



# PROVOST BRIEFING

January 6, 2020

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

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- 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
- Free Fitness Training for Spring 2020
- Save the Date - 2020 Research and Creative Achievement Conference May 1
- Merrimack College Membership at MassBio
- Last day to drop a Winter Intersession course without a “W” (withdrawal) grade, January 8
- Last day to drop a Winter Intersession course with a “W” (withdrawal) grade, January 10
- MINTS Workshop: Stress and Anxiety Management for Students and Families, Thursday, January 23

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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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## **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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## 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).

### 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.

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## Free Fitness Training for Spring 2020

**Faculty Facilitator: Dr. Jessica Peacock**

**Open to all Merrimack faculty and staff**

Are you sedentary? Lacking motivation? Not Achieving your goals? Bored at the gym? We can help you improve your health and well-being! The Exercise Program Design Class is looking for volunteers to engage in [FREE personal training](#) during the Spring 2020 semester. The program will include an individualized program, weekly training sessions, nutritional advice and pre/post assessments.

If interested please email Dr. Jessica Peacock at [peacockj@merrimack.edu](mailto:peacockj@merrimack.edu)

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## Other Events this Week

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### January 8th

Last day to drop a Winter Intersession course without a “W” (withdrawal) grade

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### January 10th

Last day to drop a Winter Intersession course with a “W” (withdrawal) grade

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## Future Events

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### MINTS Workshop: Stress and Anxiety Management for Students and Families

Facilitated by Dr. James Howland

Thursday, January 23

4:30-6:30 PM

Crowe Hall, room 107

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