



PROVOST BRIEFING

October 7, 2019

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Presidential Fellows Inaugural Reception

Dr. April Bowling, Dr. Christy Pottroff, Dr. Laura Moore Pruett, Dr. Mariko Frame, Dr. Simona Sharoni, Dr. Brandy Benedict, Dr. Ellen Fitzpatrick

Photo Credit: Kevin Salemme

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

- Interdisciplinary Institute Events for October 7-18
- 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 Weekly Conversations
- The Moors, Opens October 10
- Fall Student Exhibition, Opens: October 10
- Tuition Exchange & Tuition Remission Information Session, October 15
- Annual English Career Night, October 22
- LS Core Faculty Dialogue, October 24
- Merrimack's 3rd Annual All Abilities Awareness Week, October 28-November 1
- Call for Proposals: Interdisciplinary Institute's Working Paper Series on Sustainability
- Preparing for Spring & Blackboard Ultra
- Registration for MACK GIVES BACK WEEK now open
- O'Brien Center Launches Internship Institute in Spring 2020
- Staff Forum, October 8
- Faculty Senate, October 8
- Ask an Employer: Engineering, October 8
- Weekly Walks, Every Wednesday
- Weekly Mindful Activity, Every Wednesday
- Hamel Health Flu Clinic, October 9
- Last day to withdraw with a "W" for Fall Session 1 graduate online courses, October 11
- COLUMBUS DAY (College closed: no classes), October 14
- Undergraduate Admission Academic Preview Day, October 14
- Classes meet on a Monday Schedule, October 15
- Read On-The-Go with Libby and Overdrive, October 16
- Matthew Jaskot: Piano, October 16
- Political Science Alumni Career Event, October 17
- MINTS Workshop: Integrating Children's Literature in Early Childhood and Elementary Mathematics, October 17

Interdisciplinary Institute Events for October

Toy Collaboration Project: Reflections on Team Teaching, October 7

Monday, October 7, 3:30 - 4:30 PM
CETL classroom, Sullivan Hall, B-2

The (Anti)Vaccination Debate

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

Innovations in Interdisciplinary Teaching and Pedagogy

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

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 towards being and becoming more fully human in the face of dehumanizing forces and stressors of the 21st Century?"

- Thursday, October 10, Noon-1:30 PM
- Wednesday, October 16, 8:00-9:30 AM
- Tuesday, October 22, 2:00-3:30 PM
- Friday, October 25, 10:30 AM-Moon

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

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 Student Exhibition

Opens: October 10 | Closes: November 3

McCoy Gallery, Rogers Center for the Arts

Reception: October 10, 5:30 PM (featuring a performance by Mackapella)

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

Tuition Exchange & Tuition Remission Information Session

Tuesday, October 15

3:30 PM

Provost Conference Room, 1st Floor, Austin Hall

The Office of Human Resources is now accepting applications for sponsorship for the 2020-2021 Tuition Exchange Program. Interested families must complete and return applications by **Monday, October 21st**. To assist you in this process, Human Resources will be holding a Tuition Exchange & Tuition Remission Information Session. At this session, Darren Conine, Vice President, Enrollment & Dean of Admission, will share information on the Merrimack admission application process, deadlines, and upcoming events. Employees with dependent children in high school are encouraged to attend.

Click [here](#) for the application and other information. Questions, concerns, and completed applications can be directed to Patricia Sonia at soniap@merrimack.edu or x5472.

Annual English Career Night

Tuesday, October 22

7:00 - 11:00 PM

Merrimack Club, Sakowich Campus Center

The Annual English Career Night is a chance to meet and network with recent alumni from the English Department, all of whom took various paths after graduating from Merrimack College. Students from all majors are invited to attend and interact with the various professionals.

LS Core Faculty Dialogue: A Conversation with Off-Campus Experts about the Process of Revising General Education

Thursday, October 24

3:30 - 5:00 PM

Crowe Hall Executive Room

Please join the General Education Committee and 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's 3rd Annual All Abilities Awareness Week!

October 28 - November 1

In partnership with McQuade Library and the Academic Success Center, the Accessibility Services Office invites you to **#redefiningnormal** where we celebrate ability, disability, and stigma reduction all in one joyous package! We encourage you to join us and to invite your students (maybe even for extra credit?). Please see the linked flyer: [2019 All Abilities Awareness Week](#)

MACKchats

October 28 - November 1, 12:00 - 1:00PM

McQuade ERC (2nd Floor)

MACKchats - come any day and bring your lunch for a wonderful and eye-opening experience where a variety of students share their stories of grit, overcoming obstacles, and advocacy of having a disability in college. Here are promotional videos: [Netflix Documentary](#) and [HBO Series](#).

Comedy show from *Asperger's Are Us*, as seen in their shows on HBO & Netflix
Wednesday, October 30, 6:00 PM

McQuade Auditorium (Ground Floor)

Asperger's Are Us is the first comedy troupe composed of people diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome. They've performed over 150 original absurdist sketch shows in 10 countries since 2010. They do not poke fun at (or mention) Asperger's and they did not form to prove that autistic people can be funny.

Pumpkin Painting with DREAM, harvest fest, and disability discussions

Friday, November 1, 5:00 PM

McQuade Alden Lab (3rd Floor)

Call for Proposals: Interdisciplinary Institute's Working Paper Series on Sustainability

The new Working Paper series is designed to showcase faculty research on sustainability and encourage collaboration and cross-fertilization across departments and schools.

Faculty are invited to submit abstracts for papers or projects addressing sustainability from a systems' perspective. Abstracts should be 250-300 words in length and may include:

1. Any issue related to sustainability from the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.
2. Collaborative, interdisciplinary papers from multiple faculty.

Deadline for submission: **December 1, 2019**. For more information and/or to submit abstracts please contact Dr. Mariko Frame framem@merrimack.edu and Dr. Ellen Fitzpatrick fitzpatricke@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.

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!](#)

O'Brien Center Launches Internship Institute in Spring 2020

Merrimack College's Internship Institute program will prepare students for professional life after college. Open to all students, each semester the program will offer 3 career readiness boot camps, networking opportunities, remote project work for an industry partner, and a guaranteed internship! Students can sign up for the program during the semester that works best for their schedule. The results? An impressive resume, polished interviewing skills, an expanded professional network and real-world experience to launch a career.

Students can sign up for one of the following information sessions via [Handshake](#), Thursday, October 17 or Tuesday, October 22 at 4:00-5:00 PM. Questions? Please contact Stacey Phelps, Director at phelpss@merrimack.edu. More information is available at www.merrimack.edu/obrien-center

Other Events this Week

October 8th

Staff Forum

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Arcidi, Meeting Room A

This month's Staff Forum will focus on enrollments and recruitment.

October 8th

Faculty Senate

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Crowe, Room 107

Agenda and meeting documents can be found on the Faculty Senate Blackboard site.

October 8th

Ask an Employer: Engineering

2:30 - 4:30 PM

Mendel Hall Lobby, Casey Family Engineering Innovation Center

In conjunction with the School of Science & Engineering, we are excited to host our annual Ask an Employer: Engineering event. Eversource Energy, Straumann Group, VHB and many other companies will be on-campus for this informal event. Students can click [here to RSVP](#).

Sponsored by the O'Brien Center for Career Development

October 9th

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 9th

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 9th

Hamel Health Flu Clinic

1:00 - 5:00 PM

MPR, Sakowich Campus Center

Open to all students, faculty and staff. Bring your insurance card, (most insurances accepted).

Without insurance \$35 fee. No appointment necessary.

October 10th

Crime and the Law: Career Paths and Options

4:00 - 5:00 PM

McQuade Library, 1st floor Conference Room

Encourage your students to attend Crime and The Law: Career Paths and Options, open to all majors. Daniel Solomon, Esq. is a former prosecutor and experienced trial lawyer who has tried over 150 civil and criminal jury matters to conclusion. Students will learn about a variety of career paths that are available to those interested in the law.

Sponsored by: The Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice

October 11th

Last day to withdraw with a "W" for Fall Session 1 graduate online courses

October 14th

COLUMBUS DAY (College closed: no classes)
Undergraduate Admission Academic Preview Day

October 15th

Classes meet on a Monday Schedule

Future Events

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.

Political Science Alumni Career Event

Thursday, October 17

12:00 - 1:15 PM

Arcidi Center, Conference Room A

The Political Science department will host 7-8 of our Merrimack Political Science alumni to talk about their career paths and offer tips for our undergraduates thinking ahead to their post-Merrimack life. Confirmed speakers are [listed here](#). The talk is directed at Political Science and International Studies senior majors, but all students of any major or level are welcome.

Please direct any questions to Anne Flaherty at flahertya@merrimack.edu

There is also a lunch following the panel for our guests and upper level students. If you have a junior or senior level student that might benefit from the chance to network with these alumni at the lunch, please email flahertya@merrimack.edu for an invitation. Faculty are also welcome to

reach out if they are interested in the lunch.

MINTS Workshop: Integrating Children's Literature in Early Childhood and Elementary Mathematics

Thursday, October 17

4:30 PM

Crowe Hall, Room 107

An overview of the importance of providing context in mathematics will be given, with discussion related to the use of children's literature in the classroom as well as at home. We will explore current research related to the benefits of incorporating children's literature, and end with an opportunity for teachers to work with their peers to select relevant grade-level texts and generate lesson ideas. This workshop will be facilitated by Dr. Rena Stroud.

MERRIMACK COLLEGE PROVOST

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