



# PROVOST BRIEFING

September 2, 2019

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**Move in day**

*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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- 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
- Fulbright Scholar Program - Faculty Information Session, September 11

- Through Knowledge to Wisdom Conversations
- Faculty Openings on the Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Fall Start-up and Blackboard Ultra
- Call for Faculty Participation in Jail Education Program
- Mindful McQuade
- Warrior Shuttle
- Labor Day (no classes), September 1
- Upper-classman move in, September 1
- Fall Classes Begin, September 2
- Final grades are due for Summer Session 2 graduate online courses, September 2
- The Iliad, The Odyssey and All of Greek Mythology: A Comedy, September 11-14
- The Writers House: Donna Harrington-Lueker, September 24
- Environmental Movie Nights/Programs
  - Caring for Our Common Home: Ecology Walk for the Campus, September 24
  - Empowered: Power from the People, September 26

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## 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

Seats will be reserved for faculty and staff in the front of the Church on the Rt 114 side. However, these seats will only be held until 4:10 PM at which time any unused seats will be made available to students

### 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 Dobson 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.

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## **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](mailto:director.institute@merrimack.edu)

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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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## Fulbright Scholar Program - Faculty Information Session

Wednesday, September 11

4:00 PM

Provost Conference Room

Please join us to learn more about the Fulbright Scholar Program. We will be joined by Grant Stream-Gonzalez, who is the Outreach and Recruitment Officer with the Institute of International Education. He will provide an overview of the Fulbright Scholar Program and can answer any questions that you may have. While the application deadline for this year is quickly approaching, this is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the application process and to get advice on how to search for international opportunities that might dovetail with your professional interests. If you would like to join us, please RSVP by **Friday, September 6** by responding to this [Google Form](#). For more information, please contact Vice Provost Sean Condon at [condonj@merrimack.edu](mailto:condonj@merrimack.edu).

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## Through Knowledge to Wisdom Conversations

September 12, 12:00 PM

September 16, 3:30 PM

September 18, 8:00 AM

September 24, 2:00 PM

September 27, 10:00 AM

Location T.B.A.

The Office of Mission and Ministry will be offering a series of opportunities for faculty, staff, and administrators to spend some time each month reflecting on and conversing about ways in which the Catholic and Augustinian tradition, upon which Merrimack College is founded, might influence us as we do our work today. A different topic will be suggested for each month and during the month, five different opportunities will be offered for us to gather with one another for a conversation facilitated by Father Ray Dlugos. For September, the topic will be *How might Saint Augustine of Hippo influence our thoughts, words, and actions in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?*

If you would like to join us, please RSVP by responding to this [Google Form](#).

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## 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](mailto:lyonj@merrimack.edu)), IRB Chair.

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## Fall Start-up and Blackboard Ultra

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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## 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 ([aiello@merrimack.edu](mailto:aiello@merrimack.edu)) or Emma Duffy-Comparone ([duffycomparone@merrimack.edu](mailto:duffycomparone@merrimack.edu)) by September 15, 2019 with potential courses.

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## **Mindful McQuade**

This fall I'm teaming up with Dr. Cynthia Ferrara in health sciences to bring student run mindfulness programming to McQuade.

### **Weekly Walks**

**Wednesdays at Noon**

**Meet in front of McQuade**

We'll walk outside weather permitting or the Sak track if not. Open to everyone!

### **Weekly Mindful Activity (Meditation, Gentle Movement)**

**Wednesdays at 4:00 PM**

**Meet at McQuade Meditation Space (Lower Level)**

Drop by the meditation space on the lower level at McQuade (bring a class for a visit) or stop by the Research Center to pick out a plant for your office!

### **BIKES IN THE LIBRARY!!**

McQuade has 2 Espresso Bikes with immersive technology in the lower level by the mediation space. It is a great place to either take a mindful break or get in a quick ride to get your energy flowing! A recent study about brain breaks said that even just 3 minutes of activity boosts brain performance over just sitting!

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## **Warrior Shuttle**

We are happy to announce the addition of a new on campus Warrior Shuttle. This shuttle will run Monday-Friday when classes are in session from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Beginning in Lot M at 8:00 am the shuttle will run constantly making stops along the way at the following:

- Rogers Center
- McQuade Library
- Crowe Hall

Please remember to have your Merrimack ID available for the driver when boarding the shuttle. For any questions, please email us at [Shuttle@merrimack.edu](mailto:Shuttle@merrimack.edu).

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## Other Events this Week

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### September 2nd

Labor Day (no classes)  
Upper-classman move in

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### September 3rd

Fall Classes Begin  
Final grades are due for Summer Session 2 graduate online courses

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## Future Events

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### 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

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### 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*. The campus visit is a homecoming for Harrington-Lueker who graduated from Merrimack College in 1976 with a major in English.

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### Environmental Movie Nights/Programs:

Celebrating [Climate Preparedness Week](#) September 24-30

## **Caring for Our Common Home: Ecology Walk for the Campus**

**Tuesday, September 24**

More information can be found [here](#)

- **5:00 - 6:00 PM, McQuade Library**  
Help yourself to the vegan chili bar while you make a ribbon for the [International Climate Ribbon Project](#).
- **6:00 - 7:00PM Eco Walk Starts from McQuade**  
Join us in Shalom, Peace, Salaam, Shanti! 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. [RSVP](#) appreciated.

## **Empowered: Power from the People**

**Film Screening**

**Thursday, September 26, 7:00 PM**

**McQuade Library**

"Tompkins County, NY is one of the cloudiest, least windy places in the country, and yet its residents are proving that they can meet their energy needs through totally renewable resources. From solar and wind to biodiesel and geothermal, [Empowered: Power from the People](#) tells the story of one community's role in the energy independence revolution." - [empoweredthemovie.com](#).

These events are made possible by support from the McLaughlin Martin Family Environmental Innovation Fund.

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### **MERRIMACK COLLEGE PROVOST**

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