
PROVOST BULLETIN

September 29, 2021



Greetings

It was a pleasure to see so many faculty at the first faculty senate meeting. For staff and for those faculty who were unable to attend, I did have the honor to introduce the 14 full-time faculty who started this fall, as well as the 13 faculty who joined the College last academic year. Here is a [link](#) to the new faculty brochure which introduces all 27.

In this addition of the Bulletin, I draw your attention to a number of opportunities to focus on the practice and craft of teaching offered by our Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities as your schedule allows.

- John "Sean" Condon, Ph.D.
Vice President of Academic Affairs
and Provost

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Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Items Marked With an Asterisk are Described in More Detail Below

Friday, Oct. 1: Deadline to notify Provost, Dean, and Department Chair of intent to seek promotion to full professor in 2021-22.

Friday, Oct. 1 through Sunday, Oct. 3: [Homecoming Weekend](#)

Monday, Oct. 4: Deadline for Applying to CETL Teaching Circle.*

Monday, Oct. 4: iPad Basics Workshop (Brown Bag Lunch), 12-1 p.m.*

Tuesday, Oct. 5: iPad Basics Workshop (Brown Bag Lunch), 12-1 p.m.*

Tuesday, Oct. 5: Upcoming at The Writers House: Randall Horton on October 5th, 4 p.m.*

Wednesday, Oct. 6: Reception for Patricia Sendall. Please join us for a faculty reception honoring Dr. Patricia Sendall's 31 years of service to Merrimack College.*

Wednesday, Oct. 6: Collecting and Reflecting on Mid-Semester Feedback (Workshop), 3-4 p.m.*

Friday, Oct. 8: Deadline for Open Classrooms Week.*

Sunday, Oct. 10: Deadline for Departments to Send List of Related Departments to Dean (Faculty Handbook 8.4.2)

Monday, Oct. 11: Indigenous Peoples' Day - College Closed, No Classes

Tuesday, Oct. 12: Fall Break - College Closed, No Classes

Tuesday, Oct. 12: 5 p.m. Deadline for applying to be a part of a Faculty Learning Community to develop Explorations Course Pilots.*

Wednesday, Oct. 13: iPad Basics 2 Workshop (Brown Bag Lunch), 12-1 p.m.*

Friday, Oct. 15: Deans Convene Area Selection Committee for Promotion Cases. Provost/VPAA notifies ART, Deans and President of candidates who intend to apply for Promotion to Full Professor (Faculty Handbook 8.4.2)

Friday, Oct. 15: iPad Basics 2 Workshop (Brown Bag Lunch), 12-1 p.m.*

Monday, Oct. 18: Collecting and Reflecting on Mid-Semester Feedback (Brown Bag Lunch) 12-1 p.m.*

Tuesday, Oct. 19: Unity in Diversity Day.*

Wednesday, Oct. 20: Unity in Diversity Day.*

Monday, Nov. 1: Jail Education Project: Call for Faculty Participation.*

Monday, Nov. 1 - Friday, Nov. 5: Open Classrooms Week.*

iPad Basics Workshop, Oct. 4 or Oct. 5

Facilitated by Janet Syed on:

- Monday, Oct. 4, noon-1 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 5, noon-1 p.m.

New to leveraging mobile technology to level up your workflow and teaching? Let's first set up your iPad for efficiency and success by tailoring it to your specific needs. We will walk you through features, settings, and give you quick tutorials on getting the most out of your



[Register here.](#)

*Upcoming at The Writers House: Randall Horton on Oct. 5
at 4 p.m.*

Randall Horton is the recipient of the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award, the Bea Gonzalez Poetry Award, and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. He is the author of the poetry collections, *PITCH DARK ANARCHY*, *THE DEFINITION OF PLACE*, *THE LINGUA FRANCE OF NINTH STREET*, and most recently, *{#289-128}*. His new memoir, *DEAD WEIGHT: A MEMOIR IN ESSAYS*, is forthcoming in 2022. His performance group, *Heroes Are Gang Leaders*, received the 2018 American Book Award in Oral Literature. The only Full Professor in the United States with seven felony convictions, Randall currently sits on the Advisory Board of Pen America's Pen Prison Writing Program.

Randall will also hold a workshop for incarcerated students at the Essex County Jail.

Co-sponsored by the Jail Education Project.

Please email [Emma Duffy-Comparone](#) with any questions. Thank you in advance for your nominations!



Reception for Patricia Sendall

In gratitude for Dr. Patricia Sendall's 31 years of service to Merrimack College, including

as many other roles, faculty and staff are invited to a cocktail reception in her honor on Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021 from from 4-6 p.m. in the Mack Club on the second floor of the Sakowich Center. RSVP is required.

[RSVP](#) here to attend cocktail reception. For more information and for questions, contact the Office of the Provost at officeoftheprovost@merrimack.edu.

Hugh Hinton Receives National Choral Conducting Prize



Director of Campus Music Activities [Hugh Hinton](#) was announced as the winner of the 2021 Choir Master Prize in choral conducting by the American Guild of Organists. This award is given each year to the person who earns the top score in the national Choir Master certification examination.

Hugh traveled to New York City in June for the examination, where he led a professional choir before a panel of distinguished judges. He also earned top score in a written comprehensive examination in the areas of choral conducting, choral repertoire, sacred music, liturgy and hymnody.

This certification is considered the professional equivalent of a doctoral degree in choral conducting and sacred music. The American Guild of Organists was chartered in 1896 by the Board of Regents, University of the State of New York, to administer national examinations for professional certification in organ playing, choral conducting, and sacred music. As director of choral activities and liturgical music at Merrimack, Hugh Hinton leads the Concert Choir and the Schola Liturgical Choir in concerts and worship for the Merrimack community.

Collecting and Reflecting on Mid-Semester Feedback, Oct. 6, Oct. 18

Facilitated by Dr. Kathryn Nielsen on:

- Wednesday, Oct. 6, 3-4 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 18, noon-1 p.m.

Examine a variety of strategies to collect mid-semester feedback from your students and explore ways to meaningfully reflect and respond to this feedback. While end-of-term evaluations are key for institutional accountability, mid-semester feedback allows

Early Alert Requests

Faculty, please check your email for Early Alert Requests. In order to best to help students achieve academic success, we encourage you to use the Early Alerts to identify those students who may already be showing signs of academic difficulty. Please read the email and submit the form by **Wednesday, Oct. 6.**

For questions, please contact Kelly Marrairo at maccariok@merrimack.edu.

iPad Basics 2 Workshop, Oct. 13, Oct. 15



Facilitated by Janet Syed on:

- Wednesday, Oct. 13, noon-1 p.m.
- Friday, Oct. 15, noon-1 p.m.

Getting to know your classroom environment and how to seamlessly let technology work to your advantage is essential for every busy instructor. Learn to deploy just-in-time formative assessments, set up your iPad to read out-loud to you, take dictation, project your iPad screen to the device in your classroom without wires, and mark up or sign documents with your Apple Pencil - no scanner needed!

Additional Bonus: We'll introduce you to Apple's Sidecar (a great way to use your iPad as a second screen!). [Register here.](#)

ENG: Jail Education Project: Call for Faculty Participation

The Jail Education Project offers Merrimack courses to incarcerated students in our community. We are seeking full-time faculty members interested in teaching courses at the

Details are as follows:

- Preference for general ed or intro courses.
- Courses run on an eight-week condensed schedule.
- Possible course times are the morning (8:30-10:30) or afternoon (12:30-2:30).
- Faculty have the option to work with undergraduate or graduate students as TAs to offer additional support in the classroom and in additional study halls or tutorials.
- Full-time faculty must teach this course as an overload.
- Compensation is at the regular overload/adjunct rate.
- Background check and short orientation required.

To apply, please email jail-ed@merrimack.edu with your interest and questions.

For questions, please contact duffycompare@merrimack.edu

or aiello@merrimack.edu. The deadline to apply is **Monday, Nov. 1, 2021**.

Save the Date! Open Classrooms Week, Nov. 1-5

Call to Participate as an Open Classrooms Instructor:

Open Classrooms Week provides the opportunity for Merrimack faculty and instructors across the disciplines to visit classrooms and watch how others approach teaching. Opening our classrooms to one another is designed to promote conversation and reflection about teaching and learning. Open Classrooms instructors are not expected to be teaching experts! Anyone who is willing to share their pedagogical approach is encouraged to participate. Please respond by **Friday, Oct. 8** by clicking [here](#).

Call for First Year Exploration Course Development Pilots

Faculty interested in applying to be a part of a Faculty Learning Community to develop Explorations Course Pilots, [please see the call listed here](#). Stipends for participation in the Faculty Learning Communities are funded by the Davis Education Foundation and President Hopey's initiatives on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Civic and Community Engagement.

CETL: Teaching Circle Calls for Proposals

proposals for the 2021-22 CETL Fall-Spring Teaching Circles program.

Circles are composed of faculty from across departments and are self-directed within the general structure of the teaching circles. The collegial nature of the circle is intended to foster openness, mutual support, and innovation. Teaching circles are founded on the idea that teachers can learn from one another. For more information on proposing a circle visit [CETL Teaching Circles](#).

Fall 2021 Unity in Diversity Days



Mark your calendar! The Fall 2021 Unity in Diversity Days are now set as Tuesday, Oct. 19, and Wednesday, Oct. 20. More information about the program and strategies to integrate this work into the curriculum and other campus activities is forthcoming.

If you have ideas for topics or speakers and/or are interested in integrating the event into your syllabus, please contact diversity@merrimack.edu.

Please continue to check the [DEI webpage](#) for a draft program and a comprehensive list of upcoming events.

Faculty Openings on the Institutional Research Board (IRB)

There are faculty openings for the 2021-22 academic year on Merrimack's Institutional Research Board (IRB). IRB members are appointed by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

An IRB should be composed of individuals with varying backgrounds to promote the complete and adequate review of research activities commonly conducted by the College. As noted in the faculty handbook, the IRB should be sufficiently qualified through the

[Learn more about Merrimack's IRB](#) and please contact the Office of the Provost at officeoftheprovost@merrimack.edu, if you are interested in serving as a member of Merrimack's IRB.

If you have any questions about what IRB service will involve, please contact IRB Chair Dr. Jon Lyon at lyonj@merrimack.edu.

Leadership and Professional Development

As part of Merrimack's ongoing efforts to invest in and build the capacity of faculty and staff, the College has purchased a license through Academic Impressions, a platform that provides extensive online leadership and professional development resources specifically for employees at colleges and universities.

This partnership will provide faculty and staff with access to:

- Hundreds of hours of online training, both live and on-demand (with new training added weekly)
- All Academic Impressions virtual conferences
- Hundreds of additional tools, resources and articles
- Exclusive member resources for: [current and aspiring women leaders](#), [improving online teaching and student support](#), [the latest DEI resources](#) and [academic leaders](#)
- A series of [focused learning plans](#) to help leaders at all levels sharpen their skills
- Direct access to the Academic Impressions research team to discuss emerging topics

To start accessing these resources, [log in to the Academic Impressions website](#) using your Merrimack College credentials. Member benefits will be granted automatically.

External Funding Opportunities

Below you will find a couple of upcoming external funding opportunities. If you have any questions regarding submitting an external grant, please email the Office of Sponsored Programs at research@merrimack.edu. If you are planning to submit an external grant, please fill out Merrimack's [intent to propose form](#).

The Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (MIRA) provides support for the program of research in an investigator's laboratory that is within the mission of National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS). The goal of MIRA is to increase the efficiency and efficacy of NIGMS funding.

It is anticipated that this program will:

- Increase the stability of funding for NIGMS-supported investigators, which could enhance their ability to take on ambitious scientific projects and approach problems more creatively;
- Increase flexibility for investigators to follow important new research directions within the NIGMS mission as opportunities arise, rather than being bound to specific aims proposed in advance of the studies;
- More widely distribute funding among the nation's highly talented and promising investigators to increase overall scientific productivity and the chances for important breakthroughs;
- Reduce the time spent by researchers writing and reviewing grant applications, allowing them to spend more time conducting research;
- Enable investigators to devote more time and energy to mentoring trainees in a more stable research environment.

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) allows both new applications from eligible NIGMS-funded investigators and renewal applications from current established and early-stage MIRA grantees.

Deadline: Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022

Award Details: Maximum of \$750,000 in direct costs per year for five years

Website: [Maximizing Investigators' Research Award](#)

Share your News - The next Provost Bulletin will be sent on Monday, Oct. 11, and Tuesday, October 5 is the deadline to submit items for inclusion in that issue.



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