



PROVOST BRIEFING

August 12, 2019

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Jonathan Latiano's SCURCA project: The Only Thing That's the End of the World is the End of the World

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

- Last Chance to Order Faculty Regalia Requests
- Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15

- Academic Success Coaching Unconference, August 21
 - Graduate Student Reception, August 28
 - Fall Start-up and Blackboard Ultra
 - Call for Volunteers - Move-In Days
 - McQuade Library Course Reserves Reminder
 - Call for Faculty Participation in Jail Education Program
 - Interested in Online or Hybrid Teaching?
 - Balik Kampung: A Village Return, Opens: August 16
 - Opening of the 2019-20 Academic Year
 - Mass of the Holy Spirit, September 3
 - Community Barbecue, September 3
 - Academic Convocation, September 5
 - Second Tuesday First-Year Student Advising Meetings, September 10
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Last Chance to Order Faculty Regalia Requests

We are taking requests for faculty regalia rentals. If you are in need of regalia for the 2019 Academic Convocation, please let us know by submitting your request: [Faculty Regalia Request](#) by **August 15, 2019**.

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday, August 15

12:30 PM

Taylor Chapel of St. Augustine, Sakowich Campus Center

August 15 is the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a Holy Day of Obligation for Roman Catholics. Mass will be celebrated in the Taylor Chapel of St. Augustine on the third floor of the Sakowich Campus Center. All are welcome!

Academic Success Coaching Unconference

Wednesday, August 21

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Academic Success Center, McQuade Library

The Academic Support & Advising Office in the Academic Success Center is hosting an *Academic Success Coaching Unconference*. Colleagues from neighboring institutions and Merrimack will join in a largely informal exchange of ideas and best practices on academic success coaching. We hope participants leave the "Unconference" energized with new strategies and resources for the upcoming academic year. Please contact Kristy Forrest at forrestk@merrimack.edu for more information.

Graduate Student Reception

Wednesday, August 28

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts

New graduate students will get to meet fellow classmates, student services staff, faculty, deans, and program directors. [Register here](#) for a night of networking and refreshments.

Call for Volunteers - Move-In Days

Move-In Dates:

Friday, August 30

Monday, September 2

New and returning student move-in is right around the corner! The Division of Student Affairs are asking the Merrimack College community to lend a hand during move-in.

It's as easy as filling out [this form](#) to share your availability with us. You will receive an official move-in crew t-shirt as thanks for your support during this incredibly important process for our students.

Fall Start-up and Blackboard Ultra

Have you heard? All courses are scheduled to move 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 helpful resources. The CETL will gladly assist you with any organizational or instructional design needs. Please email us at cetl@merrimack.edu to set up an appointment or feel free to drop in - Sullivan, B-2 office suites.

McQuade Library Course Reserves Reminder

If you would like the library to purchase an item so that it can be placed on reserve, please contact your [library liaison](#) ASAP. To ensure your reserve materials are processed by the start of classes, September 3, 2019, please submit them to the [Access Services Department](#), located on the first floor of McQuade Library, ASAP. As a reminder, a reserve can be a book, DVD, or article (up to 5 copies of a single article) owned by the library or the individual professor. The library cannot guarantee that the circulating copy it owns will be readily available, so the sooner the materials are identified, the better.

All reserved items are filed under both the professor and course name, and can be searched in the [library's catalog](#). Reserve items cannot leave the library. They circulate for a 2 hour period, and can be renewed for an additional 2 hours.

Call for Faculty Participation in Jail Education Program

There is a unique opportunity for interested faculty to teach courses for students incarcerated at Essex County Correctional Facility (ECCF) in Middleton, MA and Middlesex Jail and House of Correction (MCCF) in Billerica, MA. Both facilities are 20-25 minutes from Merrimack. Faculty interested in teaching introductory courses in all disciplines are encouraged to apply.* Courses that fulfill traditional general education requirements are especially encouraged.

Important information:

- Eight-week, condensed schedule; faculty teach two nights from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
- Faculty have the help of 2-4 Teaching Assistants
- Technology is highly limited in a jail setting

- Consideration must be given to the cost of materials (everything is provided, but resources are very limited; photocopies and ingenuity encouraged)
- No hardcover books are allowed
- Facility dress codes (while not onerous) must be followed
- Each facility requires an orientation and security clearance/background check
- An adjunct stipend is available (\$4400); course release does not apply
- Flexibility and an ability to “roll with the punches” are essential

***The most pressing need is to staff the second half of fall 2019 at ECCF.**

Faculty interested in teaching should consult with their Department Chairs and email Brittanie Aiello (aiellob@merrimack.edu) or Emma Duffy-Comparone (duffycomparone@merrimack.edu) by September 15, 2019 with potential courses.

Interested in Online or Hybrid Teaching?

The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) is your one-stop-shop for online and hybrid course design. The CETL is ready to help with new course development or to re-design an activity, assignment, or assessment for a digital learning environment. All Merrimack instructors are invited to schedule an in-person or virtual meeting or to stop by our office in Sullivan Hall this summer. Please contact ctl@merrimack.edu or visit our [Resource Page](#) for additional information.

Future Events

Balik Kampung: A Village Return

Opens: August 16 | Closes: September 27

Reception: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM, August 16

Thagaste Gallery, Rogers Center for the Arts

Join us in exploring the life-long, cross-cultural, love affair between Andover resident and Merrimack College alumna, Emily Kearns, and her Malaysian host family, with whom she lived for one year as an American Field Service (AFS) foreign exchange student in 1977.

Their special relationship is brought to life through photos, film, collage, and storytelling. The installation celebrates the power of cross-cultural experience to impact our lives and generations to come. It invites and incites us to consider and remember the universality of our human experience.

Opening of the 2019-20 Academic Year

Tuesday, September 3, 2019

Mass of the Holy Spirit

4:15 PM

Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher

Community Barbecue

Immediately following Mass of the Holy Spirit

Location: O'Brien Plaza

Thursday, September 5, 2019

All classes will be dismissed at 3:30 PM

Academic Convocation

4:00 PM

Location: Hammel Court, Merrimack Athletic Complex

Please request your regalia rentals now: [Faculty Regalia Request](#)

Second Tuesday First-Year Student Advising Meetings

Tuesday, September 10

4:00 PM

The Academic Success Center has organized our annual "Second Tuesday First-Year Student Advising Meeting", which takes place on the second Tuesday of the semester during the free block. The primary goal is to give first-year students an opportunity to meet their primary advisor earlier. Faculty who have first-year student advisees will meet with a group of their advisees. The meeting will take place in the faculty office - if the group is small enough - or in a classroom. For more information on how this serves as an opportunity for advisors, visit the [Second Tuesday First-Year Student Advising](#) page.

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