

# EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY



## ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

*Volume 2, Issue 3    Dr. Michael L. Foster, Interim Assistant Dean    January 2009*



### Meet the New Interim Chair of Physics and Astronomy

Dr. Tom Otieno has been appointed the Interim Chair of the Department of Physics & Astronomy effective January 2009. Otieno is no stranger to Eastern Kentucky University or administration. He is a tenured professor in the Department of Chemistry and has served as an Assistant/Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences for over five years.

When asked about his appointment, Otieno said "I am honored to serve as the Interim

Chair of the Department of Physics & Astronomy. The faculty and staff in the department are outstanding colleagues with whom I have had very cordial working relationships in the past."

Indeed Otieno has a long standing association with the Department of Physics & Astronomy. The Department was an integral part of the ISMAM (Enhancing Inquiry-based Science and Math in Appalachian Middle Schools) project for which Otieno served as the Principal Investigator and Project Director. ISMAM was a \$1.5 million project funded by the National Science Foundation from 2003-2006 and that involved EKV faculty and students working with local middle schools to improve the teaching of science and mathematics.

Otieno also served on the Department of Physics & Astronomy's Promotion and Tenure Committee during the 2003-04 academic year, and chaired its Department Chair Search Committee in the 2007-08 academic year, followed by a stint as Interim Department Chair in the summer of 2008. He was also involved with the hiring of two of the three faculty currently holding one-year appointments in the department.

As for the challenges in his new role Otieno responded, "I have extensive experience with general academic administration, including personnel and budgetary issues, and the necessary interpersonal skills to carry out the duties of a chair. I think my greatest challenge will be figuring out how to appropriately strike a balance between the two very demanding and important jobs of Associate Dean and Department Chair. Both need to be done and done well. Not being a physicist, my second challenge will be to quickly learn the physics curriculum so that I may address any questions raised by prospective and enrolled students and their parents accurately and in a timely manner."

The Department of Physics & Astronomy is in the process of conducting a national search for a permanent chair. It is anticipated that Otieno will serve as Interim Chair until the new chair comes on board on July 1, 2009.

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### Faculty Senate Update

The following CAA items were approved by the Faculty Senate at the January 12, 2009 meeting:

**1. Economics B.A.**

*Program revised*

**2. Geography B.A.**

*Removed specialty areas*

**3. Paralegal Program**

*Changed course requirements. The justification was edited following recommendations by the Senate. The department will provide revised forms for the Registrar's Office.*

**4. B.B.A. Finance-Real Estate Option/Minor in Real Estate/RST Certificate within the Finance Major-Suspended Real Estate Option, Minor in Real Estate and the RST Certificate**

**5. Agriculture B.S. Area Major**

*Removed the college requirements BTS 300 and moved AGR 305 from Core Courses to Supportive Courses*

**6. Horticulture B.S. Area Major**

*Removed the college requirements BTS 300 and moved AGR 305 from Core Courses to Supportive Courses*

**7. Business Marketing Education/Teaching B.S.**

*Require a professional seminar/conference experience as part of major requirements through BTS 300 and 400 for all juniors and seniors in the College of Business & Technology. The Curriculum Form was edited to reflect the actual change being made, following recommendations by the Senate.*

**8. AAS Technology; Digital Imaging Design**

*Dropped ART 100 or 152 and added TEC 190 in the Digital Imaging Design Option*

**9. Minor in Computer Electronic Publishing**

*Changed the name of minor to Minor in Digital Imaging Design*

**10. MAEd Gifted Education**

*Allow for Certification after 12 hours*

**11. Baccalaureate & Graduate Nursing**

*Revised APRHN Option*

**12. Master of Public Health**

*Revised credit hours and required/elective courses.*

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### **43-Hour Upper Division Requirements Workgroup**

1. The Faculty Senate chose to have a member serve on the workgroup that is researching 43-hour upper division degree requirements. Dr. David May will be the Senate's representative on the workgroup.

2. The workgroup, chaired by Dr. Liz Throop, will submit a report to the Council on Academic Affairs at the March 19, 2009, CAA meeting (or sooner).

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Summer graduation ceremonies have been cancelled beginning this summer. Students will still have the option of completing their degrees in the summer, but the ceremonies will only be held in Fall and Spring semesters. Students may contact the office of the Registrar for specific details.

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