

# THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

*In the Mind's Eye*

## NIH, Howard Collaborate on Architectural Problems

By Constance Burr

"Our aim is intelligent architecture," Professor Joseph Taylor said, as his third-year architecture students defended their designs for the proposed National Neuroscience Research Center. Taylor, professor of architecture at Howard University and health care building specialist, directs students in the NIH and Howard University Architectural Academic Collaboration Program, established to improve minority representation in the field. The volunteer program he oversees with architect Kristy Long of NIH's Division of Engineering Services, ORS, offers students experience and resources as they work on a real project with client-based requirements, then enter their plans in a juried competition. They receive critiques by NIH architects, engineers and scientists at a series of presentation "pinups," awards for

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## African American History Program Set, Feb. 24 in Masur Auditorium

The NIH will celebrate African American History Month at noon on Thursday, Feb. 24 in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. The event's theme is,

"Continuing the Journey: Biomedical Research and Education." Dr. Louis Sullivan, president of Morehouse School of Medicine and



Dr. Louis Sullivan

former U.S. secretary of health and human

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## HIGHLIGHTS

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Ex-Postdoc Returns With Art Show

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**5** Tax Preparation Workshops Set

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health

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## Astronauts Show Movies of Mission, Delight NIH Audience

By Suzanne Lewis

What's a kid's idea of a fun thing to do on a school night? Perhaps play computer games or watch television? How about talking with real-live astronauts about what it's



Some children came prepared with a list of questions to ask the astronauts about their mission.

like to go into space? That's how hundreds of kids, including patients from the Clinical Center and the Children's Inn, spent the evening of Jan. 27 at the Natcher Conference Center. The event was jointly sponsored by the National Institute on Aging, the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, and NASA.

More than 800 people—kids from 2 years old to adults in their 70's—enjoyed an evening

SEE NASA MOVIES, PAGE 4

*If Not by Science, then by Art*

## Creativity Brings Former Postdoc Back to NIH

By Rich McManus

There was a time when the "glass ceiling" perceived by professional women in science was more like concrete than anything see-through; as lavish as the talk was about feminism in the early seventies, only a handful of women made it to the top. Dr. Josephine Simonds, who was already a late bloomer—having obtained her Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Maryland at age 50—realized what the score was after 6 years as a postdoctoral trainee at the National Cancer Institute. So she did the same thing she did when, earlier in her life, her artistic talent was discouraged by a nasty high school teacher: She found a way to thrive anyway.



Former NCI postdoc Dr. Josephine Simonds is happy both about her NIH art show and the start of baseball's spring training.

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## BLACK HISTORY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

services, will deliver the keynote address.

A panel discussion on the past, present and future roles of African Americans in biomedical research will follow. Panelists include Dr. Lafayette Frederick of Howard University, Dr. Alfred Johnson of NCI, Dr. Patrice Desvigne-Nickens of NHLBI and Nia Banks of Johns Hopkins University.

The program will be dedicated to the late Dr. Geraldine Pittman Woods, a member of the NIGMS advisory council from 1964 to 1968. Recommended for the appointment by Vice President Hubert Humphrey, Woods was instrumental in supporting the consideration of historically Black colleges and universities, as well as other predominantly minority institutions, for NIH research and training programs. Her efforts led to the development of NIH minority research, training and infrastructure programs that serve as models for other federal and private agencies.

For more information or to request reasonable accommodation, call Kay Johnson Graham, 496-3403. ■



Dr. Geraldine Woods

### Grants Available for Science History Studies

The John J. Pisano Travel Grants are administered through the DeWitt Stetten, Jr., Museum of Medical Research at NIH for the purpose of encouraging historical research relating to the NIH intramural programs. One or two grants each year are expected to be available at the level of \$1,500 for United States residents and \$2,000 for recipients who reside outside the U.S.

Information about the application process and descriptions of funded projects are posted on the museum's web site at <http://www.nih.gov/od/museum/grants/pisano/>. Applications for an award during the 2000-2001 academic year must be received in the NIH Historical Office by 5 p.m. on Mar. 31, 2000. ■

### Hypertension Study Needs Vols

The Cardiology Branch, NHLBI, is recruiting patients with high blood pressure for a 3-day outpatient study. Volunteers should not have any other medical problems and should not have a cholesterol higher than 200 mg/dL. Participants will be paid. Call 496-8739. ■

Dr. Mark Boguski, a senior investigator in the Computational Biology Branch of NLM's National Center for Biotechnology Information and an intramural researcher at NIH for 12 years, has agreed to join Science magazine's board of reviewing editors. Editor-in-chief Dr. Floyd Bloom said Boguski is not only widely respected in his own field but also has the breadth to evaluate science outside his own area. "The outside world looks to this blue ribbon group for their competence and fairness," he said. Boguski's 1-year term began in January, and is renewable by mutual consent for 4 years. He has written and lectured extensively on bioinformatics and genomics, and developed the first publicly available database system for expression array data. His current research interests include the analysis of data from large-scale expression studies and pharmacogenomics. He is an organizer of the Cold Spring Harbor Symposium on Genome Sequencing and Biology and has served on grant review and advisory panels for a number of government and private funding agencies and as a consultant to industry. Boguski holds an adjunct faculty position in the department of molecular biology and genetics at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and is a former editor of the journal Genome Research.



### Time To Plan Your Garden

Spring will be here soon, so it's not too early to start making landscaping plans. The NIH Garden Club will host Evan Hughes, master gardener, who will speak on the "Do's and Don'ts of Landscape Design," on Thursday, Feb. 24 at noon in Bldg. 31, Rm. 9A51. All are welcome.

## NIH RECORD

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## Obesity Gene Controls Bone Density Via Brain Pathway

By Wayne Little

The obesity gene, which helps maintain body weight and fertility, also plays a key role in controlling bone density, according to a report in the Jan. 21 issue of *Cell*. Leptin, the hormone product of the obesity gene, acts as a natural bone inhibitor by telling the brain to slow down the rate of bone formation. The *Cell* study is the first to show that the brain has a central role in controlling bone formation and density. Bone researchers are excited about this finding as it reveals a novel pathway that perhaps can be manipulated in ways to increase bone density and treat or even prevent osteoporosis.

An international team of investigators, led by Dr. Gerard Karsenty of Baylor College of Medicine, with NIH support, discovered the link between leptin, the brain and bone density.

"This is a very significant finding because it identifies an entirely new avenue for targeting osteoporosis therapies," said Karsenty. "Bone mass is essentially the product of a balancing act between cells that form new bone and other cells that digest old bone. Osteoporosis results from an imbalance in this equilibrium—specifically, an increase in bone resorption. Current therapies are aimed at slowing down resorption, but little is known about the formation side of maintaining bone mass. Identification of the leptin pathway, where the brain acts as the central component in building bone mass, opens a new realm of treatment approaches."

The link between leptin, the brain and bone formation is another chapter in the story of this recently discovered hormone. It is known that leptin, which is produced by fat cells, acts on a region of the brain called the hypothalamus to help reduce body fat and maintain fertility. Karsenty and his colleagues unraveled the leptin-brain-bone connection by studying two groups of genetically obese mice.

One group of mutant animals was unable to make leptin; the other group could make leptin, but was unable to make the leptin receptor normally present in the hypothalamus. Both strains of mice were obese, but were also observed by x-ray analysis to have unusually dense bones. Further experiments confirmed that the leptin pathway had to be intact (both leptin and its brain receptor present) for bone formation to proceed at a normal rate. If the circuit is broken, by the absence of either leptin or its receptor, the brain directs bone-forming cells to become more active and make more bone.

The bones formed by leptin-deficient mice appear normal in terms of length and thickness, but the honeycombed interior is unusually dense, made up of thick, bony walls that surround areas of marrow.

Not only are the bones dense, they are also as strong and flexible as normal bone. The situation is the reverse of what occurs in osteoporosis, where the honeycombed bone becomes thin and weak.

While the absence of a functioning leptin circuit may be beneficial for building dense bone, the animals suffer the adverse effects of obesity and infertility. However, there is some encouraging evidence that leptin may use a separate pathway to control bone mass. Mice that produced half the normal amount of leptin were of normal weight, but also had dense bones. Yet another strain of mouse that was unable to produce either fat or leptin, nonetheless had very dense bones.

"It may be possible to manipulate the leptin pathway in a way that increases bone mass, but avoids the adverse effects on weight and fertility," said Karsenty.

The study was supported by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases and the National Cancer Institute. ■

*Dr. Loretta Finnegan, medical advisor to the director, Office of Research on Women's Health, recently was the keynote speaker and received the first Paolo Picchio Award at the Third National Conference on Methadone Maintenance and other Substitution Therapies held in*



*Pietrasanta, Italy. Finnegan spoke on the topic of "Drug Dependence in Women with Special Emphasis on Childbearing Women." The award was named after Paolo Picchio, who the city of Pietrasanta honored since he was the first drug addicted individual who came, in the 1970's, to this 14th century walled city from Genoa to seek help for his addiction. The scroll accompanying the award stated, "Paolo Picchio taught us everything we needed to know about drug addicted individuals... We have never expected to eliminate drugs altogether, however, if we are to help people to live better, if our community has learned to face and live with this problem and if it is true that our approach is a valid one, we owe a great deal to Paolo Picchio." The award called Finnegan "an extraordinary researcher over the past several decades, with tremendous compassion for addicted individuals, and who has always been willing to share her knowledge with Italian scientists and clinicians."*

## High Cholesterol Study Recruits

The Cardiology Branch, NHLBI, is recruiting patients with high cholesterol levels (250 mg or higher) who have no other medical problems to be included in a 3-day outpatient study. Participants will be paid. Call 496-8739.

## NASA MOVIES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with four astronauts from the NASA STS-95 Space Shuttle Discovery. The 9-day mission began on Oct. 28, 1998. The astronauts who came to NIH included Pilot Steve Lindsey, Mission Specialist Stephen K. Robinson, Payload Specialist Chiaki Mukai and Payload Specialist John H. Glenn, Jr., former U.S. senator. The other three astronauts who were part of the crew were unable to attend.

In opening remarks, NIA director Dr. Richard Hodes welcomed the NIH community and NASA representatives. "The presence of the astronauts from the STS-95 mission on the NIH campus is symbolic of the collaboration between NIH and NASA, and our joint interest in science to improve the welfare of the human condition," he said. He introduced the astronauts, who took turns narrating a 15-minute movie of their flight. With a videocamera on board, the astronauts documented their experiences throughout the mission, resulting in a "home movie" that gave the audience a feel for what it's like to travel in a space shuttle.

Lindsey, who has participated in two space missions during his 4 years with NASA, described the rigorous preparations and baseline testing the astronauts endured months before the flight.

He said that the shuttle blast-off required 7.5 million pounds of thrust, and within 1 minute off the ground reached a

speed of 200 mph. By 20,000 ft. above the ground, the shuttle reached Mach 1, or the speed of sound. At 150,000 ft. above Earth, and just 2 minutes into the flight, the shuttle was traveling at 16,000 mph, and released the solid rocket boosters. The boosters fell into the ocean, where NASA retrieved them for use on other missions. Within 8½ minutes after blast-off, the space shuttle was in orbit, and according to the astronauts, the view of the Earth, in shades of blue and white, was breathtaking. "Seeing the beautiful Earth made me very proud to be part of it," said Mukai.

Robinson said he coordinated 83 different experiments during the mission. "Each day we followed a flight plan of experiments and procedures," he reported. "The experiments were performed in the payload bay, our onboard laboratory."

He said the astronauts lived in the nose of Discovery. The astronauts used 20 onboard computers for mission work, and emailed their families back on Earth.

Glenn worked as a "living laboratory." He participated in 10 experiments studying microgravity and age-associated problems. During most of the mission, he was hooked up to monitors

that measured 21 different body parameters. He also swallowed a capsule containing a radio transmitter and temperature sensor. Lindsey noted that Glenn returned to space "after a 36-year absence." In 1962, Glenn was the first American to orbit the Earth in a tiny space capsule that splashed into the ocean upon his return. The senator remarked that the STS-95 shuttle landing on a runway was a different experience altogether.

Mukai, a cardiovascular surgeon and the only woman in the crew, became the first Japanese woman to fly in space in 1994. She is a National Space Development Agency of Japan astronaut, and a visiting

scientist at NASA, who conducted many experiments onboard Discovery.

The presentation was followed by a question and answer period. Very young future astronauts in the audience asked questions about how the shuttle works; how to become an astronaut; and what astronauts did for fun. Glenn mesmerized the audience when he explained how he drew water, contained in a plastic bag, through a straw and then removed the straw from the bag. He blew the water out of the straw and it formed a round ball at the end of the straw. When the ball of water was disconnected from the straw, the surface tension of the water kept it together as it was suspended in front of him. To add some pizzazz, he took some grape juice and blew it from a straw into the ball of water, creating a purple ball. As it floated in front of him in the capsule, he opened his mouth and slurped. In a couple of swallows, it was gone. The audience laughed and clapped with approval.

Lindsey said that during the return to Earth, while flying over Baja, Calif., the shuttle speed reached Mach 24. He said the shuttle descended at 20 degrees, which is much steeper than the 3 to 4 degree descent of a commercial aircraft. As the shuttle glided at 2,000 ft. above the ground, the pilot pulled the nose up, and at 300 ft., the landing gear dropped, just a few seconds before touchdown.

Following the program, the children in the audience received mementos from NASA: their choice of a bookmark that contained a piece of the shuttle lining, a photo of the crew, or an STS-95 patch. ■

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON



Four of the seven STS-95 Space Shuttle Discovery Mission crew talked about their 9-day mission, which began on Oct. 28, 1998. They are (from l): Payload Specialist Chiaki Mukai, Mission Specialist Stephen K. Robinson, Payload Specialist John H. Glenn, Jr., and Pilot Steve Lindsey; NIA director Dr. Richard Hodes (far r) welcomed the astronauts to NIH.



Former Sen. John H. Glenn, Jr., described some of the aging studies in which he participated.

## Fogarty Center Offers Tax Preparation Workshops

The Fogarty International Center announces Tax Preparation Workshops for the tax year 1999. The purpose of the workshops is to assist foreign participants in the NIH Visiting Program in completing federal and state tax forms. The workshops will be approximately 3 hours in length.

Prior to attending the workshop, participants should obtain and bring with them (if possible) copies of their W-2, 1042S, and/or 1099 forms. The schedule is as follows:

Date	Time	Location	Who Should Attend
Mar. 6	10 a.m.	Bldg. 1/Wilson Hall	Visiting Fellows*
Mar. 6	1:30 p.m.	Bldg. 1/Wilson Hall	All other categories
Mar. 13	10 a.m.	Bldg. 1/Wilson Hall	Visiting Fellows*
Mar. 13	1:30 p.m.	Bldg. 1/Wilson Hall	All other categories
Mar. 20	10 a.m.	Bldg. 31/Rm. 6C10	Visiting Fellows*
Mar. 20	1:30 p.m.	Bldg. 31/Rm. 6C10	All other categories
Mar. 27	10 a.m.	Bldg. 31/Rm. 6C10	Visiting Fellows*
Mar. 27	1:30 p.m.	Bldg. 31/Rm. 6C10	All other categories
Apr. 3	10 a.m.	Bldg. 1/Wilson Hall	Visiting Fellows*
Apr. 3	1:30 p.m.	Bldg. 1/Wilson Hall	All other categories
Apr. 10	10 a.m.	Bldg. 1/Wilson Hall	Visiting Fellows*
Apr. 10	1:30 p.m.	Bldg. 1/Wilson Hall	All other categories

\* includes fully-funded Visiting Fellows, Supplemental Visiting Fellows, and Pre-Doctoral Visiting Fellows



*Dr. Nancy Hicks recently joined the Center for Scientific Review as a scientific review administrator in the social sciences, nursing, epidemiology, and methods integrated review group. She served some 12 years as a commissioned officer in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, assigned as an epidemiologist to the Centers for Disease Control, the Oak Ridge Associated Universities and the Food and Drug Administration. In 1990, she was an environmental consultant in epidemiology to the WHO, where she provided scientific expertise to the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia and Kenya. Hicks has specialized in studies of the health effects of ionizing radiation, elemental mercury and beryllium as well as on epidemiological and statistical methods, and has published extensively.*



NIGMS director Dr. Marvin Cassman (c) recently welcomed four new members to the National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council. They are (from l): Dr. Richard M. Weinshilboum, professor of pharmacology and medicine at the Mayo Medical School, whose research interests center on pharmacogenetics; Dr. Jay C. Dunlap, chair of the newly created department of genetics at Dartmouth Medical School, whose research interests include the molecular mechanisms of biological clocks; Dr. D. Amy Trainor, global product director, CNS (central nervous system), at AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, where she leads the development of new drugs for the treatment of neurodegenerative and psychiatric disorders; and Dr. John N. Abelson, George Beadle professor of biology at the California Institute of Technology, whose research focuses on the mechanism of RNA splicing.

## 'Nano' Symposium Calls for Abstracts

A symposium titled "Nanoscience and Nanotechnology: Shaping Biomedical Research," will be held June 25-26 at NIH, sponsored by the bioengineering consortium. Chaired by Lynn Jelinski of Louisiana State University and Richard Zare of Stanford University, it is designed to foster scientific interchange among the nanoscience, nanotechnology and biomedical research communities. It will include plenary talks, poster sessions and panels. For more information, visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/becon/symposium2000.htm>. 

## Long, Short Sleepers Needed

To complete a sleep study, NIMH is looking for male and female volunteers ages 20-35 who routinely sleep 9 hours or more nightly, or who sleep 6 or fewer hours nightly. Volunteers must have no sleep disturbances or insomnia, plus no history of mental illness. Volunteers must be in good general health and not taking any medications or birth control pills. The study requires living on the research unit for 4 consecutive days. Compensation is available. For more information call 496-5831. 

SIMONDS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Simonds returns to NIH Mar. 1 to May 3 with an art show in the Clinical Center's Gallery II, near the admissions desk on the first floor. Her themes are as diverse as her interests—orchids and baseball. Beauty and competition. Timelessness and the power of the moment.

"Can you believe that they didn't sign Sele?" she cries astonishedly during a pre-show visit to NIH, at which she photographs the gallery space in order to better place her works. She's talking about the Baltimore Orioles' failure to sign a promising pitcher, and it brings out the kid in her.

Simonds has a theory, one she never tested during 10 years of Ph.D. studies after the last of her four children reached preschool age. It goes like this: "All children are born with creative, artistic talent. It takes a certain kind of teacher to squash it out of them."

Bright, sensitive, and a bit of a perfectionist, Simonds ran afoul of a certain kind of teacher in high school. She had completed a drawing that she felt deserved an A. The art teacher acknowledged as much, but out of sheer orneriness reduced her grade to a B. Simonds continued making art, but the experience discouraged her.

Though born in Washington, D.C., Simonds went to high school away from home, in Danville, Va. She returned to the city to attend George Washington University, where she graduated with a degree in zoology. She then earned a master's degree in marine zoology at Duke University. In the forties, she enrolled at the Corcoran School of Art in D.C., eventually taking private group lessons with local artists.

"I've always been interested in science, which doesn't keep me from painting," she says, explaining how she manages her interests. After getting her master's degree, she married a lawyer and had four children. When the youngest reached school-age, she took a job at the University of Maryland, teaching freshmen how to do laboratory science.

"I went to see the head of the zoology department at Maryland, who had been an instructor at Duke when I was there. He conned me into instructing lab courses for 2 years," she recalls. Another friend in the French department at Maryland advised her that the brightest graduate students on campus seemed to come from the microbiology department, so Simonds began Ph.D. studies there—as the only woman Ph.D. candidate in the department—that would last a decade. For the first time in her life, art fell by the



*Pitcher's wind-up evokes what artist Josephine Simonds calls "the moment of suspension."*

*This is Simonds' favorite painting, titled "Crown of Thorns" It is a type of cactus, whose details are rendered larger than life. It will be on view in the CC Mar. 1-May 3.*



wayside.

Arriving at NCI in 1970 as a staff fellow, Simonds worked in Bldg. 41. "I was working with herpes virus saimiri," she recalls. She had expected that the rhetoric of changing consciousness about women's roles would give birth to opportunities. "Isn't the world," she asks, "just waiting for me with open

arms? No! While I was at NIH from 1970 to 1976, there were no women at grade GS-14 or above. Not many women were well-treated at the Ph.D. level. What you needed to succeed were publications and a good mentor."

Simonds recalls an era of "mostly sob stories about nonsupportive lab chiefs, and no acknowledgment of original work. Your career went right down the toilet if you lodged any official kind of



*Simonds grew her own orchids in a home greenhouse.*

protest. But you could bad-mouth people all you wanted."

Simonds left research because "I should have been writing grant proposals as a staff fellow. The atmosphere was, shall I say, not supportive?"

She spent a year with the Center for Science in the Public Interest, then 3 years with the Environmental Protection Agency under the Older Americans Act. By then the fulfillment offered by art had been calling for some time.

"I was getting back to the arts all during my time at NIH," she says. Once she left EPA, she turned full time to painting, "mostly watercolors, but also

pastel, oil and charcoal, too.”

Orchids became a subject because she grew them in a greenhouse. “It’s nice to have models in the house—it’s very convenient.”

Lately, her muse is baseball. “I love it,” she says. “I fell in love with the Orioles the year they lost their first 21 games. Here they were just gritting their teeth and going at it and working so hard. Cal Ripken was carrying the team—poor Cal, with his batting problems.”

Simonds attended many games at Camden Yards, whose small-park glories emerge in the latest watercolors off her easel.

She and her husband have a ticket plan that allows them to see Sunday games exclusively. “They’re all day games,” she points out, which is essential because she can see better then, and take the photos from which her paintings later develop. She quips, “These guys refuse to pose for me, so I take a camera.”

“I’ll concentrate on runners one time, batters another time—that sort of thing,” she says. “What I love is what I call the moment of suspension. The outfielder may be off the ground, trying to snag the ball, or the pitcher, with that slight pause before he lets go—that’s what I like the most.”

A serious painter since about 1980, Simonds returned to the Corcoran in the early eighties to hone her skills. She tries to spend her mornings painting,

but there is not always the energy. That’s because she rises each day at 4:30 a.m. and “zooms out” to the YMCA in Bethesda to swim a mile, which takes her almost an hour. This expenditure requires some nap time in the afternoon.

“I paint whenever my energy is up enough, and I have the time,” she said. “I’m afraid to paint when I’m tired because I don’t want to do anything sloppy or less than my best.”

At the moment she is excited about a painting of Oriole outfielder B.J. Surhoff. “I’m beginning to really like it. Surhoff is jumping up to catch a ball that’s a real dinger. Ten people in the stands are reaching for it, too, and I really like it. I’ll probably call it ‘The Dinger.’”

Simonds’ baseball pictures are now on view at the Washington Clinic in Friendship Heights. For 20 years, she showed her work at galleries on the Eastern Shore, and lived in Wittman, Md., near St. Michael’s. She fondly recalls outdoor holiday art shows at which boaters would tie up on nearby docks and buy work, including hers. “I sell my work whenever possible,” she grins, noting that all of the works in her upcoming NIH show will be for sale. Including her favorite piece—Crown of Thorns. “Crown of thorns is a very prickly cactus-like plant that has finger-thick branches that twine around snake-like, and that has brilliant red flowers that are small—about dime-size—and sort of in two parts. The painting enlarges the flowers and branches a great deal.”

Painting seems to have enlarged her, too. There is not a trace of bitterness in her work or manner. The paintings are bright, carefully made, and abundant with cheerful good nature. Asked whether she would have preferred a career in art or science, she laughs, “I didn’t have that much choice!”

She still keeps up with science, reading journals weekly. And she is passionate about baseball, openly fretting about the Orioles’ failure, to date, to sign star pitcher Mike Mussina to a contract. Told that her baseball paintings might well attract the interest of feisty Orioles owner Peter Angelos, Simonds shows the toughness that permitted her to suffer along with her favorite team during its 0-21 drought: “I’d probably sell him one, but it wouldn’t be in person. We’d have to arrange it by mail.” Spoken like a true microbiologist/artist/fan. ■



*Simonds is already anxious for the start of spring training.*



*Simonds feels fidelity to detail is more important in baseball paintings than in the orchids.*

*Another “suspended moment” in which Simonds has captured base runners, defenders, and even a vendor of cotton candy.*

## ARCHITECTURE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

best designs, and photos for their portfolios by medical arts photographers. "If my students can tackle this project and master the process, they can do anything," Taylor said.

And master it they did. In only 8 weeks, five 2-person teams each designed a hypothetical lab building of 9,290 square meters to replace Bldg. 35 that includes biomedical and instrument laboratories, vivariums, administrative space and a conference center. Since science and technology change faster than buildings take shape, the teams were charged with planning a flexible space that would address the current needs of scientists while allowing for potential structural and mechanical changes. Located on the west side of campus, the project also had to connect to Bldg 36. Students used NIH design guidelines, observed site constraints such as setback requirements from Old Georgetown Rd., and incorporated an environmental review in their proposals for a functional, safe and aesthetically pleasing structure.

The designs reflect myriad concerns. "Students considered the philosophy of the occupants, as well as building specifications," Long said. "They had to ask if scientists would want closed or open labs and how the building would foster or hamper interaction. They had to weigh the juxtaposition of labs to

offices, understand how a generic lab would be set up, and know where sinks and waste would go, so the mechanical structure would accommodate them. They needed to know that instrument size and type can determine laboratory size, rather than personnel or bench needs; that nuclear magnetic resonance equipment requires enough separation to avoid interface with computers; and that electron microscopes and mass spectrometers must be in isolated, vibration-free areas." Furthermore, the structure had to complement two adjacent buildings and the site—gently rolling topography framed by mature trees, one of the few natural settings on campus.

At pinup sessions during the fall, Howard teams illustrated their ideas with elevations, floor plans, and scale models in white corrugated cardboard for the new concept and brown cardboard for existing buildings. Five different design solutions evolved, some changing dramatically as NIH architects and engineers critiqued them. "Design is like a prescription—the result depends on how good the process is," Taylor explained. The judges grilled students on building support, interstitial space, air supply, drainage, loading docks, elevators, egress, atriums, fenestration and façades. And they queried them on the intangible qualities that make a building an agent in the pursuit of creative scientific discovery: Will it be a

good place to work; will it bring people and ideas together; and is it in the community's best interest?

The proposed facility would house scientists from NIMH, NINDS, and other institutes under one roof. The complex aims to increase research associated with the brain and its translation into therapies for neurological and psychiatric disorders. How then, at this preliminary stage, can architecture students contribute to the initiative? According to Long, "Students give us a fresh eye, or an opportunity to see other possibilities without constraints. When we see ideas we like, we can take them to the architectural firm hired to design the final project. That happened with the neighborhood concept used in Bldg. 50, the first project we did with Howard students in 1994." The NIH day care center was another idea from Howard students that became a reality, Taylor pointed out. He applauded "the students' unbridled creativity," maintaining that "because someone is in private practice doesn't mean they have a lock on creativity."

First-prize winners Tenika Felder and Bertina Calvin created lab modules that face light-filled galleries sheathed in glass, while rust-colored precast concrete panels add warmth to outside walls. "If I didn't go into architecture," said Felder, a Lanham resident, "I would have chosen medical research or biomedical engineering, so working in the NIH environment was a perfect fit." Calvin, from Baton Rouge, has a BA and an MA in business from Howard. She left the insurance business to develop her talents in architecture, "the best decision I ever made," she said. "Learning about the requirements of scientific researchers and designing a neuroscience lab have opened new doors for me."

Second-prize winners Michael Johnson and Edward Vanwright based their plan on visual and structural connections linking buildings, scientists and the community. A wedge-shaped entrance that projects from a curve expresses that concept. "It's a welcoming area that invites people in," Washington native Johnson explained. "The glass and stainless steel exterior reflect elements in the research lab," stated Vanwright, who is from the Bronx. He believes that the best part of the project was the process. "You bounce ideas off each other, you argue, solve problems together, make decisions. That's the way architecture works."

A building may begin in the mind's eye of an architect, but like scientific research, architectural design is research-based and collaborative. Through the NIH-Howard University program, students gain real-world experience that can apply toward a job in the private sector, expert advice and professional contacts. As James H. Johnson, Jr., dean of the Howard architecture school, put it, "We bring students the world through design."

Models and illustrations of the proposed neuroscience laboratory will be on display in Bldg. 36 this spring. ■



*Bertina Calvin explains plan for a hypothetical National Neuroscience Research Center. She and teammate Tenika Felder won first prize in the architecture contest.*

## OD's Bonnie Kalberer Retires

By Margaret Warker

Bonnie Kalberer only intended to work at NIH for 2 years. Now—more than 30 years later—she is retiring. Why did she decide to spend her career at NIH? “It boils down to the people; I’ve worked with and for some wonderful people.”

Her advice to those starting careers at the NIH is to “Work hard, have a good time at what you’re doing, and keep an open mind.” And according to her colleagues, she has followed her own advice. “Professional ...thorough...hard working...a person with sound judgement and initiative ... creative...caring...fun”—that’s how her associates describe Kalberer.



Bonnie Kalberer

She began her NIH career in personnel, serving as personnel officer in NINDS and NIDCR, and later moved into management, science education policy, and program development and implementation.

Carol Storm, now an NIH intern coordinator with the Division of Human Resource Program Support, worked with Kalberer in the 1970’s. Storm says Kalberer helped her and several others convert from support to professional jobs. “Bonnie did a tremendous amount of good. She’s just a bright, smart, capable, caring person. She mentored me. Everyone should have a boss like Bonnie. She always respected and valued my opinions. I never felt like a second class citizen when I worked with her.”

Mimi Blitz, now a human resource consultant with the Division of Senior and Scientific Employment, worked for Kalberer during the same period. She says Kalberer, “was a great mentor and great to work for, giving me independence and freedom to develop and grow, but always being there for consultation and support. Certainly those of us who were privileged to work with her and for her are much better for the experience.”

Kalberer reached a turning point in her career when she served as program director of the NIH Centennial Observance in the mid-1980’s. This role stimulated her interest in building public awareness about NIH and public understanding of science.

She went on to assume increasingly responsible positions, including serving as assistant director for program operations in the NIH Office of Science Policy (OSP), which at various times encompassed the NIH offices for planning, evaluation, legislative analysis, alternative medicine, and technology transfer. She was the first director of the NIH Office

of Science Education (OSE) and was responsible for the development of programs still popular today such as the Mini-Med School and Science in the Cinema.

In 1995, Kalberer did an 18-month assignment at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) where she served as a senior policy analyst, working with public affairs and legislative personnel as well as senior science policy advisors to the President.

Kalberer says she “feels fortunate to have worked with a wide range of people both inside and outside the NIH” and is “an advocate of interagency cooperation and coordination.” Among her achievements while at the White House, Kalberer helped establish the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers to recognize promising beginning investigators across agencies. She worked closely with the National Science and Technology Council and the President’s committee of advisors on science and technology in health care and science education issues.

Since returning to OSP, Kalberer worked first as acting director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Evaluation and, most recently, as a special assistant, developing a strategic plan for OSE. She also continued to work closely with OSTP staff on issues of interest to NIH.

OSE director Dr. Bruce Fuchs says, “Bonnie is a wonderful mentor! She recruited me here from the Medical College of Virginia, taught me a great deal about NIH and science policy at the federal level, and recommended that I be appointed acting director of OSE when she went to the White House. I continue to depend on her for advice and counsel.”

Kalberer earned a bachelor of business administration with a focus in marketing from the University of Hawaii, Honolulu, and a master of public administration from American University.

She is the recipient of numerous accolades, including the Public Health Service Special Recognition Award, the NIH Director’s Award, and the NIDCR EEO Award.

Kalberer and her husband plan to remain in the Bethesda area. She will divide her time among family, consulting and volunteer work at the White House, for the Washington Area Women’s Foundation, and for Westie Rescue. (Kalberer is very attached to her Westie, named Barnaby.)

A world traveler, she hopes to revisit some of her favorite spots—such as Hawaii and Great Britain—and explore new ones. An avid tennis player and former winner of NIH singles championships, she also looks forward to reestablishing her tennis game. ■

### Orioles Season Ticket Sale

The R&W has season tickets that will go on sale Wednesday, Mar. 29 in Bldg. 31, outside the R&W Gift Shop at 8 a.m. They are sold in three different sets for each game.

Terrace boxes are \$44 for two, and \$88 for four. Field boxes are \$58 for two (all prices include a service charge). If you have a particular game in mind, arrive early. You may buy one set of tickets the first time through the line; after 1 p.m. you may come back for additional sets. You must have an R&W card to buy tickets. Opening day is Monday, Apr. 3. R&W is raffling off opening day tickets for \$2 a chance; raffle is for two sets of four tickets; one raffle ticket will be drawn for each set of two tickets. Drawing is on Mar. 31 at 2 p.m.

## Husband and Wife Retire from NIH

Feb. 1 was a special day for Virginia and Bill Holcomb, who both retired from NIH.

Virginia completed 20 years with the Clinical Center's clinical pathology department as a medical technologist. During this time, she worked in the clinical chemistry service, the hematology service, the immunology service laboratories, and most recently the office of the chief, where she had been doing property management and inventory. She served on the department's safety committee for a number of years, conducted presentations at local high schools, and conducted laboratory tours and laboratory recruitment for medical technologists. Over the years, Virginia received many awards for "efforts to provide excellent care and high quality performance." Her most rewarding moments

involved working with computers and learning how versatile they are.

She received a B.S. in biology and a B.S. in medical technology from Idaho State University and is also a registered medical technologist. She also holds a teaching certificate for the state of Idaho. In 1981, she participated in a 1-year graduate studies project, "Women-In-Science Program in Toxicology," at American University.

Bill completed 26 years with the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, 13 of which were at NIH during two separate tours. Since 1990, he had been radiation safety training officer. He was honored for outstanding achievement and exceptional service for the training

portion of the radiation safety program. During his tenure, more than 2,000 courses were conducted and more than 56,000 people attended radiation safety classes under Holcomb's direction. He also received many honors for producing outstanding radiation safety training videotapes. Two of the honors included awards from the 17th International Film Festival on Organization, New Technologies, Automation of Production and Management in Sofia, Bulgaria, and from the 20th International Festival of Professional Films, TV, Video Programmes, in Zilina, Slovak Republic.

Bill received a B.S. in chemical engineering from New Mexico State University and an M.S. in metallurgical engineering from the University of Idaho and is also a registered professional chemical engineer in the state of Idaho.

Since joining the PHS, he distinguished himself in both government regulatory activities and in radiation safety training. During his PHS career, he spent 13 years with the Environmental Protection Agency, where he worked on criteria for the management

and disposal of low-level and high-level radioactive wastes. He was known throughout government and the nuclear industry as an expert in management and disposal of radioactive wastes, having served as the U. S. representative to international radiation conferences in Paris and Vienna, and having presented many workshops, short courses and symposia.

Prior to his PHS activities, he worked in the areas of reactor fuel reprocessing, fuel fabrication, radioactive waste management, and reactor support with Argonne National Laboratory; Aerojet-General Corp.; the Nevada Test Site; and the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. He wrote more 100 papers, articles and book chapters relevant to his activities.

The Holcombs will remain in Maryland to be near their two sons, Craig who is an attorney and Eric who is an historic preservation planner for the city of Baltimore. They will miss the daily contact with colleagues and friends, but will be able to concentrate on new interests and do some traveling. ■

## Identical Twin Pairs Needed for Study

The HLA Laboratory is interested in analyzing the T-cell receptor repertoire of normal identical twin pairs. Normal healthy adult identical twin pairs are needed for this study. Each twin pair should be willing to undergo thorough medical history, HLA testing, complete blood count and leukopheresis. Optimally, subjects should be available for further questioning about their previous and subsequent medical history. Twin donors will be paid for their blood donations. Call 496-8852 to sign up. If you have responded to this inquiry in the past, resubmit your name and phone number for another phase of the study. ■

## NIH Observes Women's History Month

The NIH annual observance of Women's History Month—"Celebration of Women Across the Generations"—will be held Tuesday, Mar. 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Keynote speaker is Dr. Millie Hughes-Fulford, a NASA scientist and astronaut. Also on the program will be a panel of distinguished scientists including Drs. Vivian Pinn, Mary Custer, Hynda Kleinman, Donna Yee, and Terrie Wetle, and a performance by the NIH Chamber Singers. For more information, contact Dr. Gwendolyn C. Davis, 402-3313, or Charly Wells, 496-4627. For reasonable accommodation, call TTY-445-1908.



*The Holcombs will remain in Maryland to be near their two sons.*



**HRDD Training Tips**

The Human Resource Development Division, OHRM, will offer the courses below. Hands-on, self-study, personal computer training courses are available through the HRDD's User Resource Center at no cost to NIH employees. For details, visit HRDD online at <http://trainingcenter.od.nih.gov/> or call 496-6211.

*Administrative Skills*

- Planning for Career Advancement for Support Staff 3/21
- Administrative Officers Seminar 3/28

*Communication Skills*

- Speaking on the Job Part II: Presenting Yourself 3/27

*Computer Applications and Concepts*

- Introduction to Adobe Photoshop 3/21
- Introduction to Web Page Design with FrontPage 3/22
- Introduction to MS PowerPoint 98 3/23
- IMPAC II Committee Management Module 3/23
- Introduction to MS Word 97 3/29
- Advanced Web Page Design 3/30

*Career Transition*

- Addressing KSAs and the Federal Rating Process 3/28
- Federal Resumé Writing 3/29

*Financial & Procurement Management*

- Professional Service Orders - AM & PM sessions 3/30

*Management, Supervision & Professional Development*

- Making Collaboration Happen 3/21
- Transitioning from Scientist to Manager 3/22
- Introduction to Systems Thinking 3/22
- Managing the Federal Employee 3/23
- Supervision and Group Performance 3/27
- Decision Making Skills 3/30
- Leading Others: A Myers-Briggs Workshop 3/30

**Courses Now Offered at FCRDC**

All NIH employees are eligible to take courses in Frederick, regardless of duty station. Employees who live in Frederick, Germantown or Gaithersburg may find it easier to commute to Ft. Detrick, rather than traveling south to Rockville or Bethesda. Parking is available and free. The following courses are available.

- Federal Supply Schedules 3/15
- Consolidated Purchasing through Contracts 3/15
- Buying from Businesses on the Open Market 3/16
- Professional Service Orders 3/30
- Mid-Career Benefits and Financial Planning 3/20-21
- How to Develop Team Skills for Success 3/28-29

**Symposium on 'Cells of Marginal Zone'**

A symposium titled "Cells of the Marginal Zone—Origins, Function and Neoplasia," will be held Apr. 17-18 in the Natcher auditorium from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Preregistration is not necessary. Organizers are Drs. Herbert C. Morse III, Laboratory of Immunopathology, NIAID, and Elaine S. Jaffe, Laboratory of Pathology, NCI. The first day's topic is "Origin, Characteristics and Functions of the Marginal Zone," and day 2 is devoted to "Marginal Zone Lymphoma." For more information, contact Tiffany Mahone of IQ Solutions at (301) 984-1471, ext. 315. ■

**CIT Computer Classes**

All courses are on the NIH campus and are given without charge. For more information call 594-6248 or consult the training program's home page at <http://training.cit.nih.gov>.

- Creating Presentations with PowerPoint 2000 2/24
- Using Photoshop for Acquiring Scientific Images 2/24
- DWQuery: Property Management 2/24
- Outlook 2000 Tips and Tricks 2/24
- Introduction to Flash 2/28
- Introduction to JavaScript Programming 2/29, 3/2
- Remedy - Customer Service Tool 2/29
- DWQuery: HR Personnel Costs 3/1
- Electronic Forms Users Group 3/1
- SAS Programming Fundamentals I 3/1-2
- The NIH Contractor Performance System Update 3/2
- FasTrac Overview 3/3
- Molecular Modeling Interest Group
- Modeling K+ Channels: Before and After a Crystal Structure 3/3
- MEDx - Unix-Based Medical Image Data Analysis 3/3
- Using SQL to Retrieve DB2 and Oracle Data Analysis 3/6-7
- SAS Fundamentals II 3/8-9
- DWQuery: Travel 3/9



The National Contract Management Association's Bethesda/Medical chapter recently presented its 1999-2000 scholarship awards. On hand at the presentation were (from l) Cheryl Jennings of NHLBI, scholarship chair; Deloris Agee, an HHS contract specialist who won \$300 to continue business management studies; Ivan Hernandez of NIAID, who also won \$300 toward graduate studies in contracts management; Marsha Gorham of NCI, who won \$400 toward her bachelor's degree in business administration; and Suzi Winter of NCI, scholarship chair elect.



Dr. Loré Anne McNicol was recently appointed director of NEI's Division of Extramural Research. She joined NEI in 1989 as the Corneal Diseases Program director. Since then, she has worn many hats within NEI: director of the Lens and Cataract Program; chief of the Anterior Segment Diseases Branch; director of the Division of Extramural Activities; and most recently director of the Vision Research Program. She received her Ph.D. in medical sciences from Boston University School of Medicine, performing her thesis work on the structure of virulence antigens of Salmonella typhosa. She later did postdoctoral work in bacteriophage genetics at Tufts University School of Medicine. In 1983, McNicol joined the malaria unit of NIAID, before starting her administrative career in 1985 at NIGMS.



*Dr. Robert Huebner has been named deputy director of NIAAA's Division of Clinical and Prevention Research. He will be responsible for advising the DCPR director in planning, administering and implementing alcohol treatment, prevention and health services research programs. In 1988, Huebner joined NIAAA and for the next 6 years directed the national evaluation of NIAAA's multi-site research demonstration programs on homelessness. In 1994, he was named chief of the Health Services Research Program where he led the development of NIAAA's health services research portfolio, oversaw completion of a strategic plan for health services research, and was active in a number of trans-NIH committees on managed care. Before joining NIAAA, he conducted research on health issues in the GAO's program evaluation and methodology division.*

## Nutrition Month Observed at NIH

March is National Nutrition Month, and this year's theme (developed by the American Dietetic Association) is "Food & Fitness: Health for a Lifetime." This theme reminds us that to stay healthy, we need a balanced diet, adequate physical activity and sufficient sleep and rest. We need to eat adequate amounts of foods from the grain, vegetable, fruit, dairy and meat/alternate food groups and balance the food we eat with physical activity. The NIH Division of Nutrition Research Coordination, the Clinical Center nutrition department, and the Office of Dietary Supplements have planned the following Nutrition Month lectures and activities for all employees and friends during National Nutrition Month. All events on the NIH campus are free.

On Thursday and Friday, Mar. 2-3, there will be an international conference on the "Efficacy and Safety of Medicinal Herbs" at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill, N.C. This conference is sponsored in part by NIEHS and the NIH Office of Dietary Supplements.

On Friday, Mar. 3, and Friday, Mar. 31, the dietetic interns of the Clinical Center will present "Who Wants to be a Millionaire? Enhance Your Lifelines Through Food and Fitness!" The presentation on Mar. 3 will be in the Little Theater of Bldg. 10 from 12:30 to 1 p.m., and the presentation on Mar. 31 will be in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 6 from 12:30 to 1 p.m.



*A rare and talented violin-playing snowman resulted from last month's record-breaking blizzard in Research Triangle Park, N.C., home of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Helping the snowman reach his musical potential were members of the Laboratory of Molecular Genetics at NIEHS.*

On Wednesday, Mar. 8, and Wednesday, Mar. 15, there will be showings of the nutrition video, "It's All About You" at the Little Theater, Bldg. 10 at 12 noon. A question and answer period with NIH nutritionists/dietitians will follow showings of the video.

On Thursday, Mar. 9, there will be a lecture presented by Dr. Marion Chan of Temple University School of Medicine on "Nitric Oxide Inhibitor and Leishmania Pathogenesis." It will be held in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 6 from 2 to 3 p.m.

On Monday, Mar. 20, there will be a "Workshop on Essential Fats in Foods." Sponsored by several nutrition organizations and by the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, the workshop will be held in Natcher Conference Center from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. There will be coffee from 8 to 9 a.m. Registration is free, but you must preregister at [blackwel@umbi.umd.edu](mailto:blackwel@umbi.umd.edu).

In addition to the activities listed above, you will see nutrition messages on your DHHS Earnings and Leave Statements for February and March 2000. You will also receive a desk-to-desk flyer that provides nutrition messages developed by the Dietary Guidelines Alliance and some information to help you visualize food portion sizes. For updated information about Nutrition Month activities at NIH, visit the Division of Nutrition Research Coordination web site at <http://www.ep.niddk.nih.gov/dnrc/>. ■

## Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features Nobel laureate Dr. Günter Blobel on Mar. 1. He is John D. Rockefeller Jr. professor of cell biology, and HHMI investigator at the Rockefeller University. His topic is "Traffic Into and Out of the Nucleus."

On Mar. 8, Dr. John D. Gearhart, professor and director of developmental genetics, department of obstetrics and gynecology, Johns Hopkins Schools of Medicine and Public Health, will discuss "Human Pluripotential Stem Cells."

For more information or for reasonable accommodation, call Hilda Madine, 594-5595. ■

## Folks with Uveitis Needed

NEI seeks adults and children with uveitis for research studies to help find ways to improve diagnosis and treatment. The studies take place at the Clinical Center. NIH patients receive study-related eye exams, testing and care at no charge. For more information, call 1-800-411-1222. ■