



PROVOST BRIEFING

December 16, 2019

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Festival of Light & Hope

Photo Credit: Nick Paolino

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

- Christmas at Merrimack College
 - GAUDETE! (Rejoice!), December 17
 - Christmas Mass followed by the Employee Christmas Party, December 20

- Savers Clothing Drive to Support the SEND Program
- 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
- A Multimedia Interdisciplinary Exhibition: Bodies, Borders, Bridges
- The Presidential Fellowship Program 2020-2021
- CETL Teaching Circles: Transformative Learning: An Introduction to Augustinian Pedagogy, January 21
- Save the Date - 2020 Research and Creative Achievement Conference, May 1
- Merrimack College's Publicly Engaged Scholars Community of Practice Spring 2020
- Merrimack College's MassBio® Membership
- Celebration to Recognize December Graduates, December 17
- Final Examinations End, December 18
- Final grades for all undergraduate and graduate, December 19
- Last day for Fall Session 2 graduate Online courses, December 20
- Final grades due for Fall Session 2 graduate Online courses, December 23rd
- College administrative offices closed, December 21-January 5
- Winter session classes begin, January 2

On behalf of the Office of the Provost, we wish you a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope the holiday break allows you to enjoy time with family and friends and to reflect on the wonderful accomplishments of 2019.

Christmas at Merrimack College

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

GAUDETE! (*Rejoice!*)

Wednesday, December 18, 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.

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 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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 by **January 10th, 2020**. We'll do the rest!

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

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

CETL Teaching Circles

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.

Transformative Learning: An Introduction to Augustinian Pedagogy

Faculty Facilitator: Dr. Mark Allman

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.

McQuade Library Course Reserves Reminder

If you would like an item to be purchased so that it can be placed on reserve for the spring semester, please contact your [library liaison](#) ASAP. To ensure your reserve materials are processed by the start of classes, please submit them to the [Access Services Department](#), located on the first floor of McQuade Library.

As a reminder, a reserve can be a book, DVD, or article (up to 5 copies of a single article) owned by the library or the individual professor. The library cannot guarantee that the circulating copy it owns will be readily available, so the sooner the materials are identified, the better.

All reserved items are filed under both the professor and course name, and can be searched from the [library's catalog](#). Reserve items cannot leave the library. They circulate for a 2 hour period, and can be renewed for an additional 2 hours.

Save the Date - 2020 Research and Creative Achievement Conference May 1

Friday, May 1

The Office of the Provost and The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning are excited to announce that the campus-wide 2020 Research and Creative Achievement Conference will take place Friday, May 1 for graduate and undergraduate students. More details to follow.

Merrimack College's Publicly Engaged Scholars Community of Practice Spring 2020

The CETL invites you to participate in a community of practice that offers opportunities for collective learning and sharing related to publicly engaged teaching and research facilitated by Faculty Fellow, Dr. Elaine Ward. Structured programming is designed to help Merrimack College faculty promote and strengthen

- individual publicly engaged teaching and scholarship;
- ties between departments and schools via the publicly engaged work of faculty, staff, and students;
- faculty understanding of and practice in service-learning and civic engagement;
- faculty production of publicly engaged scholarship; and
- the connection of curriculum to community-engaged initiatives.

Participation in the Publicly Engaged Scholars Community of Practice asks for:

- 1) completion of a common set of readings
- 2) attendance (virtually or in person) at monthly seminars
- 3) commitment to developing either a publicly engaged course (using service-learning or community-based research) OR an article for publication
- 4) participation in an end of semester symposium on the work done throughout the semester

Please contact Elaine Ward warde@merrimack.edu for more information or to express interest in participating. **Please express interest before January 3, 2020.**

Did you know that Merrimack College is an institutional member of MassBio?

MassBio® is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1985 that represents and provides services and support for the world's leading life sciences supercluster. MassBio is committed to advancing Massachusetts' leadership in the life sciences to grow the industry, add value to the healthcare system and improve patient lives. Representing 1,200+ biotechnology companies, academic institutions, disease foundations and other organizations involved in life sciences and healthcare, MassBio leverages its unparalleled network of innovative companies and industry thought leaders to advance policy and promote education, while providing member programs, events, industry information, and services. MassBio membership is open to all Merrimack faculty

and staff. To join, go to MassBio website at <https://www.massbio.org/>, and use your Merrimack email to create an account. You will have access to MassBio's services, such as Knowledge Base, an Events calendar, Blog, etc.

Other Events this Week

December 17th

Celebration to Recognize December Graduates
6:00-8:00 PM
Arcidi Center

December 18th

Final Examinations End

December 19th

Final Grades for all Undergraduate and Graduate

December 20th

Last day for Fall Session 2 graduate Online courses

December 23rd

Final Grades due for Fall Session 2 graduate Online Courses

December 21st - January 5

College administrative offices closed

January 2

Winter Session Classes Begin

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