



PROVOST BRIEFING

September 30, 2019

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Evening of Gratitude

Photo Credit: David Barron, Oxygen Group

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

- Yousef Bashir, October 1
- Open House: 21st Century Literacy Partners, October 1
- Fire and Flood: Queer Resilience in the Era of Climate Change, October 2
- CETL Workshop: Service-Learning and Community Based Teaching and Research 101, with CETL Faculty Fellow, Dr. Elaine Ward, October 3
- Interdisciplinary Institute Events for October

- Towards Inclusive Excellence: A Faculty Conversation, October 4
 - Toy Collaboration Project: Reflections on Team-Teaching, October 7
 - The (Anti)Vaccination Debate, October 17
 - Innovations in Interdisciplinary Teaching and Pedagogy, October 18
- CETL Professional Learning: Fall 2019
 - Grading & Feedback in Ultra, October 8
 - Content Creation using iPad, October 10
- Improving Student Writing: Faculty Workshop Series on Best Practices, October 9 & December 3
- Through Knowledge to Wisdom Conversations, Weekly
- The Moors, Opens October 10
- Fall IRB Meeting Dates Posted for Full Review Proposals
- CETL Teaching Circles: 2019/20 Call for Proposals
- Preparing for Spring & Blackboard Ultra
- Early Alert Requests
- Registration for MACK GIVES BACK WEEK now open
- Professional Development Retreat: Seniors - Applications are Live!
- Weekly Walks, Every Wednesday
- Weekly Mindful Activity, Every Wednesday
- Liberal Arts Career Night
- Homecoming Weekend, October 4-5
- Fall Student Exhibition, Opens: October 10
- Read On-The-Go with Libby and Overdrive, October 16
- Matthew Jaskot: Piano, October 16
- LS Core Faculty Dialogue, October 24

Yousef Bashir

Tuesday, October 1

4:00 PM

Writers House

Yousef Bashir will read from and talk about his book, *The Words of My Father: Love and Pain in Palestine*. The book chronicles a childhood under Israeli occupation in Gaza. When he was 11 years old, his family home was taken over by the Israeli Army; when he was 15 years old, Bashir was shot in the back by an Israeli soldier. Since then, he has dedicated his life to peace.

In an opinion piece in The New York Times, Bashir writes: "The Israeli army apologized to me, and the soldier who shot me was suspended. I often wonder what has happened to him since, why he did it and what he now thinks about the whole thing. I wish we could talk. I would tell him that I want to do my part to make peace between our peoples more possible, the way my father taught me. I would tell him that I have forgiven him."

See the full article [here](#)

Open House: 21st Century Literacy Partners

Tuesday, October 1

2:00 - 5:00 PM

McQuade Library (3rd Floor), Tutoring/Math & Writing Center

All are welcome to attend the first-ever open house of [21C: 21st Century Literacy Partners](#). 21C is a network of Merrimack College centers and programs dedicated to helping students prepare for the demands of the knowledge economy. Recognizing the interconnectedness of information, numerical, and disciplinary literacies, 21C seeks to support and enhance student learning outside the classroom. [Registration link](#)

Fire and Flood: Queer Resilience in the Era of Climate Change

Sneak-Peek Film Screening with Live Q and A with the Film's Creator

Wednesday, October 2

7:00 PM

McQuade Library

Join us for a sneak-peek film screening of "Fire & Flood: Queer Resilience in the Era of Climate Change" followed by a live Q&A with film creator Vanessa Raditz. See more [information here](#).

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

CETL Faculty Fellow Led Workshop: Service-Learning and Community Based Teaching and Research 101 with Dr. Elaine Ward

Thursday, October 3

12:00 - 1:00 PM, Lunch Provided

CETL Conference Room, Lower Level Sullivan Hall

[Register Here](#)

What is service-learning and community based research? How do I connect my course with the external community - where do I start? How could I connect my teaching and research to a larger public purpose? Join CETL 2019-2020 Faculty Fellow, Dr. Elaine Ward for a lunch discussion on service-learning and community engaged research in and beyond our classrooms.

Interdisciplinary Institute Events for October

Towards Inclusive Excellence at Merrimack College: Opportunities and Challenges, A Faculty Conversation

Friday, October 4, 12:30 - 2:00 PM

Arcidi B

Toy Collaboration Project: Reflections on Team-Teaching

Monday, October 7, 3:30 - 4:30 PM

CETL Conference Room, Sullivan Hall

The (Anti)Vaccination Debate: Public Good and Personal Choice in the Post-Truth Era, A Public Forum

Thursday, October 17, 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Cascia Hall

Innovations in Interdisciplinary Teaching and Pedagogy, A Roundtable with Institute Microgrant Recipients

Friday, October 18, 12:30 - 2:00 PM

Arcidi B

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

CETL Professional Learning: Fall 2019

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

[Registration Link for All Sessions](#)

Grading & Feedback in Ultra

Tuesday, October 8, 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Leverage the grade book to grade student submissions and provide valuable feedback (audio and text) to promote instructor efficiency and student learning transferability.

Content Creation using iPad, Thursday,

October 10, 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Create presentations and digital materials using general i-Work Apps. Add illustrations and notations using Apple Pencil. Show data creatively by structuring spreadsheets your way, with charts, tables, images, and much more!

Improving Student Writing: Faculty Workshop Series on Best Practices

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

[Registration link](#)

Providing Effective Feedback on Student Writing

Wednesday, October 9, 2:00 - 3:15 PM

Do you find that students don't use your feedback on their writing the way you would like, or worse, don't seem to use it at all? This interactive workshop will focus on best practices for improving student writing through effective, efficient commenting. Participants will leave with concrete strategies for maximizing the impact of their feedback while simultaneously reducing the time and effort it takes to give it.

Designing Quality Writing Assignments

Tuesday, December 3, 4:00 - 5:15 PM

Clear, engaging, and meaningful writing assignments provide opportunities for students to both enhance their writing abilities and demonstrate their learning. This hands-on workshop will explore a variety of objectives for formal assignments, strategies for linking them effectively to course content, and methods for increasing student engagement. Participants will have the chance to analyze one of their own assignments in light of the discussion.

**Co-sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning,
The Writing Intensive Committee, and The Writing Center**

Through Knowledge to Wisdom Conversations

Conversations will be held on the following dates and times and will be held in the Grace J. Palmisano Center for Campus Ministry, SAK 350.

October's topic is "How might we move toward being and becoming more fully human in the face of the dehumanizing forces and stressors of the 21st Century?"

- Thursday, October 10 from Noon - 1:30 PM
- Wednesday, October 16 from 8:00 - 9:30 AM
- Monday, October 21 from 3:30 - 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, October 22 from 23:00 - 3:30 PM
- Friday, October 25 from 10:30 AM - Noon

Please register for any one of these conversations through this link [TKTW Conversation October](#)

The Moors

A Dark Comedy by Jen Silverman

October 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19 at 7:30 PM, October 13 at 2:00 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts

For tickets and more information visit [Rogers Center for the Arts](#)

Two sisters and a dog live out their lives on the bleak English moors, dreaming of love and power. The arrival of a hapless governess and a moor-hen set all three on a strange and dangerous path. The Moors is a play about love, desperation and visibility.

Presented by the Department of Visual and Performing Arts

Fall IRB Meeting Dates Posted for Full Review Proposals

Fall meeting dates have been posted to the [IRB website](#). To ensure that applications are reviewed in a timely manner and to ensure that IRB members have adequate time to review the applications, we ask that all full applications be submitted at least **14 days prior** to a full IRB meeting. Please contact the IRB at irb@merrimack.edu if you have any questions.

CETL Teaching Circles: 2019/20 Call for Proposals

Consider forming a CETL Teaching Circle for the upcoming academic year. Circles are faculty led and composed of faculty and instructors from across departments. The collegial nature of the circle is intended to foster openness, mutual support, and innovation and is founded on the idea that teachers can learn from each other. Proposal Deadline is **October 4**. For more information click [Teaching Circle Information](#) or contact Dr. Kathryn Nielsen at nielsenk@merrimack.edu.

Preparing for Spring & Blackboard Ultra

Have you heard? Since Fall 2019, Merrimack College has moved all courses to Blackboard Ultra (Course) View. Checking your content is essential for a smooth Spring start as content may display differently than expected. Log into Blackboard on or after October 1 and look for your Spring Ultra course. [Click here](#) for full details on how to access your course. The CETL will gladly assist you with course (re)design needs: [click here](#) for documentation on how to get started in Ultra. Email us at cetl@merrimack.edu to set up an appointment or feel free to drop in.

Early Alert Requests

Faculty, please check your email for early alert requests for students who may be struggling in your class. You can submit your information on [this form](#)

Registration for MACK GIVES BACK WEEK now open

Mack Gives Back week is Friday, November 1- Friday, November 8. During that week faculty, staff, students, alumni, and their families are encouraged to join together to honor our nation's Military Veterans and the sacrifices they have made by engaging in a few hours of service to others. There are volunteer opportunities available both weekdays and the weekend within that period, however, the centerpiece of Mack Gives Back is the gathering together of as many Warriors as possible Saturday morning, November 2nd. The day will start at 7:30 in the MPR with registration followed by breakfast and a brief prayer service. All volunteers should expect to be back on campus by 12:30 PM.

Register now by clicking on the link below and selecting the category that applies to you. If your club/organization/group name is not listed on the drop down menu please email mackgivesback@merrimack.edu. We also gladly accept individual volunteers [REGISTER FOR MACK GIVES BACK HERE!](#)

Professional Development Retreat: Seniors - Applications are Live!

At this two-day conference students will learn "soft skills" such as problem-solving, conflict resolution, critical observation and adaptability. Through an application and selection process, sixty seniors will be selected for the retreat. Our goal is to have all academic disciplines represented. If you know a senior student who would benefit from this event please encourage them to apply at bit.ly/seniorspdr19. All applications are due by Sunday, October 6 at midnight.

Sponsored by the O'Brien Center for Career Development

Other Events this Week

October 2nd

Weekly Walks

Wednesdays at Noon

Meet in front of McQuade

Walks are outside weather permitting or the Sak track if not. Open to everyone!

October 2nd

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).

October 3rd

Liberal Arts Career Night

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts, Lobby

Encourage your students to attend the Liberal Arts Career Night, open to all students of all class years. Students will be able to network with over 20 Merrimack alumni and industry professionals and learn what career paths a liberal arts degree can lead to. Students can click [here to RSVP](#).

Sponsored by the O'Brien Center for Career Development

October 4-5

Homecoming Weekend

[See a full schedule here](#)

Future Events

Fall Student Exhibition

Opens: October 10 | Closes: November 3

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

McCoy Gallery, Rogers Center for the Arts

Visit the McCoy Gallery to view select works from our talented student visual artists.

Read On-The-Go with Libby and Overdrive

Wednesday, October 16

Noon - 1:00 PM

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

Looking for a way to get fun books and audio-books 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, audio-books, and magazines on your smartphone, tablet, and even your desktop. Bring your lunch and learn! **RSVP here:**

<http://bit.ly/LibbyWorkshop>

Additional dates: November 21, and December 9

Matthew Jaskot: Piano

Wednesday, October 16

12:30 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts

The Atrium Series brings back the very talented composer and pianist, Matthew Jaskot! Aside from Matt's own compositions, his performance repertoire primarily focuses on works from the 20th and 21st centuries.

LS Core Faculty Dialogue: A conversation with off-campus experts about the process of revising General Education

Thursday, October 24

3:30 PM to 5:00 PM

Crowe Hall Executive Room

Please join the General Education Committee and three representatives from Providence College, Stonehill College, and University of Rochester to discuss the process of revising a

General Education Program. Discussion will focus on ideas for navigating the process, integrating learning outcomes and being innovative in a 21st century learning environment. To help us plan for the event, please RSVP [here](#).

MERRIMACK COLLEGE PROVOST

315 Turnpike Street | North Andover, MA 01845

(978) 837-5114 or

provost@merrimack.edu

www.merrimack.edu/provost

<https://www.facebook.com/merrimackprovost>

