

Candidates for chancellor visit UVa-Wise

After months of application reviews and interviews, the Chancellor Search Committee invited the candidates for chancellor to campus in late June and early July to meet with UVa-Wise faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends.

“All three of these individuals are outstanding. They are all tremendously credentialed in their educational backgrounds,” said James M. Gott ‘72, who chairs the Chancellor Search Committee. “All have come up through the ranks from teaching to serve as deans and in the upper levels of administration at their institutions.”

The candidates are:

- **JOHN “FRITZ” SCHWALLER** has served as the vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean at the University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM) since 2001. Schwaller is the author, co-author, or editor of seven books and the author of more than 50 articles and encyclopedia entries. He is the editor of two additional books both awaiting publication. His primary areas of interest are the Church in Latin America and other topics related to colonial Latin America. He is the founder and owner of the Internet discussion list Nahuatl, which focuses on the study of the Aztecs and the Aztec language called Nahuatl.

Prior to his appointment at UMM, Schwaller spent six years at the University of Montana in Missoula where he served as associate provost and associate vice president for academic affairs. From 1993 to 2002, he served as the director of the Academy of American Franciscan History at the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley and from 1993 to 1995 at the Academy office in the Franciscan School of Theology. He was the associate dean of The Schmidt College of Arts and Humanities of Florida Atlantic University from 1990 to 1993. Schwaller began his teaching career at Florida Atlantic University in 1979 as an assistant professor of history and languages.

A professor of both history and Spanish at UMM, Schwaller received his Ph.D. in colonial Latin American history from Indiana University in 1978; his master’s degree in Spanish from the University of Kansas in 1971; and his bachelor’s degree in history from Grinnell College in 1969. He is the recipient of two Fulbright-Hays Research Fellowships for research in Spanish archives.

- **LAWRENCE WAYNE MARKERT** is the provost and vice president for academic affairs at Hollins University since 2003 and served as the acting president of the university during the 2004-2005 academic year. A scholar and professor of English, Markert is the author of three books and several articles, and a number of his poems have also been published, including four poetry chapbooks and folios.

At Hollins, Markert was vice president for academic affairs from 1997 to 2003. Before his time at Hollins, Markert served as the dean for the Evans School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at Berry College from 1995 to 1997, and dean of the Yale Gordon College of Liberal Arts at the University of Baltimore from 1989 to 1994.

Markert received his doctoral degree from the University of Oxford in England in 1985. Markert also earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Oxford in 1978; a master’s degree in creative

writing from The Johns Hopkins University in 1972; and his bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Baltimore in 1971.

- **DAVID J. PRIOR** is provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Superior and is the author of more than 100 research publications. A scholar and former professor of biology, Prior has been a postdoctoral fellow in neurobiology at Princeton University and an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Research Fellow.

Before assuming his current position at the University of Wisconsin-Superior in 2002, Prior served as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater from 1998 to 2002; as the dean of graduate studies and research at Northern Michigan University from 1995 to 1998; and as the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Northern Arizona University (NAU) from 1992 to 1995. Prior chaired the Department of Biology at NAU from 1987 until 1992.

Prior received a Ph.D. in neurophysiology from the University of Virginia in 1972; a master’s degree in animal physiology and biochemistry from Central Michigan University in 1968; and a bachelor’s degree in biology from Olivet College in 1965.

The search process began in March 2004, when Chancellor Steven H. Kaplan announced his decision to leave his post at UVa-Wise to become president of the University of New Haven. U.Va. President John T. Casteen III appointed Ernest H. Ern, a retired senior vice president of the University of Virginia, to serve a one-year appointment as chancellor. President Casteen then appointed a search committee, which includes representatives from the UVa-Wise Board, faculty, staff, alumni, and the student body, and the firm of Korn/Ferry International as the executive search firm.

The Search Committee first met on March 30, 2005, to begin reviewing applications for the position of chancellor. By May 9, several preliminary interviews had been conducted. On May 17, the Search Committee met and, from the pool of over 300 names, 22 applications were presented to the Committee, nine of whom were invited for a preliminary interview with the Committee. The Committee then decided on four candidates and asked them to come to the College for a visit to meet with faculty, staff, students, and the public. The College was notified on June 28 that a fourth candidate invited for a campus visit had withdrawn his name from consideration.

Gott said the Search Committee is optimistic a new chancellor will be in place by the start of the fall semester. “We expect that soon after all visits are concluded the Search Committee, with approval from the UVa-Wise Board, will send a name or names to President Casteen and the Board of Visitors for their consideration,” Gott said.

Chancellor Ern completed his one-year appointment on June 30. President Casteen recently appointed Jim Knight, Vice Chancellor for Development and College Relations, to serve as interim chancellor. “The search process is nearing completion, and I expect to announce its conclusion by the end of July,” President Casteen said.

For the latest information on the chancellor search, visit www.uvawise.edu and click on Chancellor Search.
