



PROVOST BRIEFING

November 18, 2019

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Professional Development Retreat

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

- Through Knowledge to Wisdom Conversations, Weekly
- The Last Lecture: Guest Speaker: Debra Michals, November 19

- Fall 2019 NSF Grants Conference Webcast – Registration Open
- First Year Experience (FYE) Instructor Fall 2020 Applications
- Presidential Fellowships 2020-2021: Information Session, November 22
- Neighbors in Need - Thanksgiving Basket Drive, Monday, November 25
- 2020 Academic Convocation Speaker: Call for Nominations
- Introduction to the Visual and Performing Arts- Interdisciplinary Discussion, December 3 & 5
- CETL Teaching Circles
- Important Information to Share with Students
- Faculty Fellowships: Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation
- CETL Coffee with an Instructional Designer, Every Monday
- MACKfit Employee Wellness: Workplace Exercise, November 18
- MACKfit Employee Wellness: Financial Wellness, November 19
- Faculty Senate
- Special Naming Ceremony of Laurence J. and Roberta M. Palmisano Hall, November 19
- Alice's Restaurant, November 20
- MACKfit Employee Wellness: Chair Massage, November 20
- Read On-The-Go with Libby and Overdrive, November 21
- MACKfit Employee Wellness: Everyday Stress Management, November 21
- A Midsummer Night's Dream, by William Shakespeare, Saturday, November 21-23
- MACKfit Employee Wellness: Spiritual Mindfulness, November 22
- Festival of Light & Hope: A Celebration, December 3
- Lessons and Carols, December 9

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**.

November's topic is "What does inspired by the Catholic Faith and the Augustinian Tradition mean in the diverse and pluralistic culture of Merrimack College?"

- Monday, November 18 from 3:30 to 5:00 PM
- Wednesday, November 20, from 8:00 to 9:30 AM
- Friday, November 22, from 10:30 AM to Noon

Please register for the conversation you wish to attend through this link [TKTW November](#).

The Last Lecture

Guest Speaker: Debra Michals, Director of Women's and Gender Studies

Tuesday, November 19

7:00 PM

Cascia Hall

Each year, one invited speaker delivers a Last Lecture as if it were the very last opportunity a professor had to speak before students and colleagues on any subject that has been of the greatest importance and value in her/his professional life. The Lectures frequently focus on the speaker's passion about - and commitment to - their vocation as an educator.

Sponsored by the Honors Program.

Fall 2019 NSF Grants Conference Webcast – Registration Open

Experience the Fall 2019 National Science Foundation (NSF) Grants Conference virtually! The plenary sessions of the upcoming conference in Boston, MA on **November 18-19**, will be webcast live to the research community. [Read more and Register](#)

First Year Experience (FYE) Instructor Fall 2020 Applications

Join the FYE Team at the Mack Club to learn more!

Tuesday, November 19

5:00-7:00 PM

Mack Club

The First Year Experience Office is sponsoring a Happy Hour Event for current and interested FYE Instructors. Please join us for drinks and appetizers and the opportunity to chat with current instructors about their experiences with teaching FYE. We hope to see you there!

Get to know Merrimack students right from the beginning as a Fall 2020 Instructors!

FYE Instructors:

- Have a unique opportunity to help incoming students navigate their first semester at Merrimack.
- May choose to design their own curriculum around a passion area
- Teach a curriculum designed to help students succeed in the classroom and flourish on campus

All who are interested in teaching FYE1050 in Fall 2020, including returning instructors, should complete [this application](#) by **November 25th**. Any questions can be directed to [Laura Lyons](#) or [Russell Olwell](#).

Presidential Fellowships 2020-2021: Information Session

Friday, November 22

12:30-2:00 PM (*Lunch will be served*)

Sullivan Hall, CETL Conference Room

For more information contact Simona Sharoni at director.institute@merrimack.edu

Neighbors in Need - Thanksgiving Basket Drive, Monday, November 25

Once again this year, the Merrimack community has the opportunity to share some of our blessings with those in need through the Thanksgiving Basket Drive. The Grace J. Palmisano Center for Campus Ministry Campus Ministry is partnering with the local community organization *Neighbors in Need* ([Neighbors in Need Lawrence](#)) to provide Thanksgiving meals to local families.

There are several ways that you could contribute to this drive.

1. Bring a monetary donation of cash or a check made out to Merrimack College Campus Ministry to the Campus Ministry Office in SAK 350 or send it to mailstop GL48. You can

also donate through VENMO ([@CampusMinistry_MC](#)). Please indicate clearly the individual or group from whom this donation is coming. Our campus partners in Merrimack Dining Services will use this money to order food for baskets in bulk and so stretching your contributions to care for as many people as possible. Monetary donations will need to be received by Friday, November 22 in order to supply food for this Thanksgiving.

2. Shop yourself for the items needed to fill a basket for one family. Here is the [list of items](#). You can then deliver your basket to the west entrance (across the road from the Hub) of the Sakowich Campus Center between **7:30 AM and Noon on Monday, November 25**. If you plan to do this, please notify Augustinian Volunteer James Wroblewski at wroblewski@merrimack.edu so that we can plan to receive your donation.
3. Volunteer some of your time on Monday, November 25 and Tuesday, November 26 to receive donated baskets, assemble baskets from supplies purchased by monetary donations or help to deliver the baskets to Neighbors in Need. Use this Google Form to sign up for as much time as you can offer [Thanksgiving Basket Drive Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

Thank you for your willingness to make Thanksgiving what it is meant to be!

2020 Academic Convocation Speaker: Call for Nominations

The Office of the Provost is preparing for Convocation 2020. Similar to last year, we are requesting faculty input on potential speakers. All faculty are welcome and encouraged to make speaker suggestions. If you would like to make a recommendation, please send a brief paragraph with the name and qualifications of your suggested speaker, and describe why and how they would be able to speak to the topic. Also, it would be very useful if you could provide evidence of the person's speaking abilities, either with links to a video, transcripts of other talks, or personal testimonials. Suggestions sent to Officeoftheprovo@merrimack.edu by **December 4th** will receive full consideration. Please feel free to contact the Provost's Office with any questions.

Introduction to the Visual and Performing Arts Interdisciplinary Discussion

Tuesday December 3 and Thursday, December 5

12:00-2:00 PM

Jonathan Latiano (Visual Arts) and Laura Moore Pruett (Music) are co-teaching a new, freshmen-level, interdisciplinary large enrollment course called "Introduction to the Visual and Performing Arts." As part of the institution's increasing commitment to interdisciplinarity, we would like to invite professors from all other departments for a brief classroom visit during the last full week of the semester to discuss the connections between your discipline and the arts conceived broadly (music, theater, design, dance, architecture, visual arts, etc.). If you are available and interested, please complete this brief two-question form: [Interdisciplinarity and the Visual & Performing Arts](#). Questions may be directed to pruettl@merrimack.edu and/or latianoj@merrimack.edu.

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

December 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

December 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.

Important Information to Share with Students

Don't forget to share the following information about two great opportunities for your undergraduate students.

Double Warrior program – Benefits to students include:

- An automatic 25% savings off graduate tuition for most online and on-campus programs when they earn a master's degree at Merrimack.
- The option to take up to two graduate courses during senior undergraduate year, which are covered by the 25% Double Warrior scholarship. Interested students should complete the online form at www.merrimack.edu/DW.
- Students whose senior schedules are unable to accommodate graduate courses can use the Double Warrior scholarship and fast track application after graduation.
- Additional information, including details on participating degrees, may be found at www.merrimack.edu/double-warrior. Note the Double Warrior scholarship cannot be combined with fellowships, which have a separate application process.

Winter Session: January 2 – 15, 2020

- Winter Session is a great way for students to earn four credits in just two weeks. Registration is now open. Current students can register through MyMack.
 - See the list of courses at www.merrimack.edu/winter. For questions
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Faculty Fellowships: Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation

The Trustees of the Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation have announced a grant opportunity for faculty fellowships to support scholars of all disciplines to travel to a location or locations, either domestic or international, other than their home institution. The aim is to stimulate and broaden the minds of teachers so as to improve and enhance the quality of their instruction. Grants are primarily for travel and related expenses and not as salary substitutes, scholarships or grants in aid.

All Application Materials must be received by the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) by 5:00 pm on Monday, January 6, 2020 to be processed and submitted to the Foundation by the application deadline of Friday, January 10, 2020. Award winners will be notified by email by Friday, April 3, 2020 and funds will be disbursed to Merrimack no later than October 2020. The Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation announcement contains all of the grant guidelines. The average award in 2019 was \$5,252 per fellowship.

To apply, please contact the Office of Sponsored Programs at research@merrimack.edu to receive the fellowship application guidelines and materials. You are encouraged to schedule your proposed travel during the spring and winter breaks, and all travel must be approved by your department chair and dean prior to submitting your application.

Other Events this Week

November 18th

CETL 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!

November 18th

MACKfit Employee Wellness: Workplace Exercise

Presented by Harvard Pilgrim

12:00-1:00 PM

McQuade Library, First floor Conference Room

An interactive one-hour presentation designed to teach you how to do simple exercises throughout the day to keep your neck and back healthy. Light refreshments will be served.

[Register Here](#)

November 18th

Special Naming Ceremony of Laurence J. and Roberta M. Palmisano Hall

And Reception to follow

5:30 PM

Lobby of Science & Engineering

November 19th

MACKfit Employee Wellness: Financial Wellness

Presented by TIAA

12:30- 1:30 PM (Lunch will be served starting at 12)

Crowe Hall, Executive Room

TIAA will be conducting a workshop titled, "Getting a Head Start: A step-by-step overview of your plan," that will give you the tools you need to save money and invest well to better prepare for your retirement. This workshop will tell you of the program available to you, the advantages of participating in it early, how to create a personal retirement strategy, and how to take control of your account.

[Register Here](#)

November 19th

Faculty Senate

4:00-5:00 PM

Crowe Hall Room 107

November 20th

Alice's Restaurant

12:30 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts

The Rogers Center tradition continues! Join us as Michael Semonelli and Griffin Ostrowski (and special guest Josh Canner) perform Arlo Guthrie's famous "Alice's Restaurant" along with other songs of protest and peace. This hilarious and uplifting half hour will leave you craving a turkey and some family time.

November 20th

MACKfit Employee Wellness: Chair Massage

Presented by Harvard Pilgrim

1:00-4:00 PM

McQuade Library, First floor Conference Room

A fan favorite! A licensed massage therapist can help relieve that tension, leaving you with a refreshed feeling. Sign up early as these spots fill up quickly!

[Register Here](#)

November 21st

Read On-The-Go with Libby and Overdrive

12:00 - 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 date: December 9

November 21st

MACKfit Employee Wellness: Everyday Stress Management

Presented by Harvard Pilgrim

12:00-1:00 PM

Sakowich Campus Center, Common Prayer Space (third floor)

Learning how to manage stress effectively is essential for maintaining health and wellbeing. Come learn how to break the stress cycle using positive and appropriate coping skills that will help you handle the stresses of everyday life. Light refreshments will be served.

[Register Here](#)

November 21st - 23rd

A Midsummer Night's Dream

by William Shakespeare

November 21, 22, 7:20 PM; November 23, 2:00 PM

The Rogers Center for the Arts

A love triangle. A meddlesome would-be father-in-law. A maiden smitten with unrequited love. A squabbling fairy King and Queen. A play within the play. And a mischief-maker with a magical flower that unleashes the spell of love on the unsuspecting. Mix it all together, and fantastically funny complications ensue in one of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies.

November 22nd

MACKfit Employee Wellness: Spiritual Mindfulness

Presented by Father Ray Dlugos, Vice President, Mission & Ministry

9:00-10:00 AM

Sakowich Campus Center, Common Prayer Space (third floor)

Titled "Too Blessed to be Stressed or Too Stressed to be Blessed: Navigating the Holidays with Health and Wholeness" come join us for a talk with Fr. Ray as he guides us to use our faith and blessings to get through the hectic and stressful holiday times and remind us what these times are really about. Light refreshments will be served.

[Register Here](#)

Future Events

Festival of Light & Hope: A Celebration

Tuesday, December 3

Rogers Center for the Arts and the Merrimack Athletic Complex

The Annual Lighting of the Campus Christmas Tree will be immediately followed by food and drink in the DeCroce Family Lobby and open skating in Lawler Rink (skates provided). All are welcome and all are welcome to bring their families especially children.

Lessons and Carols

Monday, December 9

7:30 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts

For a beautiful retreat in the midst of the holiday rush, join the Merrimack College Schola—our sacred music ensemble led by Dr. Hugh Hinton— for an hour-long presentation that retells the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. The program, which combines choral music, scripture and familiar carols, continues a tradition that began in 19th Century Britain and has since spread around the world. Join us and add your voice to this special celebration of the season.

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