



Susan Barber <sbarber@cnu.edu>

upcoming appointments in Academic Affairs

1 message

Mark Padilla <mark.padilla@cnu.edu>
To: faculty@cnu.edu, employees@cnu.edu

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I write with news about administrative appointments in Academic Affairs. I share much detail, but all of it has importance to some areas of the University.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

I am delighted to share with you that **Dr. Lori Underwood** has agreed to serve as Interim Dean of Arts and Humanities, effective May 12, 2013. Dr. Underwood is highly credentialed for this important office, and is familiar to students, faculty, and staff across campus. She chairs and teaches in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, where she has held a faculty appointment for fourteen years. She offers courses in logic, Kant studies, epistemology and philosophy of law. Dr. Underwood's academic specialty is the philosophy of Immanuel Kant, particularly his epistemology and political theory. She has single-authored three books and edited a volume of essays. Named Professor of the Year by the Student Government in 2008, Lori is also distinguished for her campus service roles, serving as senator, chair of the Budget Advisory Committee, and director of the Canon Leadership Scholars program. Dr. Underwood won the first CNU Faculty Excellence Award in Service (2012).

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

Associate Provost Bobbye Bartels is retiring at the end of the spring term. We are appreciative of Dr. Bartels' successful work in the mathematics classroom, the dean's office, and in the provost's office. Please join me in congratulating her for

her successful tenure as an important and effective instructor and administrator.

Associate Provost Bartels oversees the Academic Affairs budget, and this role now falls to the manager of the academic affairs budgets, **Ms. Jessena Robinson**, who welcomes the chance to assume increased responsibilities since beginning her work at CNU almost one year ago. Ms. Robinson will report directly to me as provost.

Dr. Geoffrey Klein has accepted my invitation to serve as interim associate provost, beginning on June 16, 2013. Since his arrival in 2006, Dr. Klein has demonstrated excellence in teaching, research, and service. After completing undergraduate work at the College of William & Mary, Dr. Klein earned the Ph.D. at Florida State, specializing in analytic chemistry. He currently holds the rank of associate professor in the Department of Molecular Biology and Chemistry. Geoffrey won the first CNU Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching (2012). As a researcher, Dr. Klein has served as a PI or co-PI on over \$2.7 million of external and internal grants, authoring five publications and forty presentations in the last seven years. He mentors undergraduate and graduate students.

As interim associate provost, Dr. Klein will administer Dr. Bartels' responsibilities as the director of graduate studies; supervise the Sponsored Programs office; serve as CNU's SACS liaison; and serve as a member of the research committees IACUC and IRB. In lieu of Dr. Bartels' oversight of the Academic Affairs budget, Dr. Klein will maintain the responsibilities of liberal learning coordinator, a role he assumed in January. He will thus work closely with Vice Provost Laura Deiulio, who has agreed to oversee the Assessment Office, and is leading a search for a new director of assessment, who will also be paired with an associate director of assessment. The Provost's Office provides an administrative locus for the Liberal Learning Core Curriculum, just as the college deans administer to the needs of our majors and minors.

THE HONORS PROGRAM

Dr. Jay Paul's record as Director of Honors since 1985 is highly distinguished. Working with the Honors Council, Professor Paul recently developed and implemented a new curriculum. In discussions with me over the last few years, Jay has advocated that the administrative leadership team for Honors be expanded. The new curriculum requires more intensive mentoring, and the

demands of learning assessment, student recruitment, and faculty involvement continue to grow. Having served effectively in all administrative roles hitherto, I am pleased to facilitate Jay's shift to Associate Director, to a predominately student-centered set of responsibilities. Advising and mentoring has always been Jay's passion, and Honors will now benefit from a faculty member dedicated to this important need, a role that will help ensure that deserving students matriculating in the program will have the support system in place to achieve Honors completion upon graduation.

The need for a director to complement Dr. Paul will be ably filled by **Professor Steven Breese**. Steven has accepted my invitation to serve as Director of Honors, effective May 12, 2013. Steven offers Honors a supplemental value, by bringing to its support a deep and expert knowledge of administrative practices, a broad knowledge of the CNU faculty, a love of challenging students, and effectiveness in the admission arena. Indeed, Professors Breese and Paul offer an ideal tandem to support and advance our program in Honors into the future. Each will continue to hold tenured appointments in their home departments (Theater and Dance and English respectively) and teach there as possible. The needs of the Honors Program require dedicated lines as part of the faculty expansion, and its administrative incumbents now have the opportunity to lead the program without destabilizing their departmental curricula in turn.

Dr. Underwood, Ms. Robinson, Dr. Klein, Dr. Paul, and Professor Breese are all passionate about CNU's legacies of excellence and offer great promise for maintaining our upward trajectory. I ask all of you to offer your support for their important and often arduous endeavors.

Academic Affairs continues its commitment to high quality decision making and best practices, in all of our student-centered dimensions of curriculum resourcing, faculty matters, staff matters, budget allocations, learning assessment, library services, institutional data reporting, and academic space assignments.

Provost Padilla

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Mark. W. Padilla, Ph.D.
Provost and Professor of Classical Studies
Christopher Newport University
1 Avenue of the Arts, Newport News VA 23606
[757-594-7050](tel:757-594-7050) (FAX: [757-594-7508](tel:757-594-7508))

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Christopher Newport University Mail - upcoming appointments in Academic Affairs

mark.padilla@cnu.edu