



News Release

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CLAS names acting associate dean of social and behavioral sciences

LAWRENCE — College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Gregory B. Simpson today announced the appointment of Jim Mielke as acting associate dean of social and behavioral sciences in the largest academic unit at the University of Kansas.

Mielke, chair of the Department of Anthropology and professor, becomes the acting associate dean immediately. Mielke replaces Barbara Romzek, who has been named interim vice provost for academic affairs and also serves as professor in the Department of Public Administration.

“We’re excited to have Jim Mielke’s leadership skills in the College Dean’s Office,” Simpson said. “His administrative experience gained as chair will ensure a seamless transition following the departure of Barbara Romzek, to whom we are grateful for her outstanding service to the College.”

A member of the KU faculty since 1977, Mielke has served as chair of anthropology since 2001. He has taught courses including Fundamentals of Physical Anthropology and Adaptation and Disease. His research, focused in the areas of biological anthropology, population structure, historical demography and historical epidemiology, has taken him to Costa Rica and Finland. Mielke was honored in 2006 with a W.T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence.

Mielke earned a bachelor’s degree in anthropology from University of Utah and a master’s degree and doctorate in anthropology from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Jane W. Gibson, associate professor, will serve as acting chair of anthropology.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, established in 1893, is one of 14 academic divisions at KU and encompasses more than 55 departments and programs and the School of the Arts. More than 1,400 faculty members and graduate teaching assistants

teach in the College, and more than 18,000 students are enrolled. Nearly half of the students at KU earn their bachelor's degrees from the College.