Poole named director of School of Architecture + Design

By Sarah Newhill

Scott Poole, professor of architecture in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, has been named director of the college’s new School of Architecture + Design. The foundation, professional, and graduate architecture programs, as well as industrial and interior design, comprise the five academic areas in the school.

The establishment of the new school will strengthen the presence of the professional and design disciplines at Virginia Tech and will result in a more comprehensive education, providing funds for base budgets, enrollment growth, and selected research projects.

Poole was the Gillmor visiting lecturer at the University of Calgary in 2000. He has organized several symposia including the Permanence and Presence symposia in 1996 and 1998, and has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, and the American-Scandinavian Foundation.

He is the recipient of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies’ Teaching Excellence Award for 2002. In 2003 he served as co-chair of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture International Conference held in Helsinki, Finland, and also served as discussion moderator of the final discussion at the 9th Alvar Aalto Symposium in Jyvaskyla, Finland.

Poole has a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Texas.

Tech-led group receives third international biodiversity grant

By Susan Trudowe

Ten years ago, a Virginia Tech-led team of chemists, conservationists, and botanists began work in Suriname to discover new drugs and to give the country reasons to preserve the biodiversity of its forests.

Five years later, in 1998, they were screening two potential anticancer compounds, had discovered five rare plants, and had saved some of the country’s tropical forest from wood harvesting. They also expanded their research to Madagascar and have discovered four additional potential anticancer compounds.

Now the International Cooperative Biodiversity Group (ICBG), led by David G.J. Kingston, university distinguished professor of chemistry, has received a third five-year grant.

A consortium of federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, announced 12 ICBG programs (www.nh.gov/newapril/dec-2003/fic-16.htm), which will total approximately $5 million per year over the next five years. The Fogarty International Center, which led development of the program in 1993, administers and supports the program with co-sponsors.

The university’s partners in the third ICBG include the Missouri Botanical Garden, Conservation International, the Madagascar National Centers for Pharmaceutical Research, for Environmental Research, and for Oceanographic Research, the Essai Pharmaceutical Research Institute, and Dow AgroSciences. In addition to tropical plants, the researchers will study marine organisms and microorganisms in Madagascar.

“We’ve narrowed our scope geographically but broadened it scientifically,” Kingston said.

Kingston said the four potential anticancer compounds, which were discovered by Virginia Tech graduate student Brent Yoder of Fort Wayne, Ind., from a Madagascan plant, are “potent” and “appear relatively easy to synthesize.” They have been sent to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) for further testing. Virginia Tech research scientist Shuang Cao and chemistry graduate students Russell Williams of Dibble, Ok., and Eba Adou of Cote d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast), in Kingston’s group, have also submitted several compounds isolated from Suriname plants to the NCI, which will evaluate them in a 60-cell line panel. “If they find interesting patterns of activity, we will seek to synthesize analogs,” Kingston said.

Meanwhile, the Missouri Botanical Garden has surveyed plants in the Zahahema National Park and created a guide to the ferns and is creating a guide to the woody plants. “This will attract a certain kind of tourist, and a subsequent director of undergraduate admissions at the university, effective January 19. She fills the position left vacant in December with the resignation of Karen Torgersen.

“We are pleased that Dr. Minish has agreed to accept this interim appointment. Her background and experience with the university make her the ideal person to head undergraduate admissions until we are able to fill the position on a permanent basis,” said David R. Ford, vice provost for academic programs, in making the announcement.

Minish named interim head of admissions

By Clara B. Cox

Robert M. Minish, associate dean emeritus of the former College of Human Sciences and Education, has been named interim director of undergraduate admissions at the university, effective January 19. She fills the position left vacant in December with the resignation of Karen Torgersen.

“We are pleased that Dr. Minish has agreed to accept this interim appointment. Her background and experience with the university make her the ideal person to head undergraduate admissions until we are able to fill the position on a permanent basis,” said David R. Ford, vice provost for academic programs, in making the announcement.

Searches for two deans have begun

By Clara B. Cox

The university has organized two search committees that have begun national and international searches for a dean for the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRVC) and a dean for the College of Natural Resources.

New deans will replace Peter Eyre, who served as dean of veterinary medicine and resigned in October, 2003 for health reasons, and Gregory N. Brown, founding dean of natural resources, who announced recently that he will retire at the end of June, 2004.

Provost Mark McNamee has named James Bohland, executive director of Virginia Tech-Northern Virginia Operations and senior fellow for Biomedical and Health Projects, to chair the search committee for the veterinary medicine dean and Sharron Quisenberry, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, to head the search committee for the natural resources dean.

Applicants for the dean of veterinary medicine should have earned a doctor of veterinary medicine or equivalent plus an advanced degree and/or board certification and a distinguished record of scholarly activity that would qualify for appointment at the rank of professor as well as demonstrated successful leadership in clinical medical education. It is preferred that they have the ability to enhance existing programs and have demonstrated administrative experience.

Applicants for the dean of natural resources should have earned a doctorate and have a distinguished record of scholarly activity that would qualify for appointment at the rank of professor, and it is preferred that...
Black History Month marks 50th anniversary of Brown decision

Two distinguished African American women—a writer, educator, and rapper Sister Souljah and Belle S. Whelan, Virginia’s secretary of education—will deliver keynote addresses during the university’s observance of Black History Month.

This year’s theme is “Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education,” the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision that outlawed “separate but equal” educational facilities. Numerous events will be held beginning January 19 and will run through February 28.

Souljah will speak on “The Tradition of Racism in America” on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. in Squires Colonnial Hall. A reception will precede Souljah’s presentation at 6 p.m., and she will sign copies of her book, Community Activist, immediately following her lecture. The reception and book signing will be held in the Black Cultural Center, 126 Squire Student Center.

Whelan will present “Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas” on Friday, Feb. 13 at 5 p.m. at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center auditorium. A reception will follow at 6 p.m. in the East Dining Room at Donaldson Brown.

Both lectures and related events are free and open to the public.

Souljah is the executive director of Daddy’s House Social Programs Inc., a for-profit corporation for urban youth financed by a concert by the Grammy Award-winning ensemble, Sweet Honey in the Rock, on Monday, Feb. 16 at 8 p.m. in Burruss Hall auditorium. Call the Women’s Center at 1-7806 for more information.

Other events include films, discussions featuring people who lived through the post-Brown v. Board integration of schools, theatre, a book discussion, and more.

Black History Month is coordinated by the Student Life and Advocacy Office in the Division of Student Affairs. For more information, contact Rosa Jones 1-6023 or go to the web site http://www.mcp.vt.edu/calendars/bhm2004.shtml.

Giovanni nominated for Spoken Word GRAMMY

By Jean Elliott

Nikki Giovanni, a university distinguished professor of English in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, has been nominated for a Spoken Word GRAMMY.

The self-narrated CD is titled “The Nikki Giovanni Poetry Collection” and is recorded by Caedmon. The 46th GRAMMY Awards will be held Sunday, Feb. 8, at Staples Center in Los Angeles and will again be broadcast in High Definition TV and 5.1 Surround Sound on CBS from 8 to 11:30 p.m.

A GRAMMY is awarded by the Recording Academy’s voting membership to honor excellence in the recording arts and sciences. It is awarded by and to artists and technical professionals for artistic or technical achievement, not sales or chart positions. The annual GRAMMY Awards presentation brings together thousands of creative and technical professionals in the recording industry from all over the world.

Giovanni was “surprised and thrilled” with the nomination. While this is her first GRAMMY nomination, Giovanni is no stranger to record industry accolades. Her first recorded piece, titled “Truth Is On Its Way,” was a gold album.

A review of Giovanni’s work from audiofilemagazine.com, said, “Nikki Giovanni blends the personal with the political in this engaging collection of poems written over 40 years, from the 1960s through 2002. They are poems that make one laugh and make one think.”

Giovanni’s poems emerged during the civil-rights, black-power and black-arts movements in the 1960s and she immediately took a place among the most celebrated and influential poets of the era.

Giovanni’s awards include Woman of the Year for Ethnicity, Mademoiselle, Essence, and Ladies Home Journal magazines; Outstanding Humanitarian Award; The House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Kentucky; two Tennessee Governor’s Award in the Arts and in the Humanities; the Virginia Governor’s Award; and three NAACP Image Awards for “Love Poems; Blues: For All the Changes”; and “Quilting the Black-Eyed PEA.”

Black History Month events

Black History Month Event, 3 to 4 p.m., DBHCC conference room A.

Black History Month Event, 5 p.m., DBHCC auditorium; reception, 6 p.m., DBHCC East Dining Room.

Friday, 23

MSE, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: Todd G. Wetzel, GE Global Research Center.

Friday, 30

Geosciences, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Allen Shapiro, U.S.G.S.

MSE, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: Feiming Bai, Todd Heil.

Friday, 6

Geosciences, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Steve May, ExxonMobil.

MSE, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: Louis Guido.

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Final candidates named for VP for research position; visits under way

NIH scientific peer-review rules change

Effective February 4, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is revising NIH scientific peer-review rules change the regulations governing scientific peer review of research-grant applications and research-and-development contract projects and project proposals to clarify the review criteria, revise the conflict-of-interest requirements to reflect the fact that members of Scientific Review Groups do not become federal employees by reason of that membership, and make other necessary updates to the regulations. According to Jeffrey Brainard in an article in the Chronicle of Higher Education (“NIH Calls for Removal of Some Peer Reviewers to Avoid Conflicts of Interest,” Jan. 6, 2004 on line), “Scientists who review grant proposals submitted to the National Institutes of Health will be disqualified if they have financial interests in the research totaling more than $10,000, the agency announced on Monday. However, the NIH’s director may still allow the scientists to participate in reviews if they are deemed to have unique expertise. The regulations also require recusal when there are nonfinancial conflicts of interest, in some cases.” The regulations are available at http://a257.g.akamai.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.spo.gov/200403-32190.htm.

For more information, contact Jerry Moore, NIH Regulations Officer, Office of Management Assessment, NIH, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Room 601, MSC 7669, Rockville, MD 20852; telephone 301-496-4607.

Spectrum, a faculty-staff tabloid, is published bi-weekly on campus to inform the exception of certain holidays, exam weeks, and the summer. Copy deadlines is noon Friday. No advertising is accepted. Spectrum is a non-profit publication of the Office of University Relations: Lawrence G. Hincker, associate vice president for University Relations; Mark Ozczenko, director of news and information.

EMPLOYMENT

INSTRUCTIONAL

Entomology. Assistant/Associate Professor. Insect Bioinformatics. Landscape Architecture Department. Assistant Professor. VMRCVM. Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. Assistant Professor of Large Animal Surgery. Animal/Poultry Sciences. Assistant Professor. Equine Nutrition. Via Department of Civil/Environmental Engineering. Assistant, Associate or Full Professor.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Alumni Relations. Assistant Director of Alumni Relations.

University Development. Assistant Director of Development for Veterinary Community.

CAMPUS UPDATE

FRIDAY, January 23, 2004

By Clara B. Cox

Three final candidates have been named in the search for a vice president for research, and the university has scheduled interviews and open forums for each candidate to speak on the topic “Expanding Opportunities for Research and Scholarship at Virginia Tech.”

Finalists for the position are Raymond E. Bye Jr., director for federal regulations and economic development at Florida State University; Linda Dykstra, dean of the Graduate School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the William Rand Kenan Jr. professor in the Departments of Psychology and Pharmacology; and Bradley Fenwick, chief science advisor for the Competitive Programs Office at the U. S. Department of Agriculture and professor of infectious-disease pathology at Kansas State University.

Interviews and the forum presentation with Dykstra were held January 18 through 20. Bye’s interview will held January 25 through 28, with his forum presentation on January 27. Fenwick will be interviewed February 8 through 11 and will make his presentation on February 10. Each open forum will be held from 3-4 p.m. in the Fralin Biotechnology auditorium.

“I encourage everyone in the university community to attend the open forums. This is a very important position, especially as we work toward our goal of becoming one of the country’s leading research institutions, and we would value input from the faculty, staff, and students on the different candidates as we go through the interview process,” Provost Mark G. McNamee said.

Dean of U.N.C.’s Graduate School since 1996, Dykstra is responsible for 85 academic programs and approximately 7,000 graduate students. In that position, she has developed a comprehensive strategy to increase support for graduate teaching and research assistants, obtained external funding for a bridge program between U.N.C. and two historically black universities in the state, introduced new opportunities for graduate student professional training, promoted interdisciplinary programs throughout campus, and raised sufficient private funds to add more than 200 new interdisciplinary graduate fellowships in the past seven years.

She received her Ph.D. in psychopharmacology and an M.A. in English from the University of Chicago and a B.A. in psychology from Hope College in Holland, Mich.

Beginning in 1972, Bye served more than 20 years with the National Science Foundation (NSF), where he spent 12 years as director of the Office of Legislative and Public Affairs, before joining the staff at Florida State University in 1994 as associate vice president for research.

In 1999 he was named interim vice president for research, and in 2000, following a national search, he was named vice president for research. In that position, he was responsible for sponsored research administration, technology transfer activities, the NSF Research Foundation, research regulatory issues, research communications programs, and several interdisciplinary programs. He also served as FSU’s primary official in Washington, D.C., representing the university with research and development agencies, federal departments, and the Florida Congressional delegation and Congressional committees. Bye set a goal of doubling FSU’s research awards, and the university moved from $88 million in FY1998 to $162 million at the close of FY2003.

He holds a Ph.D. and M.A. from Kent State University and a B.A. from Rhodes College, all in political science.

As chief science advisor, Fenwick provides strategic planning and leadership for the National Research Initiative (NRI) and other integrated and educational competitive programs, which span more than 25 scientific disciplines within eight major subject areas in the biological, environmental, physical, and social sciences. He also is the principal communicator for the Competitive Programs and the NRI.

Since 1988, Fenwick has been a faculty member in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State. Board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists, he is an expert on infectious diseases, holds three patents, and has received more than $7 million in competitive research funding. He has served in a number of capacities at the university: associate dean, assistant department head, president of the faculty, several directorships, and chair of numerous university and college committees.

After earning his D.V.M. and master’s degrees from Kansas State University, he completed a residency in anatomic pathology and received a Ph.D. in comparative pathology from the University of California.

MEDICAL SCREENING AVAILABLE

This March and July, university employees and their adult family members are eligible to participate in CommonHealth medium screening. The purpose of the medical screening is to identify potential lifestyle-related health risks before they become a problem. All information is confidential to the participant.

Employees are allowed to complete the lifestyle questionnaire and attend the 30-minute appointment without the use of any type of leave. There will be a variety of days and times scheduled for participation to prevent disruption of departmental operations.

A promotional brochure with instructions on how to participate will be mailed to all faculty and staff members.

For information on all faculty listings, go to www.jobs.vt.edu.

FRIDAY, January 23, 2004
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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For Virginia Tech, Warner’s budget provides $4.8 million in General Funds for the two years, to address base-budget adequacy, operation and maintenance of new facilities, and one time funds for research and high-speed networking. For the Cooperative Extension/Agricultural Experiment Station Division, the bill provides $1.3 million for the biennium for research in support of the governor’s initiative to double agricultural receipts by 2010.

Warner’s budget also includes $8 million per year for equipment through the Equipment Trust Fund, restoring this line item to its former amount. Maintenance-reserve funding was also increased to $6.5, and an additional $3.65 million is provided for boiler pollution controls. In addition, $14 million is provided for the new Critical Technologies Research Facility; this appropriation is contingent on approval of the governor’s tax-reform package.

In other matters, Virginia Tech, the University of Virginia, and the College of William & Mary have made a proposal that each institution’s board of visitors and president be given increased management authority for the operations of the institutions, including business practices and the ability to set tuition levels consistent with peer institutions around the nation.

If the governor and General Assembly approve the proposal, the three universities will begin extensive legislative and administrative reviews to create individual plans for becoming Commonwealth Chartered Universities. Under this proposed legislation, the universities would negotiate new relationships with the state in a variety of management areas. While gaining increased flexibility and ability to marshal resources, the universities would remain public institutions with boards of visitors appointed by the governor, confirmed by the General Assembly, and accountable to the state. This proposal would apply to other state universities that meet the statutory criteria.

For more information on the General Assembly session, contact Ralph Byers, director of government relations (byers@vt.edu), or Laura Fornash, state legislative liaison (fornash@vt.edu).

**SEARCHES**

Continued from 1

they have a record of effective leadership in higher education.

Applicants for both positions should have demonstrated communication and interpersonal skills, the ability to work effectively in collaboration with many constituents, and experience in leading and managing major research programs. The university prefers that applicants for both positions have demonstrated commitment to the land-grant and university tripartite mission of instruction, research, and outreach/Extension; the ability to advance the research agenda of the university; a record of accomplishment in all issues of diversity; and successful experience in fund-raising and development activities.

A review of applications for the dean of veterinary medicine begins on February 16, while the review of applications for the dean of natural resources commences on January 23. The review of credentials for each position will continue until the position is filled.

Nominations and inquiries for the deans of veterinary medicine should be sent electronically to Jane Bohlman, search committee chair and senior fellow, c/o reneam@vt.edu. Those for the dean of natural resources should go electronically to Sharron Quisenberry, search committee chair, department of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, c/o reneam@vt.edu.

Members of the search committee for the dean of veterinary medicine include Bobland; Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, associate professor of large animal internal medicine; James T. Curtis III, president of the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association and a third-year veterinary medicine student; Marion F. Ehrich, professor of biomedical sciences and pathology; Martin Furr, associate professor of molecular virology; Beverly Purswell, professor of theriogenology; Peter K. Shires, professor of surgery; Carolyn Sink, supervisor of clinical laboratory services; Phil Spohnberg, professor of pathology and genetics; and Greg Troy, department head, small animal clinical sciences. Members of the committee are Perry Crowl, past president of the Maryland Veterinary Association; Steve Escobar, president-elect of the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association; James E. Montgomery, 90, of Blacksburg, Virginia; Mark Finkler, member of the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association; Siba Samal, associate dean of VMRCVM at the University of Maryland; and William D. Tyrell Jr., Tech alumni and veterinary cardiologist in Vienna, Va.

Members of the search committee for the dean of natural resources are Quisenberry; Arlice Banks, executive secretary, College of Natural Resources; Hannibal Bolton, chief, Division of Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Harold Burkhart, university distinguished professor and head of the Department of Forestry; Jim Crowl, professor of land use and geography; Carolyn Copenhaver, assistant professor of forestry; John Galbraith, assistant professor of crop and soil environmental sciences; Eric W. Lipton, professor of fisheries and wildlife sciences; Fred Kamke, a professor at the Brooks Forest Products Center; Richard C. Rich, professor of political science, government, and international affairs; and interim director of the Center for Environmental and Energy Studies; Stephen A. Smith, professor of biomedical sciences and pathology; and Jan van Andel, D.D.S., candidate in Virginia.

David R. Ford, vice provost for academic affairs, is providing support services to both search committees.

**MINISH**

Continued from 1

Minish, who began working at Virginia Tech in 1977, served as associate dean for 17 years before her retirement in 2000. She was responsible for outreach programs, industry advisory boards, alumni activities, recruitment and scholarships, placement and career fairs, and the development of outreach and recruitment publications and promotional materials. She also served as interim head of the Department of Clothing and Textiles.

From 1981 to 1983, she was assistant dean of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. Before that, she served for three years as assistant to the dean of the Extension Division and one year as associate director of the Donaldson Brown Center for Continuing Education, where she provided non-credit program-planning leadership for two colleges.