

THOMAS FIEDLER TO LEAVE COM DEANSHIP NEXT YEAR

College has seen profile rise over the last decade



Thomas Fiedler (COM'71)

After 10 years as dean of the College of Communication, Thomas Fiedler will step down at the end of the next school year.

Fiedler (COM'71), a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, says that it's the right time for him to leave, noting that by then, the University will have concluded its comprehensive campaign (see page 18) and is expected to kick off a new strategic plan. "It seems to me the timing is right for me to hand the baton off," he says. "And personally, there's a time where you try to assess what lies ahead, what opportunities you might want to try and haven't done before."

Jean Morrison, University provost, says Fiedler has led COM through "important, meaningful change over the last decade—improving the responsiveness and adaptability of its programs, recruiting outstanding faculty, and elevating its standing as a model for innovation in emerging media. We see the results of this today in the success of COM graduates in the marketplace and in the unified culture of excellence across the college's divisions and are grateful to Dean Fiedler for his service to the University."

BU is conducting a national search for Fiedler's successor.

Morrison credits Fiedler with improving and updating COM's curricu-

lum so graduates will be attractive to prospective employers, and with recruiting Pulitzer Prize and Emmy winners and *New York Times* best-selling authors to the faculty. He oversaw the launch of the Division of Emerging Media Studies and the college's first doctoral program, and guided the redesign of the COM 101 World of Communication gateway course. Under his leadership, four new professorships were established: the Feld Professorship in Emerging Media, the Andrew Lack Professorship in Journalism and Business of Media, the Sumner M. Redstone Professorship in Narrative Studies, and the Sandra Frazier Professorship in Public Relations.

During Fiedler's tenure as dean, the college has seen its profile rise. Publications like *USA Today* and *The Hollywood Reporter* have lauded COM as one of the best communication schools in the country, and alumni and faculty regularly earn national honors for their writing, productions, and investigative work. Fiedler launched the New England Center for Investigative Reporting through COM, which has emerged over the last several years as a national paradigm for nonprofit journalism centers serving their communities.

He says he is especially proud of the commitment and enthusiasm students, staff, faculty, and alumni have shown. "When I first came, there wasn't a sense of community around being an alum," he says. "Now—and I credit President Bob Brown—when I meet alums and parents, they have a real pride about what we are doing. I feel great about that."

Fiedler became dean in 2008, after working for more than 30 years at the *Miami Herald*.

In 2003, the College of Communication awarded him a Distinguished Alumni Award, and in 2005 he won its Hugo Shong Lifetime Achievement Award in Journalism. AMY LASKOWSKI

Interim Dean of Arts & Sciences Appointed

Stan Sclaroff is a computer science scholar

Stan Sclaroff, a College of Arts & Sciences professor of computer science, has been appointed dean ad interim of Arts & Sciences for the current academic year. A leading scholar in computer vision, pattern recognition, and machine learning, he replaces Ann Cudd, who stepped down as dean July 31 to become provost of the University of Pittsburgh. A nationwide search for a permanent dean is underway.

A CAS faculty member since 1995, Sclaroff brings a wealth of leadership experience to his new role. He was previously associate dean of the faculty for mathematical and computational sciences and was chair of the computer science department from 2007 to 2013.

"I see my role as an advocate for, a champion for, an enabler for, a facilitator for all of the departments and programs in the college, and a connector," he says. "The point being I'll focus on a more complete picture of the college, when previously I was looking at a slice."

Sclaroff founded the computer science department's Image and Video Computing Group, and he holds an affiliate appointment in the College of Engineering's electrical and computer engineering department. He was also a member of the implementation task force for the BU Hub, the first University-wide general education program, debuting this semester. JB



Stan Sclaroff