the comm-unity newsletter

Professor Thom Gencarelli Returns as Chair: The Future of the Communication Department

By Thais Ariadna Marquez-Olea

Professor Thom Gencarelli will be back as the Chair of the Communication Department for the Spring 2024 semester - a move that was expected as our current Chair, Dr. Anwer, will be taking a sabbatical leave until Fall 2024. Dr. Gencarelli was the department's founding Chair, and served in the position for 12 years. He therefore brings a great deal of experience to the job and a special viewpoint to help lead us forward.



Professor Thom Gencarelli

As Dr. Gencarelli steps back into the Chair's position, he acknowledges the inevitability of unforeseen challenges and conflicts that may arise. Reflecting on his past experience, he emphasizes the importance of taking each day as it comes. "Just coming in every day is a part of it… Things happen that you can't expect or anticipate, but you try to get as much done as you can. You take one day at a time," he said in an interview.

Looking forward, Dr. Gencarelli outlined what he thinks are the long-term objectives for the department.

His primary focus is to provide Manhattan College students with a valuable liberal arts education, and to make sure they receive a return on their investment. As he put it, "It is our job to give our students their money's worth, and to ensure that they receive a liberal arts education."

Dr.Gencarelli also emphasized the importance of collaboration and communication within the department. He believes in providing individual faculty members with responsibility and fostering an environment where everyone works towards the best interests of all of our students. "It is really about ensuring that, and having people do what's best for our students."

With his extensive background in higher education, in the professional discipline, and in the field, Dr. Gencarelli articulated his commitment to ensuring the success of the program and its graduates. While discussing his past achievements in trying to

"put the department on the map," he reiterated that his current role is to continue expanding our influence. "My job is to ensure the success of this program - that our graduates work, and that they feel and know we are all the program we have intended to be."

As Dr.Gencarelli resumes the role of Chair, his pragmatic approach to challenges, his commitment to student success, and his emphasis on collaboration paint a promising picture for the department's immediate future. The return of this seasoned leader brings with it hope, and a vision for growth and continued excellence in communication and pre-professional education. ★