



college of arts + sciences

Dr. Wes Shumar Appointed Head of the Department of Culture and Communication

The College of Arts and Sciences is pleased to announce that Dr. Wes Shumar was appointed Head of the Department of Culture and Communication as of September 1, 2009.



Dr. Shumar received his B.A. in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania, his M.A. in Cinema Studies from New York University, and his Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from Temple University. He joined the faculty at Drexel in 1999, serving as Interim Department Head from 2006 to 2007 and as Assistant Department Head from 2007 to 2009. He was a central figure in the creation of the new PhD program in Communication, as well as in the development of the undergraduate major in anthropology.

Dr. Shumar's research focuses on the transformation of American universities in the age of consumerism. His book, *College for Sale: A Critique of the Commodification of Higher Education*, is considered a "must-read" by students of higher education. He is especially interested in the value of service learning and its ability to restore a civil and moral purpose to education. He compliments his research on service learning with a personal commitment to the service activities of the Asbury Protestant Ministry. In addition, Dr. Shumar is interested in the ethnography of virtual communities in education and these interests have led naturally to his work with The Math Forum, a virtual math education community and resource center. Since 1997, Dr. Shumar has received continued and substantial grant support from the National Science Foundation for his work with The Math Forum, and was part of a team of advisors to NSF who were helping to evaluate the National Science Digital Library program.

Dr. Shumar exemplifies the strong spirit and energy of the Department of Culture and Communication and has proven to be someone in whom the department has great confidence. His personal research combines aspects of anthropology, sociology, and communication—vital components of the department. He has continually demonstrated his commitment to all aspects of the University, ranging from faculty governance to interactions with both students and the larger Philadelphia community. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Shumar on his appointment. We are confident that the department will thrive under his leadership.