



PROVOST BRIEFING

November 25, 2019

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The Last Lecture

Guest Speaker: Dr. Debra Michals, Director of Women's and Gender Studies

Photo Credit: Shannon Bedard

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

- First Year Experience (FYE) Instructor Fall 2020 Applications
- Festival of Light & Hope: A Celebration, December 3
- 2020 Academic Convocation Speaker: Call for Nominations
- The Festival of Lessons and Carols, December 9
- CETL Teaching Circles
- Merrimack College Podcasts
- Faculty Fellowships: Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation

- CETL Coffee with an Instructional Designer, Every Monday
 - College Closed for Thanksgiving Break, November 27-December 1st
 - Designing Quality Writing Assignments, December 9
 - MINTS Workshop, December 12
 - Dining with the Diva, December 14
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Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Office of the Provost, I would like to extend warm wishes, joy, and abundance to you and your family this Thanksgiving. In this time of gratitude, please accept my appreciation for all that you do on behalf of our students and community to make Merrimack College such a successful and meaningful place to work.

Sincerely,
Allan Weatherwax

First Year Experience (FYE) Instructor Fall 2020 Applications

Get to know Merrimack students right from the beginning as a Fall 2020 Instructor!

FYE Instructors:

- Have a unique opportunity to help incoming students navigate their first semester at Merrimack
- May choose to design their own curriculum around a passion area
- Teach a curriculum designed to help students succeed in the classroom and flourish on campus

All who are interested in teaching FYE1050 in Fall 2020, including returning instructors, should complete [this application](#) by **November 25th**. Any questions can be directed to [Laura Lyons](#) or [Dr. Russell Olwell](#).

Festival of Light & Hope: A Celebration

Tuesday, December 3

5:15 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts and the Merrimack Athletic Complex

You and your families and *especially young children* are warmly invited to start the Christmas season with our annual Celebration of Light and Hope featuring the lighting of the Campus Christmas Tree in the Atrium of the Rogers Center for the Arts. Just following the lighting will be a winter festival of food, beverages, ice skating on Lawler Rink (skates provided), sleigh rides, and visits with Santa in the Merrimack Athletic Complex. Donations to support our Christmas Gift Card Drive to serve as gifts for adolescents will be gratefully accepted.

2020 Academic Convocation Speaker: Call for Nominations

The Office of the Provost is preparing for Convocation 2020. This year we would like to focus on speakers who could address the theme of Experiential, Interdisciplinary Learning and Community Engagement. 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 by **December 4th** are greatly appreciated.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols

Monday, December 9

7:30 PM

Rogers Center for the Arts

The Liturgical Schola of Merrimack College, the students who sing at Sunday Mass, will be presenting our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols. A centuries-old tradition, Lessons and Carols is a heartwarming journey that leads you through centuries of prophecy, culminating in the birth of Christ. This traditional one-hour program blends the lyricism of spoken sacred texts with the joy of live choral music from time-honored hymns and carols of the season for all to reflect upon and enjoy. As we journey through the quiet of Advent toward the Feast of Christmas, Lessons and Carols is a poignant way to pause and mark this important time of the year.

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.

Using Metacognition to Support Academic Success and Independent Learning

Faculty Facilitators: Dr. Sarah Benes & Dr. Leah Poloskey

December 12 at 10:00

CETL, Sullivan Hall, Lower Level

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.

Merrimack College Podcasts

Catch up on Merrimack College podcasts during your Thanksgiving travels. Stream and download the latest podcast episodes where you'll hear from athletics, President Hopey, students, faculty, staff, alumni and more about what it's like to be a Warrior. Episodes of our new podcasts can be listened to and downloaded now [here](#).

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.

Other Events this Week

November 25th

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 of your fall course design needs. Bring your course design challenges. Anything goes!

November 27th-December 1st

College Closed for Thanksgiving Break

Future Events

Designing Quality Writing Assignments

Monday, December 9

4:00-5:15 PM

CETL classroom, Sullivan Hall, B-2

This hands-on workshop will explore a variety of objectives for formal assignments, strategies for linking them effectively to course content, and methods for increasing student engagement. Participants will have the chance to analyze one of their own assignments in light of the discussion.

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

Thursday, December 12

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.

Dining with the Diva

Saturday, December 14

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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