



# PROVOST BRIEFING

August 19, 2019

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

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- Academic Success Coaching Unconference, August 21
- CETL Professional Learning, August 27 & 28
- Feast Day of St. Augustine of Hippo, August 28
- Graduate Student Reception, August 28
- Call for Volunteers - Move-In Days
- Fall Start-up and Blackboard Ultra

- National Science Foundation's (NSF) Grants Conference, Save the Date
  - 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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## **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](mailto:forrestk@merrimack.edu) for more information.

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## **CETL Professional Learning: Let's Get Started!**

**Sessions held in the CETL classroom, Sullivan Hall, B-2**

**[Registration Link for All Sessions](#)**

**Monday, August 26, 9:30 -11:00**

Course Set Up for Beginners

Basic course set-up in Blackboard Ultra.

**Monday, August 26, 2:00 -3:30**

Advanced "Beginners" Course Set Up

Course set up basics including grade book, groups, question pools.

**Tuesday, August 27, 9:00 -12:00**

Open Floor: Let Us Solve Your Problem!

Bring any classroom questions and solve with an instructional designer.

**Tuesday, August 27, 1:30 -3:00**

Getting Started with iPad in the Classroom

Learn the Top 10 Basics to create an interactive classroom.

**Thursday, August 29, 9:30 -11:00**

Ultra Course Dress Rehearsal

Last minute adjustments and additions to your course.

**Thursday, August 29, 1:30 -3:00**

Beyond the Syllabus: Create a Plan for the First Day of Class

Engage students on Day 1 and create a dynamic environment for learning.

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## Feast Day of St. Augustine of Hippo

Wednesday, August 28

12:30 PM

Cascia Hall

All are invited to join the Augustinian Friars to celebrate the Feast Day of St. Augustine of Hippo, whose life and work is the spiritual foundation of our community, our study and learning, and our service to others, with Mass at 12:30 PM in Cascia Hall followed by a light lunch on the Sakowich Campus Center Patio.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## National Science Foundation's (NSF) Grants Conference

Save the Date! November 18-19, 2019

Boston Marriott Cambridge

This event is designed to give new faculty, researchers and administrators key insights into a wide range of current issues at NSF. NSF program officers representing each NSF directorate will be on hand to provide up-to-date information about specific funding opportunities and to answer attendee questions. We anticipate the conference will reach capacity very quickly, you are encouraged to register as soon as it opens.

Registration will open **Thursday, September 5 at 12:00 PM.**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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## 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](mailto:cetl@merrimack.edu) to set up an appointment or feel free to drop in - Sullivan, B-2 office suites.

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## 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 [cetl@merrimack.edu](mailto:cetl@merrimack.edu) or visit our [Resource Page](#) for additional information.

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## Other Events this Week

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### August 20th-21st

New Faculty Orientation

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### August 22nd

Grades due for Summer 2 and 3 classes

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### August 22nd

New Adjunct Faculty Orientation

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## Future Events

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### 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

Undergraduate classes will be dismissed at 3:30 PM

#### Academic Convocation

4:00 PM

Location: Hammel Court, Merrimack Athletic Complex

Faculty line up is at 3:30 PM at the Writers House. Please arrive dressed in regalia (no tams). Regalia rentals can be picked up at line up.

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## 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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