




*Office of the Dean  
College of Arts & Sciences*

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*To:* Full-time Faculty  
College of Arts & Sciences

*From:* James V. Staros   
Dean

*Subject:* Faculty participation in Undergraduate Colleges

The 2006-2007 academic year will be the third year of full implementation of the Undergraduate Colleges. The Undergraduate Colleges were created in the six residential clusters in an effort to create a more academic living environment for Stony Brook undergraduate students. Each has a theme and is led by a faculty Director: Arts, Culture, and Humanities (Perry Goldstein, Music); Global Studies (Michael Schwartz, Sociology); Human Development (Paul Bingham, Biochemistry and Cell Biology); Information and Technology Studies (Gary Halada, Materials Science); Leadership and Service (Manny London, College of Business); and Science and Society (Jeff Levinton, Ecology and Evolution).

In order for the new undergraduate Colleges to interface successfully academic life with residential life, it is critical for faculty to become engaged with the colleges. Because of my academic interests, I have been affiliated since 2004 with the College of Science and Society. I urge each member of the Arts & Sciences faculty to seek out the Director of the College with which s/he most closely identifies and become affiliated with that College.

One of the most important ways in which faculty affiliates can be involved with students in their Colleges is to volunteer to give a one credit seminar. College seminars are scheduled in Spring semesters only. Topics for these seminars vary widely, but are typically framed within the overall theme of the College. Because these seminars lie outside regular teaching assignments, the Provost's Office is providing a \$1,000 research allowance for each faculty member who teaches one of these seminars. By vote of the Senate, beginning in 2005-2006 these seminars are mandatory for all first-year students. In order for enough seminars to be offered to meet that goal, each faculty member would, on average, have to offer one seminar every fourth year, or so.

Establishment of the undergraduate Colleges constitutes a major step toward raising the stature of Stony Brook's undergraduate programs to the high level that has been attained by our graduate programs. Further, I view the Colleges as an important factor in our effort to recruit out-of-state students, an effort that is crucial to building the fiscal base of the College of Arts & Sciences. Therefore, I consider participation in the Colleges, along with other contributions to teaching and service, when reviewing dossiers for promotions and merit increases.

See <http://ws.cc.stonybrook.edu/ugadmissions/undergradcolleges/> for more information about the undergraduate Colleges.