

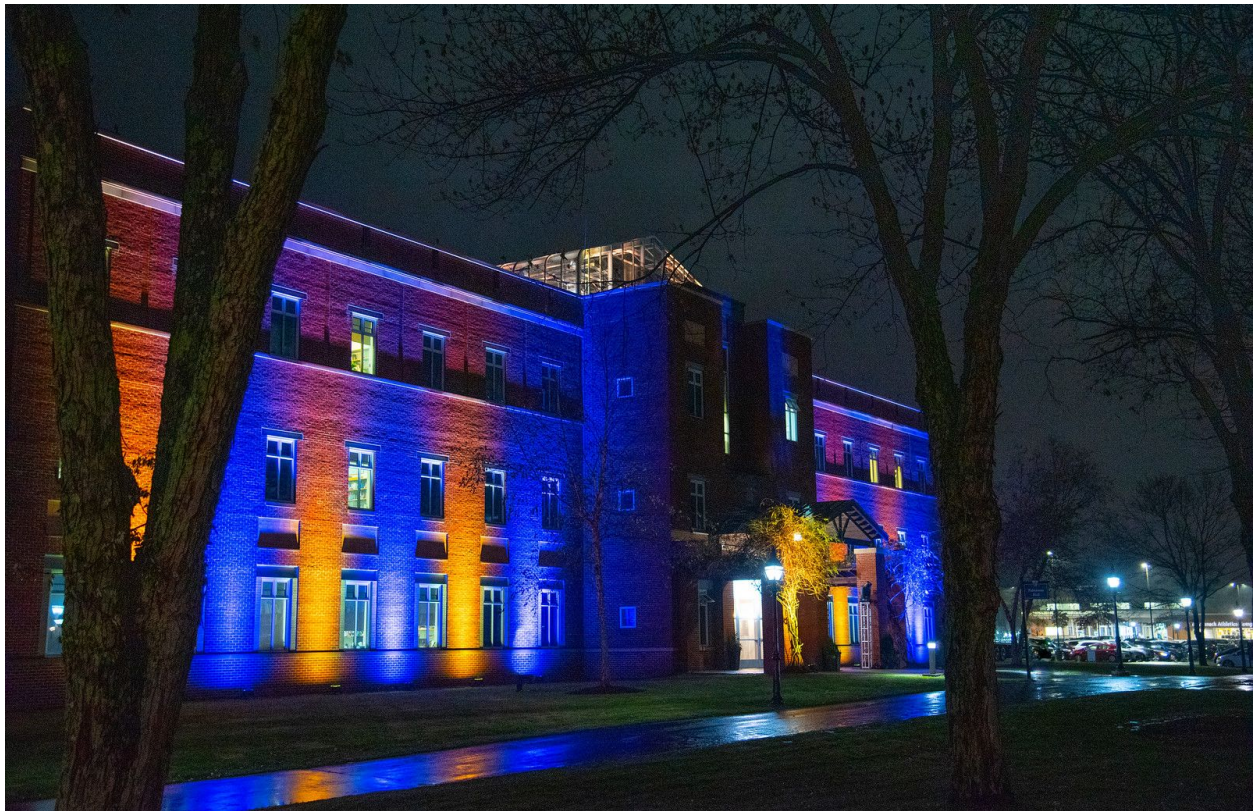


# PROVOST BRIEFING

December 9, 2019

[www.merrimack.edu/provost](http://www.merrimack.edu/provost)

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## Palmisano Hall Dedication

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
- Book Orders are Due!
- Christmas at Merrimack College
  - 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

- Savers Clothing Drive to Support the SEND Program
- CETL Winter Book Discussion
- Tolle Lege 2020 - Call for Submissions
- Faculty Fellowships: Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation
- CETL January Programming, January 8 & 9
- Invitation to Recommend Students to the Honors Program
- Spring IRB Meeting Dates Posted for Full Review Proposals
- A Multimedia Interdisciplinary Exhibition: Bodies, Borders, Bridges
- The Presidential Fellowship Program 2020-2021
- CETL Coffee with an Instructional Designer, Every Monday
- Read On-The-Go with Libby and Overdrive, 9
- Last Full Day of Classes, December 10
- Faculty Senate, December 10
- Staff Forum, December 11
- Reading Days, December 11-12
- MINTS Workshop, December 12
- Final Exams Begin, December 13
- 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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## **Book Orders are Due!**

Textbook and/or e-reader orders for Spring 2020 semesters are due now. If you have already so, please submit all orders into the faculty portal at [facultyportal.com](http://facultyportal.com). This includes textbooks and e-pubs previously used and orders for "no textbook required", as orders are not automatically renewed.

Please remember that **all undergraduate students** have mobile devices with affordances that support learning needs and preferences, cost, and lifestyle. If your textbook requires access codes or additional materials, please specify. Please feel free to contact the bookstore at X5431 or email [merrimackbookstore@bbasolutions.com](mailto:merrimackbookstore@bbasolutions.com).

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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:

### **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. After Mass joins us for the annual Employee Christmas Party at Sparky's Place.

Donate your used clothing on this day between 11:00 AM and 2:30 PM on Main Street in the Campus Center to the Savers Clothing Drive (see below) to support Campus Ministry's SEND program.

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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, 12:00-1:00 (updated time and location)**

#### **Provost's Conference Room**

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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## **Savers Clothing Drive to Support the SEND Program**

Turn your clothing into cash that will support Campus Ministry's SEND Program (Service Immersion Trips). We are looking to collect as much used but usable clothing, shoes, and textiles like sheets and towels as we can from now until March 1. The Savers organization will pay us per pound and that money will be used to defray the cost of of Service Immersion Trips in the SEND Program. Place your donated clothing in a sturdy plastic bag and leave it in the mail room just inside the main entrance of Austin Hall or bring it to the Campus Ministry Office (SAK 350). We will also receive donations of clothing on Main Street in the Campus Center before and during (11:00 AM to 2:30 PM) the Employee Christmas Party on December 20. For more information contact Nicole Benevenia, [benevenian@merrimack.edu](mailto:benevenian@merrimack.edu).

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## **CETL Winter Book Read: *Making Learning-Centered Teaching Work* by Phyllis Blumberg.**

Brief Description: This how-to-guide demonstrates how instructors can integrate learning-centered teaching into their classroom practice without sacrificing content and rigor, and how to positively engage students in the process by demonstrating its impact on their mastery and recall of key concepts and knowledge. [Sign up here](#) by **December 16th** to receive a complimentary texts or ePub of [Making Learning-Centered Teaching Work](#) by Phyllis Blumberg

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## **Tolle Lege 2020 - Call for Submissions**

Each year, McQuade Library recognizes the academic scholarship of the Merrimack College community by collecting published works by faculty, staff, students and alumni for the Tolle Lege Collection. The 17th annual Tolle Lege Reception will be held at the Writers House on Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

We ask the Merrimack community to please submit copies and/or citations of any book(s), article(s) or papers published January 1, 2019 through December 2019. Please submit all materials (or citations) by **Monday, December 16, 2019** to Frances Nilsson, Head of Resource Management, McQuade Library, [nilssonf@merrimack.edu](mailto:nilssonf@merrimack.edu)

Tolle Lege materials [or citations] can also be added to [Merrimack ScholarWorks](#), the College's open access publishing platform. ScholarWorks promotes the use of the college's unique academic and artistic achievements to a global audience of students and scholars while ensuring its long-term preservation.

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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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## **CETL January Programming: Level Up Teaching & Learning during Winter Break**

All sessions held in the CETL Classroom, Sullivan Hall, B-2

[Register for Sessions Here](#)

### **Wednesday, January 8**

#### **Video Creation using iPad and Panopto**

**9:30-10:45 AM**

Learn to create and edit videos to introduce new learning modules, flip a lesson or lecture, reenact historic events, enhance online learning, demonstrate lab procedures, or document a community event. Use your Apple Pencil to enhance multimedia productions or to provide timely feedback to students. The possibilities are endless and work seamlessly with Panopto and Blackboard Ultra.

#### **Preparing Students to Work in Teams**

**11:00 AM-12:15 PM**

**Facilitated by Dr. Jane Parent**

This workshop will help instructors prepared their students to work in groups and teams in their classes. We will discuss key skills both instructors and students need for successful teamwork. We will focus on team development, team roles, appropriate planning, and how to avoid some of the pitfalls that often occur with team projects (e.g. social loafing).

#### **Lunch with Colleagues**

**12:30 - 2:00 PM**

Join us for an informal lunch!

#### **Test Kitchen- *Learn by Doing***

**12:30-2:00 PM**

Everything Apple Pencil  
Respondus Lockdown Browser  
Apple Teacher Sign-ups  
Video Hosting with Panopto

Web Conferencing with Collaborate  
Blackboard Ultra

### **What's Health Got to Do with it?**

**2:15 - 3:30 PM**

**Facilitated by CETL Faculty Fellow, Dr. Sarah Benes**

"Healthy" students are more ready and able to learn. However, many college students are not "healthy" and may be experiencing challenges in your courses as a result. This interactive session will explore what "healthy" means, provide a foundational understanding of the ways that health and wellness affect students' learning, strategies for recognizing health issues that might be impacting students (and what to do) as well as strategies for supporting student health and wellness in your courses.

### **Drop In and Brainstorm with an Instructional Designer!**

**3:30 - 4:30 PM**

Would you like another set of eyes on your course shell in Ultra? Overwhelmed by setting up a digital gradebook? Interested in trying a new teaching strategy or tool in your course? Come and chat about your course, your questions, your tech. Anything goes!

**Thursday, January 9**

### **Publicly Engaged Teaching and Research**

**9:30 - 10:45 AM**

**Facilitated by CETL Faculty Fellow, Dr. Elaine Ward**

Explore ways to connect your teaching and scholarship to larger public purpose. Deepen your familiarity with community engaged pedagogical practices, i.e. service-learning, and community-based research.

### **Classroom Management and Technology**

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Co-facilitated by Dr. Jimmy Franco and Assistant Professor of Practice Sharon Shore-Taitelbaum**

How can you effectively integrate technology to enhance learning, increase engagement, and *reduce* tech-induced distractions. Picking up on the discussion from Twenge's book *iGen*, this session offers hands-on opportunities for educators to explore and share practical ways to model effective tech integration from syllabus to final assessments and when it works to invite students to put the tech down.

### **Lunch with Colleagues**

**12:00-1:30 PM**

Join us for an informal lunch!

### **Work-Life Balance in Higher Education: Myth or Reality?**

**1:30-2:30 PM**

**Facilitated by CETL Faculty Fellow, Dr. Sarah Benes**

Finding work-life balance is a challenge in many settings. Higher education presents unique challenges and opportunities for establishing and maintaining work-life balance. In this session, we will discuss barriers to and strategies for work-life balance. You will leave with ideas and practices that you can implement to start the new semester! Facilitated by Dr. Sarah Benes.

## **VR Demos - Explore for your Classes**

**2:30-3:15 PM**

Interested in using VR to expand the learning in your classroom? Explore various worlds and scenarios that students can experience with virtual reality. Various content is available in the CETL for you to try. Come with a topic area to explore, and we'll help you make it a reality!

## **Trends in Academic Podcasting**

**3:30-4:45 PM**

**Facilitated by Dr. Debra Michals**

Everyone can create! Learn the art of creating and producing distinctive academic podcasts with your students. What do you need to get started? How can you ensure the longevity of your podcast? The session will provide institutional and pedagogical resources as well as tips on interviewing, engaging your audience, equipment recommendations and more. Overview of fundamentals like assignment design, recording and editing, preparing scripts, and workflow.

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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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## **Spring IRB Meeting Dates Posted for Full Review Proposals**

Spring 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](mailto:irb@merrimack.edu) if you have any questions.

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## **A Multimedia Interdisciplinary Exhibition: Bodies, Borders, Bridges**

The Interdisciplinary Institute is inviting submissions to a multimedia exhibition: "Bodies, Borders, Bridges." The deadline for submissions is **January 15, 2020**. For more information, please see the [Interdisciplinary Institute's Facebook page](#) or email: [director.institute@merrimack.edu](mailto:director.institute@merrimack.edu)

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## **The Presidential Fellowship Program 2020-2021**

The Interdisciplinary Institute invites applications for the 2020-2021 Presidential Fellowships program. The deadline for applications is **January 16, 2020**. For more information, please see the [Interdisciplinary Institute's Facebook page](#) or email: [director.institute@merrimack.edu](mailto:director.institute@merrimack.edu)

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## **Other Events this Week**

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**December 9th**

## **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 your fall course design needs. Bring your course design challenges. Anything goes!

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## **December 9th**

**Read On-The-Go with Libby and Overdrive**

**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>

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## **December 10th**

**Last Full Day of Classes**

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## **December 10th**

**Faculty Senate**

**4:00-5:00**

**Crowe 107**

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## **December 11th**

**Staff Forum**

**3:00-4:00 PM**

**Arcidi A**

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## **December 11th - 12th**

**Reading Days**

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## **December 12th**

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

**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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## December 13th

Final Exams Begin

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## December 14th

Dining with the Diva

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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