HECIMOVICH ASSUMES ROLE AS HARRIOT COLLEGE ASSOCIATE DEAN

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Greenville – Beginning August 1, associate professor of English at East Carolina University, Dr. Gregg Hecimovich, assumed his new role as Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Distance Education for the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. Hecimovich replaces Dr. Marieke Van Willigen, who has taken over as interim chair of the Department of Sociology.

“I am thrilled to be taking on the role of Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Distance Education, but also frightened to be stepping into a role that was so marvelously managed by Marieke Van Willigen,” says Hecimovich. “She left Olympic-sized shoes to fill – but also has done a wonderful job preparing me for my new role.”

In his new role, Hecimovich says his first goal is to follow through on programs Van Willigen began. Other plans for the upcoming academic year include expanding and improving the college’s electronic resources for tracking faculty development, developing a new faculty directory and creating on-line profiles for entering Harriot College faculty.

Since joining the faculty of ECU in 2002, Hecimovich has been actively involved in developing distance education courses for the Department of English, helping develop the online master of arts degree certificate in the Multicultural Studies Program and assisting ECU’s Division of Continuing Studies with study abroad courses and online, non-degree courses, all of which have prepared him for the position of associate dean.

“I have a great deal of experience as a successful teacher and scholar, as well as experience developing and teaching distance education courses. I hope that my wide-range of experiences will help me serve the college faculty well in my new role as an administrator,” says Hecimovich.

While at ECU, Hecimovich has received many honors and recognition for service and dedication to his work including the UNC Board of Governors Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award; ECU Max Ray Joyner Award for Excellence in Distance Education; ECU Scholar-Teacher Award in the Humanities; and the Department of English Bertie Fearing Excellence in Teaching Award. His scholarly research has received grant support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the North Carolina Society, ECU’s Faculty Senate and ECU’s Division of Research and Graduate Studies.

Hecimovich received his Ph.D. in English from Vanderbilt University in 1997. He is the author of four books: Austen’s Emma (Continuum, 2009), Puzzling the Reader: Riddles in Nineteenth-Century British Literature (Peter Lang, 2008), the Penguin Classics edition of Anthony Trollope’s Phineas Redux (Penguin USA, Penguin UK 2003) and, forthcoming, Thomas Hardy’s Tess of the D’Urbervilles (Continuum 2010). His scholarly articles have appeared in such publications as ELH, Victorian Poetry, The Victorian Newsletter, The James Joyce Quarterly and The North Carolina Literary Review.

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