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12-2-2016

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Recommended Citation

Merrimack College, "Merrimack College Record" (2016). *Merrimack College Record*. 7.
https://scholarworks.merrimack.edu/mc_record/7

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New Institute Aims to Support Teacher Morale, Retention

Merrimack College's School of Education and Social Policy, in conjunction with and funded through the Winston Center for Excellence, is launching the Merrimack Institute for New Teacher Support.

The institute not only will serve as a resource to aid the transition of new teachers into the field but also will build a collaborative community of local educators, both new and experienced.

"Schools of education are providing one of the most important services in America today: training our future teachers who will prepare our children to succeed in work and in life," said Isabelle Cherney, dean of the education school and director of the institute.

"Few other responsibilities are more directly linked to our future. Yet, new teachers find themselves overwhelmed, especially right out of school," she added. "Attrition is particularly high one to two years after teachers have started their careers. The Merrimack Institute for New Teacher Support is here to provide an ongoing community and to guide and mentor new and current teachers. It will serve as a model for engaging and retaining teachers not only regionally but also nationally."

The first few years in the field for a new teacher is a crucial transition time, and often determines a teacher's likelihood of remaining in the profession. The National Center for Education Statistics noted in 2015 that 51 percent of new teachers report being under great stress several days a week.

Providing additional support, resources, guidance and professional-development opportunities to new teachers in the first

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Merrimack College Schola re-enact the Christmas story by using short Bible readings to retell the anticipation and birth of Jesus, combined with familiar Christmas carols for everyone to sing and seasonal choral music sung by a choir.

Merrimack Christmas Season in Full Swing

The two great Christmas traditions, the Festival of Lessons and Carols, and the Celebration of Light and Hope, are will be held at Merrimack during the first week of December.

First, the Merrimack College Schola will re-enact the Christmas Story in song and music during the fourth annual Festival of Lessons and Carols at the Rogers Center for the Arts at 7 p.m. Dec. 5.

"It's a wonderful way to start preparing for the Christmas season and the fullest way here at Merrimack College we can mark Christmas and tell the Christmas story – and sing some of the favorites," said Campus Music Activities Coordinator Hugh Hinton.

Then students, faculty, staff and families will welcome Santa Claus, and President Christopher E. Hopey, will light the campus Christmas tree during the Celebration of Light and Hope at 5:15 p.m. Dec. 6.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is an English tradition that's become part of the culture in higher education during the Christmas season, said the Father Ray Dlugos, O.S.A., vice president for Mission and Student Affairs.

The Merrimack Schola is built around students who sing at the college's 5 p.m. Sunday Mass.

Lessons and Carols includes nine short Old and New Testament Scriptural passage readings and each one is followed by Christmas music.

"They are telling the Christmas story from the Bible readings and traditional carols we know," Father Dlugos said. "They will perform and encourage those gathered to sing traditional carols."

Lessons and carols is traditionally performed Christmas Eve but since Merrimack is closed for the Christmas holiday. The program is expected to last

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THEY SAID IT

*A compendium of quotes and expert analysis
by Merrimack faculty and staff.*



"Obviously, fake news is a major problem. We need to make sure people have the tools to detect it, and we need to understand why people may purposefully share news they know to be fake."

Melissa Zimdars, assistant professor of communication, in "My 'Fake News' List Went Viral," *The Washington Post*, Nov. 18.



"Research and teaching are very different skills, and creating a good course is just as difficult as writing a good book. Academics put thousands of hours of work into their books, and much less time

into thinking about the effectiveness of their teaching style."

Dan Butin, professor of education, in "Shouldn't Lectures Be Obsolete by Now?" *BBC News*, Nov. 23.



"The campus police job historically has been just a hand-off to a retired State Police high-ranking official."

Tom Nolan, associate professor of criminology, in "Boston University Launches National Search for New Police Chief," *The Boston Globe*, Nov. 28.

Rogers Center Comes Alive With Christmas Programs

Christmas is coming to the Rogers Center!

Advent and Christmas have always been a favorite time of the year. The air is crisper, the twilight shines with purples and pinks, the scent of pine and wood fires fill the air. It is time to gather for the telling stories, for singing, for sharing our lives and traditions with each other.

On Dec. 2 to 10, the Rogers Center for the Arts kicks off its Christmas season with a comedy that satirizes society's obsession with the commercial. Leave the kids at home and join us for a night of the grown-up observational comedy of David Sedaris' "The Santaland Diaries."

Will Sedaris (aka Crumpet the Elf, played by local actor Bobby Ringuette, last seen on stage here in "Macbeth") find a reason to believe that people can rise above the frenzy of the season to embrace something more? Join us on this hilarious ride and find out.

At 3 p.m. on Dec. 4, McCoy Art Gallery and the Thagaste Gallery will open their new shows. Brian Chu's "Passages" invites the viewer to see the beauty and humor in the mundane and ordinary. Karen Van Welden-Herman's "Memory Archive" combines her interpretation of St. Paul with family photographs and memories in a celebration of life and family.

Merrimack students Devon E. Brunner (science) and Amanda Murolo (design) show off the

photography skills in their most recent work. The event is free and open to all.

Celebrate the season in song with "A Merrimack College Christmas" on Dec. 4. Joining our Jazz Ensemble, as it swings us through the season, will be the College Concert Choir and our new Concert Band.

The Merrimack College Schola will lead us on a journey from Advent to Christmas with "A Festival of Lessons and Carols" on Dec. 5. This centuries-old tradition retells the prophecies of the coming of Christ through an artful combination of biblical texts and sacred music.

"The Renaissance Men" perform at 3 p.m. on Dec. 11 to take us back to the Baroque period through the present with ancient carols and contemporary classics performed a cappella. As a coda, The Tambakos Film Series presents "Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale," an adventure-fantasy about a boy who discovers the scary tales of the Old World Santa Claus (*not* our St. Nick) just might be true. The film is free, as is the prescreening commentary by Father Rick Piatt, O.S.A, director of the Rogers Center.

We hope you spend some time with us this holiday season, and however you spend your time, "may your days be merry and bright," and may this Season of Light and Hope find you and your family truly blessed.

Supporting Teacher Transition, Retention

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few years can ease the transition from novice to professional, and provide early educators with more tools and strategies to improve retention.

The institute offers professional-development opportunities and collaborative workshops, access

to a supportive online network of beginning and seasoned teachers in the local area, and educational symposiums.

For more information on the institute's mission and services, visit www.merrimack.edu/mints or contact Tim LeBel, new teacher support and transition coordinator.

Celebrate the Christmas Season

TOGETHER

Join us for the annual Merrimack College Employee Celebration and Mass
Wednesday, December 21, 2016

12:00 p.m. | Chapel of Our Mother of Good Counsel | Austin Hall
All are invited to gather together in prayer and celebrate Mass.

1:00 p.m. | Sparky's Place | Sakowich Campus Center
Join in the celebration and enjoy a holiday buffet and more!



Merrimack College is in full Advent mode, decorating the campus and setting up manger scenes outside the Sakowich Campus Center and along Route 114. This scene outside the Sak is waiting for Baby Jesus on Christmas.

Toy Drive Giving Kids a Merry Christmas

Merrimack College's Hands to Help is holding its annual toy drive to help make Christmas a merrier time for under-privileged children in the Lawrence, Mass. area and organizers are optimistic the school's generous alumni, faculty, staff, and students will push donations to an all-time high.

Hands to Help is partnering with Lazarus House and the St. Vincent de Paul Society to come up with Santa's list of children who are all deserving of toys this yuletide season.

Unwrapped toys are being collected at the annual Celebration of Light and Hope in the Rogers Center for the Arts lobby Dec. 6 at 5:15 p.m.; at Hands to Help Director Alisha Reppucci's office 370 on the third floor of the Sakowich Campus Center until Dec. 12; and, at Hands to Help's office at the St. Mary Church rectory at 300 Haverhill St., Lawrence during

normal business hours.

"The majority of the toys are collected at the annual alumni Christmas party held by the Office of Development and Alumni Relations," Reppucci said. This year's party is being held at the Four Season Hotel Boston Dec. 2.

Overall, last year's toy drive collected about 400 gifts that went to children in about 250 families. Emboldened by that success, Hands to Help is hoping to collect 500 toys for children in 300-350 families this year, said Hands to Help Assistant Director Rosana Urbaz.

Toys related to the movie "Frozen" are hot items, along with any sporting gear and dolls, she said. The collection is targeting children 2-15 years old. Getting presents for children 14-17 years old has been a challenge in past

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MERRIMACK COLLEGE

RECORD

The Merrimack College Record is published biweekly during the academic year, monthly in June, July and August, by the Office of Communications.

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AskIT

Computers, Printers and iPads for Employees

Departments in need of purchasing computers, printers and/or iPads should refer to the Hardware Price List on the Technology page on MyMack. Price lists include accessory options and instructions for placing your order.

Computers

It is recommended that all Merrimack College-owned computers be on a five-year replacement cycle (end of warranty).

- The respective department will assume the cost of the new computer.
- All college-owned computers within the four-year cycle are ITS-supported. Any noncollege-owned computers are given “best effort” not to negate warranty.
- All college-owned computers and electronics are asset-tagged to maintain inventory.
- For a list of IT-supported computers and accessories, consult the Computer Price List.

iPads and Accessories

Merrimack College purchases iPads and accessories with a higher-education discount through the Apple Store. The iPad Price List includes accessories and ordering instructions.

Printers

All departments have access to a cost-effective networked printer that also offers a secure print option. Each department is responsible for the cost of new/replacement printers, paper and toner.

The AskIT Help Desk and Walk-in Center is your first point of contact for support on any technology available on campus. To receive the quickest response and to ensure your request is routed to the proper group, please contact us directly by email at AskIT@Merrimack.edu, or call us at ext. 3500. You may also visit us in person on the second floor of McQuade Library.



Alicia Reppucci '12, director of community outreach, organizes the annual toy drive.

Toys Lift Spirits of Area Kids

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years so organizers are putting out a special request for older children this year.

Donated toys will be packaged and distributed Dec. 13 to families of children who receive tutoring at Hands to Help, as well as children picked by St. Vincent de Paul and Lazarus House.

Christmas Activities Abound

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about 45 minutes.

Student and employee families as well as the general public are invited to take part in the Light and Hope festivities. Refreshments will be served and Lawlor Rink in the Merrimack Athletic Complex will be open for public skating after the tree lighting. Santa will meet with children in the DiCroce Family Lobby.

Lessons and Carols is sponsored by Campus Ministry. Light and Hope is sponsored by the Office of Mission & Ministry and Office of Student Involvement.

Office:

Merrimack College