

PEER REVIEW

Temple U. Bolsters Its Philosophy Department

PUMPED-UP PHILOSOPHY: A wave of hirings at Temple University, expected to add 70 new professors to the campus this fall, has hit the philosophy department, adding five members to its faculty. "We have at the moment only eight tenure-track professors," says **Richard Shusterman**, the department's chairman, "so the addition of five new tenure-track people, three of them senior, is more than significant growth."

Noël E. Carroll, 57, a specialist in the aesthetics of film, comes from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and will join the department as a full professor. So will **Lewis R. Gordon**, 42, hired away from Brown University, where he was a professor of Africana studies. **Paul C. Taylor**, 36, from the University of Washington, will join as an associate professor. Like Mr. Carroll, Mr. Taylor works on aesthetic theory. And like Mr. Gordon, he brings an expertise in African-American philosophy -- though Mr. Taylor's publications have concentrated on American pragmatism, while Mr. Gordon has studied race in an existentialist framework.

Joining the department as assistant professors are **Michael Thau**, 42, a former assistant professor at the University of California at Los Angeles, who works on the philosophy of mind, and **David C. Wolfsdorf**, 34, a specialist in ancient Greek philosophy who is leaving a position as instructor in the writing program at Boston University.

"We decided to target several departments this year for massive hiring," says **Susan Herbst**, dean of the college of liberal arts, and to "look for people who would recruit each other." If the new hirings add to the department's prominence in the study of aesthetics, pragmatism, and African-American philosophy, that is no accident. After all, Mr. Shusterman is the author of *Pragmatist Aesthetics: Living Beauty, Rethinking Art*, which contains one of the first analyses of hip-hop culture by an American philosopher.

-- *Scott McLemee*

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