Finalists Announced for AHSS Dean Position

The Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Dean Search Committee has selected four finalists for the position of dean.

The candidates are:
Nancy Guerra, professor, department of psychology, associate provost of international programs and director, Institute for Global Studies, University of Delaware;
Judith Grant, professor and chair of political science, Ohio University;
Daniel McIntosh, professor and chair of psychology, University of Denver;
Stacey Robertson, Oglesby Professor of American Heritage and interim dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Bradley University.

Visit the DU Portfolio site to view materials about each candidate, read the job description, learn more about the search committee and provide input. (Note: to view the full site please log in to DU Portfolio using your DU WebCentral credentials or create a new account.)

Twenty-four people were selected from the entire applicant pool for first-round interviews conducted via videoconferencing. Eight were selected for face-to-face screening interviews in Denver, followed by the selection of four applicants for on-campus final interviews. A final decision by the Chancellor is anticipated later this spring; the appointed dean is expected to begin before the new academic year.

You're invited!

Monday, May 5, 2014
Davis Auditorium, Sturm Hall
2000 E. Asbury Avenue

5:30 p.m. — AHSS alumni reception
6:30 p.m. — Presentation of the annual AHSS Alumni Achievement Awards
6:45 p.m. — Lecture “The Real Monuments Men and Women: Art Restitution Successes and Challenges” presented by Associate Professor Beth Karlsgodt
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Alumna Runs with the Torch in Sochi

The first time Kelsey Guyette (BA ’12, international studies, Russian and German) set foot on DU’s campus, she knew it would be her home for the next four years. And that’s precisely what it became. “DU was exactly where I needed to be, and my decision to study here shaped my future in a profound way,” said Guyette.

For Guyette, the “future” began immediately upon graduating from DU when she was awarded a U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship to study advanced Russian in Vladimir, Russia. Upon returning to the U.S., she joined the Foreign and Security Policy Program at the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Most recently, she volunteered at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia.

As an assistant to International Olympic Committee Member Angela Ruggiero, Guyette’s job consisted of scheduling, translating, navigating with their drivers and everything in between. Read more...

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Professor Studies Effects of Prenatal Environment on Long-term Development

It is widely recognized that early childhood experiences have lasting consequences on development. But little is known about how the prenatal environment affects development both before and after birth. Elysia Davis, associate professor in the department of psychology, is studying the ways in which the prenatal environment shapes physical and mental health across a lifespan.

Davis is director of the Neurodevelopmental Research Program in the department of psychology. Among other projects, she and her research team are tracking children from the fetal period through adolescence to determine how a child’s prenatal environment, including fetal exposure to stress and stress hormones, gestational age at birth and medications given during pregnancy, may affect his/her behavior and the way he/she learns and grows.

“Studies of prenatal development historically have focused on insults to the developing brain or exposure to teratogens, such as drugs or alcohol,” said Davis. “However, it’s becoming increasingly recognized that even normal changes in the prenatal environment, including variations in the exposure to maternal hormones, play a critical role in shaping the developing fetus and contributing to postnatal behavioral and brain development.” Read More...

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

MA Student Explores Social Mobility and Economic Development

Nikki Alexander holds dynamic roles. She’s an economics master’s student heavily involved in academic research, student government, full-time work and even Judo. Alexander’s involvement, commitment and motivation have not gone
unnoticed.

“Nikki is very dedicated to certain issues that are important to her, having especially to do with education and its relation to social opportunity,” said Tracy Mott, associate professor and chair in the economics department. “She is motivated and directs her work to something very important to our society.”

Alexander’s research blends two fields of study: social mobility and economic development. On the social mobility side, she explores how to increase social mobility through college education. She further compares income inequality to the unequal distribution of college degrees among students from different income levels. On the economic development side, her research centers on the economic and political impact of different education systems in Cuba and other Latin American countries. Read More...

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Student Examines Cases of Wiretapping

How does congressional oversight of the executive branch in the case of wiretapping during the Watergate scandal differ from today’s National Security Agency surveillance program? Lauren Rice, a senior political science and socio-legal studies major, is working on that answer for her senior thesis.

Rice is analyzing congressional oversight patterns of the executive in the cases of wiretapping starting in the 1940’s. She’s using New York Times data from articles on government wiretapping of citizens and comparing the data to the number of hearings conducted by Congress. Patterns are emerging that Rice calls “incredibly interesting.”

“Until recently, Congress has followed a ‘fire alarm’ model of oversight that is reactive to scandal or public opinion, particularly as seen during Watergate,” said Rice. “However, starting in the early 2000’s the congressional oversight model switches to a more passive form of oversight in relying on sunset legislation to check the executive. This means Congress will evaluate a program and either allow it to expire or reauthorize the program. This particular method is passive compared to the upfront confrontation Congress had during Watergate with President Nixon.” Read More...

FEATURED EVENTS

COUNTERPOINTS: April 3, 2014, 4:00-5:30 p.m. — Physician Assisted Suicide
Gov. Richard Lamm will moderate a panel examining this important policy issue from a legal, medical and ethical perspective. This event will be held in Hamilton Recital Hall, Newman Center for the Performing Arts. It’s free and open to the public. Seating is limited. RSVP here.

FACULTY LECTURE: April 10, 2014, 4:00-6:00 p.m. — Pathways to Mobility Among Latina/o and Undocumented Youth
Investigate the pathways to mobility among Latina/o and undocumented youth to understand the factors that facilitate and block their upward trajectories. Presented by Lisa A. Martinez, associate professor in sociology. This lecture will be held in the special events room, Anderson Academic Commons.

RECITAL: April 15, 7:30 p.m. — Guest Artist: Zolotoy Plios, Russian Folk Trio
This colorful ensemble offers lively interpretations of Russian folk songs and instrumental music. Its members, Sergei Gratchev, Elena Sadina and Aleksandr Solovov are all graduates of the Saratov Music Conservatory in Saratov, Russia. Held in the Hamilton Recital Hall, Newman Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are on sale through the Newman Center Box Office.

OPERA: April 17-19, 7:30 p.m.; April 20, 2:30 p.m. — Don Giovanni
Lamont Opera Theatre and the Lamont Symphony Orchestra present Mozart’s Don Giovanni.
Considered by many to be the greatest opera ever written, Mozart’s bold, charismatic blend of comedy, drama and unforgettable music tells the story of Don Juan, a charming, deceitful nobleman and the women he romances. Performances held in the Gates Concert Hall, Newman Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are on sale through the Newman Center Box Office.

EXHIBITION: through May 4, 2014 — The Female Gaze: Selfhood and Community from the Linda Lee Alter Collection of Art by Women
This exhibition, from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, presents 77 self-portraits and works of art exploring community and identity from the Linda Lee Alter Collection of Art by Women, a collection of nearly 500 works of art by women donated to PAFA in 2010. The exhibit is held in the Victoria Myhren Gallery, Shwayder Art Building, and is open noon to 4:00 p.m. daily. Please find extensive information on the objects in the Collection here.