



# PROVOST BRIEFING

December 2, 2019

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**Christmas at Merrimack**

Photo Credit: Kevin Salemme

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

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- 2020 Academic Convocation Speaker: Call for Nominations
- Christmas at Merrimack College
  - Festival of Light & Hope: A Celebration, December 3
  - A Merrimack College Christmas, December 7
  - The Festival of Lessons and Carols, December 9
  - GAUDETE! (Rejoice!), December 17
  - Christmas Mass followed by the Employee Christmas Party, December 20
- CETL Teaching Circles
- Faculty Fellowships: Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation
- CETL Coffee with an Instructional Designer, Every Monday
- MINTS Workshop, December 12
- Dining with the Diva, December 14

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**The Office of the Provost is requesting that any forms, contracts, and/or paperwork that require signatures be submitted to [provost.docsubmit@merrimack.edu](mailto:provost.docsubmit@merrimack.edu) by December 13th to ensure processing before the Holiday break.**

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## **2020 Academic Convocation Speaker: Call for Nominations**

The Office of the Provost is preparing for Convocation 2020. All faculty are welcome and encouraged to make speaker suggestions. To recommend, please send a brief paragraph with the speaker's name, qualifications, a description on their alignment to this theme, and any relevant links demonstrating their presentation topics and skills (if possible). Suggestions sent to [Officeoftheprovost@merrimack.edu](mailto:Officeoftheprovost@merrimack.edu) by **December 11th** are greatly appreciated.

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## **Christmas at Merrimack College**

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for any or all of these events to help you get in the Christmas Spirit:

### **Festival of Light & Hope: A Celebration**

**Tuesday, December 3, 5:15 PM**

**Rogers Center for the Arts and the Merrimack Athletic Complex**

You and your families and especially young children are warmly invited to start the Christmas season with our annual Celebration of Light and Hope featuring the lighting of the Campus Christmas Tree in the Atrium of the Rogers Center for the Arts, followed by a winter festival of food, beverages, ice skating on Lawler Rink (skates provided), sleigh rides, and visits with Santa in the Merrimack Athletic Complex. Donations to support our Christmas Gift Card Drive to serve as gifts for adolescents will be gratefully accepted.

### **A Merrimack College Christmas**

**Saturday, December 7, 7:30 PM**

**Rogers Center for the Arts**

Join the Merrimack Concert Choir, Concert Band, and Jazz Ensemble for traditional carols, newer works, stylish arrangements, and a whole lot of holiday joy! 50% of all ticket sales will be donated to Lazarus House. Lazarus House Ministries, in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Additional donations accepted at the door. Click here for [Ticket Information](#)

### **The Festival of Lessons and Carols**

**Monday, December 9, 7:30 PM**

**Rogers Center for the Arts**

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.

### **GAUDETE! (*Rejoice!*)**

**Tuesday, December 17, 4:30 PM**

**St. Ambrose Friary**

The Augustinian Community welcomes all employees of the College to their home at St. Ambrose Friary starting at 4:30 PM for Christmas Cheer during this third week of the Season of Advent.

### **Christmas Mass followed by the Employee Christmas Party**

**Friday, December 20, 12:30 PM**

**Cascia Hall and Sparky's Place**

Join with your colleagues in prayer and worship together at Cascia Hall. This Mass features the Faculty/Staff Choral Ensemble making their one and only appearance of the year. The annual Employee Christmas Party will follow at Sparky's Place, before we go our separate ways for Christmas.

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### **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 below or emailing [CETL@merrimack.edu](mailto: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**

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 & January 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.

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### **Invitation to Recommend Students to the Honors Program**

The Merrimack Honors Program is seeking nominations of current first-year students who would be a great fit for Merrimack Honors. Faculty are asked to nominate students who excel in the classroom and would benefit from, and contribute to, the growing Honors community. To nominate a student, please simply send the student's name to [honors@merrimack.edu](mailto:honors@merrimack.edu) by **January 10th, 2020**. We'll do the rest!

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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](mailto: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.

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## Other Events this Week

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### December 2nd

**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!

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### December 6th

**Last day to withdraw with a "W" for Fall Session 2 graduate online courses**

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## Future Events

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### MINTS Workshop: Joining Digital Resources and Traditional Texts to Expand Opportunities for Literacy Learning

**Thursday, December 12**

**4:00-6:00 PM**

**Crowe Hall, Room 107**

Participants will learn about evidence-based practices for meaningfully integrating technology into their literacy instruction. Examples of lesson plans and digital resources will be shared for exploration. A limited number of iPads will be available. Participants are also encouraged to bring a mobile device (e.g., tablet, smartphone). This workshop will be facilitated by Lisa

O'Brien, Ed.D.

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## **Dining with the Diva**

**Saturday, December 14**

**4:00 PM**

**Rogers Center for the Arts**

You're invited to spend an unforgettable evening with acclaimed mezzo-soprano, Christina Lamberti, and classical guitarist, Lars Frandsen. Share wine, song and great food as Ms. Lamberti performs her music and prepares her favorite Mediterranean recipes for all to enjoy. It's sure to be a unique delight for all the senses. Click here for [Ticket information and menu](#)

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