



PROVOST BRIEFING

February 3, 2020

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

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Merrimack College Awarded the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement

Dear Colleagues:

Receiving the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification has highlighted the great engagement efforts taking place at Merrimack, and I would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude to each and every one of you for your community engagement work on our campus and in the community. Please accept my appreciation to Jon Lyon, Elaine Ward, Kathryn Nielsen, and Mary McHugh on successfully shepherding the application process.

While receiving the classification is of great importance for our college, the true significance lies ahead in our future efforts to strengthen and deepen our commitments to our community partners through our teaching, research and practice. There will be upcoming recognition events planned to acknowledge this work, and opportunities for faculty, staff, students and community partners to participate in growth efforts moving forward.

With sincere gratitude,
Allan Weatherwax

Feed Your Neighbor

Tuesday, February 4

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

MPR, Sakowich Campus Center

Join us for our 6th annual interfaith meal-packing program. We need volunteers and funds to pack 24,000 healthy meals for the Merrimack Valley Food Bank.

Click here to [sign up or donate](#)

Robert Pinsky

Tuesday, February 4

4:00 PM

The Writers House

Robert Pinsky is a poet, essayist, translator, and teacher whose many books include the poetry collections *At the Foundling Hospital* and *Selected Poems*, and the anthology, *The Mind Has Cliffs of Fall*. Pinsky's work has earned him the PEN/Voelcker Award, the William Carlos Williams Prize, the Lenore Marshall Prize, Italy's Premio Capri, and other honors. As Poet Laureate, he founded the Favorite Poem Project, in which thousands of Americans—of varying backgrounds, all ages, and from every state—shared their favorite poems. He is also the only member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters to have appeared on *The Simpsons* and *The Colbert Report*.

Tolle Lege 2020

Thursday, February 6

4:00 PM

The Writers House

A celebration of works published in 2019 by Merrimack faculty, staff, students, and alumni. This year's speakers include: **Allan Weatherwax, Provost; Michael Corcoran, Health Sciences; Katelyn Kurkul, Education & Social Policy; William McDowell, Biology; Lisa Perks, Communication & Media; Omer Unsal, Accounting & Finance; and William Wians, Philosophy.** (snow date: Feb. 13th)

GEO Alumni Spring Fair

Tuesday, February 11

11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Main Street and 1st floor Lounge, Sakowich Center

Alumni/ae of GEO programs--from Copenhagen to Cape Town--will be representing the global opportunities available at Merrimack. Please encourage your advisees and students to stop by and chat with GE alumns. Also, take this opportunity to hear from your students about their courses and internships around the world.

Human Development and Human Services Colloquium

Tuesday, February 11

4:00-5:00 PM

Executive Room, Crowe Hall

The Human Development and Human Services (HDHS) program is having its first colloquium of the semester. Dr. Kristin Long, an Assistant Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Boston University, will discuss how "Context matters: A social ecological and life course approach to childhood illness and disability".

Interdisciplinary Institute February 2020 Events

Please mark your calendars and share the information with students. Click here to see a full list of [Interdisciplinary Institute Spring 2020 Events](#). For more information email director.Institute@Merrimack.edu

Faculty - Student Forum / Conversation on Diversity and Inclusion At Merrimack

Monday, February 10

4:00 - 6:00 PM

Cascia Hall

An opportunity to engage with student leaders and faculty and administrators passionate about fostering diversity and inclusive excellence at Merrimack College.

The Opioid Crisis: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

Tuesday, February 18

4:00 - 5:30 PM

Cascia Hall

Faculty members and professionals will analyze the problem and explore comprehensive solutions.

Induction Ceremony: National Interdisciplinary Honor Society

Monday, February 24

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Cascia Hall

Majors & Minors Fair

Wednesday, February 12

1:00-3:00 PM

MPR , Sakowich Campus Center

Representatives from each school, The Career Center, and academic advisors will be present to talk to undeclared students and those thinking about changing majors or adding a minor or second major.

MINTS Workshop: “Understanding Unconscious Bias”

Wednesday, February 12

4:30-6:30

Cascia Hall

In this workshop, participants will be exposed to the following four points: (1) Understand the neurobiological and sociological aspects of implicit bias; (2) How social stereotypes are created, circulated, and remain entrenched; (3) Impact of implicit bias in the classroom; and (4) Strategies to mitigate implicit bias.

Grant News

Webinar: Grant Writing vs. Academic Writing

Hanover Research Webinar Series

Thursday, February 13

12 Noon – 12:45 PM

For many grant-seekers in higher education, developing competitive grant proposals requires a departure from the conventions of academic writing. In this webinar, Hanover will contrast the major differences between grant writing and academic writing, outlining how these differences should impact the proposal development process. The session will cover:

- What makes proposal writing unique.

- Conventions of academic writing to avoid in developing a proposal.
- Common grant writing mistakes.

Click here to [Register](#)

Ask an Employer: Life Sciences

Thursday, February 13

4:00-6:00 PM

Palmisano Hall, Lobby

Encourage your students to attend the annual Ask an Employer: Life Sciences event, open to all majors of all class years. Students will be able to network with industry professionals in the life sciences. Company representatives from Brooks Automation, Charles River Labs, EMD Serono, Pfizer, Randstad Life Science and GENEWIZ (A Brooks Company) will be tabling and speaking to open opportunities. Students can click [here](#) to RSVP but walk-ins are welcome and encouraged. Sponsored by the O'Brien Center for Career Development

CETL Winter Book Discussion

Please consider joining the CETL winter book discussion; *Making Learner-Centered Teaching Work, Practical Strategies for Implementation*, by Phyllis Blumberg. The group will get together over lunch in early March to discuss. 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.

[Register Here](#)

Call for Proposals for a Merrimack Faculty-Led Courses

The Office of Global Education invites proposals for 2020-2021 Faculty-Led courses.

- Deadline for proposals for Spring 2021 Semester with Spring Break or May/June on-site or a Summer 2021 Intensive Course: **Monday, March 16, 2020.**
- Deadline for proposals for Fall 2021 Semester with Winter Break on-site or a Winter-Term 2022 Intensive, **Monday, October 5, 2020.**

If you have an idea for a course or just want to find out more for teaching a course in the future, please email Liesl Smith, Director of Global Education, smithlr@merrimack.edu.

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

Friday, May 1, 3:30 - 6:30

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. For more information, please visit the [Research and Creative Achievement Conference Website](#) or contact Dr. Kathryn Nielsen in the Office of the Provost at officeoftheprovost@merrimack.edu.

Professional Development Retreat: Juniors - Applications are Live!

At this two-day conference students will learn foundational skills such as problem-solving, conflict resolution, critical observation and adaptability. Through an application and selection process, sixty juniors will be selected for the retreat. Our goal is to have all academic disciplines represented. If you know a junior student who would benefit from this event please encourage them to apply at bit.ly/juniorspdr20. All applications are due by **Sunday, February 9th at midnight**. Sponsored by the O'Brien Center for Career Development

Other Events this Week

February 3rd

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

February 3rd

Iowa Caucus Viewing Party

7:00 PM

1st Floor Lounge, Sakowich Campus Center

Come join us for a bipartisan viewing of the Iowa Caucus where we will engage in an open conversation with each other and receive voting information. Sponsored by the Women's and Gender Studies Senior Seminar Class, SGA, GEM and the Interdisciplinary Institute.

February 4th

Marketing Networking Breakfast

9:00- 11:00 AM

Crowe Hall, Executive Room

Encourage your students to attend the annual Marketing Networking Breakfast, open to all students of all class years. Students will be able to network with Merrimack alumni and industry professionals in the world of marketing. Breakfast will be provided. All students interested are encouraged to attend. Students can click [here](#) to RSVP. Sponsored by the O'Brien Center for Career Development

February 4th

Management Networking Lunch

1:00-3:00 PM

Crowe Hall, Executive Room

Encourage your students to attend the first ever Management Networking Lunch, open to all students of all class years. Students will be able to network with Merrimack alumni and professionals in the world of management across a variety of industries. Light lunch will be provided. All students interested are encouraged to attend. Students can click [here](#) to RSVP. Sponsored by the O'Brien Center for Career Development

February 5th

Sport Management Networking Brunch

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Crowe Hall, Executive Room

Encourage your students to attend the annual Sports Management Networking Breakfast, open to all majors of all class years. Students will be able to network with Merrimack alumni and industry professionals in the world of sports, sports marketing, sports management and athletics beyond Merrimack. Brunch will be provided. Students can click [here](#) to RSVP. Sponsored by the O'Brien Center for Career Development

February 6th

Provost Office Hours

8:30-10:00 AM

Provost's Suite, Austin Hall

Back by popular demand! The Provost will have open office hours for faculty to drop in every Thursday from 8:30 to 10:00 AM. Whether you have a specific topic or just want to say "hello," all faculty are welcome to visit.

Future Events

Proof, The Pulitzer prize winning play

Written by David Auburn, Directed by Evan Kelly

February 20-29

Click here for [Showtimes](#)

Rogers Theater for the Arts

A young woman copes with the death of her brilliant but mentally unstable father, her meddlesome sister, and the affections of a young student who seeks a valuable work in her father's notebooks. This Pulitzer Prize-winning play also examines a more perplexing problem: Will the young woman inherit her father's brilliance, or his madness?

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