- Registration is currently opened with more than 100 undergraduate Summer Session courses to choose from – many are online.
- Students register through myMack.
- See the list of course offerings at www.merrimack.edu/summer

Contact the Office of Professional and Continuing Studies at professionalstudies@merrimack.edu or x5484 with any questions.

Book Orders are Due!

Textbook and/or e-reader orders for Fall 2019 semesters are due by **April 12**. Please submit all orders into the faculty portal at facultyportal.com. This includes textbooks and e-pubs previously used and orders for "no textbook required", as orders are not automatically renewed.

Please remember that **all undergraduate students** have mobile devices with affordances that support learning needs and preferences, cost, and lifestyle. If your textbook requires access codes or additional materials, please specify. Please feel free to contact the bookstore at X5431 or email merrimackbookstore@bbasolutions.com.

Note: All textbook and/or e-reader for Summer 2019 should have already been ordered. If you have not done so, please order as soon as possible.

Backpack Drive 2019

During this season of Lent, we have again been asked by the Massachusetts Department of Children and Family Services for help as they deal with the tragic brokenness of families and

the unfortunate need to relocate children in danger to safety. Specifically, they are requesting donations of items that would fill overnight backpacks with supplies a teenager would need when they must be placed in Emergency Foster Care for one or two nights.

Please see the [type of items](#) that would be appropriate to donate. Backpacks themselves may be gently used but the clothing and other supplies should be new. Donations can include anything from fully loaded backpacks, to single items on the list. We also welcome donations of cash with which we will purchase needed items. Please bring any donations you would like to make to Campus Ministry on the 3rd Floor of the Sakowich Campus Center. We are accepting donations from now until **April 15th**.

For more information or questions please contact our Augustinian Volunteer, Gina Hackett, at hackettg@merrimack.edu.

CETL Open Classroom Week April 8 - 12

Would you like to visit your colleagues' classroom and see how they approach teaching and learning? You are invited to stay for all or part of the session. Register [HERE](#) to visit a class next week; instructors will be available for discussion following the class or via email.

- Thursday, 8:00AM - 9:15: Apple Distinguished Educator **Dr. Michael Stroud** uses Kahoot to start every class providing a fun approach to review.
- M/W 9:30AM - 10:45 or 11:00AM - 12:15PM: **Dr. Brandy Benedict** uses iPad, Apple Pencil, and Notability to AirPlay lectures for active learning.
- M/W/F 8:00AM - 9:30: **Dr. Anthony Fernandez** uses the iPad with a small class to stimulate active learning.
- Friday 9:30AM - 10:45: **Dr. Brandi Baldock** utilizes peer-partners, Socrative, and YouTube with a larger (51 students) General Chemistry class.
- Thursday, 2:00PM - 3:50: **Dr. Stephanie Garrone-Shufran's** students will be engaged with hands-on work with actual teaching materials for topics covered that week.
- T/TH 10:00AM - 11:15: **Dr. Jane Parent** uses Team Based Learning for collaboration and student preparedness.
- Monday, 12:30PM - 1:45: **Dr. Sarah Benes** prepares her students using active participation and discussion-based practices.

Academic Technology/CETL Pilots *Respondus* Lockdown Browser

What is it? A custom browser that locks down the testing environment within Blackboard courses. In the locked down environment, students are unable to print, copy, or access other websites and applications. [Watch a brief video](#) to learn more.

Who is it for? Instructors that would like to administer a test through Blackboard.

Who should I contact for assistance? Support and technical questions:

askit@merrimack.edu. Implementation in your course: ctl@merrimack.edu

CETL Workshop: Accommodations Conundrums

Facilitators: Jodi Rachins, Director of Accessibility Services, and Ashley Calls, Graduate Accessibility Support Advisor

Tuesday, April 9

12:00 - 1:00 PM (Lunch provided)

CETL Classroom, Sullivan Hall

In this workshop instructors will learn what to do when students request non-traditional accommodations such as absences, extensions, abstain from participation and presentations, etc. Register here: [CETL Professional Learning 2019](#)

Screening of the acclaimed film *Angst* with Facilitated Discussion

Tuesday, April 9

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts

Join us for a free screening of *ANGST*, a film about anxiety, truth & hope. Let's start the conversation (Spanish subtitles). Open to the public, students, staff and faculty encouraged to attend. Register here: <http://www.merrimack.edu/angst-screening>

Religion, Science & Ecology: Shared Responsibility for the Future

Wednesday, April 10

Conference 11:30 AM - 8:00 PM

Merrimack College

Join us for this day-long conference in support of the Coalition of Massachusetts Religious Leaders and Scientists. The keynote speaker at 7:00 PM will be Gina McCarthy, Professor of Practice, **Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health** and former Administrator of the EPA.

Click here for a [schedule and full list of speakers](#).

Health Sciences Graduate Networking Reception

Thursday, April 11

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Dr. Alfred L. Arcidi Center, Room 201 A

The O'Brien Center for Career Development and the School of Health Sciences are hosting their annual Health Sciences Graduate Networking Reception. Graduate students will network with industry professionals and Merrimack alumni from Massachusetts General Hospital, the Boston Public Health Commission, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Spaulding Rehabilitation Network, Goodwin Community Health and many more. Business professional attire & RSVP through Handshake preferred. Refreshments provided.

RSVP at bit.ly/hsgradreception

Sponsored by the O'Brien Center for Career Development & School of Health Sciences

Faculty Retreat: Team Teaching and Curriculum Transformation

Friday, April 26 & Saturday, April 27

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sullivan Hall, CETL Conference Room B-2

The Interdisciplinary Institute invites applications for participation in a curriculum transformation retreat, focusing on team teaching and curriculum transformation to be held Friday and Saturday 4/26 & 4/27 at Merrimack College. 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.

To apply please send a brief message (1-2 paragraphs) stating your interest in the retreat and how participation will enhance your professional development to

director.institute@merrimack.edu by **Friday, April 5, 2019**. Applicants selected will receive \$500 stipend.

2nd Annual Community Engagement Institute: Save the Dates

Wednesday, May 22 & Thursday, May 23

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

Other Events this Week

April 2nd

Wellness Fair

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Cascia Hall

Drop by for our Wellness Fair. Health professionals will be available to:

- Test your Blood Pressure and explain results
- Speak about healthy eating techniques
- Discuss proper ergonomics to reduce strain
- Provide a relaxing chair massage (registration required)

April 2nd

Staff Forum Meeting

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Executive Room Crowe Hall

April 3rd

Practice of Mindfulness

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

McQuade Library Meditation Room Lower Level

According to Jon Kabat-Zinn “mindfulness means paying attention in a particular way, purpose, in the present moment, and non-judgmentally.” In this workshop, attendees will be provided with an overview of the concept of mindfulness and learn more about the evidence supporting the benefits of this practice. Attendees will be guided through several mindfulness practices, engage in group discussion, and learn more about ways to further pursue mindfulness in everyday life.

Presented by Dr. Christina Hardway, Associate Professor and Chair, Psychology

April 3rd

Spring Atrium Series: Shannon Heaton: Songs and Stories from Ireland

12:30 - 1:15 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts

The Atrium Series highlights the best of local talent for a free, 30-45 minute lunchtime event. Join us for a light lunch provided by Sodexo, great music, and community!

April 4th

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.

April 4th

Financial Management at Merrimack

10:30 - 11:30 AM

Provost Conference Room

Review of the life cycle of financial management at Merrimack College, including the budget process and systems, procurement and cash disbursement, monthly reports and reconciliation, and year-end processes. This training is open to all employee, but particularly applicable to those who manage department budgets or reviews budget to actuals monthly reporting. Light refreshments will be served.

Presented by the Office of the SVP of Finance and Administration Staff.

April 4th

Civil Conversations about Contentious Issues

4:00 - 5:30 PM

The Sanctuary Cafe

Free for all or not free at all? What level of socio-economic security should all persons be entitled to? Discussion led by Sr. Sandra Raponi, Professor of Philosophy. Light refreshments will be served.

April 4th - April 6th

LUCKY STIFF: A Drop Dead Funny Musical Comedy

7:30 PM Thursday - Saturday

Saturday Matinee April 6 at 2:00 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts

An unassuming shoe salesman is forced to take the embalmed body of his recently murdered uncle on vacation to Monte Carlo. If he succeeds in passing his uncle off as alive, he stands to inherit \$6,000,000! If he can't, however, the money goes to a home for dogs in Brooklyn, or his dead uncle's gun-toting ex! Written by the Tony Award-winning team of Flaherty and Ahrens, this hilarious, offbeat musical murder mystery is filled with twists, turns, great music and great fun. Based on the novel *The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo* by Michael Butterworth. Directed by Sarah Rozene-Wolski.

An OnStagers Production; Music by Stephen Flaherty; Book and Lyrics by Lynn Aherns

April 5th

Last day to convert to pass/fail

Last day to withdraw with a "W"

Future Events

Weaving the Maps: Tales of Survival and Resistance

A Multimedia Performance by Dr. Laila Farah and Dr. Isis Nusair

Monday, April 15th

12:30 - 1:45 PM

Cascia Hall

Sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Institute. Refreshments will be served.

Healthcare Leadership Summit - Social Determinants of Health

Monday, April 29

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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