

Ross Shideler

The Graduate Division's New Associate Dean

WHEN PROFESSOR OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE and Scandinavian Studies Ross Shideler stepped in last November as Associate Dean of the Graduate Division, his assignment put him in the middle of two major projects.

First, as the Graduate Division's liaison to the Graduate Council's committee on fellowships and assistantships, he was involved in efforts to reverse an ongoing decline in graduate student support that was having a negative impact on graduate education, and thus, the whole university enterprise. Second, he joined the committee that decided how new housing for single graduate students, which was then rising on the western edge of campus, would be allotted: through the divisions to departments and thereby to incoming students of particular merit. Now that this year's highly-recruited new graduate students are moving in to the first completed units, Shideler chairs the committee that will track the progress of construction and the allocation of additional units as they come on line.

Linking the projects is the fact that both fellowships and housing are needed to attract top-ranking graduate students. "It's a wonderfully appealing thing to be able to offer housing within walking distance of campus," Professor Shideler says. Responses to the fellowships issue, including a fund-raising campaign dedicated to graduate student support [see story in this issue], offer fresh recognition of "how crucial the admission and recruitment of graduate students is to the university's success," he says.

Both projects remain in Professor Shideler's portfolio this fall, as he begins a new academic year with the Graduate Division. He will also handle labor relations and serve as liaison to departments in the



humanities and physical sciences, as well as the Schools of Engineering, Arts and Architecture, Education and Information Studies, Public Health, and Nursing.

The job is "very demanding and very challenging," Professor Shideler says, "but it's also lots of fun." He brings to the task experience as chair of the program in Comparative Literature and extensive service on Academic Senate and other university governance committees. A recipient of UCLA's Distinguished Teaching Award, Dr. Shideler feels some regret about the classroom time he must surrender in order to handle his new administrative responsibilities, "but I think I can do some good over here," he says.

"As a result of its role in the campaign to increase graduate student support, the Graduate Division has been recognized as crucial to the mission of the university," Dr. Shideler says. "The Graduate Divi-

sion is more and more going to be seen as an essential and invaluable asset of campus life, and I hope I can contribute to that recognition."

Ross Shideler is Professor of Comparative Literature and Scandinavian Studies and has written on the works of Gunnar Ekelöf, Per Olov Enquist, and other Scandinavian authors. His most recent book, *Questioning the Father*, utilizes Charles Darwin's work to compare novels and plays by Emile Zola, Henrik Ibsen, August Strindberg, and Thomas Hardy. Professor Shideler holds a bachelor's degree from San Francisco State University, a master's degree from the University of Stockholm, and the PhD in Comparative Literature from UC Berkeley.