Cultural theorist named FIMS dean

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Thomas Carmichael is set to guide one of the fastest growing faculties on campus with his appointment as Dean of the Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS). Carmichael will begin his five-year term on July 1.

Carmichael holds degrees from the University of Guelph, Carleton University and the University of Toronto. He serves as Associate Dean (Research) of Western's Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and has been a member of the Department of English since 1990.

"Both the broad focus of his scholarship and his experience as an academic leader make him an outstanding choice as Dean of one of Western's most innovative and diverse faculties," says Western Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Fred Longstaffe.

"Tom's knowledge of the university and of the Canadian academic landscape will prove of tremendous value to FIMS and to Western."

Located in the North Campus Building, FIMS has more than 800 undergraduate students for 2006-07 and continues to grow its graduate enrolment. The faculty was created in 1996 by a merger of the graduate schools of Library and Information Science (LIS), Journalism and the Faculty of Part-Time and Continuing Education.

Faculty size has gone from 18 in 1997 to about 45, with 21 staff members.

Several more full-time appointments are expected.

Carmichael served as Acting Director of the Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism (2001-02) and was instrumental in development of the centre's PhD program. A leading authority on cultural theory, North American popular culture and contemporary narrative representation, Carmichael has published widely on the intellectual, literary, visual, and media environment of today's society.

"Tom Carmichael's commitments to research, teaching and collaboration across academic units will build on this tradition to guarantee future successes for the faculty and students in Media and Information Studies," says Western President Paul Davenport.