The Daily Collegian
New England's Largest College Daily online

Dean Rifkin steps down after academic year

Matt Rocheleau

Issue date: 10/6/08 **Section:** News

"There are always more needs that can be filled," she said. "For everything you can do there are things you can't do, and that can be frustrating."

Though she is also a legal studies professor, Rifkin said she has felt somewhat removed from the day-to-day contact with students as dean.

"I've always liked to teach, and I've always loved the interaction with students," said Rifkin, who now has lunch with students once a month.

Rifkin said she has made no decision to leave the Legal Studies Department but has not decided what she will do once her role as dean ends after graduation.

Fellow colleagues expressed their appreciation of Rifkin's work.

"She has been a really good leader at the college," said Robert Feldman, now in his third year as associate dean of SBS.

"I hope the next dean can build on the work Dean Rifkin has done," he said, citing her understanding of the needs of the faculty.

In an e-mail to faculty, provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Charlena Seymour called Rifkin "an outstanding leader, administrator and colleague who has advocated for her faculty, staff and students effectively. She has promoted the activities of the College to internal and external audiences alike and has successfully raised the profile of the College."

Seymor continued, "She has been a consummate citizen of this campus and we are indebted to her. Dean Rifkin will leave the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences in a strong position, and we thank her for her dedication, loyalty and leadership."

On Oct. 1, Seymour announced she too will resign from her post at the end of the academic year.

"It is a time of change in leadership," said Rifkin.

Rifkin was appointed dean of SBS in 2005 after serving as interim dean since 2002. She chaired the Legal Studies Department from 1997-to-2002 and has been a member of the department since 1974. She was the as associate dean of the College of Social and Behavior Sciences from 1995 to 1997.

Rifkin has co-directed the Center for Information Technology and Dispute Resolution within the Legal Studies Department since 1997.She served as ombudsperson from 1991-to-1995 and has directed the University Mediation Project since 1980.

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at mrochele@student.umass.edu.

Article Tools

Share: Facebook Blogger del.icio.us digg newsvine

Subscribe: My Yahoo! Google

The Massachusetts Daily Collegian has an 'open door' policy with regards to reader comments. In the interest of facilitating an open discourse, comments are not screened or edited for spelling, mechanics or content. Comments on our website cannot be verified by

POLL

This month, UMass Chaplain Kent Higgins was reprimanded by the University for offering credits to students for their participation in the Obama campaign. Should a state university offer credits to students for partisan campaigning?

- Yes -- it encourages educated citizenship.
- No -- it compromises the University's ethic.
- It's all the same to me.

Submit Vote

View Results

24 Hour News

The Collegian and in no way represent the opinions of The Massachusetts Daily Collegian or its staff.

Viewing Comments 1 - 1 of 1

Joe Stahl
posted 10/06/08 @ 12:37 PM EST

Great quotes. Solid article!

Details Reply to this comment

Post a Comment

Name: (required)

Email: (required)

NOTE: Email address will not be published

Website:

Notify me of followup comments via e-mail

Type your comment below (html not allowed)

I am not posting spam. I understand posting spam or other comments that are unrelated to this article will cause my comment to be flagged for deletion and possibly cause my IP address to be permanently banned from this server.

Post

News

Candidate speaks at UMass
Getting ahead in engineering, tech
'Born Digital'
Dean Rifkin steps down after academic year

Arts & Living

Finding space for puppetry
Pinback works off the rust
Latest Palahniuk film retains trademark wit
Spring looks on display at Fashion Week
Remembering Paul Newman

Editorial / Opinion

Duck season, riot season
Supreme Court in session, out of touch
Tuition, admissions
Non-citizen? No choice.

Sports

Football: UMass gets big win over Delaware
Football: Defense helps offense, steps up
Women's Soccer: Minutewomen lose 2 straight road games
Field Hockey: No. 17 Minutewomen bounce Siena, 5-1
Field Hockey: UM forced to regroup with forwards out

National College Advertising and Marketing | Privacy Policy (8/15/07) | Terms of Use (4/28/08)
Content Submission Agreement (8/23/07) | Copyright Compliance Policy (8/25/07) | RSS Terms of Use

© The Daily Collegian

Powered by **College Publisher**

College Publisher powered by ...U and NETWORKS