Dr. Tim Schroer Appointed New COAS Associate Dean

After an internal search was conducted for the new Associate Dean of the Social Sciences, an announcement was made by Dr. Kieh before the Thanksgiving break naming Dr. Schroer, Associate Professor of History, as the guy for the job! Dr. Schroer’s new responsibilities will officially begin in the new year and will include:

- Serve as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences’ liaison with the Social Science Departments in the College of Arts and Sciences. These departments include Anthropology, History, Political Science & Planning, Psychology, and Sociology & Criminology.

- Serve as the College of Arts and Sciences’ liaison to both the Division of Student Affairs, and the Graduate School.

- Serve as the College of Arts and Sciences’ Coordinator of the university-wide “Retention, Promotion and Graduation Initiative,” otherwise known as RPG.

Dr. Schroer joined the faculty of the Department of History at the University of West Georgia in 2003. Prior to his appointment as the Associate Dean (Social Sciences), Dr. Schroer served as the Coordinator of Undergraduate Studies in the History Department. He holds a JD degree from the School of Law at Harvard University, and Master’s and Doctorate degrees in History from the University of Virginia. He has published on issues relating to World War II, Germany and Race. “I’m excited about becoming an associate dean,” he said.

“I view my main role in the new position as doing what I can to help the faculty in the social sciences do their jobs. The University of West Georgia has a remarkable body of gifted teachers and researchers in the social sciences. Faculty in Anthropology, Criminology, History, Political Science & Planning, Psychology, and Criminology & Sociology engage here in scholarly research in a wide range of fields while also guiding student inquiry in the classroom. They help to enrich our understanding of what it means to be a human being. I’m honored to have the opportunity to facilitate their work in my new position. I’m especially looking forward to the chance to learn more from my colleagues.”
The Connection

News and Events!

Lecture Series @ Carrollton Library
Prepare for an afternoon of fun! Join Dr. Steve Goodson, History Department Chair, at the Carrollton library for an exciting monthly lecture series hosting experts in fields from Chemical Physics to Aquatic Geology. Mark your calendar for the following dates:

- **Sunday, January 10 @ 2:30 p.m.**
  Chemical Physics by Dr. John Hansen, Chemistry
- **Sunday, February 14 @ 2:30 p.m.**
  Software Engineering by Dr. Will Loyd, Computer Science
- **Sunday, March 28 @ 2:30 p.m.**
  Graphic Design by Professor Joey Hannaford, Art
- **Sunday, April 11 @ 2:30 p.m.**
  German Cinema by Dr. Gary Schmidt, Foreign Languages and Dr. Muriel Cormican, Literatures
- **Sunday, May 9 @ 2:30 p.m.**
  Aquatic Geology by Dr. Curtis Hollabaugh, Geosciences

For more information visit [http://www.wgri.net/ASL.htm](http://www.wgri.net/ASL.htm)

Time to Celebrate!
The annual COAS Holiday Party will be on **Thursday, December 10 from 12-2pm** located in the COAS conference room on the TLC third floor! Come out and celebrate a great semester and spread holiday cheer! ...Enjoy a live caroling performance by Dr. George Kieh! (Well, okay—only if we get lucky!) Refreshments will be served.

Get Your Achievements Recognized
We want to hear from you! From awards, events, publications, research projects to grants, we believe that your hard work should be recognized. Please send your Associate Dean the information necessary - and who knows? You may be the next spotlight in “The Connection!”

UWG Jazz Ensemble Performs
If you have never been to a jazz concert at the University of West Georgia you are definitely missing out. Following their stellar performance on November 20, many patrons were leaving the Townsend Center for the Performing Arts rating the show to those seen at the Fox Theatre in downtown Atlanta. The band is conducted by Dr. Dan Bakos of the Music department.

Come hear an evening of Christmas music presented by the UWG Choir and Concert Band! The concert is FREE!

- **Saturday, December 5 at 8:15pm in the Townsend Center.**

November Edition Corrections:
Dr. Mohammad Yazdani, Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics was promoted from an Assistant Professor to an Associate Professor and has achieved tenure.

November Edition, page six: Dr. Mautusi Mitra, Assistant Professor of Biology; the first sentence should read “her” not “his.”
**Dr. Jeannette Diaz-Laplante, Department of Psychology**

Dr. Diaz-Laplante can easily be described as “the interconnected professor.” Recently Dr. Diaz-Laplante received a faculty research grant to study psychology in the Republic of Haiti where she is working with a team of people to develop a community-based mental health program modeled after a highly successful program in India. Dr. Diaz-Laplante lived in Haiti for about a year and a half and has worked there for over 12 years focusing on community and ecological development. Given that there are currently very few psychologists in Haiti, she believes that the current work on mental health can make a significant and positive impact in the lives of the Haitian people, many of whom suffer from depression, stress and trauma. In her second year at UWG, Dr. Diaz-Laplante has developed a new course entitled “Psychology and Globalization” which focuses on how globalization impacts various psychological dynamics including identity, consciousness, mental health, intergroup relations, and family dynamics. “There are many different ways to understand what’s happening around the world instantaneously,” she said.

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**Dr. Amin Boumenir, Department of Mathematics**

Dr. Boumenir received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Oxford and has taught mathematics at the University of West Georgia since 2001. He is interested in applied math, specifically in an area called inverse problems where if you know the answer you try to guess the question. Much of this math can be applied to non-invasive medical imaging such as CT scan or tomography. “From measurements on the outside, by analyzing scattered waves, you can see what is inside,” he said. Dr. Boumenir has worked in this area for over 25 years and is now interested in Leukemia Cancer research, as it cannot be detected by standard methods. Dr. Boumenir is also the director of CAMS, the Center of Applied Mathematics and Sciences, here at UWG. “In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice but in practice there is. That’s the meaning of applied math,” is his favorite quote! Originally from North Africa, Dr. Boumenir is interested in how students think. “They have their own ways of getting to the result,” he said.

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**Dr. Eilis Crean, Department of Art**

Professor Crean’s passion for the arts focuses on drawing and painting. She has taught at the University of West Georgia for seven years and has left an impression on hundreds of students, creating an environment for them to develop means to learn for themselves within the context of their lives. “The ability for students to learn for themselves and for the context of life is great to watch as they grow,” she said. Professor Crean grew up in Ireland and studied at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin, Ireland and later earned her MFA from Georgia State University. Her exhibitions include a solo show titled “Presence” at the Arnold Gallery in Shorter College and a two person show, “Ashes to Ashes: Demise and Transformation” at the Conrad Wilde Gallery in Tucson, Arizona. She is currently working on two studio series: The Votive Wall Series and a portraiture series investigating inter and intrapersonal aspects of painting the human visage. Her work may be viewed at (http://www.westga.edu/~ecrean).
Ms. Anita Immele, Dept. of Political Science & Planning

Ms. Anita Immele has seen more students and changes to the university than most people on campus. With plans to retire in 2010, Ms. Immele has worked at UWG since 1986 when she began in the Physics Department where she worked for seven years before moving to the Political Science Department. “There were 5,500 students back then and a road through the middle of campus. It’s a much prettier campus today and has grown to 11,500 students,” she said. As for the Political Science Department, she is responsible for keeping the budget, scheduling classes, purchasing materials, assisting students and much more. “I like very much working with the faculty and assisting students with their needs,” she said. Ms. Immele enjoys riding her bicycle on campus in addition to bike rides with friends on the Silver Comet Trail. She is a member of the all-women Clear Rivers Chorus which performs new-age uplifting music to social groups and events. Thank you for your service to the University of West Georgia!!

Department Spotlight: Sociology & Criminology

Dr. Catherine Jenks is the director of the Center for the Study of Crime and Social Justice (CSCSJ) at the University of West Georgia. The CSCSJ is a survey research center with a lab that conducts activities which are not solely survey research based. The lab is located in Pafford Hall and works in affiliation with the Department of Sociology and Criminology. The center was established to foster the development of a social justice perspective as a rational, humane, and positive response to the problems of crime and social inequality. The primary goal of the center is to promote research on crime and social justice issues and the development of solutions that balance justice with compassion. The lab is equipped with 15 computer stations, a lead computer, and Computer Aided Telephone Interviewing (CATI) software and equipment such as telephone utilities used to call targeted groups and gather precise research data. Currently the Center staff is developing a qualitative research project that will assess the extent to which civility is incorporated into daily activities of correctional officers in West Georgia. This project will collect data via in-person interviews with prison staff and is modeled after a concept paper recently published by Dr. Jenks and Dr. John Fuller. Recently the lab was used to conduct research on “Carroll County Perceptions of Water Issues” by contacting Carroll County residents. The survey allowed the principle investigators, Dr. Todd Matthews and Dr. Laurel Holland, to determine the level of support for legislation and taxes to improve water quality and availability in the local community. Back in 2008 during the hotly contested presidential and senatorial elections, freshmen political science students placed voting reminder calls to over 1,000 residents in Carroll County the week before the November general elections as part of the iServe Mentor Program.

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“The center integrates students with research,” said Dr. Jenks. Offered as a special topics class, students are able to gain interview experience and database collection experience by using lab resources. The knowledge learned from working in the CSCSJ helps students with job applications and graduate school applications. “It gives an advantage to be able to list hands-on experience with data collection for a professor’s research project,” said Dr. Jenks. They have drawn interest from other departments such as Mass Communications and Psychology who may use the center to advance specific research or public relations needs.

From all of us at the
College of Arts and Sciences....
We wish you and
your family
Seasons Greetings
and a joyous
New Year!