

FROM THE DEAN

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AT TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

A message from Dean Teresa Soufas



I'm honored to introduce myself as the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Temple University. After starting my position on July 1, 2007, I spent the first few months getting to know the faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of CLA. Establishing the vision for the college and how it fits with the university goals could not have been done without meeting everyone to familiarize myself with the college. I'm very grateful for the time individuals spend speaking with me, and for the institutional knowledge they share, and I look forward to meeting many more people in the months ahead.

ENVISIONING CLA

With 33 undergraduate majors, 32 minors, 23 certificate programs and 15 graduate programs, the College of Liberal Arts—the second largest college at Temple—plays a tremendous role in the university's academic success. CLA helps to provide the general education requirements for undergraduate students from all schools and colleges, and with thousands of students walking the halls of Anderson, Gladfelter and Weiss, it is paramount that the College of Liberal Arts offers the most diverse courses and enriching interdisciplinary programs.

I know that the academic needs of our current and future students are changing rapidly, and because of these changes CLA must continue to provide students a strong educational foundation so that they may become vanguards of integrated

and innovative thinking. To address these ever-changing needs, almost 200 members of Temple's community (myself, included) have been developing the university's first-ever academic strategic plan. Commissioned by President Ann Weaver Hart and spearheaded by Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Lisa Staiano-Coico, the plan will be unveiled with ten to twelve initiatives that will, according to Provost Staiano-Coico, "chart a course for Temple's future."

International studies, global thinking and studying abroad are strategic educational objectives of the college because they encourage positive exchange of ideas and scholastic spirit within our classrooms and throughout our world community. The Department of International Programs reports a 40 percent increase in participation over the past seven years and, in the last academic year, the greatest portion of Temple students studying abroad have been from the College of Liberal Arts with majors in English, history, political science and psychology.

Studying abroad enriches the undergraduate experience, but many students need scholarship support to finance this aspect of their academic career. To this end, I must mention the Diamond Ambassadors Scholarship Program, an exciting initiative from the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies that invites approximately 50 students per year, based on their academic record and financial need, to receive funds for studying abroad.

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COLLEGE TALK

Our success as an educational institution depends largely on the current and future faculty, who educate our students, build innovative curriculum and create pioneering research opportunities. This year, CLA received authorization to hire 20 assistant, associate and full professors. This search spans the country as we endeavor to find the most qualified candidates and match the right people with the right positions. As researchers and teachers, their contributions to the college and willingness to help the university progress toward our goals are critical.

Recently, CLA has approved the creation of a neuroscience program that will house a neuroscience major and the Center for Neuroscience Research, where students and faculty from various schools and colleges will study and research the brain and nervous system. The proposal, approved by the provost and Board of Trustees, is a collaborative effort that includes CLA, College of Engineering, College of Health Professions, College of Science and Technology and the School of Medicine. The new bachelor's degree in neuroscience will expand upon established programs in CLA, such as

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the specialization in neuroscience, and the cognitive neuroscience minor. This proposal for a university-wide collaboration is an excellent example of the interdisciplinary approach to education that will establish Temple as an innovative leader in the field of neuroscience.

Another exciting change to our college will occur this year as well. Effective July 1, 2008, a proposal to move the Economics Department to the College of Liberal Arts from the Fox School of Business was unanimously accepted by the CLA Collegial Assembly in January and by the university's Board of Trustees in March. It is quite common in the nation's research institutions, such as Harvard University, Stanford University and the University of California at Berkeley, to have economics departments within a college of liberal arts or arts and sciences. The study of economics complements other social science and humanities departments within the college, and will foster college-wide collaboration in scholarship and research activities in urban economics, health policy, international economics and economic history.

In the final stages of approval is the Department of Geography and Urban Studies doctoral program proposal, which will emphasize geographic approaches to the study of urban conditions. Focusing on sustainability, social justice and globalization, the program will also address the dynamic pace of social and environmental changes and reorganize two existing master's programs into one to align with the new PHD program. The interdisciplinary approach ensures that CLA's students will develop the qualitative skills necessary for understanding how people transform and interact with the environment.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

In addition to educating our students, CLA faculty initiate groundbreaking research in their chosen field of study, which increases CLA's local and global influence. In this section, you will find a brief sampling of our faculty members' and students' recent achievements.

Elected a fellow of the Society of Experimental Psychologists—the oldest and most prestigious honorary society in the field of psychology—was **Nora Newcombe**, James H. Glackin Distinguished Faculty Fellow and psychology professor. She is the first professor from Temple University to be a member of the society. Another member of the Psychology Department also earned accolades within the field; **Phil Hineline**, a professor at Temple for 39 years, received the Outstanding Contributions to Behavior Analysis Award from the California Association for Behavior Analysis.

Three dedicated staff members received promotions in recognition of their hard work and commitment to the College of Liberal Arts. **Jayne K. Drake**, director of the Liberal Arts Master Program, was promoted to vice dean for Academic Affairs in January. She is one of only ten people from around the world selected to serve as mentor for the 2007–2009 Class of Emerging Leaders in the National Academic Advising Association, and she was recently elected vice president of this international association. **Kevin Delaney** and **Rich Joslyn** were promoted to vice dean for Faculty Affairs and vice dean for Planning and Administration respectively. Working with Dr. Drake, Dr. Delaney and Dr. Joslyn is an honor and I personally congratulate all of them on their accomplishments.

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English professor **Larry Venuti** received the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship to support his work in translating the publications of Italian poet and prose writer Giovanni Pascoli. An advocate for the importance of the literary translator, Dr. Venuti believes that a successful translation provides a window into another world, culture and era. A professor for 18 years, Dr. Venuti also received his bachelor's degree in English here at Temple University.

The findings of a recent study by criminal justice professors **Jerry Ratcliffe** and **George Rengert** were published in the January 2008 issue of *Security Journal*. Their research was a collaborative effort using data from the Philadelphia Police Department to examine patterns of urban violence and location-specific recurrence of crime. Dr. Ratcliffe, a former London police officer, drew upon his work to help create strategic and intelligence-led policing to guide the work of Philadelphia police officers.

Jessica Winegar, assistant professor of anthropology, was recognized for her recent book, *Creative Reckonings: The Politics of Art and Culture in Contemporary Egypt*, and awarded the Albert Houran Book Award for 2007 by the Middle East Studies Association. Looking at the intersection of politics and the arts and culture in Egypt along with the flourishing movement of avant-garde art, Winegar's book provides provocative insight and deep analysis of the transformation occurring within the Middle East art scene today.

Motivated by the pending change in policy that will allow Antarctica to be explored for energy resources, CLA senior **Emily Ziegler** participated in an expedition to the continent with 2041, an environmental organization, to develop an "e-base"—a station powered by renewable energy sources. Her accomplishment epitomizes a true interdisciplinary approach that a liberal arts education provides for our students because Ms. Ziegler is not majoring in either environmental studies or geography and urban studies, but in political science.

ADVANCING CLA

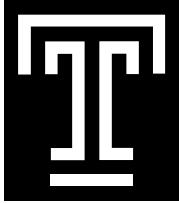
As my first academic year here comes to an end, I look back on the college's achievements and academic success that strengthened the educational foundation for all of Temple's students. We attain the highest level of success because of the support CLA receives from alumni and friends to create opportunities for excellence and access to education. Scholarships, fellowships, grants and gifts of all sizes augment what Temple provides and allow our students and faculty to continue the tradition of academic exchange and exploration of ideas through research and intercollegiate programs. I am excited about the future of CLA, and I encourage feedback and ideas about how we can advance CLA together.

Sincerely,



Dean Teresa Scott Soufas
clacommunications@temple.edu | 215-204-7747

ACCESS
to
EXCELLENCE



THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY
CAMPAIGN FOR TEMPLE

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS



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