Daniel Brunstetter appointed Faculty Director, Study Abroad

August 1, 2012

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Daniel Brunstetter as the Faculty Director of Study Abroad. Daniel will bring a wealth of experience, energy and vision to his new position.

He has traveled extensively (to over 75 countries on six continents) and spent time studying abroad in eleven countries across his undergraduate, graduate and professorial career. He has been actively engaged in encouraging students to go abroad. Most significantly, he helped shape the Olive Tree Initiative (OTI) into an academic program. As he writes, OTI has grown into a model of experiential learning that exposes students and faculty to the diversity of the globe while targeting education and acquisition of ‘life skills’.

Daniel also incorporates the theme of study abroad into his research. He has published in this area and is currently at work on two articles--one focused on the philosophy of experiential learning abroad and a second on how to expand short-term educational programs (funded by a grant from the Center for Citizen Peace Building).

We are delighted that Daniel is joining the Division of Undergraduate Education as Faculty Director of Study Abroad and we look forward to working with him to find new ways to engage more students in a study abroad experience.

Ted Wright appointed Faculty Director, Campuswide Honors Program

August 22, 2012

Please join me in congratulating Charles E. (Ted) Wright, Associate Professor of Cognitive Sciences, upon his appointment as the faculty director of the Campuswide Honors Program (CHP). Ted started his academic career on the faculty at Columbia University and moved to UC Irvine in 1994.

Ted has served in a number of administrative positions at UC Irvine. He was Associate Vice Chancellor under Fred Wan in, what was then, Research and Graduate Studies. While Chair of the Department of Cognitive Sciences he worked extensively on the Psychology curriculum. As part of that effort, he along with Linda Levine (then chair of Psychology and Social Behavior) developed a proposal that led to the initiation of a common, three-quarter Introduction to Psychology sequence that is required for students in both the Psychology major and the Psychology and Social Behavior major. This sequence has now been successfully taught jointly by faculty in the two departments for nine years under the guidance of a group of ten faculty coordinated by Professors Levine and Wright.

When Ted stepped down as chair, he continued as the department's Undergraduate Director. In that role, he authored a proposal for a new B.S. in Cognitive Sciences that is currently in the approval process. He also organized the activities of Cognitive Sciences for the recent WASC review.

Ted will bring to his new position a commitment to undergraduates and innovation to the CHP curriculum.

Sharon Salinger, Dean
Division of Undergraduate Education