# MONTICELLO

**VOLUME 19, NUMBER 2** 

# Jordan leaves Monticello

AFTER GUIDING Monticello through a momentous era of stewardship, scholarship, preservation, and progress, Daniel P. Jordan has retired as president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation.

Jordan's Oct. 31 departure marked an end to his 24-year career at Monticello, which revolutionized the organization's efforts in fund raising, historic preservation, education, and community outreach.

Jordan had announced his retirement in September 2007 after consulting with the Board of Trustees and his wife, Lou, a dedicated partner and significant figure in numerous events and activities throughout his Monticello appointment.

"Dan will be missed. He was one of those transformational leaders who had a vision for what Monticello could be and never let the normal roadblocks to innovation stop him," said Alice W. Handy, chairman of the of the Foundation's Board of Trustees. "I thank him on behalf of all of the current and former board members."

Jordan is succeeded by Leslie Greene Bowman, former director and chief executive officer of Winterthur Museum & Country Estate in Delaware.

During Jordan's tenure, Monticello established the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies, the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, the Carl and Hunter Continued on next page.

## Bowman begins her tenure

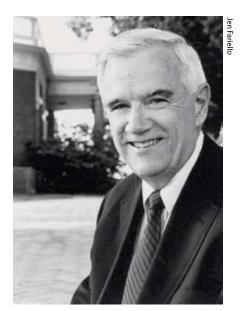
LESLIE GREENE BOWMAN assumed her new role as president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation on Nov. 1.

Bowman, who officially accepted the position in May, succeeded Daniel P. Jordan, whose leadership since 1985 helped sharpen Monticello's dual mission of preservation and education.

From 1999 through earlier this year, Bowman served as director and chief executive officer of Winterthur Museum & Country Estate in Delaware's Brandywine Valley, the former home of Henry Francis du Pont and one of the world's leading museums of American decorative arts.

"Winterthur has benefitted from Leslie Bowman's leadership in many ways," said David P. Roselle, interim director of Winterthur and a member of its Board of Trustees. "One especially important contribution is that she assembled a highly competent staff, all of whom work seamlessly with one another for the benefit of all that comprises Winterthur: the collections, the gardens, the library, and scholarship, as well as the visitors, students, and employees."

In her years there, Bowman worked to expand Winterthur's reach among visitors and its profile in the museum world. She oversaw the development of the nationally noted children's garden, Enchanted Woods, and helped launch Winterthur's first traveling exhibitontinued on next page.



**Daniel P. Jordan** 



**Leslie Greene Bowman** 



**Monticello** is a newsletter published twice each year by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc. The Thomas Jefferson Foundation is the private, nonprofit corporation that has owned and operated Monticello since 1923. Its mission is preservation and education.

© Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc., 2008

COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org

## **MONTICELLO**

## Jordan

Continued, Page 2.

Smith Education Department, and an endowment that grew from zero in 1993 to more than \$120 million.

He also oversaw the development of many major projects, including the Thomas Jefferson Parkway, Jefferson Library, and the new Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center and Smith Education Center.

Editorial work on and the publication of the first volumes of *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson: Retirement Series* began under Jordan's leadership, and the Foundation has published more than 30 other books in the past 24 years.

The list of landmark accomplishments during Jordan's term also includes the launch of Monticello's award-winning Web site; the undertaking of numerous interpretive, research, educational, and restoration programs and initiatives; the purchase of Montalto; and Monticello's inclusion on the United Nations' World Heritage list.

Jordan also played a vital role in Monticello's commemorations of two significant anniversaries, the 250th anniversary of Jefferson's birth in 1993 and the Lewis and Clark Expedition bicentennial in 2003.

Also, more than 12.3 million people visited Monticello during Jordan's presidency.

Away from Monticello, Jordan's activities included being vice chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and serving on planning groups for Independence Hall, the White House, and U.S. Capitol. He also has been chairman of the Advisory Board of the National Park Service and the Review Board of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

A Mississippi native, Jordan served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army and graduated from the University of Mississippi, where he was a scholar-Continued on next page.

#### Bowman

Continued, Page 2.

tions, which displayed selected pieces of Winterthur's collection at the National Gallery of Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and other prominent venues.

In 2002, Bowman led the way in securing a conservation easement to permanently protect Winterthur lands from inappropriate development.

Bowman's arrival at Monticello coincides with the launch of the Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center and Smith Education Center, the largest capital project and one of the most important initiatives in the Foundation's 85-year history.

"She's the perfect person to take our exciting plans forward," Alice W. Handy, chairman of the Foundation's Board of Trustees, said at the time of Bowman's appointment.

Since May, Bowman has made several visits to Monticello, addressed staff members at a forum, and worked side-by-side with Jordan to ensure a smooth transition. The two were not strangers, having served together on the Board of Trustees of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

"I've known, worked with, and admired Leslie for many years and know she will advance our Jeffersonian stewardship with great distinction," Jordan said

Before becoming Winterthur's director in 1999, Bowman was the director of the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson Hole, Wyo. Prior to that, she was head curator of decorative arts and assistant director of exhibitions at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

She is the author of *American Arts & Crafts: Virtue in Design* and co-author of several other books.

Bowman serves on the boards of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Historic St. Mary's City in Maryland and is a member of Continued on next page.

## MONTICELLO

## Jordan

Continued, Page 3.

ship athlete in basketball and baseball. He earned a doctorate degree in American history from the University of Virginia and taught history at Virginia Commonwealth University before taking his post at Monticello.

Jordan has authored three books and dozens of articles, essays, and reviews, and has received several state and national honors, including the U.S. Department of the Interior's Public Service Award, the department's highest honor to a private citizen. He also was named the Commonwealth of Virginia's Outstanding Virginian of 2006.

This coming February and March, Jordan will be in residence at the American Academy in Rome as a James Marston Fitch Resident. Afterward, he plans to open a consultancy for nonprofits with a longtime friend and colleague, Charles F. Bryan, Jr.

The Jordans will continue to reside in the Charlottesville area.

"For us, the best thing about Monticello has been the people, starting with Thomas Jefferson, who is endlessly fascinating and inspiring," Jordan said.

"We will be forever grateful for the support we've received from our trustees, colleagues, donors, and friends across the years."

#### Bowman

Continued, Page 3.

the Committee for the Preservation of the White House.

An Ohio native who grew up there and in Los Angeles, Bowman received her undergraduate degree from Miami University in Ohio and her master's degree in early American culture from the Winterthur Museum Program at the University of Delaware.

Bowman is a skilled equestrian and veteran of three-day eventing, the equivalent of a triathlon for competitive riders.

She is married to Dr. Cortland Neuhoff, a doctor of chiropractic and an equine chiropractor. They have a 12-year-old daughter, Haley, who is in the seventh grade.

"I am honored and thrilled to be assuming the presidency of the Foundation, honored to be following in the footsteps of Dan Jordan, for whom I have enormous admiration and respect, and thrilled to be working with such an immensely talented board and staff," Bowman said.

"This is a watershed moment in the history of Monticello, as we prepare to open the new visitor center and expand the power and reach of the Foundation's mission."