Woodbury Establishes Institute of Transdisciplinary Studies

The faculty of the School of Arts and Sciences has decided to reconstitute itself as the Institute of Transdisciplinary Studies, dedicated to the pursuit of learning and research freed from disciplinary boundaries. Building on many years of interdisciplinary, collaborative and innovative teaching and explorations, the faculty members seek to make this direction central to their mission as scholars. They bring to this work a renewed and enhanced perspective, informed by the emerging field of transdisciplinarity.

Members of the Institute will serve as an ongoing learning community, support new research in teaching and in other fields of inquiry, collaborate with other university faculty on programs and courses, develop an honors program for students, and initiate an annual conference and publication on transdisciplinarity. They will do so with the assistance of a program of fellows that will bring together diverse faculty and scholars within and beyond the Institute and university.

Dr. Douglas Cremer, professor of history and interdisciplinary studies, will serve as the Institute's inaugural director. Barbara Bowley, associate professor and director of the library, will be the founding fellow of the institute and will develop the fellows program. Dr. Edward Clift, associate professor and chair of the communication department, will direct the Institute's conferences and publications. Dr. Leo O'Hara, associate professor of history, will replace Dr. Cremer as chair of the politics and history department.

The Institute of Transdisciplinary Studies will continue to offer the majors and programs previously offered by the School of Arts and Sciences: Communication, Politics and History, and Psychology. The director of the Institute will coordinate the interdisciplinary studies program and philosophy. Curricula in literature and art history will come under communication.

“Institute faculty will work in the coming years to align their programs with the Institute’s new mission and to develop new programs and initiatives to further that mission and the interests of the university, faculty and students. This new and cutting-edge direction, which aligns so well with the university’s and region’s strength, promises to infuse the university with greater energy and provide a greater impact for both the traditional and emerging modern liberal arts,” says Dr. David Rosen, senior vice president, Woodbury.