



PROVOST BRIEFING

October 15, 2019

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Honors Program Tailgates at Homecoming!

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

- Through Knowledge to Wisdom Conversations, Weekly
- Read On-The-Go with Libby and Overdrive, October 16
- Graduate Open House, October 16
- MINTS Workshop, October 17
- Interdisciplinary Institute Events for October

- The (Anti)Vaccination Debate, October 17
- Innovations in Interdisciplinary Teaching and Pedagogy, October 18
- Moon Over Merrimack: 2nd Annual Family Astronomy Night, October 21
- Annual English Career Night, October 22
- LS Core Faculty Dialogue, October 24
- Grant Writing Workshop, October 24
- Teju Cole, October 24
- Merrimack's 3rd Annual All Abilities Awareness Week, October 28-November 1
- CETL Teaching Circles
- CETL Professional Learning: Fall 2019
- Registration for MACK GIVES BACK WEEK now open
- Midpoint of the Semester, October 16
- Weekly Walks, Every Wednesday
- Matthew Jaskot: Piano, October 16
- Weekly Mindful Activity, Every Wednesday
- Political Science Alumni Career Event, October 17
- The Moors, Opens October 17-19
- Undergraduate Open House, October 19
- "Of Gods and Men" film screening, October 29
- Cantus, October 31
- Lise Funderburg, November 7

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?"

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

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

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

Graduate Open House

Wednesday, October 16

6:00-8:00 PM

Arcidi Center

The Graduate Open House is a great opportunity for prospective graduate students to talk directly with a program director and learn more about our career-focused curriculum, field experience, and faculty. Admissions, student services, financial aid and career counselors will also be there to answer any questions they may have about the application process, scholarships, and more.

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.

Interdisciplinary Institute Events for October

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 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

Moon Over Merrimack: 2nd Annual Family Astronomy Night

Monday, October 21

5:30-8:00 PM

Mendel Hall, Observatory

See the stars, walk on Mars! Come celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing! Walk through the solar system, explore the moon, code a bot to explore Mars. Weather permitting, we will use Merrimack's 20-inch telescope to explore the universe! There will be multiple related STEM investigations, design challenges, and displays designed to engage ages 0-99.

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 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](#).

Grant Writing Workshop

Thursday, October 24

4:00 PM

CETL, Sullivan Hall, Garden level, B-2

Interested in developing grant proposal writing skills or enhancing your current level? The Office of Sponsored Programs will be conducting a grant proposal writing workshop on October 24th. Space is limited so please RSVP to research@merrimack.edu by October 22nd if you would like to participate.

Teju Cole

Thursday, October 24

4:00 PM

The Writers House

Teju Cole, our Fall Writer-in-Residence, is the author of five books. In addition to writing fiction, he is a photographer, critic, and curator. The photography critic of The New York Times Magazine from 2015 until 2019, he is currently the Gore Vidal Professor of the Practice of creative Writing at Harvard University.

The Writer-in-Residence program is made possible with generous support from the Andrea '79 and Ken Robertson Writers House Innovation Fund.

<http://www.merrimack.edu/academics/the-writers-house>

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)

Teaching Circles

CETL Teaching Circles are founded on the idea that teachers learn from one another. Teaching Circles meet over the course of two semesters and are designed to meet the needs of the participants. Consider joining a faculty-led Teaching Circle by contacting the facilitators or emailing CETL@merrimack.edu.

Using Metacognition to Support Academic Success and Independent Learning

Faculty Facilitators: Dr. Sarah Benes & Dr. Leah Poloskey

Fall Meetings: 10/31, 11/14 and 12/12 at 10:00

CETL, Sullivan Hall, Lower Level

(If you cannot attend on these dates/times, please contact faculty facilitators who may be able to amend.)

This teaching circle will focus primarily on metacognition. Metacognition can support not only academic success, but can also help support students in taking charge of their own learning. Metacognitive strategies support self-awareness, growth mindset and a deeper understanding of themselves as learners. Importantly, these abilities can be transferred outside of the classroom and into students personal and professional lives. Finally, metacognition benefits all students and can be applied within any discipline.

Transformative Learning: An Introduction to Augustinian Pedagogy

Faculty Facilitator: Dr. Mark Allman

Fall Meetings: Nov 12, Dec 10, Jan 21, 12:00-1:00 (Lunch included)

CETL, Sullivan Hall, Lower Level

We will explore Augustinian Pedagogy with an emphasis on reflection on experience, learning in community, orienting teaching and learning to the common good, and nurturing the virtue of humility in the pursuit of truth. We begin with an introduction to the life of Augustine and the impact his thought and writing has had on a variety of academic fields. The remainder of the sessions follows Rev. Gary McCloskey's course, "Augustinian Pedagogy" and include short videos followed by discussion

CETL Professional Learning: Fall 2019

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

[Registration Link for All Sessions](#)

Motivational Strategies to Keep Students on Track from Thanksgiving to Christmas!

Tuesday, November 5, 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Discuss the power of groups and community in a digital or face to face environment, revisit growth mindset, and create an interactive environment for your students to thrive.

Video and Screen Capture Basics

Thursday, November 7, 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Create videos - introductory & explanatory or upload existing videos to Panopto, Merrimack's video hosting solution. Learn how to add quizzes, discussion points, and create captions to your videos so that all students can enjoy your resources.

Coffee with an Instructional Designer

Drop-In Mondays

9:00 - 12:00 PM

CETL, Sullivan Hall, B-2

The CETL is your one stop shop for all of your fall course design needs. Bring your course design challenges. Anything goes!

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. 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!](#)

Internship Institute

The O'Brien Center for Career Development is pleased to announce the Internship Institute at Merrimack College! Relevant internship and work experiences are imperative to career success upon graduation and the Internship Institute will serve to prepare, refine and connect students to internships through a series of [skill-based boot camps and networking events](#).

Please encourage students to register on [Handshake](#) by **November 15th**. As a member of the Merrimack community, we would welcome your feedback regarding how best to prepare students in our boot camp programming based on your experience and industry. [Internship Institute Feedback Survey](#)

Other Events this Week

October 16th

Midpoint of the semester

October 16th

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 16th

Matthew Jaskot: Piano

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.

October 16th

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 17th

Political Science Alumni Career Event

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

October 17th

O'Brien Center Internship Institute Information Session

Thursday, October 17

4:00-5:00 PM

Students can learn about Merrimack College's Internship Institute Program to be launched by the O'Brien Center in Spring 2020. Interested students can register for this information session via [Handshake](#). More information is available at www.merrimack.edu/obrien-center. An additional session is scheduled Tuesday, October 22.

October 17th-19th

The Moors

A Dark Comedy by Jen Silverman

7:30 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

October 19th

Undergraduate Open House

Future Events

“Of Gods and Men” film screening

Tuesday, October 29

7:00-9:00 PM

Crowe Hall, Room 126

“Des Hommes et des Dieux” is based on the true story of eight French Christian monks who live in harmony with their Muslim neighbors in Tibhirine, Algeria, from 1993 until their kidnapping in 1996.

Cantus

Thursday, October 31

7:30 PM

Rogers Center For the Arts

“One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind...” The all-male vocal ensemble performs an a cappella concert inspired by one of man’s great achievements. [More Information.](#)

Lise Funderburg

Thursday, November 7

4:00 PM

The Writers House

Lise Funderburg’s books include Black, White, Other: Biracial Americans Talk about Race and Identity, Pig Candy: Taking My Father South, Taking My Father Home, and Apple, Tree: Writers on their Parents. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, The Nation, The Washington Post, National Geographic, and elsewhere.

<http://www.merrimack.edu/academics/the-writers-house>

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