

Important Message from Dean Schulze  
Email to all CAS faculty  
October 17, 2019

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Dear Faculty,

I am happy to announce that Professor David Castillo has agreed to chair the PhD Excellence Initiative Curriculum and Teaching Committee.

David joined the University at Buffalo Department of Romance Languages and Literatures in 2005 and was chair of the Department from 2009-2015. He is the Director of the Humanities Institute, the co-author of *Medialogies: Reading Reality in the Age of Inflationary Media* and *Zombie Talk: Culture, History, Politics*, and the author of *Baroque Horrors: Roots of the Fantastic in the Age of Curiosities* and *Awry Views: Anamorphosis, Cervantes, and the Early Picaresque*.

The charge of this committee is to create recommendations about how best to implement and support the curricular changes we need to make in the College in order to ensure PhD student success in terms of time to degree, rate of completion and job outcomes. Under David's leadership, the committee will work with our departments to align learning outcomes, as well as the teaching PhD students do throughout their degrees, with the opportunities that will best ensure their long-term success. David will guide the College in a robust data-driven public process and make sure that all voices are heard.

I have asked Professor Castillo, as he establishes membership of the CAS PhD Excellence Initiative Curriculum and Teaching Committee, to ensure broad College representation as well as ready access to the data and information the committee will need.

Take care,  
Robin