

Short Subjects

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PEER REVIEW

Illinois State U. Plucks 2 From U. of South Florida; U. of Maryland Medical School Hires 23 New Scientists

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A COMPOSITION OF TWO: In hiring **Gary A. Olson**, 49, an English professor at the University of South Florida, the College of Arts and Sciences at Illinois State University isn't just getting a new dean. Mr. Olson, who joins Illinois State on July 1, is one of the leading figures involved in building connections between cultural studies and composition. For the past 10 years, he has been editor emeritus of *JAC: A Journal of Composition Theory* -- a publication known for its interviews with such prominent thinkers in the humanities as Homi Bhabha, Jacques Derrida, Clifford Geertz, bell hooks, and Richard Rorty.

Illinois State is hiring another leading figure in composition theory, **Lynn Worsham**, 50, also a professor of English at South Florida. Ms. Worsham is the current editor of *JAC*, which will now be published at Illinois State.

"Actually, I had no idea they were a couple until we approached Gary for the job," says **Doug Hesse**, a professor in the English department, where both will have appointments. If anyone could be expected to know this, it might be Mr. Hesse, who is a leader of the Conference on College Composition and Communication. (Next year he will serve as chairman of the 8,000-member association of composition professors.)

Since 2002 Mr. Olson has published two volumes, one of them edited with Ms. Worsham, devoted to the work of **Stanley Fish** -- who, in addition to bestriding the world like a Colossus as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago, has also written the occasional work of literary theory.

Asked if he will, so to speak, go fish, Mr. Olson laughs. "I hope I would bring the same kind of intelligence to the job," he says. "Stanley knows that the way to build a strong academic unit is through aggressive and strategic faculty recruitment. ... That's what I hope to do."

A GAGGLE OF RESEARCHERS: Settling all the details of a single faculty hire can be daunting. So how has the University of Maryland School of Medicine, in Baltimore, managed to bring in a team of 23 biomedical-research scientists all at once?

"It's a little like an arranged marriage," says **Dudley K. Strickland**, 51, the senior hire among the scientists, all of whom work in the Jerome H. Holland Laboratory for Biomedical Sciences at the American Red Cross, in Rockville, Md., and will start at Maryland July 1.



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When the Red Cross announced in November that it would shut down its basic-research operation, Maryland administrators swooped in. They invited the scientists to the medical school for a group visit. "They were up for grabs," says **Donald E. Wilson**, vice president for medical affairs and dean of the medical school.

When it was clear that the researchers might consider the move, the medical school began interviewing them individually. Maryland eventually offered each of them a 3-percent raise and agreed to buy their laboratory equipment from the Red Cross. The medical school has also hired about 65 of their technical- and support-staff members. The group -- which investigates biological systems that may lead to new treatments for heart disease, stroke, and diabetes -- will eventually be housed in a science complex that Maryland is building.

"Biomedical research is evolving from a field in which most of the research was done by individual investigators to a field where it's now taking a multidisciplinary-team approach," says **Howard B. Dickler**, associate dean for research and graduate studies at the medical school.

Mr. Strickland says he never expected the medical school to pull off such a coup. "Most universities have a very difficult time trying to recruit four or five investigators, let alone 23," he said. He and two of the other scientists -- **Toni M. Antalis**, 51, and **David W. Scott**, 61, will come to Maryland with tenure. The researchers are the first batch in a \$100-million campaign to bring 100 new scientists in over the next five years.

COMINGS AND GOINGS: **David A. French**, a Kentucky lawyer who has persuaded college officials to repeal campus speech codes and helped gain campus recognition for student religious groups, will take over as president of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education this month. Mr. French, 35, has worked as outside counsel for the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, a ministry group with chapters on 500 campuses, and as a pro bono lawyer for FIRE.

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