



# PROVOST BRIEFING

April 8, 2019

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**Newly Tenured Faculty Reception**

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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- Former EPA Chief to Keynote at Merrimack Conference
- Brandy Benedict and Birgid Hopkins Recognized as Apple Distinguished Educators!
- 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
- Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
  - CETL Open Classroom Week April 8 - 12
  - CETL Workshop: Accommodations Conundrums, April 9
- Screening of the acclaimed film Angst, April 9
- Religion, Science & Ecology: Shared Responsibility for the Future, April 10
- Cynthia Huntington, April 11
- Health Sciences Graduate Networking Reception, April 11
- Book Orders are Due!
- Backpack Drive 2019
- Weaving the Maps: Tales of Survival and Resistance, April 15
- 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
- CETL Active Learning Strategies, April 16
- Towards Global Interdisciplinary Studies, April 16
- 3rd Annual Induction Ceremony of the Father John McNiff, OSA Honor Society, April 16
- 2nd Annual Community Engagement Institute: Save the Dates, May 22 & 23
- Faculty Senate, April 9
- **MACKfit**
  - MACKfit: Healthy Cooking Demonstration, April 9
  - MACKfit: Meeting Facilitation, April 10
  - MACKfit: Financial Management at Merrimack, April 11
  - MACKfit: Raising Children: You're Not Alone, April 11
- Spring Atrium Series: Occasional Brass and Strings, April 10
- Open Office Hours with the Provost, Every Thursday
- 2019 Visual Arts Student Exhibition, April 11
- President's Speaker Series: Giuliana and Bill Rancic, April 12
- Relay for Life, April 12
- Matthew Jaskot: Piano, April 17
- Healthcare Leadership Summit - Social Determinants of Health, April 29

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## Former EPA Chief to Keynote at Merrimack Conference

**Wednesday, April 10, at Merrimack's Religion, Science and Ecology Conference.** The conference, subtitled [Religion, Science and Ecology](#), begins at 11 a.m. in Cascia Hall with opening remarks by professor Richard Miller of Creighton University on "Catholic Initiative and Response to Climate Crisis."

**McCarthy, now a professor at Harvard's Chan School of Public Health, will speak at 7 p.m. in the Rogers Center for the Arts on "Climate Science and Climate Policy."**

Admission is free and open to all members of the community; [RSVPs](#) are requested.

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## Congratulations to Brandy Benedict and Birgid Hopkins Recognized as Apple Distinguished Educators

Click to listen to their teaching stories: [2019 ADE Recipients](#)

Apple is pleased to welcome professors Brandy Benedict and Birgid Hopkins to the ADE Class of 2019! The Apple Distinguished Educator (ADE) Program began in 1994, when Apple recognized K-12 and higher education pioneers who are using a variety of Apple products to transform teaching and learning in powerful ways. Today it has grown into a worldwide community of over 2,500 visionary educators and innovative leaders who are doing amazing things with Apple technology in and out of the classroom. Learn more about this group of innovative educators at <http://www.apple.com/education/apple-distinguished-educator>

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## 2019 Commencement Weekend

### Saturday, May 18

#### **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 19

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

10:00 AM - Duane Stadium

Faculty line up and additional details still to come.

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## Edward G. Roddy Outstanding Teacher Award 2018-2019

The Award is in honor of Edward G. Roddy, 1921-1985, a Merrimack College Professor of History and 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](#).

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## 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 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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## 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.

- 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.
- Tuesday, 10:00AM - 11:15: **Dr. Simona Sharoni** uses highly interactive, small-group discussions and engages every student, every 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.
  - Thursday, 8:00AM - 9:15: Apple Distinguished Educator **Dr. Michael Stroud** uses Kahoot to start every class providing a fun approach to review.
  - T/TH 10:00AM - 11:15: **Dr. Jane Parent** uses Team Based Learning for collaboration and student preparedness.
  - Friday 9:30AM - 10:45: **Dr. Brandi Baldock** utilizes peer-partners, Socrative, and YouTube with a larger (51 students) General Chemistry class.
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## **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](#)

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## **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>

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## **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](#).

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## **Cynthia Huntington**

**Thursday, April 11**

**4:00 PM**

**The Writers House**

Cynthia Huntington is the author of the memoir, *The Salt House: A Summer on the Dunes of Cape Cod*, as well as five poetry collections of poems, including her most recent, *Terra Nova*. She teaches at Dartmouth.

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## 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](http://bit.ly/hsgradreception)

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

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## 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](http://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](mailto:merrimackbookstore@bbasolutions.com).

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.

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## 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](mailto:hackettg@merrimack.edu).

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## **Faculty Retreat: Team Teaching and Curriculum Transformation**

**Friday & Saturday, April 26 & 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](mailto:director.institute@merrimack.edu) by **Sunday April 14, 2019**. Participants will receive \$500 stipend.

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

**Featuring Merrimack Schola**

**Monday, April 15**

**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 16**

**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), 978-837-5715.

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## **CETL Active Learning Strategies**

**CETL Facilitators: Janet Syed and Erin Courville**

**Tuesday, April 16**

**2:30 - 3:30 PM (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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## **Towards Global Interdisciplinary Studies**

**Tuesday, April 16**

**Noon - 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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## **Third Annual Induction Ceremony of the Father John McKniff, OSA Honor Society**

**Tuesday, April 16**

**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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## **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

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## Other Events this Week

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### April 9th

**Faculty Senate**

**4:00 – 5:00 PM**

**Room 126 – Crowe Hall**

Agenda can be found on the Faculty Senate Blackboard Site.

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### April 9th

**MACKfit: Healthy Cooking Demonstration**

**11:30 AM – 12:30 PM (Lunch will be served)**

**Blue Line Club**

Learn how to integrate healthy choices into everyday life! Shop smart, eat healthy, and being creative are all covered in this workshop. This health and wellness cooking session will supply recipes, demonstration, and preparation. You will learn how to identify ingredients, make time & cost saving choices, discuss the health benefits related to ingredients and discover alternative substitutes. All participants will be provided with a taste of the recipe and a healthy lunch will be served. Presented by: Heidi McIndoo, Harvard Pilgrim Consultant

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### April 10th

**MACKfit: Meeting Facilitation**

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (lunch will be served)**

**Bouchard Room, Crowe Hall 306**

This session will focus on how to make the most of any meeting, whether you are the facilitator or participant. Attendees will examine common problems with organizing meetings and intervention techniques that can be employed to reduce the tensions associated with such interaction. This interactive session will cover strategies around creating an agenda, meeting purpose, ground rules, effective questioning, brainstorming techniques and how to manage (and avoid) meeting dysfunction. Presented by: Deb Colameta, MetaBright Media

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### April 10th

**Spring Atrium Series: Occasional Brass and Strings**

**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!

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### April 11th

**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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## April 11th

### **MACKfit: Financial Management at Merrimack**

**9:30 – 10:30 AM**

#### **Provost Conference Room, Austin Hall**

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

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## April 11th

### **2019 Visual Arts Student Exhibition**

**Opens: April 11 | Closes: June 15**

**Reception: April 11**

#### **McCoy Gallery, Rogers Center for the Arts**

Annual exhibition of student work, including Senior capstone projects, in drawing, graphic design, film, painting.

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## April 11th

### **MACKfit: Raising Children: You're Not Alone**

**2:00 – 3:00 PM**

#### **Conference Room 103, McQuade Library**

Why don't my kids listen to me? Why are there random socks all over my house? Are they playing too many video games? Do you ever raise these questions? You're not alone! Deb Margolis will lead a facilitated discussion on "Raising Children: You're Not Alone" This group discussion will focus on parenting children of all ages. Through group discussion you can ask questions, offer support, and share strategies on your experiences in parenthood. Facilitated discussion with Dr. Deborah Margolis, Associate Dean, School of Education and Social Policy.

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## April 12th

### **President's Speaker Series: Giuliana and Bill Rancic**

**6:15-6:45 PM**

#### **J. Thom Lawler Rink**

Television Personalities, New York Times Best Selling Authors, Entrepreneurs, Executive Producers, Restaurateurs, Marketing Experts, Fertility Patients, Breast Cancer Survivor

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## April 12th

### **Relay for Life**

**5:00 PM – 5:00 AM**

#### **Lawler Rink**

Support the American Cancer Society and participate in Merrimack College's Relay for Life! Relay For Life is a team fundraising cancer walk event where team members take turns walking around a track or designated path. Each event is 6-24 hours in length and each team is asked to have a member on the track at all times to signify that cancer never sleeps. Hosted by Merrimack College student group Live 2 Give.

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## April 13th

**A Far Cry: GRAVITY**

**7:30 PM**

**Rogers Center for the Arts**

A Far Cry stands at the forefront of an exciting new generation in classical music. Founded in 2007, this conductor-less chamber orchestra is a tight-knit collective of 17 young, professional musicians. A Far Cry expands the boundaries of the orchestral repertoire, performing a wide-ranging program that includes the works of Arvo Pärt, Béla Bartók, and Osvaldo Golijou. With strong local roots, this GRAMMY nominated group has been embraced by audiences across the globe.

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## Future Events

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### Matthew Jaskot: Piano

**Wednesday, April 17**

**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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## 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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**MERRIMACK COLLEGE PROVOST**

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