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## NEWS

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### **Interim dean named for UNT's Mayborn School of Journalism**

DENTON (UNT), Texas — Dr. Mitchell Land has been appointed interim dean of the University of North Texas' newly approved Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism.

Land is currently the chair of the UNT Department of Journalism and director of the university's Mayborn Graduate School of Journalism — the two academic areas that will comprise UNT's Mayborn School of Journalism when it opens Sept. 1.

Land, a UNT faculty member since 1994, will serve as interim while the university conducts a national search for a new dean. The university hopes to name a long-term dean during the coming academic year.

As interim dean, Land will lead operations as the Department of Journalism and the Mayborn Graduate School make the transition from being part of UNT's College of Arts and Sciences to becoming an independent school. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board granted formal creation of the school this month upon recommendation from the UNT System Board of Regents. The new school is named for civic leader and journalist Frank W. Mayborn and for his wife, Sue Mayborn. Frank Mayborn owned the Temple Daily Telegram, Killeen Daily Herald and KCEN-TV, an NBC affiliate serving Killeen, Temple and Waco, before his death in 1987. Publisher Sue Mayborn now owns all three media outlets.

“Dr. Land's leadership has grown UNT's journalism programs at both the graduate and undergraduate level, and as the current department chair and director, he is the ideal individual to serve during this transition to the new school,” said Dr. Wendy K. Wilkins, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “His commitment to producing high-quality working journalists will ensure that we open UNT's Mayborn School of Journalism with appreciation for UNT's legacy of quality and a strong vision for the future.”

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Before joining the UNT faculty, Land worked in media development in the Francophone countries of Africa with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and taught at Midwestern State University and Stephen F. Austin State University.

He became the first director of the Mayborn Graduate School when it was created as the Mayborn Graduate Institute in 1999. The institute became an enhancement of the existing master's degree program in journalism. In 2005, Land launched the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference, which brings talented nonfiction storytellers to the Dallas-Fort Worth area every summer to discuss the aesthetic elements of nonfiction narrative prose writing that elevate readers' enjoyment without compromising facts.

Land's research has focused on the political role of television in Cote d'Ivoire and on the status of independent newspapers in Cameroon. From 2002 to 2005, he led the Mayborn Institute in helping Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique launch an undergraduate journalism program. The institute offered journalism graduate courses in Maputo to accelerate training for future instructors in the new program.

Land is the co-author of "Contemporary Media Ethics," which analyzes how print and electronic media professionals confront ethical dilemmas by focusing on high-profile case studies. The book was nominated for the 2006 Clifford G. Christians Ethics Research Award from the Carl Couch Center for Social and Internet Research.

A UNT alumnus, Land received his master's degree in journalism from the university in 1982. He also has a bachelor's degree in French from Midwestern State University, master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and doctoral degree in radio/television/film with an emphasis on international communication and cultural anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin. Land also holds a certificate of French studies from the Université de Haute Bretagne in Rennes, France.

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