

NC State University

News Release

NC STATE NAMES NEW DIRECTOR OF THE CRAFTS CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RALEIGH, N.C. – George Thomas has been chosen to serve as the next Director of The Crafts Center at North Carolina State University. Thomas assumed the new duties on June 1. He had served as Interim Director of The Crafts Center since January 1, 2008.

Associate Vice Chancellor N. Alexander Miller III announced Thomas' promotion.

“Since he assumed the role of Interim Director on January 1, 2008, George provided impressive leadership of The Crafts Center at an important time of transition. He displayed formidable organizational and administrative skills, and they proved to be indispensable at every step of the Thompson renovation. His attention to and mastery of the details related to the project was remarkable, and was critical to ensuring that the redesign of The Crafts Center will serve our students, campus and community very well into the future. George's commitment to energetically and creatively pursue new opportunities for NC State students to use the new and expanded facilities in The Crafts Center will integrate them even more deeply into the life of this important program.”

As Director of The Crafts Center, Thomas will lead one the largest University Crafts Centers in the United States. The Crafts Center provides crafts classes and workshops in art, pottery, sculpture, weaving, fiber arts, photography, woodworking and more to students and the community. It also provides studio time and supports academic classes, projects, and independent studies. The Crafts Center is located in the newly renovated Frank Thompson Hall and offers a state-of-the-art facility.

Prior to being named Interim Director of The Crafts Center, Thomas served as Assistant Director in 1990 and was promoted to Associate Director in 1994. Before becoming Assistant Director, Thomas taught woodworking classes at The Crafts Center since 1989. Thomas was also a student volunteer from 1978 to 1982 and a community volunteer from 1982 to 1989 while he taught technology education at Garner Middle School. Thomas is an NC State graduate with a degree in Technology Education.

Among other crafts, Thomas is an accomplished wood sculptor and has been recognized for his work at various venues, such as the International Woodcarvers Congress, which is the largest competition for woodcarvers in the United States.

ABOUT ARTS NC STATE

ARTS NC STATE is an umbrella organization comprised of the six visual and performing arts programs of North Carolina State University: Center Stage Performing Arts Series, The Crafts Center, Dance Program, Gregg Museum of Art & Design, Music Department and University Theatre. Each year, ARTS NC STATE provides hundreds of outstanding arts opportunities for both the campus and the greater community. For more information, see www.ncsu.edu/arts.