



PROVOST BRIEFING

August 26, 2019

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New Academic Deans with the Provost and President

Left to right, Provost Allan Weatherwax, Dr. Karen Ryan, Dr. Naira Campbell-Kyureghyan, Dr. Janet Blum, and President Christopher Hopey

Photo Credit: Mary Schwalm

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

- CETL Professional Learning, August 26- 29
- Feast Day of St. Augustine of Hippo, August 28
- Graduate Student Reception, August 28
- Call for Volunteers - Move-In Days
- Opening of the 2019-20 Academic Year
 - Mass of the Holy Spirit, September 3
 - Community Barbecue, September 3
 - Academic Convocation, September 5

- Interdisciplinary Institute Events for September
- Second Tuesday First-Year Student Advising Meetings, September 10
- Fall 2019 Syllabi: Accessibility Services Office
- Fall Start-up and Blackboard Ultra
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- Call for Faculty Participation in Jail Education Program
- Faculty Openings on the Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- McQuade Library Course Reserves Reminder
- Read On-The-Go with Libby and Overdrive
- Last day of Summer Session 2 online graduate courses, August 30
- New Student Move in Day/Orientation, August 30-31
- The Iliad, The Odyssey and All of Greek Mythology: A Comedy, September 11-14
- The Writers House: Donna Harrington-Lueker, September 24
- Caring for Our Common Home: Ecology Walk for the Campus, September 24

CETL Professional Learning: Let's Get Started!

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

[Registration Link for All Sessions](#)

Advanced "Beginners" Course Set Up

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

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

Open Floor: Let Us Solve Your Problem!

Tuesday, August 27, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Bring any classroom question and solve with an instructional designer.

Getting Started with iPad in the Classroom

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

Learn the Top 10 Basics to create an interactive classroom.

Ultra Course Dress Rehearsal

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

Last minute adjustments and additions to your course.

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

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

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

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.

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.

Opening of the 2019-2020 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 with Guest Speaker Hallie S. Hobson

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.

Volunteers are needed. Staff can sign up [here](#)

Academic Convocation Speaker Hallie S. Hobson



Hallie S. Hobson is a passionate advocate for the arts and cultural sector, and an artist in her own right. For nearly two decades, Hallie has contributed to the vitality and health of nonprofit cultural institutions by spearheading innovative planning, fundraising and patron engagement strategies. These organizations have included: The Studio Museum in Harlem, where she led that organization's \$175 million Capital Campaign, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Modern Art, the New York Foundation for the Arts and The House Foundation for the Arts/Meredith Monk, among others.

In addition, Hallie is an accomplished poet and playwright. She holds an M.F.A. in Playwriting from UCLA and a B.A. in African-American and Theater Studies from Yale University and has been selected for a number of honors, including a Cave Canem Poetry Fellowship, Mellon/Ford Summer Research Fellowship, Hilgendorf Travel Fellowship, the A.S.K. Theater Projects Fellowship, Graduate Opportunity Fellowship (UCLA) and the UCLA Affiliates Award. She was a member of the Mark Taper Forum Blacksmiths Writers' Lab and a finalist for both the Marty Klein Comedy Writing Award and Cherry Lane Theater's Mentor Project. Hallie recently started a new chapter, leaving her former position to work towards integrating her passion for supporting the cultural sector with her own creative work, including poetry, nonfiction writing — and her yoga practice! Hallie, originally from Atlanta, Georgia, currently resides in Harlem, USA.

Interdisciplinary Institute Events for September

Issues in Interdisciplinary Research and Pedagogy: A Faculty Conversation

Friday, September 6

12:30 - 2:00 PM

Arcidi Hall Meeting Room B

Reception for 2019-2020 Presidential Fellows

Thursday, September 19

4:00 - 6:00 PM

Cascia Hall

Team Teaching Workshop

Friday, September 20 & Saturday, September 21

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

CETL Conference Room

For a list of additional events planned for Fall 2019, see the [Interdisciplinary Institute's webpage](#). For more information contact Simona Sharoni at director.institute@merrimack.edu

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.

Fall 2019 Syllabi: Accessibility Services Office

Faculty are strongly encouraged to ensure they have a statement in their syllabi about accommodations and the Accessibility Services Office. If you already have a statement, please double check that it's been updated as suggested below to ensure the students have access to accurate information. Additionally, a section on the website has been provided for faculty, to answer questions you might have when interacting with students and the Accessibility Services Office: [Accessibility Services Office for Faculty](#)

Recommended language for your syllabus:

Academic Accommodations from the Accessibility Services Office

Merrimack College provides reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students who have, or think they may have, a disability are invited to contact the Accessibility Services Office via the online request form: www.merrimack.edu/accessibility, email: accessibilityservices@merrimack.edu or by visiting us on the third floor of McQuade Library.

Students are encouraged to contact the office as soon as possible to ensure adequate time to meet and create a plan. Accommodations can not be made retroactively.

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.

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 or visit our [Resource Page](#) for additional information.

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 Brittnie Aiello (aiello@merrimack.edu) or Emma Duffy-Comparone (duffycomparone@merrimack.edu) by September 15, 2019 with potential courses.

Faculty Openings on the Institutional Research Board (IRB)

There are faculty openings for the 2019-20 academic year on Merrimack's IRB. Information on the IRB can be found [here](#). If you are interested in serving on the IRB or have any questions about what service will involve, please contact Dr. Jon Lyon (lyonj@merrimack.edu), IRB Chair.

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.

Read On-The-Go with Libby and Overdrive

September 10, October 16, November 21, and December 9

12:00 - 1:00 PM

McQuade Library's ERC (2nd floor, yellow room)

Looking for a way to get fun books and audiobooks in the palms of your hands? Come to one of McQuade's monthly workshops and a librarian will show you the ins and outs of the Libby app by Overdrive. This app gives you free access to e-books, audiobooks, and magazines on your smartphone, tablet, and even your desktop. Bring your lunch and learn!

RSVP here: <http://bit.ly/LibbyWorkshop>

Other Events this Week

August 30th

Last day of Summer Session 2 for Online Graduate Courses

August 30th-31st

New Student Move in Day/Orientation

Future Events

The Iliad, The Odyssey and All of Greek Mythology: A Comedy

September 11, 11:00 AM

September 12, 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM

September 13, 7:30 PM

September 14, 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts

As the clock ticks away, this cast of professional actors speeds through ALL of Greek mythology...or else! This funny, updated and easy-to-understand crash course will have you rolling in the aisles. All the silly decisions, absurd destinies, and goofy characters of Ancient Greece are presented at lightning-bolt speed with hysterical results.

Written by: Jay Hopkins and John Hunter, Directed by: Evan Kelly

Donna Harrington-Lueker

Tuesday, September 24

4:00 PM

The Writers House

Donna Harrington-Lueker's *Books for Idle Hours: Nineteenth-Century Publishing and the Rise of Summer Reading* draws upon letters, diaries, archival materials, and an array of nineteenth-century popular novels set at summer resorts, to show how the practice of light summer reading (AKA the "beach read") takes shape in the nineteenth century. In addition to this book, her academic work has appeared in the *Keats-Shelley Journal*, *Journalism History*, and *Nineteenth Century Studies*.

Caring for Our Common Home: Ecology Walk for the Campus

Tuesday, September 24

5:00 PM

McQuade Library

Join us in Shalom, Peace, Salaam, Shanti!

5:00 - 6:00 PM | Help yourself to the vegan chili bar while you make a ribbon for the [International Climate Ribbon Project](#).

6:00 - 7:00 PM | Eco walk for the Campus, with stops at Mendel Pond, the Oak Tree, the Campus Garden, and ending with a candlelight vigil at the Labyrinth.

Local faith leaders will speak at each stop, with reflections on caring for our campus, each other, and the Earth as we enter a new year together. Most of the program is on paved walkways. Please advise us if you have accessibility concerns. [RSVP](#) appreciated.

This is made possible by the McLaughlin Martin Family Environmental Innovation Fund.

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