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Dr. Robert Bolla named YSU Arts and Sciences dean

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio--- Dr. Robert Bolla, the former biology department chairman at St. Louis University, has been named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Youngstown State University.

Bolla begins serving as top administrator in the university's largest college on July 1. He succeeds Dr. Barbara Brothers, who retired in July 2001. Dr. Ikram Khawaja had been the interim dean since.

"I am very impressed with Dr. Bolla's enthusiasm about strengthening collaborations between the College of Arts and sciences and the Beeghly College of Education," according to Dr. Tony Atwater, YSU provost and vice-president for academic affairs.

Bolla was an interim associate dean and associate dean in St. Louis University's Graduate School Office of Research Services from 1993 to 1997 and had served as professor and chairman in the 12,500-student institution's biology department since 1989.

His career began as an assistant professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 1976.

Bolla says that YSU appealed to him because, "It's an urban university, first of all, on the cusp of growing. The university also has a great new team of administrators along with an exciting faculty."

"Great opportunities exist for new programs that will serve the area. YSU could be part of the city's recovery by providing an educated workforce for the surrounding community," he noted further.

Bolla has secured approximately \$5 million in external funding over the past decade and has been published in several professional journals and is a frequent presentational speaker.

Atwater confided, "Dr. Bolla's experience with the needs of metropolitan and urban universities, plus his scholarly background and administrative experience will advance the quality and mission of the College of Arts and Sciences."

Bolla said, "I want to come to the university and work with the chair people and faculty on their plans. I do have some ideas of my own, such as supporting undergraduate research, scholarship and working with faculty to make sure they have the resources needed to reach goals they've set."

Dr. Bolla earned his doctorate and master's degrees in zoology from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 1970 and 1967, respectively. His bachelor's degree in biology was conferred in 1965 from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo.

His professional organization affiliations include the Society of Nematologists, the Federation of Societies for Parasitology, the American Aging Association, the Association for the Study of Higher Education and the Regional Chamber of Commerce Growth Association.