

Thursday, March 7, 2024

MacEwan University welcomes new dean, Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications

Professor Deric Olsen to assume the role in June

Edmonton - MacEwan University is pleased to announce the appointment of a new dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications. On June 1, Deric Olsen will begin a five-year term in the role.

Currently the chair of the Department of Drama at the University of Lethbridge (U of L), Professor Olsen has served as both interim dean and associate dean in the U of L's Faculty of Fine Arts, where he now holds the title of full professor, specializing in narrative filmmaking.

"We're thrilled to have join our leadership team a filmmaker and teacher who has risen to the top of the academic ranks through both his creative acumen and instructional prowess," says Dr. Craig Monk, provost & vice-president, Academic. "Professor Olsen brings to MacEwan extensive administrative experience, from program development and quality assurance to the focused recruitment and retention of fine arts faculty and students."

"I was gratified to see that we had such robust community engagement throughout the search process," says Dr. Monk. "The overwhelming consensus is that Professor Olsen will lead the faculty with purpose in our shared institutional pursuit of [Teaching Greatness](#)." The recommendation to appoint Professor Olsen was made to MacEwan's President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Annette Trimbee by a committee of nominees and volunteers: Dr. Emily LeBel, Department of Music; Dr. Iain Macpherson, Department of Communication; Dr. Isabelle Sperano, Department of Design; Jayne Ference, academic advisor; Sean Harper, Bachelor of Music student; Helen Ngan-Paré, associate vice-president, Human Resources; Dr. Edvard Lorkovic, Department of Humanities; and Dr. Christy Raymond, dean of the Faculty of Nursing.

Professor Olsen succeeds outgoing dean, Dr. Allan Gilliland. "We have been so fortunate to have had the benefit of Dr. Gilliland's transformational leadership over these past two administrative terms, as the faculty built and developed further its outstanding programs since moving into Allard Hall," says Dr. Monk. "He has been very clear that the next stage of his career includes more composing and recording and a return to full-time duties in the classroom, where new cohorts of MacEwan students will have the opportunity to learn from an artist of international renown."

Professor Olsen's initial, five-year term will begin on June 1, 2024.

For more information, please contact archerj24@macewan.ca

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 90 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.