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BOX NO. 8132

Record

May 13, 1999

Volume 23 No. 32



Washington University in St. Louis



Caps soar aloft with graduates' plans and dreams ... The University's 138th Commencement exercises will award degrees to nearly 2,500 undergraduate and graduate students Friday, May 14.

Commencement!

1,186 undergraduates, 1,312 graduate students to receive degrees May 14

On Friday, May 14, 2,498 men and women will let out a collective cheer and toss their mortarboards into the air, marking a milestone in their lives.

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton will award degrees in the University's 138th Commencement ceremony, which begins at 8:30 a.m. Of the 2,498 candidates, 1,186 are undergraduate students and 1,312 are graduate and professional students.

Among the graduate students are 482 who will receive doctoral-level degrees. There are 131 candidates for the doctor of philosophy degree in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 37 for the doctor of science degree in the Henry Edwin Sever Institute of Technology, 195 for the doctor of law degree in the School of Law and 119 for the doctor of medicine degree in the School of Medicine.

In the event of rain, an abbreviated ceremony will be held and souvenir plastic ponchos will be provided. In the event of violent weather, the Commencement exercises will move to the Athletic Complex. In this case, Commencement will be divided into two ceremonies, the first beginning at 8:30 a.m. for the awarding of undergraduate degrees and the second at 11 a.m. for graduate and professional degrees.

A decision on moving to the violent weather schedule will be made by 7 a.m. the day of Commencement. This notice and other up-to-the-minute information on Commencement Week activities will be available on the Commencement hotline at 935-4355.

Regardless of weather, guests may choose to watch the ceremony via closed-circuit television in either Brown Hall Auditorium or Edison Theatre.

William H. Danforth, who is stepping down as chairman of the University's Board of Trustees June 30, will deliver the Commencement address. Danforth has served the University for half a century as a faculty member, medical administrator, chancellor and Board chairman. (See related story on pages 4 and 5.)

Honorary degrees also will be awarded. Recipients are Danforth, doctor of philosophy; philanthropist Alvin Goldfarb, retired president of Worth Stores Corp. and the Alvin Goldfarb Foundation, who is a generous supporter of the University and other charitable and religious organizations, doctor of humanities; Philip Needleman, Ph.D., president of G.D. Searle and chief scientist at Monsanto Co., renowned for his contributions to science, health and medicine, doctor of science; and former Congresswoman Patricia Scott Schroeder, an advocate for children and women and a champion of education and free speech, doctor of humanities.

Commencement begins with the traditional academic procession into Brookings Quadrangle. Edward N. Wilson, Ph.D., professor of mathematics

See Degrees, page 2

McDonnell elected Trustee chair

The Washington University Board of Trustees, meeting Friday, May 7, elected John F. McDonnell chairman, succeeding William H. Danforth, who has served since 1995. McDonnell, retired chairman of the board of McDonnell Douglas Corp., will assume the post July 1, according to Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. "John's record of service to the University is long and distinguished, and it has been my distinct pleasure to work with him during my first four years as chancellor," Wrighton said. "I look forward to continuing our close partnership as we work together with the Board to accelerate the ascent of Washington University in the 21st century."

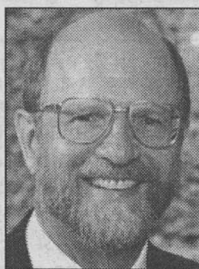
Three vice chairmen were named by the Board— Danforth;

Sam Fox, chairman and chief executive officer, Harbour Group Ltd., St. Louis; and William M. Van Cleve, partner at Bryan Cave LLP, Lawyers, St. Louis.

In recognition of Danforth's 48 years of service to the University, the Trustees honored him with the title of Chancellor Emeritus. Danforth served as a medical intern and then as a faculty member in the School of Medicine, later becoming vice chancellor for medical affairs and then chancellor in 1971. When he retired as chancellor after 24 years, he was elected chairman of the Board.

"John McDonnell is uniquely qualified to lead the Board by his knowledge and understanding of the University and its vision and mission, combined with years of

personal involvement and support at every level. I cannot imagine leaving the chairmanship of the Board in more capable and caring hands," Danforth said.



McDonnell: Into the 21st Century

The Trustees also elected two new members to the Board— Eugene S. Kahn, president and CEO of the May Department Stores Co., and Michael M. Sears, senior vice president and president of the Military Aircraft and Missile Systems Group of the Boeing Co.

See Board, page 2

Jamar Ray cherishes breadth of his University experience

By DAVID MOESSNER

Father really *does* know best. In the spring of 1995, Jamar Kazan Ray's college acceptance list was topped by the heady likes of Princeton, Johns Hopkins and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. And then, figuratively, dad pulled the old red and green sweatshirt out of the closet.

"Jamar was dead-set on going to Princeton," recalled his father, Terry Ray. "But I already knew that he was definitely a Bear!"

Terry Ray, you see, was dealing from firsthand knowledge. In 1978, he earned a master's in law here and gained a lasting appreciation for Washington University.

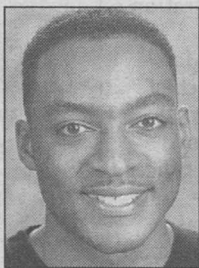
"Some of the other schools frightened me," said Terry Ray, now a Dallas-based defense lawyer, "because I thought that they would not help in the areas of personality or culture. The opportunity to grow in more

Class president to address Commencement

than one way was a big part of my pushing him to go to Washington University."

Jamar has grown — to the head of his class, serving as class president in both his junior and senior years. He will address his fellow graduates, including his one-year-old sister, Terika, at Friday's Commencement exercises.

Described by Associate Dean of Students Adrienne L. Gloré as "a doer who is keenly involved and knows everyone on campus," Jamar has overseen an array of class activities the past two years, including a compelling affirmative action discussion panel and a pair of investment seminars. He also spearheaded the largest-ever Senior Week offering of activities.



Ray: To address 138th Commencement

And, with each activity, he has further widened his breadth of friendships. "I do feel like I get along well with a lot of different people," he said. "I had a really good start when I first got here, participating in Launch, the preorientation program. Everyone was all excited and nervous being new, but I met a ton of people there. Once we got back to campus, I met their friends and it just kept branching off in a bunch of different directions."

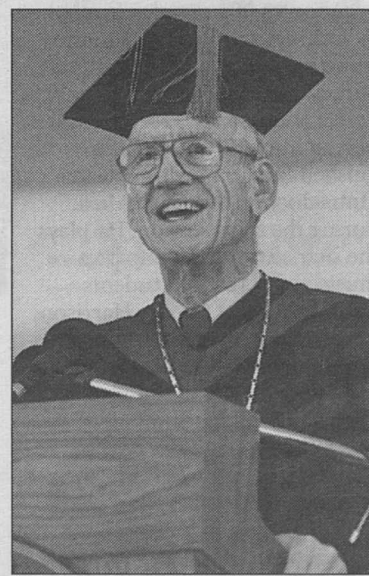
In the waning days of his class presidency, he said he is thankful for all the diverse paths he's crossed. "The most vivid thing I take away from here is the extraordinary people that I've met," he said. "I've been able to

learn different things from a broad variety of intelligent and active people. It's been a great setting."

Along the way, the mechanical engineering major has made a mark in the National Society of Black Engineers, the Association of Black Students, Tau Pi Sigma honor society and as an orientation leader.

While a job awaits in San Diego at Lucent Technologies, a firm for which he has worked the past four summers at branches in New Jersey and Dallas, Jamar Ray believes that his near future includes law school — a fact that further broadens his proud father's smile.

"Jamar always had leadership qualities," said Terry, "but the atmosphere at Wash U. was conducive for him to show it. He has his personal life, academic life and professional life in pretty good perspective. That's what I really admire about him."



Stepping down William H. Danforth, retiring chairman of the Board of Trustees, has given a half-century of service to Washington University. The Record celebrates it on pages 4 and 5.

Record's summer schedule begins

This issue marks the end of the academic year and the weekly publication schedule for the Record, which will publish monthly until classes resume in late August. Summer issues will appear June 10, July 15 and Aug. 12. The Calendar will list upcoming events through the date of the next issue.

Summer School provides wealth of opportunities

By Christine Farmer

Staff members wanting to explore new interests, advance their career or work towards a degree will find numerous Summer School evening courses to choose from.

Want to build the confidence to speak in public? Enroll in "Introductory Public Speaking." Learn acting techniques for video and film in the "Topics in Theater: Acting for the Camera" course, or take English literature courses that focus on children's literature or 19th-century detective fiction.

You can also examine the images of African Americans in American cinema, the impact and consequences of the Civil War, the music of the Beatles or the psychology of women.

The courses are among more than 200 offered during three-, five- or eight-week sessions with day and night hours. The first of four sessions begins Monday, May 17 and ends June 4; Wednesday, May 12, is the last day to register without a late fee. The second session is June 7-July 9, the third June 7-July 30 and the fourth July 12-Aug. 13.

Eligible full-time staff receive a 50 percent tuition remission for undergraduate and graduate evening courses offered at the University. Their spouses or domestic partners receive the same remission for undergraduate evening courses.

A sampling of other evening courses: "Introduction to African-American Drama," "Introduction to Human Evolution," "Fashion Sewing," "Introduction to Photography," "Principles of Accounting I," "Physical Geography," "Introduction to Political Economy: Microeconomics," "Poetry Workshop," "Communications Skills for Corporate Survival," "German for Reading I: Basic Skills," "Taiwan: Its Position in East Asia," "Algebra," "History of Jazz," "Philosophy and Technology," "Environmental and Energy Issues" and "Psychology of Aging."

About 2,000 people enrolled in summer school last year and more are expected this year, said Director Mark Rollins.

He is especially excited about having Imrat Khan, a distinguished Indian musician, teach "Introduction to Indian Music" during the third session. He plays the sitar, introduced into pop music by his former students Brian Jones and George Harrison, and the surbahar, both stringed instruments. "He is world-famous and a historically significant musician," Rollins said.

"In addition to the new courses," Rollins went on, "the Summer School and the College of Arts and Sciences have been trying to enrich the social and cultural life on campus during the summer to make it a more interesting place to be. We are producing a calendar that will be available this week in Mallinckrodt, the library and the Summer School office, Room 100 January Hall."

Rollins said the calendar includes a new expanded jazz series in the evenings at Holmes Lounge and a new theater series featuring American playwrights.

Some of the Summer School students will be members of the University's High School Summer Scholars Program. For five weeks, rising high school seniors can take courses for credit and live in campus residence halls.

"The program has been a great success and doubled in size," Rollins said. "About 100 students come from all over the world."



Not your father's internal combustion engine

Theodosios Korakianitis, Sc.D., associate professor of mechanical engineering, demonstrates a model of a new type of internal combustion engine. The model, which he is engineering, has two times the power of a two-stroke engine and four times the power of a four-stroke engine and surpasses emission requirements with several fuels. The model is on display outside Room 317 Jolley Hall; a video of the engine can be accessed at: <http://www.me.wustl.edu/ME/faculty/tk>.

Degrees

University celebrates 138th Commencement

— from page 1

in Arts and Sciences and chair of the Commencement Committee, will serve as grand marshal and will lead the students into the quadrangle. The honorary grand marshal will be Robert H. McDowell, professor emeritus of mathematics.

Alumni of the Class of 1949, celebrating their 50th reunion, have been invited to march in the procession.

The program will begin with music by the Mighty Mississippi Concert Band of St. Louis, directed by Dan Presgrave, director of instrumental ensembles and lecturer in the Department of Music in Arts and Sciences. Alumna Lori Ann

Barrett, applied music instructor, will sing "America the Beautiful."

Following the music Wrighton will welcome the graduates and introduce Danforth for the Commencement address, titled "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."

Jamar Kazan Ray, president of the senior class, will give the student Commencement greeting. (See related story on page 1.)

Conferral of academic degrees follows, with the deans of each of the schools and Edward S. Macias, Ph.D., executive vice chancellor and dean of Arts and Sciences, assisting Wrighton. Then Wrighton will deliver his message to the Class of 1999.

James Oliver Harr, a master of music degree candidate, will conclude the ceremony by singing the Alma Mater.

Following the ceremony, the University's schools will hold receptions for graduates and guests.

Board

McDonnell elected Trustee chair

— from page 1

Reelected to the Board after completing a mandatory year off were David C. Farrell, former chairman and chief executive officer of the May Department Stores Co., and Richard F. Ford, managing general partner of Gateway Associates LP.

Also reelected to the Board were B.A. Bridgewater Jr., retired chairman, president and chief executive officer of Brown Group Inc., St. Louis; John P. Dubinsky, president and chief executive officer of Mercantile Bank, St. Louis; J. Stephen Fossett, president, Marathon Securities Inc., Chicago; Paul L. Miller Jr., president of P.L. Miller and Associates Inc., St. Louis; Harvey Saligman, general partner in Cynwyd Investments, St. Louis; and John K. Wallace Jr., chairman of the Regency Group, St. Louis.

Elected an Emeritus Trustee was Charles Lipton, retired chairman of the board and senior counselor of Ruder-Finn Inc., New York.

McDonnell first was elected a Washington University Trustee in 1976. He served two terms on the executive committee (1982-88 and 1995-present) and was named vice chair in 1995. He held various Board leadership positions, including chair of the student affairs committee (1980-82) and chair of the investments committee (1982-88). McDonnell also is a member of the Arts and Sciences National Council (1991-present) and a founding member of the International Advisory Council for Asia (1997-present). A member of

the Board's development committee, McDonnell served as chair of the leadership phase of the Campaign for Washington University, the \$1 billion "Partnership for the 21st Century" initiative. When the campaign was publicly announced in September 1998, \$541 million already had been received or committed.

McDonnell began his career at McDonnell Douglas Corp. in 1962 as a strength engineer and held a number of positions in the organization. As chairman of the corporation, he successfully led McDonnell Douglas through the early 1990s when the U.S. defense budget and aerospace markets were shrinking dramatically, and he oversaw the merger of McDonnell Douglas with Boeing to create the nation's largest, broadest and strongest aerospace company.

McDonnell received the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences' Excellence in Engineering Technology Award in 1996. He earned a bachelor's and master's degree in aeronautical engineering from Princeton University, and in the 1960s pursued graduate courses in business administration at Washington University.

Gene S. Kahn joined the May Co. in 1990 as president and chief executive officer of the G. Fox Division. In 1992, he was named president and chief executive officer of the Filene's Division. Kahn became vice chairman and was elected to the Board in 1996, and was appointed executive vice chairman in 1997. In 1998 he was named to his current position as president and chief executive officer.

Kahn began his retailing career in 1971 at Gimbel's. He is a graduate of the City College of New York.

Michael M. Sears is head of one of the four major business groups

12 students win grants for international study

By Ann Nicholson

A combined behavioral and hormonal study of reproductive competition among female hybrid baboons in Ethiopia is the subject of a one- and a-half-year field study by Jacinta C. Beehner, a doctoral graduate student in anthropology.

Beehner is among seven University students who have been awarded Fulbright Scholarships to date this academic year. Additionally, five students have received Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) grants in coordination with the Fulbright process.

Beehner received the Fulbright for her proposed study of a 78-member baboon group — of which 24 are females — in the Awash National Park. The study group is one of 13 social groups that Beehner's faculty adviser, Jane Phillips-Conroy, Ph.D., has been studying for the past 25 years. During her study, Beehner will work closely with Ethiopian scholar Shimelis Beyenne.

"Jacinta's work is significant because it is the first to combine behavioral and endocrinological studies in the baboon hybrid zone," said Phillips-Conroy, associate professor of anthropology in Arts and Sciences and of anatomy and neurobiology at the School of Medicine. "Most studies of reproductive behavior have focused on males. But while male strategies largely end once the female has been impregnated, there remain a whole suite of female competitive interactions that can influence the reproductive outcome."

Beehner's field work involves observing friendly and hostile interactions among individual baboons that could influence conception or cause fetal loss or the death of the infant once born.

The other Fulbright scholars, along with their destination and a

brief description of their proposal, are:

- Andrea C. Deeker, Germany, teaching assistant;
- Michael D. Kappelman, Australia, exploring potential role of gene therapy in augmenting the effectiveness of cardiomyoplasty;
- Jeffrey A. Knipstein, Germany, teaching assistant;
- Amy S. Nunn, Guatemala, studying alternative energy project with renewable energy sources to power rural communities;
- Michael E. Scoville, Germany, studying oppression of Ukrainians and Ukrainian collaboration with the Nazis in World War II; and
- Lucia J. Wittman, Finland, researching architectural history.

"All of these students will be able to take full advantage of the Fulbright Program's goal to 'meet and work with the people of the host country' while pursuing 'opportunities for intellectual and professional growth,'" said Priscilla Stone, Ph.D., director International Studies and adjunct associate professor of anthropology.

The five DAAD scholars, all of whose projects will take them to Germany, are:

- Laura L. Kuster, researching the German perspective of the historical Jesus;
- Alyssa A. Lonner, studying representations of death and memorialization in 19th-century Germany;
- David O. Neville, studying work of women's mysticism in medieval German texts;
- April Seager, rendering Frank Wedekind's plays in film and on stage; and
- David L. Tingey, studying visually in Thomas Mann's work.

In addition, four students still await word of Fulbright acceptance. They are: Leah K. Barron, Peru; Felicia M. Else, Italy; Graham P. Hubbs, Italy; and Monica J. Matts, Canada.

that make up the Boeing Co. He is responsible for development and production of tactical aircraft, military transports, helicopters and tactical missiles as well as the Boeing Phantom Works organization, which conducts technology development, process improvement and new product development.

Sears earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from Purdue University and a master's in engineering management from the University of Missouri at Rolla. Both universities have honored him as an outstanding graduate, and last year he received the 1998 Hap Arnold Award for Excellence in Management from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. His son is an engineering student at Washington University, and Sears serves on the Parents Council.

In his report to the Trustees, Wrighton updated the Board on the University's success in undergraduate admissions, progress on the Campaign for Washington University, new

professorships and fellowships, continuing progress on new facilities and renovation of existing structures, new appointments in the University's administration, success of the athletic program (including the women's basketball team NCAA Division III championship), upcoming commencement activities and a number of other accomplishments of the past few months. He also recognized those Trustees completing their terms of service.

Robert E. Thach, Ph.D., dean of the graduate school, made a special presentation on the University's exceptional strides in improving the quality of graduate education while reducing the time to degree for Ph.D. candidates.

Committee reports made to the Board include medical finance, development, educational policy, Hilltop finance, research-graduate affairs, student affairs and the alumni board of governors.

Reviews of the year were presented by undergraduate student, graduate student and faculty representatives.

Record

Washington University community news

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Medical School Update

New blood test for prostate cancer shows potential

BY BARBRA RODRIGUEZ

Men whose blood tests leave them uncertain whether they have prostate cancer might soon be able to take an additional test to clarify their risk, reducing the need for unnecessary biopsies.

A study of 937 men of intermediate risk for prostate cancer found that a current blood test — called the Tandem free PSA test — for the cancer could be combined with a blood test under development for the human kallikrein 2 (hk2) enzyme to identify 91 percent of the men who were cancer-free. The combination of tests also detected 40 percent of these men who had prostate cancer and thus needed further evaluation.

William J. Catalona, M.D., a leader of the study, said, "The men in this intermediate group have a one in five chance of having prostate cancer, and they have a

good chance of being cured if the cancer is identified early. This additional test could give them another option for judging their cancer risk besides biopsy."

Catalona, a professor of urologic surgery at the School of Medicine, presented the findings recently at the annual meeting of the American Urological Association in Dallas. The study was funded by Hybritech Inc., a San Diego-based subsidiary of Beckman Coulter in Fullerton, Calif., which developed the PSA tests and the new test evaluated in the study. The research was performed in collaboration with investigators at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and other institutions.

Since the early 1990s, men 40 and older and men at high risk for prostate cancer have received

annual tests to determine the total level of a prostate marker called prostate specific antigen (PSA) in their bloodstream. The protein's level rises in the circulation when men have the cancer, possibly because it escapes from the prostate as tissue is destroyed.

Doctors are cautious about performing biopsies on the roughly 17 percent of men who have intermediate levels of PSA in the bloodstream — 2.5 nanograms per milliliter to 4 nanograms per milliliter — and who also get negative results on digital rectal exams. Undergoing a biopsy of the walnut-sized gland is invasive and can cost \$1,200 or more.

Catalona and his colleagues previously demonstrated that combining the total PSA test with the free PSA test can help catch 95 percent of prostate cancers and

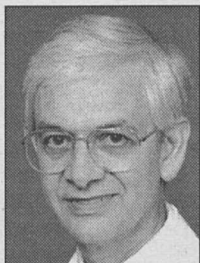
reduce needless biopsies in this group by 20 percent. The free PSA test recognizes PSA that is not attached to other proteins. Unlike levels of total PSA, free PSA levels fall with prostate cancer. To reduce reliance on biopsies further — and identify more cancers in early, treatable stages — the investigators determined whether the test for free PSA could be combined with one for the recently identified hk2 enzyme. This enzyme also is produced and secreted by the prostate, but its level in the circulation rises with cancer, particularly in more aggressive cancers.

The 937 men in the study already had undergone biopsies to determine whether they had prostate cancer. The researchers then compared the total hk2 with the percentage of PSA that was free in stored samples of their blood. By comparing both this ratio and the free PSA value with the biopsy results, the researchers generated

cutoffs for deciding on a biopsy. The study indicated that a free PSA level of 10 percent or less or a ratio of hk2 to free PSA of 0.25 or more would strengthen the argument for performing a biopsy.

Catalona noted that the hk2 test Hybritech is developing needs fine-tuning. And he said he hopes that additional assays, such as ones for different forms of hk2, can be incorporated into a panel of tests that might eventually allow most men to know their prostate cancer risk without unnecessary biopsies.

A larger clinical trial also needs to be conducted to verify the study's initial findings. However, Catalona and medical school colleagues obtained similar results using another hk2 test under development at the University of Toronto, suggesting the promising nature of hk2 testing. "This test gives us yet another option for distinguishing between men who have prostate cancer and men who don't," Catalona said.



Catalona: Refining prostate cancer tests

Website catalogs resources

Need help with sequencing, statistics, tissue culture or microscopy? Faculty who require additional equipment, facilities or technical expertise for their research now can find information about School of Medicine core facilities at <http://intramed.wustl.edu/research/corefaci.nsf>

Last year, William A. Peck, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs at the University and dean of the School of Medicine, asked the Research Affairs Committee of the Executive Faculty to assess core research facilities at the medical school and to identify new technologies that might be needed. "By sharing existing resources and incorporating vitally needed new facilities, we will continue to maintain cutting-edge research," Peck said.

A subcommittee, headed by Linda J. Pike, Ph.D., associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biophysics, began the task this January, and the web site is one outcome. "The School of Medicine has a lot of core facilities that many faculty members are unaware of," Pike said.

To compile the list, the subcommittee surveyed department heads and facility directors. It then grouped the resources into categories such as transgenic support and protein/lipid analysis. About half of the resources are available for use by all researchers at the medical

school. The other facilities primarily serve more restricted groups, such as individual departments, but some can provide services to other investigators when there is spare capacity.

The searchable web site also provides links to faculty who can provide technical expertise, and it enables faculty to submit information about facilities not yet listed. Later this year, for example, it will provide information about a DNA microarray facility that will enable researchers to analyze global gene expression.

Comments about current facilities or needed facilities may be sent to Pike at: pike@biochem.wustl.edu. "The Core Facilities Subcommittee is preparing a report on the status of our facilities," Pike said. "So it would be useful to have input from faculty to determine how well we are doing at supporting faculty research and to better ascertain our current and future requirements for core facilities."

This report will aid the Research Affairs Committee, chaired by David C. Van Essen, Ph.D., the Edison Professor of Neurobiology and head of the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, in its ongoing effort to promote efficient use of existing facilities and to target new technologies that need additional investment.

Allergists offer free asthma screening

Area allergists will conduct a free asthma screening from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 16, at the St. Louis Science Center, 5050 Oakland Avenue.

The screening program promotes early detection and treatment of asthma — a chronic inflammation of the lung airways that causes coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath. Between 14 million and 15 million Americans have asthma, and at least 5,000 die from it each year.

"People shouldn't suffer or die because of asthma," said Phillip E. Korenblat, M.D., clinical professor of medicine at the School of Medicine. "Asthma sufferers often become so accustomed to living with chronic symptoms such as difficulty breathing that they do not consider their condition to

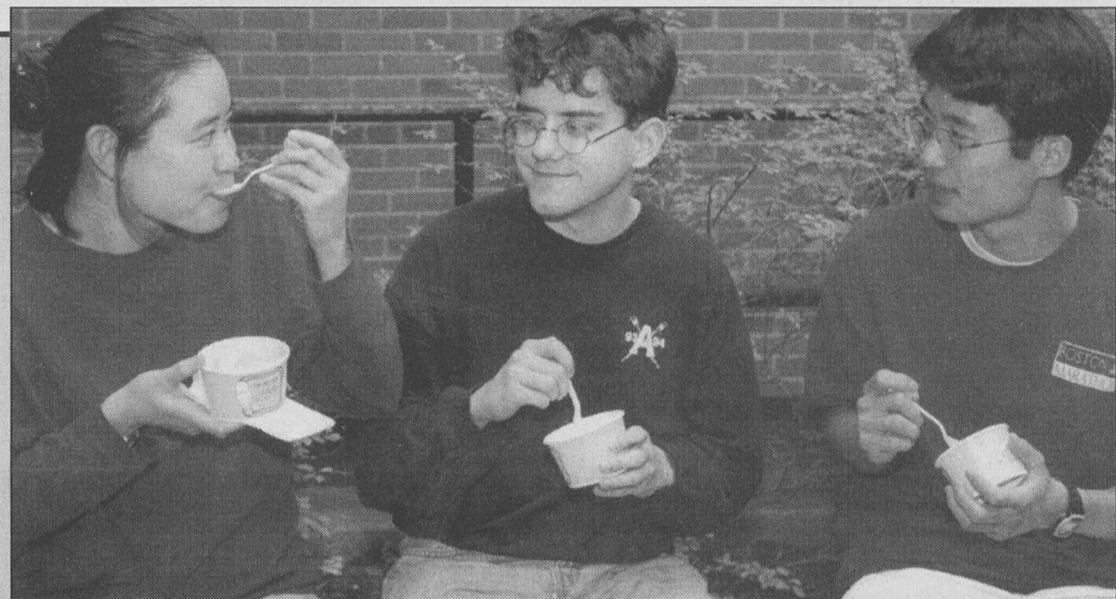
be unusual and don't realize their quality of life is suffering."

Allergists will volunteer their time to screen and inform participants about symptoms and the importance of early treatment.

Although asthma's exact cause is unknown, it often is triggered by allergens such as pollen, dust and animal dander, certain drugs and food additives, viral respiratory infections or physical exertion.

The screening program is sponsored by the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. It is made possible by an educational grant from ASTRA, a pharmaceutical company.

For more information, call The Asthma Center at the medical school at 996-8670 or 800-243-LUNG.



Getting the scoop Medical students (left to right) Cindy Lien, Matthew Denny and Roberto Miki enjoy ice cream at an end-of-semester social organized by the Lowry-Moore Medical School Society. Second-year student Parag Parikh organized the social May 5 in the McDonnell Courtyard.

\$1 million grant to study regulation of reproduction

Yoel Sadovsky, M.D., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology and of cell biology and physiology at the School of Medicine, has received a \$1 million grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The grant will support studies of proteins that help regulate female reproduction.

Many hormones orchestrate the menstrual cycle and pregnancy. Several of these contain a common building block plus a unique building block that confers a specific function. In this project, Sadovsky will focus on factors that regulate levels of LH-beta, the unique subunit of luteinizing hormone. This pituitary hormone promotes ovulation and progesterone production.

In 1996, a group to which Sadovsky belonged found that one regulatory protein, steroidogenic factor-1 (SF-1), can interact with a protein called early growth response gene-1 (Egr-1). Jeffrey D. Milbrandt, M.D., Ph.D., professor of medicine and pathology, with whom Sadovsky was working at that time, discovered the Egr proteins.

Their team since has shown that mice that can't make Egr-1 produce only minimal amounts of LH-beta. Sadovsky also found that a pituitary hormone called gonadotropin releasing hormone, which is known to stimulate LH-beta production, increases Egr-1 synthesis in cultured cells. Therefore Egr-1 could be an intermediary between gonadotropin releasing hormone and the LH-beta gene, stepping up LH-beta production at the pituitary's command.

Through meticulous experiments, the Sadovsky team recently showed that Egr-1 activates the LH-beta gene much more efficiently when it interacts with SF-1. The researchers now will determine the molecular mechanism of this synergism, in both cultured cells and mice. They also will study the effects of regulators such as gonadotropin releasing hormone on LH-beta production, and they

will determine whether Egr-1 and SF-1 help mediate insulin's effect on production of this subunit. "The focus of our proposed experiments is to dissect out the nature of this interaction between Egr-1 and SF-1," Sadovsky said. "That will move us from analyzing relationships between structure and function to determining how this interaction affects female reproduction."

Race for breast cancer cure June 19

Students, faculty and staff at Washington University, the School of Medicine, and Barnes-Jewish and St. Louis Children's hospitals who want to participate in St. Louis' first Komen Race for the Cure can register and pick up race packets at Washington University Medical Center. The same is true of family and friends who register through the Medical Center.

The 5K run/walk and a 1-mile Walk for Fun will begin at 8:30 a.m. June 19 at the Gateway Mall in downtown St. Louis. The race will raise funds for national and local breast cancer initiatives through the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, the largest private funder of breast cancer research in the nation.

A minimum of 25 percent of race proceeds will fund national breast cancer research and programs. The remainder will fund local programs that provide breast health education, screening and treatment for medically underserved women.

The BJC Health System, a major

race sponsor, will provide a BJC Team T-shirt to Medical Center registrants, who also will receive a hat from The Cancer Center and a race T-shirt and gift bag.

Registration is \$10 if received before May 21, \$15 after May 21 and \$20 after June 4. Children ages 10 and under are free.

Physicians and medical students will be mailed registration forms, and employees at Barnes-Jewish and St. Louis Children's hospitals will receive them through their departments. The forms also will be available at The Cancer Center, Room 101 Wohl Hospital (747-0359), at Barnes-Jewish Hospital volunteer offices and the hospital's physician lounges.

Race packets will be handed out June 14 and June 17 at the overhead walkway of the Clinical Sciences Research Building on Children's Place. Pick-up times both days will be 6 to 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Packets not picked up by June 17 must be obtained at the race site. For more information, call 362-9355.

Half a Century of Service

Transforming vision marks Danforth years

By **MARTHA M. EVERETT**

"Catch a passion for helping others, and a richer life will come back to you."

William H. Danforth caught the passion for helping others that his grandfather William H. Danforth (Class of 1892) wrote about in 1931. Through Danforth's unparalleled dedication and what he describes as a "cool-headed, warm-hearted" leadership style, a richer life has indeed come to the Washington University community. At 73, his 48-year association with the University spans more than half his lifetime and is filled with accomplishments so numerous they are nearly impossible to catalogue.

Danforth, the speaker and recipient of an honorary doctor of philosophy degree at the 138th Commencement May 14, recently announced that he is stepping down as chairman of the University's Board of Trustees. He accepted that position in 1995, one day after retiring from a 24-year tenure as chancellor — one of the longest among active educational leaders.

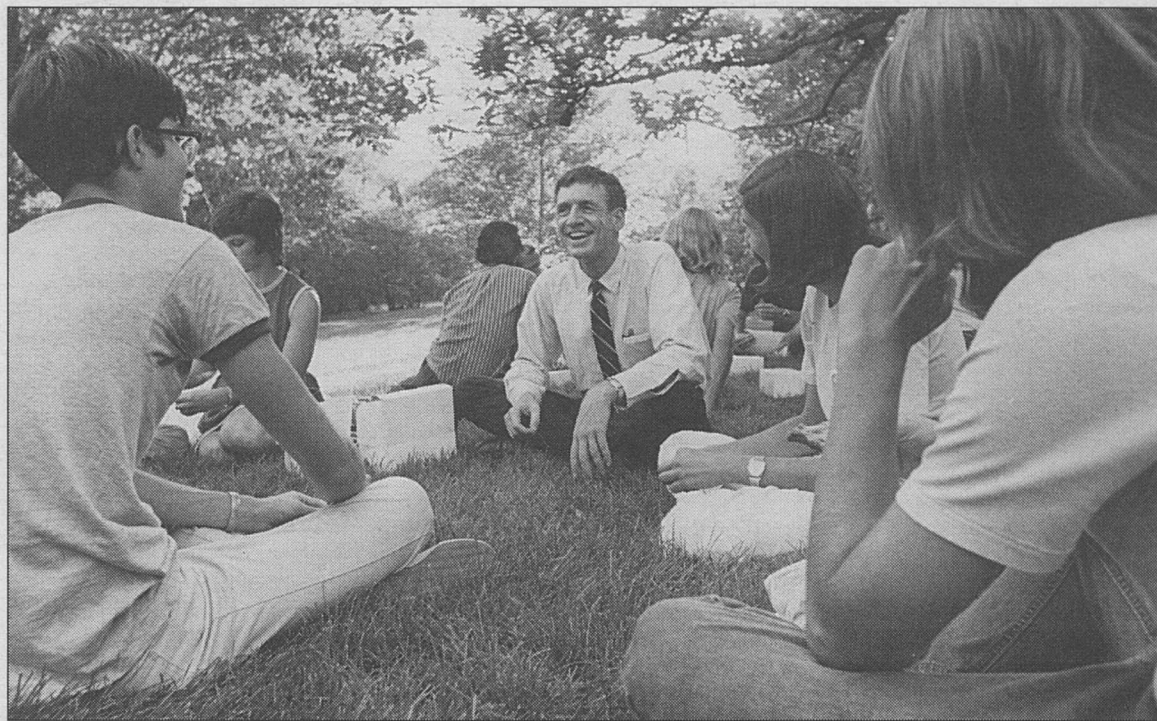
At its May 7 meeting, the Board named Danforth chancellor emeritus, vice chairman of

experience and wisdom. "The development of that wisdom stems from his intellectual strength, a special sensitivity, what you might call a nose for good ideas and opportunities, knowing when to press forward and when not to."

"He has a great receptivity to different points of view; he is enthusiastic about new people, new ideas. He has the right balance of idealism and pragmatism. Those are all great strengths that have contributed to an era of unprecedented, effective leadership."

A ubiquitous figure at University gatherings and functions, Danforth also has boundless energy and endurance. "It's been common during these four years of my tenure and Bill's as chairman," Wrighton said, "that we begin meetings together in the morning at 7:30, or occasionally earlier, and we close University events together at 10 o'clock at night the same day."

Among the many accomplishments during Danforth's time as chancellor is the formation of the University's National Councils, voluntary advisory boards that review each school's programs and assist and advise deans and administrators. Danforth



Students have always been a priority for Danforth, pictured here chatting informally with students during freshman orientation in his first year as chancellor.

affiliated with 29 basic science and clinical departments on both the Hilltop and Medical campuses.

He welcomed to campus innumerable dignitaries and celebrities, including the Dali Lama, Jimmy Carter, Jesse Jackson, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Bob Hope, and George Bush, Bill Clinton and Ross Perot, whose visit to campus for the 1992 presidential debate put the University in the national spotlight.

"He has done more for making the University what it is today than anyone else," said McDonnell, who has known Danforth for 30 years as a friend, as a director at McDonnell Douglas and as a fellow Trustee. "When he became chancellor, Washington University was still essentially a St. Louis institution, and when he retired as chancellor, it was an international institution. He has a great love and affection for the University, and he is very steadfast. He has a very strong vision of what he wants to happen and on a very quiet, low-key basis, he is able to convince people of his vision and make them want to achieve it."

Under Danforth's leadership as chairman, the Board took action on two critical initiatives. The Board launched Project 21, a University-wide strategic planning effort initiated by Danforth in 1993. Board members also undertook the current Campaign for Washington University, the first major campaign since the 1982-87 Alliance Campaign that raised \$630.5 million — more than double its original goal and, at the time of its completion, the most successful fund-raising campaign in the history of higher education. In fact, during the Danforth years, the market value of the endowment increased 24-fold.

Danforth, McDonnell said, has a gift for fund raising. "He is very persuasive," McDonnell said. "Not in terms of a hard sell. He's just so genuine and so clear



Long involved in community service, Danforth was named Variety Club's Man of the Year in 1995, when he participated in the organization's telethon.

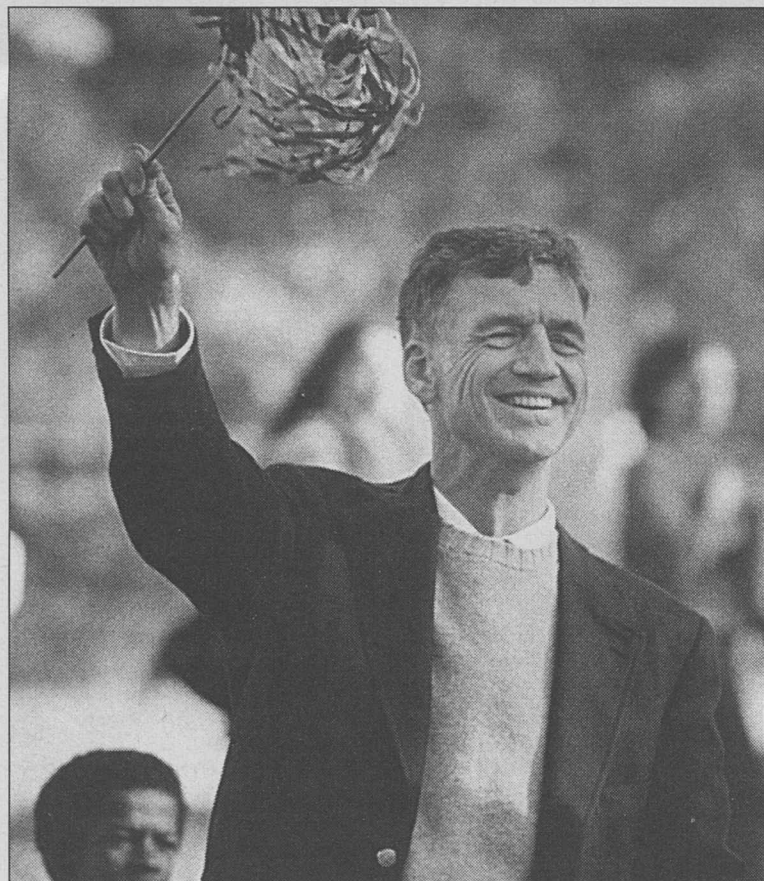
in his thinking and his purpose that it's very hard to turn him down."

Dedicated to students

Danforth's vision has led to a flourishing community that fulfills what he calls the "twin goals" of the University: educating students who go into the world and contribute to society and encouraging

scholarly research that, as he said, "adds to the sum of human understanding and wisdom."

The hallmarks of his chancellorship, which he called "the best job in the world," were fiscal responsibility, thoughtful and caring leadership, attracting and retaining outstanding faculty (during his tenure, 11 Nobel prizes and two Pulitzer Prizes came to people associated



Danforth is a regular on the sidelines of athletic events, cheering University teams to victory both at home and away.

the Board and a Life Trustee of the University, joining four former Board chairmen in holding that title. Effective July 1, Danforth will be succeeded as chairman by John F. McDonnell, retired chairman of the board of McDonnell Douglas Corp. and a Board member since the 1970s.

"No chancellor in recent times has had the influence over a university that he has had," said Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. Wrighton attributes much of Danforth's remarkable success to

assisted as well in establishing the Monsanto Agreement, one of the largest research agreements between an American university and an American corporation, which has brought the School of Medicine more than \$100 million in research grants and has produced more than 40 patents.

He also took part in developing the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences, a graduate educational consortium of faculty

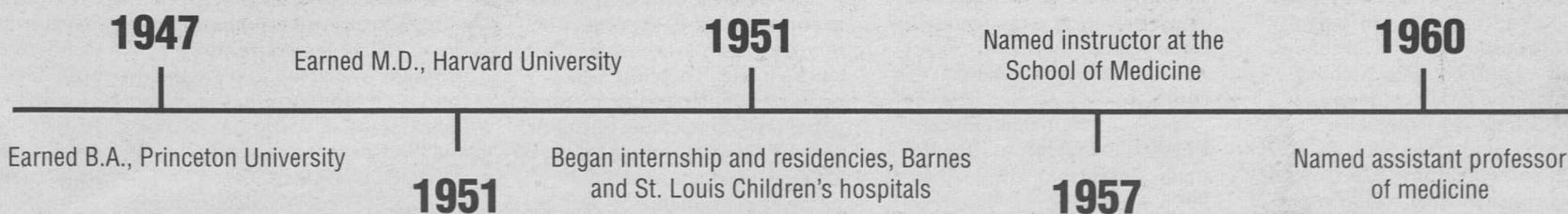
By the numbers

The following is a statistical sampling of Washington University's growth during William H. Danforth's years as chancellor and chairman of the Board of Trustees:

	1971	Latest Figure (June 30, 1998)
Gift support	\$13.6 million	\$188 million
Endowment (market value)	\$147.4 million	\$3.5 billion
Undergraduate financial aid	\$3 million	\$54.8 million
Students receiving financial aid	36%	60%
Nobel Laureates	10	21
Research support	\$30.7 million	\$265.3 million

1971-Present	
Graduates	77,826
UAA athletic championships	55

A Danforth Timeline



with the University, along with many other prestigious honors) and, above all, dedication to students. He is known for never turning down a student's request for help, and, for Danforth, their experiences form some of his best memories.

"Every year, Commencement was a highlight, seeing students graduate. Every year it was a highlight to see the new students come in," he said. "I was very fortunate to get to work with wonderful people. I think it's one of the great universities of the world."

In his half century of service, Danforth has played many roles. He's been a friend at the bedside of ailing faculty and staff members, a father figure reading "bedtime stories" to freshmen, an extra set of hands to help students carry bags into the residence halls and a cheerleader on the sidelines at athletic events.

"He was one of our biggest fans," said Amy (Albers) Laczkowski, who played on the University's national championship volleyball team for three years before graduating with a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1995.

Danforth even made it to away games, she said, cheering the team on to victory at the 1993 national championship game against Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pa. "He always wore the same Wash U. volleyball T-shirt every time over his tie and under his jacket," Laczkowski said. "I always knew when he was there, and it was great to see him out in the stands."

Nearly always, Danforth's wife, Elizabeth, was cheering right alongside him. "Not having them at the game would be like, 'Why aren't my parents here today?'" Laczkowski said. The Danforths' support and enthusiasm won the couple the 1995 Distinguished Service Award for revitalization of the Washington University Athletics Program.

Responding in kind, as they so often did, to his commitment to them, the students threw what they called "the biggest party for the best chancellor" on Danforth's 69th birthday in 1995, with about

4,000 guests and a 150-square-foot cake in the shape of Brookings Hall. A month later, at his final Commencement as chancellor, the graduating class awarded him an oversized diploma affectionately made out to "CHAN DAN."

"I always said we graduated together," said Laczkowski, who served as a senior class officer and is now a management consultant at Ernst & Young LLP in St. Louis. Elizabeth Danforth also "graduated" with Laczkowski, receiving an honorary doctor of humanities from the University in 1995.

Laczkowski called the close contact the students had with the head of a major educational institution "unusual." Even more unusual is that the friendship between the Danforths and Laczkowski did not end at graduation; in 1997, the Danforths attended Laczkowski's wedding in Graham Chapel.

"He's a great man," Laczkowski said of Danforth. "Everyone is so fond of him, and he was so open and accessible to the students. You definitely felt like it was one big family. It was wonderful."

Beyond the campus

Danforth's presence also has been felt far beyond the University. In the local community, he has been active in a number of charitable organizations, including the United Way of Greater St. Louis and the St. Louis Christmas Carols Association. He is a director of Ralston Purina Co., which was founded by his grandfather in 1894. He served from 1966 to 1997 as chairman of the board of trustees of the Danforth Foundation, a major funder of civic projects and education. The St. Louis Globe-Democrat, then



Danforth welcomes then-President George Bush to campus in 1989, when Bush praised the spirit of volunteerism at Washington University in a speech at the Athletic Complex.

the city's morning daily, named him Man of the Year in 1977.

A widely-respected proponent of education, Danforth was chairman of the area's Desegregation Task Force from July 1995 to May 1996, when he was hand-picked by a federal judge as the

of Sciences' Institute of Medicine and a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has been a leader in science policy and funding, including co-chairing the National Science Board Commission on the Future of the National Science Foundation, on which U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala also served. He twice turned down offers to head the National Institutes of Health.

Internationally, he is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a private organization that since 1921 has studied problems in U.S. foreign policy, and serves on the board of International University in Germany.

His wife of 49 years, who is fondly known as "Ibby," also is a beloved figure at the University. A Women's Society scholarship is named for her, and the Elizabeth Gray Danforth Butterfly Garden on Forsyth Boulevard was created in her honor in 1996. The William H. and Elizabeth Gray Danforth Scholars Program, which makes scholarships available for

students in each of the University's schools, was established in their honor in 1995. The couple has four children and 15 grandchildren.

As Danforth steps down as chairman of the Board, the University is experiencing "an era where we're enjoying an unprecedented level of interest from people all around the country and all around the world," Wrighton said. "Washington University is now not only a treasure to this community but is a treasure to the nation and world. Building a national treasure is Bill's legacy."

That legacy will live on in the new millennium. "I think a university doesn't change its nature year in and year out," Danforth said. "It's a place where very intelligent, gifted people gather to do their scholarly and scientific activities, and I hope that that will continue and that the University will continue to grow in stature and in service to its students and to the larger world."

Such a passion for helping others is Danforth's trademark. "Once a student said, 'What do you most want to be remembered for?'" Danforth recalled. "And I said, 'You, for your accomplishments.' I think that's what a university is about. It's about other people's accomplishments."



Students in the 1970s pay homage to their chancellor by placing his face on the Brookings Tower clock — a symbol of Danforth's omnipresence on campus.

desegregation settlement coordinator. His efforts helped deliver a positive result for St. Louis city and suburban school districts, including a recent vote by city

residents to tax themselves to help pay the cost of the program.

Nationally, he has served as chairman of the University Athletic Association Presidents' Council and chairman of the Association of American Universities, for which he recently headed a national committee that drew up guidelines on best practices for graduate education policies and programs.

From his early years at the School of Medicine working in the laboratory of Nobel Prize co-winner Carl Cori, Danforth rose to become a member of the National Academy



Danforth and his wife, Ibby, on her birthday in 1994.

In his own words

In 1994, upon announcement of his retirement as Washington University chancellor, William H. Danforth wrote a letter to the University community. It read, in part:

"Every morning, we have been able to get up and know that we are striving to enhance one of the noble creations of the human species. For I believe that great universities are to the modern world what gothic cathedrals were to the late Middle Ages, symbols of our ideals and of our deepest aspirations. I like to think that all of us, like the mostly anonymous stone masons and architects of those days, add our bit to an enduring structure, a structure that will keep alive for generations after we are gone our hopes and our sense of what is right and beautiful."

<p>Named associate professor of medicine</p>	<p>1965</p>	<p>Named professor of internal medicine, a position he still holds</p>	<p>1971</p>	<p>Elected chairman of the Board of Trustees</p>	<p>1999</p>
<p>1965</p>	<p>Appointed vice chancellor for medical affairs</p>	<p>1967</p>	<p>Appointed chancellor</p>	<p>1995</p>	<p>Named vice chairman of the Board of Trustees and chancellor emeritus</p>

Gallery of Graduates

Mary Mason: applying business lessons to medicine

By NANCY BELT

To track the success of Mary Mason, M.D., you'd need a patient chart, a community-service chart, a Nielsen chart and a flow chart. For the past two years, she's worked to earn a master of business administration degree (M.B.A.) at the John M. Olin School of Business, keeping up her physician duties all the while. Her juggling act also included initiating and participating with resident physicians in nationwide anti-smoking campaigns and creating and presenting medical segments on cable television.

Even while a full-time business student last year, Mason worked two nights a week at Barnes-Jewish Hospital as a hospitalist, a physician hired by primary physicians to cover their private patients in the hospital. "Since the hours were 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., and I had a class at 8 a.m., it was hard," she said, "but I was concerned that I might lose my medical skills if I didn't keep practicing them." Mason, 31, acquired those skills during four years at the University's School of Medicine, graduating in 1994, and then through three years of residency in internal medicine at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

Medical and business perspectives, Mason said, can be complementary. "When you're diagnosing and treating patients, patient care and concern for its quality have to come first. If you cut corners, you might end up with multiple hospital admissions. But medicine can benefit from strategic analysis and an understanding of finance."

Mason, chosen as one of five chief residents in internal medicine for 1998-99, switched to night classes in business to accommodate

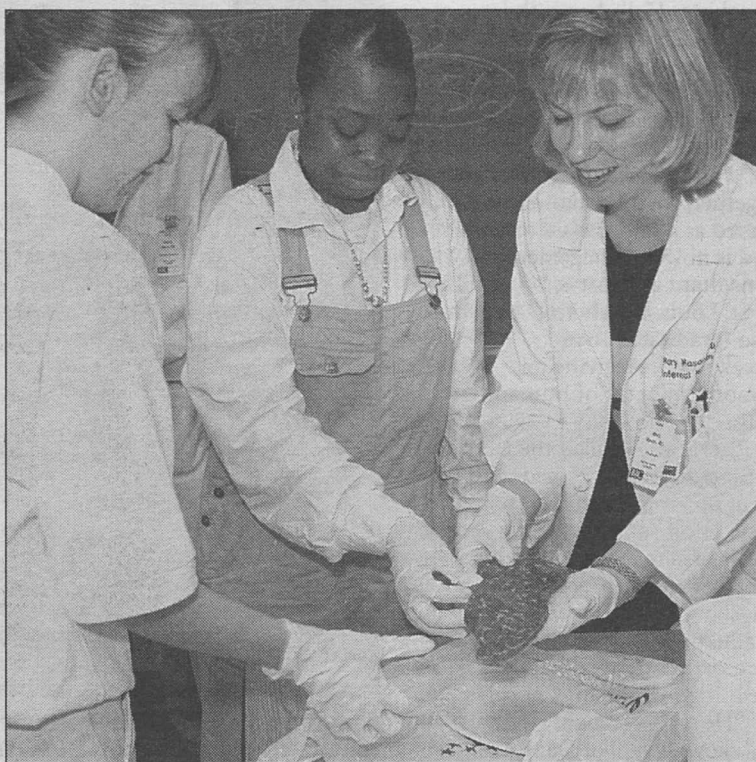
her hospital schedule, and she has used all her problem-solving skills this past year. "Being on the front lines at the hospital, I can see how the administrative details can be overwhelming. Business skills help when you face things such as computer systems that aren't M.D.-friendly and when you want to make things more efficient on the floors."

"Mary has immense energy, enthusiasm and creativity," said her "boss," Megan Wren, M.D., assistant professor of medicine and program director of primary care internal medicine at the medical school. "She helped us market our program to the academic community and helped organize community-service projects and recruit residents to participate in them."

Mason was this year's national winner of the Community Service Award from the American College of Physicians and the American Society of Internal Medicine. She also involved residents in national and state physician organizations. She herself is member-at-large for the governing council of the American Medical Association's resident and fellows section.

Mahendra R. Gupta, Ph.D., associate professor of accounting, said Mason has an amazing ability to take lessons from the business world and apply them in a health-care context. "I taught Mary in two cost-accounting courses," he said, "and, while I was talking about widgets, she was grasping ways to apply the same method to costs of treating patients."

Mason believes medicine and business are moving closer together. "What I learned in finance was especially helpful," she said. "So was my independent-study project for Ray Hilgert's



Chief resident Mary Mason, M.D., shows ninth-graders at Southwest High School in St. Louis the diseased lung of a smoker. She visited the school as part of "Slam the Brakes on Tobacco," an anti-smoking campaign she initiated.

course on labor relations, since issues of union organizing and collective bargaining are very hot topics in medicine now.

"The M.B.A. program was much more demanding than I thought," Mason went on. "Although I had always loved math and did read *The Wall Street Journal*, I was really coming from ground zero. Understanding business terminology was hard, and accounting was awful, because my handwriting, like that of so many doctors, was atrocious." Her teammates helped greatly, though. "The M.B.A. program is about networking and

learning from your classmates," she said, "and my team was wonderful."

A key learning experience for Mason was the "Global Management Studies" course, for which she and fellow students traveled in March to Tokyo and then to Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong. In the Chinese cities, she and her team visited leading hospitals as part of a consulting project for BJC Health System, assessing the feasibility of attracting international patients.

Mason's ability to talk the talk of physicians proved invaluable, especially at the medical school

of the University of Shanghai No. 2, called the Harvard of China. "Mary's credibility opened many doors for us," said teammate Kenneth Ezrow, who also will receive an M.B.A. this spring. "Her cultural sensitivity and ability to ask the right questions helped achieve an exceptional openness and depth of information sharing."

Mason's path has been interesting. Born and reared in Godfrey, Ill., she earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she studied electrical engineering before switching to biomedical engineering. "I had always loved medicine, but engineering gave me a fallback position," she said. Her family, including her brother, who earned a bachelor's degree from Washington University, and her mother, a pediatrician who was a chief resident at St. Louis Children's Hospital, has been very supportive. So has her husband, John Mason, M.D. He graduated from the medical school in 1993 and is general surgery resident at the University and Barnes-Jewish Hospital. "He understands what the pressures are," she said.

After graduation, Mason plans to practice medicine two days a week and to be associate director of BJC's Health Management Partners, a managed service organization. In time, she'd like to teach doctors to understand the economics of medicine and form a nonprofit foundation to help them be more involved in community service.

"Mary sees medicine in a very broad perspective in society," Wren said. "I think she'll help shape the future of medicine."

Multilingual history major is 'once-in-a-decade student'

By DAVID MOESSNER

At the age of 15, many guys are still clinging to some thread of their adolescent career dreams: baseball player, astronaut, rock star.

But nestled deep into the remote southeast corner of Idaho, young Michael Scoville had a loftier spot all mapped out: U.S. Secretary of State.

"It's not necessarily that I have to be the Secretary of State," Scoville said now, without dismissing the possibility, "but it's that type of model of a statesman-diplomat — a person who is fluent in foreign languages, who understands history, who understands economics and politics and is able to negotiate with actors in complicated situations and try to arrive at creative solutions — that is the goal around which I decided to build my skills and structure my education."

Scoville began honing those talents early on, absorbing foreign affairs as part of the preparation that led to his reign as the Idaho state debate champion. But when he arrived at Washington University armed with a full-tuition scholarship, he decided the place to start was with a rudimentary lesson: Russian 101.

"Russia fascinated me," he said. "I was immersed in that extemporaneous speaking experience right in the wake of the fall of the Soviet Union. Oftentimes I was speaking about Yeltsin and his confrontation with the Parliament or about the possibilities for the Communist or nationalist powers in Russia to regain control.

"So the history of the Soviet Union fascinated me," he said. "And that fascinated me to think that if I learned that language, I would

effectively be able to look at the Cold War from the other side of the Iron Curtain. That was the attraction for the first language."

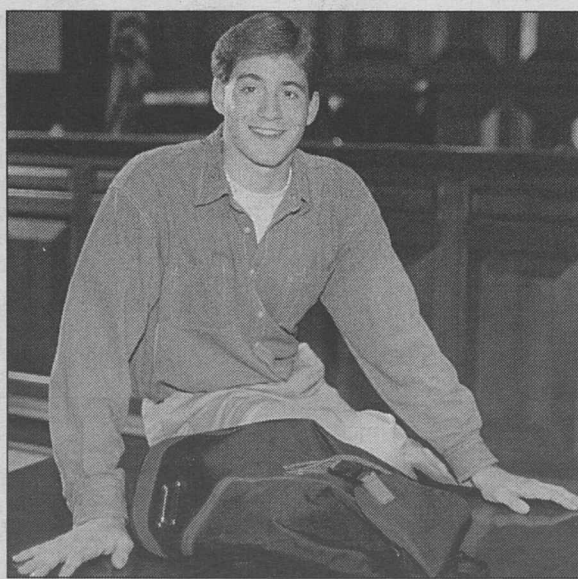
Yes, first language. Within 18 months of learning to conjugate his first Russian verb, Scoville had effectively mastered the language.

Within that time frame, he spent nine weeks at a summer program at Middlebury College in Vermont, where speaking English was strictly forbidden, plus a semester studying at St. Petersburg State University in Russia.

In between his travels, Scoville spent part of his sophomore year picking up French and then his junior year learning German. Oh, and on the side, he taught himself Ukrainian, simply because he had a friend there.

Other than a few headaches that, literally, came in the initial stages of learning Russian, he said that the brain-scrambling task of packaging five languages inside one head has not been a problem.

"Each language has its own texture, each language has its own feel — its own pronunciation, its own vocabulary, its own sound," he said. "And they're totally different. When people ask me, 'Don't you



A Phi Beta Kappa honoree with a 4.0 grade point average, Michael Scoville is primed for a career in international law.

confuse your languages? I reply, 'Do most parents confuse their kids? I mean, once in awhile, but not very much. Because they're different. They each have their own unique personalities.'

And personality is something that definitely is not foreign to Michael Scoville. A self-confessed "ham," he has plunged into numerous extracurricular activities that give him an outlet for the showmanship he once flashed through debate. The sibling of three younger brothers and two younger sisters, along with one older brother, he has volunteered since his freshman year with KIDCO, a Campus Y program that offers him a chance to "read stories to kids using all sorts of funny voices."

More in line with his debate experience, he has participated in Mock Trial the past two years. This

year's WU team captain, he has been recognized as a top-10 "Outstanding Attorney" at both the 1998 and 1999 Midwest regional championships and has led the University to national berths both years.

"I feel pretty much in my element when I do Mock Trial," he said with his easy smile. "You try to make your voice quiver, you get a little tear in your eye...!"

That stage presence also was showcased for three years as a tenor with the Pikers, the University's renowned a cappella group. Among the highlights: organizing the group's annual show, Jammin' Toast, and portraying Monica Lewinsky — "Complete with black wig and, uh, accoutrements!" — onstage in a skit.

As much as he enjoyed his stint with the Pikers, Scoville took his self-described "early retirement" to focus on another project — his senior thesis. The work, which earned him the J. Walter Goldstein Prize for the best senior thesis in the history department, explored the image of the Mongol invasion in Russian historical writings for a century and a half.

His adviser on the thesis, Max J. Okenfuss, Ph.D., associate professor of history in Arts and Sciences, raved: "Academically, Michael Scoville is one of those once-in-a-decade students who is immediately an obvious candidate for the most prestigious and competitive fellowships. His gift for languages and the ease and grace of his writing enable him to pursue his research and present his findings in a thoroughly professional manner."

Scoville's long-outlined path is, indeed, being followed with remarkable fidelity. Already accepted into four of the top five

law schools in the country — the universities of Yale, Harvard, Columbia and Chicago (with full-ride offers at the latter two) — he will defer that opportunity until the fall of 2000, when he returns from a year in Germany as a Fulbright Scholar.

"I want to integrate myself into Munich and see how it changes me," he said in describing his upcoming stay, which will feature research of war crimes committed by Ukrainians in collaboration with the Nazis during World War II.

Scoville said that his prior travels, including a three-month stint with a law firm last summer in Moscow, have added layers of perspective to his immersion in foreign affairs. "When I read about things going wrong, about crises, it's no longer just 'exciting events occurring abroad.' It's 'things that my friends are embroiled in,'" he said.

"My host mother, the lady I stayed with when I lived in St. Petersburg, has a 15-year-old son. She worries if he's going to be drafted in the Army and where he'll end up serving. I remember eating oatmeal with him every single morning before I went off to school. So when I hear about school teachers not getting paid, they're his school teachers. When I hear about shortages of medical supplies, those are the medical supplies that she keeps in her cabinet.

"I want to be involved in the shaping of potent, strong institutions that will strengthen the international rule of law for my generation and generations to come," Scoville said. "It's no longer just a hobby that I picked up in high school debate. The stakes are now far too high. It's personal."

Gallery of Graduates

'Renaissance man' adds MLA to his many accomplishments

BY CHRISTINE FARMER

Tom Lowther leads a very busy life and likes it that way.

Besides working 50-plus hours a week as a managing partner of a downtown law firm and taking night courses to earn a master of liberal arts degree, Lowther manages to find enough time to fly fish, whip up a mean leg of lamb, bury his nose in a biography, have fun with his family, serve various organizations and traipse to far-off places like Turkey and Greece for archaeological digs.

As he puts it: "I don't like to be bored."

Lowther, who also enjoys reading Greek classics and history, returned to Washington University to earn a master's degree 31 years after graduating from the law school in 1962. He enrolled in University College after he and his wife, Lois, heard about the liberal arts program on the radio.

"We heard a radio advertisement for the night school, and my wife said, 'You like to read all that stuff — why not get credit for it?'" he said. "I had been thinking about it for a year or so anyway."

Lowther, a member of the executive committee of The Stolar Partnership, recalled returning to school after more than three decades.

"The first two-and-a-half hour blue book exam was traumatizing," he said. "The first class I went to was George Pepe's class, and we were going to start reading the history of the Peloponnesian War. We all had

our little paperbacks out, and I looked over at a student who had a large book. He was reading it in Greek."

But Lowther had no problem getting back into the swing of school. He took three hours a semester for 10 semesters to earn the degree.

George M. Pepe, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of classics in Arts and Sciences, uses words such as "a man of boundless energy," "a remarkable individual," "a kind of renaissance lawyer," "curiosity," "discipline," "intelligence," "stability" and "perseverance" to describe Lowther.

"He is the kind of student that you can always depend on to come through when there is a lag in the conversation," Pepe said. "If you throw out a question and it gets absolutely no response he can often see some way to retrieve the situation. He is like having another quarterback on the field. He's extremely dependable yet independent. When you ask for comment you can be sure that he'll always have something to say that is usable and other students can tie into."

Lowther is likely to enroll in more courses at the University.

"I'd like to take more classes. I don't necessarily need degrees — just for fun," Lowther said. "I think I could go for another five years and find classes I would find interesting. That's one of the strengths of the MLA program. There is such variety."

"I've always been a good student and enjoy being a student. And I don't want any of my kids to have more degrees

than I do," he added, joking. "I've got to keep up with them."

Lowther has four grown daughters, and the youngest is applying to a Ph.D. program at the University.

His travels also have helped make numerous class discussions more interesting.

"His experiences, the places he has gone, were invaluable for putting some flesh to the bare bones that they were reading about in the text," Pepe said.

Lowther has been to all 50 states, the Canadian provinces and about 60 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. He took an interest in archaeology 10 years ago and has been on three digs — twice in Greece and once in Turkey. He is going on his fourth next month.

Lowther plans his archaeological digs after consulting an American Institute of Archaeologists' book that contains a list of volunteer opportunities.

"I usually confine myself to the Eastern Mediterranean because I like that part of the world," he said.

His greatest archaeological find came while in Turkey, in a small town off the Mediterranean Coast called Ayvalik.

"I was with a group from Oxford University. Much of the sea has silted up, and there are large mounds," he said. "Entirely by accident I stumbled across a skull. I thought it was a pot at first. By the time I left we had uncovered three full skeletons that are now being studied by Turkish officials."

Lowther will be sitting on stage with the Board of Trustees at commencement, because he



Tom Lowther looks at pottery shards from a site in northeastern Crete during an archaeological dig in 1996. He is returning for another next month.

serves on the Executive Committee of the University's Alumni Board of Governors as vice chair for alumni activities. Recognized in 1997 as one of the School of Law's Distinguished Alumni, he is a longtime member and past president of the University's Law Alumni Executive Committee and also serves on the school's National Council. He and his wife annually sponsor a Scholar in Law.

Daniel L. Keating, dean of the law school, said Lowther's contributions to the school are many.

"He was a crucial and enthusiastic volunteer in the successful building campaign, and he remains one of our most enthusiastic and important supporters of the law school," Keating said. "He gives in so many different ways to the law school — not just with his donation of a scholarship but with the time he spends for us and furthermore with the constant endorsement he is giving the School of Law to anyone who asks or doesn't ask. He is a great ambassador for the School of Law."

Gossow applies creativity and skill to historic preservation

BY ANN NICHOLSON

For most motorists cruising down Manchester Road, the old barn tucked behind a neighborhood bar is likely to be nothing more than a red blur in their peripheral vision. But for Jenny Gossow, a master's degree candidate in the School of Architecture, the 1870s barn represents a piece of our heritage that not only should be preserved, but also could be adapted for public use.

As her final architectural design project, Gossow made a design proposal to restore the barn, which is less than a mile from Interstate 270, and convert it for use by the city of Des Peres' Department of Parks and Recreation. Currently in relatively shabby condition and completely surrounded by a parking lot, the barn is one of four period buildings clustered together on Manchester Road, amid ubiquitous strip malls.

Not far from the West County Center mega-mall, the privately owned barn is more akin to Des Peres Park, which lies just to the north. After consulting with Parks and Recreation officials, Gossow decided to propose a new municipal pool with the barn transformed into the main entryway and locker room facility. Her design also calls for removing the fence separating the barn from the park and completely re-landscaping the surrounding asphalt.

The old barn is typical of a growing number of barns that have become separated from their agrarian settings, noted Gossow, who also is working on a master's degree in historic preservation from the University of Georgia.

Although no longer part of a functioning farm, Gossow believes the barns' preservation and reuse are vitally important.

"Barns are really the first architectural elements of our nation after European settlement," Gossow noted. "I find it amazing that although most of them were built first, there is more emphasis on the historic preservation of farm houses. In actuality, the barn was usually initially used as a residence after being built by hand through cooperative work of people who settled the area."

"It's a real symbol of our melting-pot culture and one of the only truly American forms of architecture," she continued. "Such barns are not really prevalent in other parts of the world. They are unique and yet everywhere in our country. In the postindustrial age, they have become architectural icons remaining on the land and linking us to our agrarian past."

Gia Daskalakis, an assistant professor of architecture who has served as one of Gossow's advisers, said Gossow is able not only to conceptualize innovative designs, but also to carry them through to detailed finished projects.

"Jenny is certainly one of the best students in our graduate program. She is very disciplined and demonstrates a clear line of thinking from the initiation of a project through to the final details," said Daskalakis, who also heads the undergraduate program in architecture. "Her speculative work on transforming the barn in Des Peres is extremely focused and mature. It is of the scale, detail and professional quality that could be

presented to the city as a legitimate proposal."

Gossow, who has worked closely with the barn's owner and is considering presenting her ideas to the city, recently was recognized for her overall work at the School of Architecture when she received the Alpha Rho Chi Medal. The national architecture fraternity's medal is awarded for leadership ability, service to the school and promise of professional merit.

In addition to her innovative design work, Gossow served on the school's organizing committee for the 1998-99 Monday Night Lecture Series. After holding a successful fall series, the committee this spring hosted 18 renowned lecturers, including the headliners for the school's conference on modernity and American cities and the Forum for Contemporary Art's short list for its new facility in St. Louis. Gossow's leadership was recognized recently in an invitation to deliver the graduate student address at the school's graduation ceremony.

Gossow originally became interested in the master of architecture degree program after directing a Main Street preservation effort in South

Carolina and doing similar work in Pennsylvania. She had obtained bachelor degrees in journalism and English in 1993 from the University of Kansas and planned to go into advertising design. But several internships made her realize that for her, at least, the work was "a lot of nothing."

"I decided I'd rather do something I love," said Gossow, who had her first taste of restoration work in college when she refinished an old family piano bench and transformed it into a coffee table. She learned the art from her mother, Toni Buerkert, who restores furniture as a hobby.

Gossow said she always has appreciated old buildings, although while she was growing up her family tended to live in newer houses. Not surprisingly, when she and her husband,

Doug, purchased their first home, they selected an older residence in Webster Groves with plenty of potential for Gossow's design talents.

After three and a half years of honing her professional design skills, Gossow now will begin work with Cannon Architects and Engineers, a St. Louis-based firm that she hopes will provide some opportunities for preservation work.

"Preservation is so important because it helps us to maintain a sense of place and a standard of living that respects the past and looks to the past, but also learns from the past," Gossow said. "It helps us remember where we came from and even the mistakes we made on the way, but it also can help us rectify those mistakes as we find new uses for the betterment of everyone."



Jenny Gossow's vision for this 1870s barn on Manchester Road in Des Peres transforms it into an entry and locker facility for a proposed new municipal pool.

Gallery of Graduates

Ainsworth is passionate about medicine, community — and more

By DIANE DUKE WILLIAMS

As a physician, Carla Ainsworth, M.D., thinks she has a unique opportunity to learn about life. "I think physicians learn daily from their patients' life experiences," she said.

Talking with people about their health problems, their struggles and their lives is one of the aspects of medicine Ainsworth finds most rewarding.

It's also the main reason she chose family medicine as her specialty.

Ainsworth — All-American swimmer, indefatigable volunteer, ambitious rower, public health educator — made this decision after spending a month at a small community hospital in Santa Rosa, Calif., during a rotation in her fourth year of medical school. "That's where I got to see the day-to-day interaction with patients, and I realized that's what I wanted to do," she said.

For many years, Ainsworth has made helping others and volunteering a priority. As a high school student, she volunteered in a soup kitchen and in a shelter for runaways. During medical school, she taught eighth graders at Ferguson Middle School through the Reproductive Health Education Program and also worked for three years as a case manager and fund-raiser for a program called Pets are Wonderful Support. This program helps people with AIDS care for their pets — dropping off pet food, for instance, or setting up veterinarian appointments or providing foster care if owners are hospitalized.

Ainsworth's mother, a law professor, taught Ainsworth and

her sister about the importance of giving to one's community. "I learned to volunteer not because it's an obligation but because that's how communities work," Ainsworth said.

When she was 13, her family moved from Lawrence, Kan., to Knoxville, Tenn., which she now considers home. As a fifth grader, Ainsworth began swimming, a passion she pursued through college. She became a four-year

professor of medicine and internal medicine clerkship director, said Ainsworth was outstanding in many areas in medical school. "Simply stated, Carla is an excellent student," he said. "She has an impressive breadth of knowledge and excellent rapport with patients and health professionals."

During medical school, Ainsworth also found a new form of exercise. She discovered the

strongly in public health education. "I think there's a lot of positive education in the area of public health that physicians need to be more involved with," she said. "I want to be involved on the community level in getting the information out."

Partly from her work with the Reproductive Health Education Program, she is convinced that adolescents can benefit greatly from education in clinics and schools. "I think we also need to help them realize that doctors are advocates for them," she said.

Ainsworth was a student of Robert Paine, M.D., professor of clinical medicine, at the medical school. He describes Ainsworth as a model physician, health protector and patient advocate.

Before pursuing an internship and residency in family medicine, Ainsworth will obtain a master's degree in public health at the University of California, Berkeley. She and her new husband currently live in nearby Sacramento because he's finishing a Ph.D. at the University of California, Davis.

Next year, Ainsworth will begin her family medicine training. She believes simply listening to her patients sometimes aids them most. "It's rewarding when I see it's helpful to ask them how they're doing or to listen to their problems," she said. "Everyone has a story and if I can positively impact it, that's great."

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Ainsworth Always gives 100 percent



Carla Ainsworth (third from right) took up rowing during medical school and soon was competing in tough contests in Pennsylvania and Ontario.

Academic All-American Swimmer at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio.

Becoming a doctor wasn't a serious consideration for her until college, and during her sophomore and junior years, Ainsworth still explored other options. Pursuing a double major in chemistry and history, she spent one summer working in a laboratory at a pharmaceutical company and another conducting research on the role music plays in forming communities with a National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

"I just liked learning," Ainsworth said. "I knew becoming

challenging, was different from what she expected. Ainsworth realized that medical students discover how to gather information effectively. "I think you really learn you're not going to have all the answers, and you learn how to become comfortable with that," she said, citing rapidly changing information and technology.

She also learned about the humanity of physicians. "Medicine is particularly humbling because there are people you can't fix and because you make mistakes. I think the best physicians figure that out sooner rather than later," Ainsworth said.

Thomas DeFer, M.D., assistant

St. Louis Rowing Club one morning at Creve Coeur Lake and soon joined. She said meeting this great group of people — ranging in age from 13 to 70 — added a dimension to her life outside of medical school.

Ainsworth, it appears, has a habit of giving her passions 100 percent. As a medical student, she rowed in Philadelphia's famous Head of the Schuylkill race and in the Royal Canadian Henley race in St. Catherine's, Ontario.

During her fourth year of medical school, she also worked with the California Department of Health Services. She believes

Barnette is brilliant biomedical engineer ... and battling Bear

By KEITH JENKINS

In order to be a really good football player, there is a playbook to learn, film to watch, weights to lift and preparations to be made for each opponent. It takes a lot of time and effort to excel.

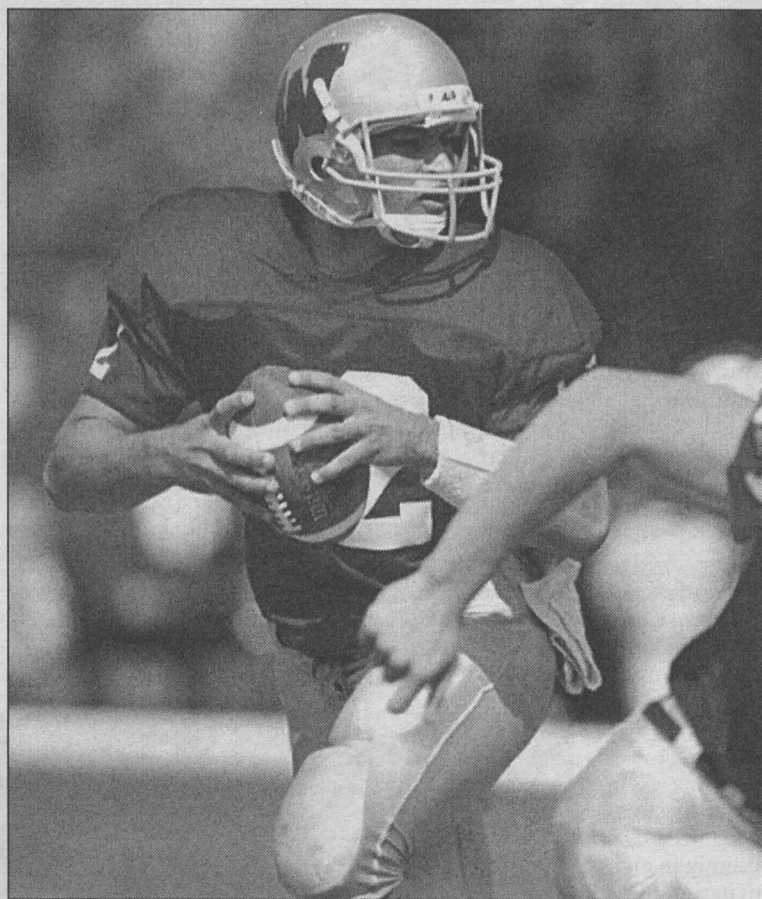
For those student-athletes who also excel in the classroom, the demands intensify greatly. And few student-athletes have greater demands upon them than senior quarterback Alan Barnette.

Barnette, who holds a 3.94 grade-point average in biomedical engineering and biology and has been on the Dean's List since 1996, also has excelled on the football field. He broke two school records during his final season, establishing new marks for single season (.643) and career (.579) completion percentages. He helped the Bears' offense set new standards for completions (190), completion percentage (.615) and passing yardage (2,455) in a season.

All this, in spite of diabetes and spending his first three seasons on the bench behind one of the conference's best quarterbacks, Thor Larsen.

"I don't think anybody worked harder than Alan to prepare himself for the season," said Bears head coach Larry Kindbom. "He sat behind an outstanding quarterback for three seasons and did everything he could to put himself in a position not just to play, but to be a better quarterback than those who preceded him."

This past season, Barnette's chance finally came to display his talents on the football field, and he made the most of the opportunity. His pass completion mark shattered the previous record,



Alan Barnette drops back to pass as the Bears' record-breaking quarterback. He has excelled equally in other demanding fields — biomedical engineering and biology.

current assistant coach Aaron Keen's 1991 60.2 percent.

He tied the University Athletic Association (UAA) record for touchdown passes in a game (4) Oct. 17 at the University of Rochester and eclipsed the school record for completion percentage in a game (22 of 28, .786) in an Oct. 3 game at Rhodes College, Memphis, Tenn.

"His success this season is even more impressive when you look at

the previous three years," Kindbom said. "He didn't get a tremendous amount of playing time, and when he did get in, he probably didn't have his best performances."

Said Barnette: "The hardest position on the field is second-string quarterback. I get a lot more satisfaction being in there and playing than being on the sideline, so I worked hard to get that opportunity."

Emerging as the UAA's leader in

passing efficiency and total offense, he was named a first-team all-UAA quarterback and will be honored this spring by the National Football Foundation's St. Louis Chapter as one of its scholar-athletes.

His accomplishments off the field are even more impressive. While he was preparing for his chance at the starting quarterback job, Barnette also was preparing himself for life after football.

In addition to his near perfect academic record, he also spent a semester completing an independent study, developing a method to compute conduction velocity in three-dimensional cardiac tissue. He presented his findings in September at the Computers in Cardiology 1998 Plenary Session in Cleveland.

He has worked with researchers at the Cardiac Rhythm Management Lab at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and with the research staff in cardiothoracic surgery at Washington University. He plans to attend medical school next fall.

"His success has more to do with his hard work than being naturally gifted," Kindbom said. "He's very gifted, but he's worked so hard that I think he appreciates success more than most people."

Not only has Barnette achieved great things, but he has done so in a relatively short amount of time. He didn't play football until high school and didn't know a thing about being a quarterback until midway through his sophomore season. He also never planned to be a doctor.

"I came to WU as a mechanical engineering major and had no plans to attend medical school," Barnette said. "I became interested

in biology and talked to a couple of professors about possible research projects. I really liked the physics of the heart class I took, and it just went from there.

"I decided I didn't want to be sitting at a desk 30 years from now doing research when I could be working with and helping people on a daily basis."

That penchant for helping others has been clearly visible during his undergraduate years, when he mentored a first grader at Flynn Park Elementary School in University City and served as a tutor in the engineering school. It was visible as well on the gridiron, as he helped make the Bears offense one of the best in the conference.

"I think my job as a quarterback is not necessarily to accumulate stats for myself, but to make sure our offense scores on a regular basis," Barnette said. "I think my success can be measured by how well the offense as a whole does."

That attitude surely helped him compile an impressive list of distinctions. He attended the University on a four-year, full-tuition Myers Scholarship and is a member of Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honorary. He earned GTE Academic All-America honors. He received the University's Distinguished Senior Award at the Athletic Department's Student-Athlete Banquet in April, and he also was honored by the conference last fall as a UAA All-Academic team member. He is a prime candidate for an NCAA postgraduate scholarship.

"I think the personal side of Alan Barnette is the most interesting," Kindbom observed. "He is extremely intelligent, very down to earth, and he's going to be successful in whatever he does."

Gallery of Graduates

Wu explores expatriate artist's 'blessing and curse' in painting

BY LIAM OTTEN

Hemingway went to France; Beckmann came to the United States. And while telecommunications optimists may envision the world as one ever-shrinking "global village," for the expatriate artist there is still nothing like being physically present in another land, surrounded by another people, immersed in another culture.

For Tsung Chien Wu (Alex to his friends), a native of Taiwan and painter in the School of Art's Graduate Program, studying abroad also offers — and perhaps demands — an examination of one's own national identity.

"Taiwan has a very minimal history of painting," explained the 33-year-old Wu. "You don't have a tradition to compare yourself to. Which means that artists who study abroad often bring back translations of Western art. I have a problem with that. As a Taiwanese artist, I have to find what kind of images are suitable to me and suitable to Taiwanese art."

It is an old problem for Taiwanese artists: earlier this century, as a Japanese colony only recently opened to the West, Taiwan sent its young painters to Paris for a traditional European education. Even today, art training in Taiwan bears that historic imprint — as a student at the Fu Shein Art School in Taipei, Wu received a strong grounding in western-style life-studies and figure drawing.

"It was a very strict, tight kind of program where you work from plaster casts of anatomy," Wu recalled. "It was more about

craftsmanship or skill than creativity."

After graduation, Wu spent three years in the Taiwanese Marine Corps in fulfillment of his national military service requirement, serving in a sniper unit. He next went to work as a scuba diving instructor for the International Red Cross but left Taiwan in 1991 to visit his father, a businessman living in Toronto.

"It is not easy to travel abroad before you've finished your military service," Wu explained. "Afterward, I visited New York and then Toronto, and my father encouraged me to stay and work with him. I felt it would be a chance to settle down and start another life."

In Toronto, Wu applied to the Ontario College of Art and Design — "just to see how it would go," he said, admitting that he was a little surprised to be accepted. "I didn't speak much English then. I took the summer to learn a few words."

In Ontario (and later, during a year spent in Florence, Italy) Wu continued to focus on figurative art but, after a time, began to feel somewhat constricted by his own expertise. To help him "think more creatively" about art-making, Wu came to St. Louis and entered the Graduate Program here, where he began to confront the often mind-boggling density of contemporary art theory. He quickly found himself drawn to writers such as Roland Barthes, Jean Baudrillard, D.H. Lawrence and the Spanish philosopher Jose Oltega, who helped him identify what would become his primary artistic subject — the sense of distance or psychological

detachment that can be both the expatriate's blessing and curse.

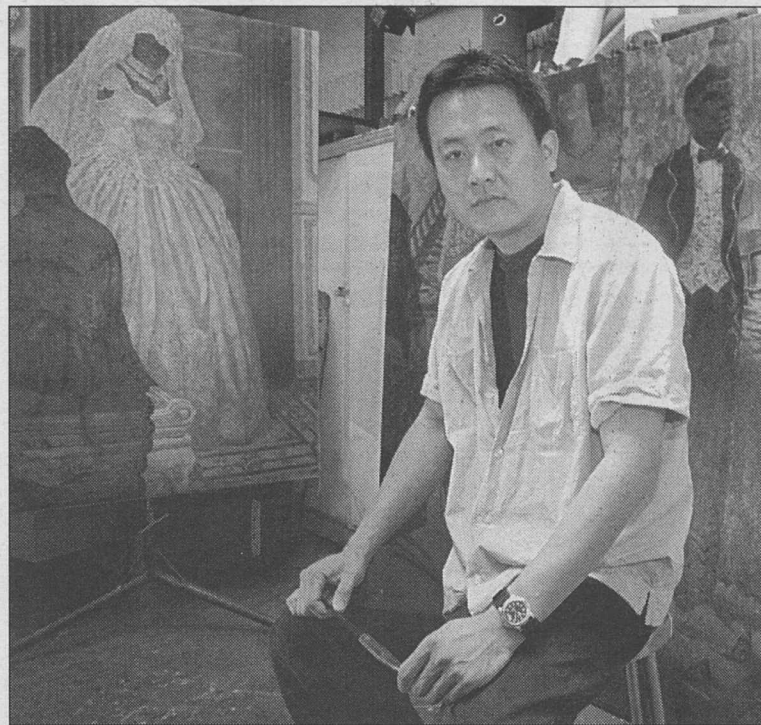
"Alex is a pretty complex person," said Phillip Robinson, lecturer in art, who has worked with Wu for the last two years. "One of the advantages of coming to school later in life is that he's had all these life experiences. He's a very serious person but also very lighthearted. I found his take on the predicament of being an Asian in America very insightful. I think we learned a lot about each other's cultures."

"I came to the West when I was 24," Wu explained. "After 10 years of study here I can't go back to who I was, but even after 10 years here I still don't really belong either. There is a freedom behind that — I don't have to bow to any trend or authority — but it also means you have to create your own way."

But for Wu, creating one's own way not only involves exorcising personal artistic demons, but doing so while remaining true to one's history, background and culture. And perhaps most importantly, it means doing all of that while communicating with an audience.

"I still think that art has to function for people," Wu said. "If you graduate with a degree in piano, you should be able to play piano. You don't tell people, well, we don't play piano anymore, we smell piano now, we taste piano."

Next year, Wu will return to Taiwan to hold his first solo exhibition. He also hopes to find a venue for his first literary effort, a play that has occupied him, off and on, for as long as he's been in the United States.



Painter Alex Wu finds both freedom and his cultural roots in his life as a Taiwanese artist in America.

"I'd like to find a place to have both open," he said. "Some of the painting will interact with the play. I'm trying to create a multi-dimensional surface — images on stage, actors on stage."

Tellingly, one of the play's central characters is a painter who seems to express his author's thoughts on both the nature and the role of the artist. In a pivotal scene, the painter accompanies a journalist friend to the sickbed of a dying celebrity, where they encounter the man's wife and doctor.

"The wife is overcome with grief; the doctor is more de-

tached but also very involved professionally," Wu explained. "The journalist is even more detached but also has a job to do. But the painter, who doesn't know the patient at all, is free to see the beauty of the scene, the light coming through the window, an old man come to the end of his journey."

"You need a lot of guts to be an artist," Wu concluded. "An artist is like a monk — you go to the temple and take that oath and then everything is gone, you have no expectations of fame or success. That's the time you can really be yourself."

Caudy combines cutting-edge research, community service

BY TONY FITZPATRICK

Aspiring molecular biologists are never told that, if they work hard and make outstanding scientific contributions, someday they'll end up in Glamour magazine.

Yet that's exactly what happened to senior Amy Caudy, from tiny Sunbury, Ohio, north of Columbus. A biochemistry major, minoring in mathematics, Caudy has her sights on an academic career of research and teaching. Last fall, she received national recognition when she was chosen as one of Glamour's Top Ten College Women for 1998. Caudy was selected out of 1,000 applicants from across the country for her outstanding scholastic and personal achievements as well as her contributions to Washington University and the St. Louis community.

She and the nine other winners were featured in the October 1998 issue of the magazine.

The Glamour honor exposed Caudy to others like herself, highly motivated people who've already accomplished a lot. She was presented with a \$1,000 check and treated to a special weekend in New York Sept. 17-19. The highlight of the experience was the opportunity to visit with luminaries like Barbara Walters, ABC News correspondent Fari Chideya, author Naomi Wolf and Council on Foreign Relations member Elizabeth Economy, among other successful women.

"It was a great experience and wonderful to talk with other women wholeheartedly committed to success, who thus face similar challenges," Caudy said. "Meeting some of the prominent professional women was a thrill, too."

The Washington University Women's Society also recognized

Caudy's achievements with its 1999 Leadership Award in April.

Caudy's accomplishments also have brought her full support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) to attend a new doctoral program at the renowned Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in Long Island.

Active in research since before starting classes in the fall of 1995, Caudy has worked with Craig S. Pikaard, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, throughout her college career. Studying frogs, she has characterized a regulatory region in ribosomal genes — genes used to make the cell's protein factories. She also has done impressive work toward purifying a key protein that has the ability to "remodel" proteins bound to DNA, among other projects.

Pikaard considers Caudy the "gold standard" for undergraduate researcher/scholars. "Amy's research will lead to at least one first-authored publication in a good molecular genetics journal," he said. "She combines remarkable intellectual ability with a constant, infectious smile and a cheerful disposition, despite an incredible workload."

"I have no idea how she can do all that she does so well," he added. "The only answer is that Amy Caudy is an exceptional student and person, who is simply head and shoulders above her peers in every category."

Caudy began her research association with Pikaard in the summer of 1995, thanks to HHMI's pre-freshman program, which matches incoming freshmen interested in research with faculty mentors. For the next three summers she lived in St. Louis and worked in Pikaard's laboratory.

She worked in his lab during the academic year also, and gained experience as a teaching assistant



Amy Caudy has done impressive research with biology Associate Professor Craig S. Pikaard, Ph.D., who considers her the "gold standard" for undergraduate researcher/scholars.

for an introductory biology course and an organic chemistry laboratory. She tutored a 200-level molecular biology class as well, and for two years served as a resident computer consultant in her dormitory. "I was on call all the time," she said.

As a volunteer, Caudy created an ecology workshop for local elementary school children and went to neighboring schools to show youngsters the wonders of ecosystems as part of the biology department's Science Outreach Program. Last summer, noting that some of the pre-freshmen could use more background in chemistry, she taught a "preview" course to a number of students who were living in her dorm.

Caudy is a big booster of the pre-freshman program. She said it provided an early network of friends and collaborators that has persisted throughout her University career. When she took physical chemistry, four of the five members of her study group were former pre-freshmen. She will marry Alan Shutko, a December 1997 computer science graduate, on July 17, and her maid of honor was a pre-freshman.

"There is a great supportive environment at Washington University," Caudy said. "I found a second family, particularly in the lab. We have a good time and know each other outside the work we actually do. There also are so

many bright people with so many different interests. You can learn from all their different strengths."

Beyond her volunteer work and demanding research schedule, Caudy has enjoyed the University's Ballroom Dancing Club, the Alternative Spring Break program and "regularly scraping my knees up in Forest Park on my rollerblades."

The only child of a junior high school teacher mother and engineer father, Caudy began a mentoring program during her sophomore year in high school with microbiologist Gerald Goldstein at nearby Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. She gained valuable experience and a notable background in bacteria studies. She considered going to Ohio Wesleyan, as well as Duke, Harvard and Case Western Reserve, but chose Washington University for its friendliness, relatively small size and research opportunities.

"Lots of schools won't let you get into research labs until your junior year," she noted. "As a senior in high school, I'd already been working in a lab for almost three years. I didn't want to take two years off from doing what I love. I thought Washington University clearly had the best research opportunities for me."

Caudy begins her doctoral program this fall at Cold Spring Harbor, which is headed by one of the co-discoverers of DNA, James Watson.

"It's exciting, but scary, to be in the first year of a new program," she said. "The lab has a commitment not just to science, but science and society, and communicating science to society. I think I'm going to be studying and teaching in one of biology's most exciting eras."

Gallery of Graduates

Mariani follows intriguing path through sign language to law

By NANCY MAYS

Julia Mariani's decision to pursue a law degree began years ago with a mimed story about a windy day, a tree and a reluctant rake. At the time, Mariani was a stay-at-home mom, watching over her son Ian, and living across the street from a deaf couple. Mariani was drawn to the couple's animated sign language and the dramatic way the house lights flashed whenever someone rang their doorbell.

One day, Mariani was getting

out of her car when her neighbor began miming a complex story about a day spent raking, a forceful gust of wind and an aching back. "It was so clear to me what she was saying," Mariani said. "She was shaking her rake at the tree and miming this amazing story that I understood perfectly. But when it came time to reply, I couldn't say anything. I just sort of shrugged and waved a sheepish goodbye."

The tale's silent beauty and her embarrassment about her inability to converse with her neighbor

inspired Mariani to enroll — that day — in a sign language class at a community college. She befriended her neighbors, who taught her the language's nuances, and pursued her degree in deaf communications. After four years' immersion in the deaf community and the language, Mariani became a freelance interpreter.

It was during a two-year stint signing for a deaf student at the School of Law that Mariani was first exposed to legal education. "I just kept thinking, 'I can do this. I can do this!' I loved every class I worked in," she said.

Eventually Mariani decided to switch careers and enroll in law school. In truth, she had toyed with the idea many times throughout her life. Growing up, her father said she had what it took to become the family's first lawyer. "I really had considered it from time to time, but I didn't know if I really wanted it, or if it was because my father always suggested it," she said.

Now, with graduation impending and a legal career ahead of her, Mariani is certain she's made the right choice.

"Law school was a massive challenge for me," she said, "but I learned tons and developed a myriad of interests."

As a student, Mariani worked at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, where her interpreting skills were a bonus. She also served as secretary of media relations for the student bar association, a post in which she produced the school's newspaper. She continued to work as a freelance interpreter her first year of law school, taking all of the

middle-of-the-night requests so she wouldn't miss classes.

"I'd end up in emergency rooms at 3 in the morning, signing for someone who'd been hurt in a car accident," she said.

On top of all that, the 37-year-old Mariani has been a primary caretaker for her son, now 16 and a high school sophomore. With friendly cooperation from her ex-husband, Mariani said she and Ian have managed to juggle the demands of home life and law school without any trouble. "We did a lot of homework together," she said. "The house would be quiet and we'd be studying. I really think it helped him focus on his studies better, too."

Though law school prevented her from attending many of Ian's baseball games, he was a good sport about her absence. "He's just really on top of things," she observed. "He's such a great kid — and, by the way, an amazing shortstop!"

Mariani, who has dabbled in amateur stand-up comedy, can't resist repeating her son's initial reaction to her acceptance into the school. To celebrate the beginning of her law school career, Mariani's ex-husband and son took her out to dinner. Ian, who was then 12, said, "So, Mom, are you going into sewage?"

She looked befuddled, so he went on to explain: "Sewage. You know, suing people."

"Isn't that hilarious?" Mariani said. "Why have no stand-ups latched onto that joke? It seems so obvious!"

But in fact, she has relished her time in law school. Though

she has a background in a helping profession and a bachelor's degree in dramatic literature from Webster University, Mariani said it wasn't until coming to law school that she met the most helpful, humanitarian people she'd yet encountered. "I expected law school to be very cutthroat, but it wasn't like that at all," she said. "Students, professors — here is where I've met people really interested in applying their minds and energies to remedying social ills."

As for the future, Mariani is still considering her post-graduation plans. She hopes to practice with a firm or organization somewhere in St. Louis. But she has considered just hanging out a shingle. A friend suggested she'd do well on her own because, he said, "You're so scrappy."

"I had to look that up in the dictionary before deciding I wasn't offended," Mariani quipped.

But she's decided it's fitting. "I guess I am," she said. "It just doesn't sound very elegant."

Scrappiness can't hurt in tackling society's ills, though, and Mariani is ready to take them on.

School of Law Dean Daniel L. Keating, J.D., said her commitment to helping others has been an inspiration. "Julia has been an outstanding student leader and a real role model for public interest law," Keating said. "She is an exceptional student, and I have no doubt her strong professional ethic and empathy for others will continue to shape her legal career."



Julia Mariani, who followed a circuitous route to the School of Law, is now very much at home in Anheuser-Busch Hall.

Ssewamala seeks creative new solutions for African poverty

By GERRY EVERDING

Fred Ssewamala of the East African nation of Uganda will be among thousands of students filing into Brookings Quadrangle this May for spring graduation ceremonies, but unlike many of his classmates, he will not see his parents in the crowd.

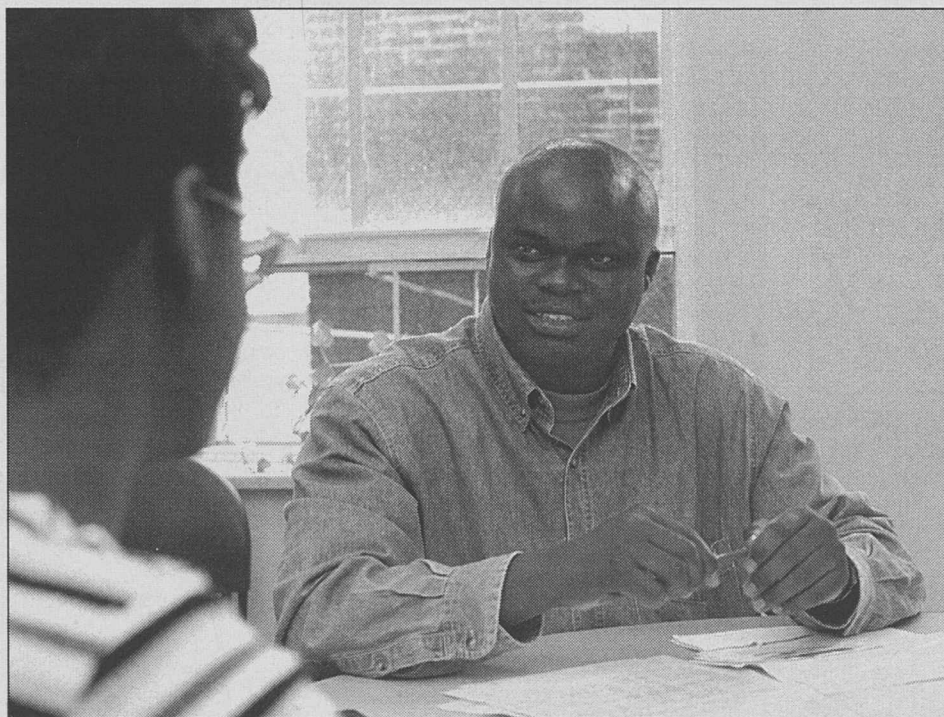
Although he has not been invited to speak at Commencement, he knows well what he would say if given the chance.

"Thank God for what you have achieved, but do not think that all is well in the world," said Ssewamala. "This country has been blessed with prosperity, but we must all work for the betterment of those less fortunate, both in this nation and in other countries around the world."

His comments might seem a bit trite to anyone who has endured a college graduation ceremony before, but Ssewamala knows more than most just how true these words are.

"I come from a village where most homes have dirt floors and no running water, where food and medicine are sometimes difficult to come by," Ssewamala said. "Not many students in my country have the resources to attend college and, because of famines, diseases, wars and killings, not many of those who do graduate are fortunate enough to have a parent who is alive to see the ceremony."

Ssewamala himself was 12 years old when a military group burst into his family home in a small central Ugandan farming community and summarily executed his father, mother and oldest brother and sister for rumored political activities. One of 13 siblings to survive the attack, he was raised by relatives and managed to attend college by earning one of the country's top academic scholarships.



Fred Ssewamala counsels a client at the Justine Petersen Housing and Reinvestment Corp. in St. Louis.

Ssewamala, who graduates this month with a master's degree from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, credits the kindness and support he received from his extended family with instilling his strong desire to help others. In 1994, he graduated from Makerere University in Uganda with a bachelor's degree in social work and took a job with the Red Cross.

"I began working on research and policy initiatives aimed at cutting poverty among women and children in Uganda and soon became interested in micro-enterprise programs," Ssewamala said. "I'm a big believer in providing assistance that helps people become self-sufficient. There's a growing consensus that giving people handouts does

nothing to empower them in the long run. What poor people need most are the resources to turn their own lives around and build a future."

Ssewamala oversaw various training and social rehabilitation projects from 1994 to 1996, but during an assignment as an evaluator assessing the Gender and Development Program in which he worked, he also began to question the effectiveness of the programs he helped implement.

"I came to the conclusion that the way we conceptualized the research problems, approached the research process and drew conclusions for the interventions was inadequate in addressing the complex problem of poverty," he said. "Our interventions were a commentary upon, rather than a challenge to, the conditions that

perpetuated poverty."

Ssewamala decided that his education thus far had not prepared him to find adequate solutions to the devastating poverty gripping Uganda and other countries of sub-Saharan Africa. His search for a more advanced and international perspective on social and economic development issues led him, in 1997, to the master of social work program here.

Ssewamala admits a bit of culture shock. Strange foods. Strange customs. Cold weather. His English was heavily accented. His computer skills were primitive. Coming from a community with no white residents, he found himself confronting issues of race and racism for the first time.

"It took me a while to get used to the fact that I am considered to be a minority here," Ssewamala said. "It never occurred to me that the color of someone's skin was important. I look at people and see a person, not a color."

Since 1997, Ssewamala has been working with a local nonprofit agency, the Justine Petersen Housing and Reinvestment Corp., on a program that provides home and small business loan counseling to low-

and moderate-income St. Louis residents, many of whom are African-American. Long loan-counseling sessions have helped Ssewamala soften his accent, but his voice is still distinctive enough to tip clients that he's not from the neighborhood.

"Some people are surprised to learn that someone from Africa is giving them advice on how to navigate the financial system in their hometown, but I've found everyone to be extremely friendly and cooperative," Ssewamala said. "It's been a great experience for me, and it's rewarding to know that I am providing important assistance to the families I have met through the program."

Ssewamala is now working on several research projects at the social work school's Center for Social Development, including programs to help low-income Americans escape poverty through matched-savings programs that allow them to build assets for investment in home ownership, small business start-ups or education.

Ssewamala's long-term goals include becoming a faculty researcher and teacher at a university in Africa and to help develop programs and policies that can be used to fight poverty in developing countries around the world. It is a goal he will pursue as he continues his studies at the University, where he has been accepted into the doctoral program in social work.

"I want eventually to go back to my country and help communities address the problems of poverty," Ssewamala said. "If we can help people find the resources to build upon their own assets and become empowered at the local level, then we can have something to be proud of in Uganda."

University Events

New Edison season: from music to millennium madness

BY LIAM OTTEN

From the Paleolithic Era to millennium madness, Edison Theatre's 1999-2000

OVATIONS! Series will cover a lot of ground next season, presenting a wide-ranging mix of exuberant dance, rich musical traditions and both classic and cutting-edge theater.

Since 1973, Washington University's ever-eclectic Edison Theatre has brought St. Louis audiences a steady diet of cultural treats. The 1999-2000 season — the theater's 27th — will include 13 new entrees, ranging from established artists to emerging talents, said Evy Warshawski, the Edison's managing director.

"We have one world premiere, from Metro Theatre, and 12 St. Louis premieres," Warshawski said. "Some of these artists have been here before, but not with these shows. But that's the beauty of the arts — they're organic and changeable."

"We try to keep the bar high," Warshawski added. "These are all world-class artists. If you lived in New York or Los Angeles you'd be hard pressed just to find a ticket to some of these events. I feel privileged that we're able to bring work of this caliber to St. Louis."

For theater lovers, things get under way when the Reduced Shakespeare Company debuts "History Ain't What It Used to Be: The Millennium Musical," which summarizes the last 1,000 years in about an hour and a half. The season continues with performance artist/costume maker Sha Sha Higby's lyrical tale, "The



Sha Sha Higby, renowned for creating a fantastic world through the use of intricate, richly imagined costumes, will appear Oct. 21-22 in "The Wooden Sun II," an OVATIONS! performance at Edison Theatre.

Wooden Sun II"; the Metro Theatre Company chronicles the adventures of a Paleolithic visitor in "Iceman: A New Play for the Millennium"; monologist Lisa Kron takes us on her emotional roller coaster "2.5 Minute Ride"; actors Anthony Zerbe and Roscoe Lee Browne pay tribute to the drama of poetry in "Behind the Broken Words"; and Minneapolis' Guthrie Theatre brings to life Shakespeare's beloved classic, "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

For music lovers, virtuoso

string players Joshua Bell, Edgar Meyer, Sam Bush and Mike Marshall weave a crazy-quilt of bluegrass, folk, Brazilian, jazz and classical music; Broadway baritone James Naughton pays homage to his pop and jazz roots in "Street of Dreams"; Margaret Leng Tan enlists a surprising array of instruments in "Ode to Schroeder: The Art of the Toy Piano"; and folk singer Buffy Sainte-Marie joins the Native American cappella group Ulali for an evening of song.

Once again, Edison Theatre will join forces with Dance St. Louis to present some of the finest dance companies working today. The Toronto Dance Theatre brings passion and flawless technique to the emotive and visceral stylings of the late Martha Graham; Urban Bush Women are joined by the David Murray Octet in "Soul Deep," an homage to the blues, field hollers, gospel shouts and "blue light" basement parties; and the fast-paced, surreal antics of MOMIX round out the season with outrageous athleticism, aesthetic lighting and riveting music.

This year also marks Warshawski's 10th anniversary at the Edison's helm. Under her tenure, the OVATIONS! Series has presented 150 different performing artists and groups in 290 performances. Of those, 90 percent were St. Louis premieres and 56 percent were standing-room-only sell-outs.

The 1999-2000 schedule is:
• Sept. 23: Joshua Bell & Edgar Meyer with Sam Bush and Mike Marshall, virtuoso string players;
• Sept. 24-25: The Reduced Shakespeare Company in

"History Ain't What It Used to Be: The Millennium Musical," the last 1,000 years of history in 100 minutes;

• Oct. 2: James Naughton in "Street of Dreams," a smorgasbord of song;

• Oct. 21-22: Sha Sha Higby in "The Wooden Sun II" by the internationally renowned dance/performance/sculptural artist;

• Nov. 19-21: Toronto Dance Theatre;

• Dec. 3: Margaret Leng Tan in "Ode to Schroeder: The Art of the Toy Piano";

• Jan 21-22: The Metro Theatre Company in "Iceman: A New Play for the Millennium," a world premiere;

• Feb. 11-13: Urban Bush Women and the David Murray Octet in "Soul Deep," a cappella vocals, spoken-word narration and theatrical performance;

• Feb. 26: Ulali with special guest Buffy Sainte-Marie, traditional and contemporary Native American songs and forays into gospel and blues;

• March 18: Lisa Kron in "2.5 Minute Ride," directed by Mark Brokaw, a monologue;

• March 31: Anthony Zerbe and Roscoe Lee Browne in "Behind the Broken Words," an ode to 20th-century poetry, drama and comedy;

• April 14-16: MOMIX in "MOMIX in Orbit," a special family event co-sponsored with Dance St. Louis;

• May 5-7: The Guthrie Theatre in "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

For more information or a season brochure, call 935-6543.

Flowering Plants • Adolescents • Journey of the Soul • Staff Day

"University Events" lists a portion of the activities taking place at Washington University through June 12. For a full listing of medical rounds and conferences, see the School of Medicine's website at medschool.wustl.edu/events/. For an expanded Hilltop Campus calendar, go to www.wustl.edu/thisweek/thisweek.html.

Exhibitions

"Terra Incognita." Through July. Highlights early printed accounts of exploration and cultural encounters in the New World. Special Collections, level 5 Olin Library. 935-5495.

Lectures

Thursday, May 13

Noon. Genetics seminar. "The Use of Miniature Inverted Repeat Transposable

Elements as Molecular Markers and for Gene Discovery in Plants." Sue Wessler, genetics dept., U. of Ga. Genetics Library, Room 823 McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg. 362-7072.

Friday, May 14

4 p.m. Biology lecture. Fifth Varner Lecture. "Structure, Function and Expression of Aquaporins in Flowering Plants." Maarten Chrispeels, biology dept., U. of Calif., San Diego. Room 162 McDonnell Hall. 935-6860.

Monday, May 17

10 a.m. Center for Mental Health Services Research Brown Bag Seminar Series. "Mental Health in Human Health Sector of Care: Focus on Adolescents." Arlene Stiffman, prof. of social work. Room G38 Goldfarb Hall. 935-5687.

Noon-1 p.m. Molecular biology and pharmacology seminar. "Regulators of Synaptic Transmission in *C. elegans*." Mike Nonet, asst. prof. of neurobiology.

The Philip Needleman Library, Room 3907 South Bldg. 362-2725.

4 p.m. Immunology Research Seminar Series. "Viral and Immune Determinants of Herpesvirus Latency, Tumor Induction and Vasculitis." Herbert W. Virgin, assoc. prof. of pathology and of molecular microbiology. Eric P. Newman Education Center. 362-2763.

Tuesday, May 18

Noon. Molecular Microbiology and Microbial Pathogenesis Seminar Series. "Genetic Analysis of Virulence in the Yeast Pathogen *Candida glabrata*." Brendan Cormack, asst. prof. of molecular biology and genetics. John Hopkins U. School of Medicine. Cori Aud., 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-2742.

Wednesday, May 19

6:30 a.m. Orthopedic surgery lecture. "The Rotator Cuff: Current Concepts." Robert J. Neviasser, program dir. of orthopedic surgery, George Washington U., Washington, D.C. Scarpellino Aud. 747-2803.

8 a.m. Obstetrics and Gynecology Grand Rounds. "Migraine Management in Women's Health." Zarina Delawala-Hussain, chief resident of obstetrics and gynecology. Clopton Aud., 4950 Children's Place. 362-1016.

4 p.m. Biochemistry and molecular biophysics seminar. "Heparin-like Glycosaminoglycans." Ram Sasisekharan, asst. prof. of toxicology, MIT, Cambridge, Mass. Cori Aud. 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-0261.

Friday, May 21

1:30 p.m. Lifelong Learning Institute Special Lecture Series. "The Journey of the Soul: Milestones in the Life Cycle of Humanity." Harry R. Moody, exec. dir. of Brookdale Center on Aging, Hunter College, N.Y. Room A/B West Campus Conference Center. 935-4237.

Monday, May 24

Noon-1 p.m. Molecular biology and pharmacology seminar. "Sculpting a Fly Eye: Birth, Death and the Signals That Decide." Ross Cagan, asst. prof. of molecular biology and pharmacology. The Philip Needleman Library, Room 3907 South Bldg. 362-2725.

4 p.m. Immunology Research Seminar Series. "Do MHC-1 Molecules Need Chaperones?" Ted H. Hansen, prof. of genetics. Eric P. Newman Education Center. 362-2763.

Tuesday, May 25

Noon. Molecular Microbiology and Microbial Pathogenesis Seminar Series. "Bornaviruses: Molecular Biology, Neurotropism and Pathogenesis." Ian Lipkin, prof. of neurology, U. of Calif., Irvine. Cori Aud., 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-2742.

Wednesday, May 26

7:30 a.m. Orthopedic Surgery Grand Rounds. "Soft Tissue Sarcomas." Jeff F. Moley, assoc. prof. of surgery. Scarpellino Aud. 747-2803.

8 a.m. Obstetrics and Gynecology Grand Rounds. "Explanation of Benefits: What You Need to Know." Jenny T. Inga, chief resident of obstetrics and gynecology. Clopton Aud., 4950 Children's Place. 362-1016.

Worship

Thursday, May 13

12:30 p.m. Catholic Student Center Ascension Thursday Mass. Catholic Student Center, 6352 Forsyth Blvd. 725-3358

Sunday, May 16

11 a.m. Catholic Student Center Reunion/Graduation Mass. Graham Chapel. 725-3358.

...And more

Saturday, May 15

8 a.m. Office of Continuing Medical Education. "Excellence in Diabetes Management." Eric P. Newman Education Center. For costs and registration, call 362-6891.

Monday, May 17

10 a.m. Staff Day. Service award presentations, lunch and afternoon activities. Register in advance for golf; golf cost: \$16.50. 935-5990.

Saturday, May 22

9:30 a.m. Fine Arts Institute workshop. "Polaroid Transfer." Artist Sharon Pettus will exhibit examples and demonstrate the process of image and emulsion transfer. Students will produce transfers using their own slides. Cost: \$50. Room 105 Bixby Hall. 935-4643.

Saturday, June 5

9:30 a.m. Fine Arts Institute workshop. "Digital Photos." Cost: \$25. Room 104 Bixby Hall. 935-4643.

Visual Arts and Design Center sets 'Appraisal Day' fund-raiser

So you're cleaning out the attic and come across what looks to be an antique quilt, or an old painting or a poster or necklace. And you're curious about it: perhaps it belonged to your grandmother, or great-grandmother, or great-great-grandmother. The item seems like it might be valuable, you think, and is in pretty good condition, though goodness knows you're not an expert. Still, you wonder, just what is it I've got here? Brac-a-brac or buried treasure?

Rest easy, the answer is near at hand. On June 12, the University and the Phillips-Selkirk auction house will sponsor "Appraisal Day," a fund-raiser for the University's Visual Arts and Design Center (VADC). Modeled after the popular PBS program "Antiques Roadshow," the event will feature 12 professional

Appraisal Day

Where Phillips-Selkirk, 7447 Forsyth Blvd.

When 10 a.m.-4 p.m. June 12

Admission Free with \$20 tax-deductible donation

appraisers — including four coming from New York and London — who will look at items in a wide variety of fields, from painting and prints to jewelry, books, furniture, ceramics, Asian art and more. In addition, Kathleen Guzman, director of Phillips-Selkirk's Clayton office and a regular on "Antiques Roadshow," will offer appraisals of collectibles and memorabilia.

"Appraisal Day" runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Phillips-

Selkirk, located in the West Campus Center, 7447 Forsyth Blvd. Appraisals are free with a \$20 tax-deductible donation to the Visual Arts and Design Center.

In conjunction with "Appraisal Day," in-home visits will be available June 11. Each visit will allow for up to three appraisers and can last for up to one hour. Participants will be asked to select a limit of 12 items per appraiser. In-home visits are available with a tax-deductible gift of \$500.

Proceeds from "Appraisal Day" will benefit the VADC's lecture series, which brings nationally and internationally recognized scholars and art historians to St. Louis. Reservations are available through MetroTix, at 534-1111, and also will be available at the door on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call 935-4670.

Washington People

“I honestly can't remember when I began dancing,” said Mary-Jean Cowell, Ph.D., director of the Dance Program and associate professor in the Performing Arts Department (PAD) in Arts and Sciences. “I've always enjoyed moving around to music; I think my parents put me in lessons out of self-defense.”

For Cowell, today a noted performer, choreographer and scholar of modern dance, those early lessons were just the first steps down a path that seems in many ways a case study of the journeyman dancer's often-convoluted career track. It was a path that would lead from rural Washington to New York, Honolulu and Japan, and would include stops for performing, teaching and even choreographing for a cutting-edge Tokyo theater ensemble. And through it all, Cowell kept dancing.



Mary-Jean Cowell, Ph.D., helps sophomore Karla Polk with her alignment during the class “Introduction to Dance as a Contemporary Art Form.”

Dancing as fast as she can

Mary-Jean Cowell helps students discover the pleasure and expressive power of movement

By LIAM OTTEN

“I've been at Washington University for more than 20 years,” noted the now-settled Cowell with a quizzical smile. “And I realized that I've been here longer than I've been anywhere else in my life.”

That longevity is most likely the result of a very good fit. “Mary-Jean really personifies the kind of versatility our department strives for,” said Henry I. Schvey, Ph.D., professor and chair of the PAD, who's known Cowell for more than a decade. “She's a wonderful force — a superb teacher, a caring mentor, an excellent choreographer and a fine scholar.”

Cowell was born in the small town of Snohomish, Wash., and credits Seattle's Cornish Academy for early training in ballet and the Dalcroze training technique. As a teen, she moved with her family to St. Louis and plunged into the rigorous academics of the Principia Academy.

Dance, unfortunately, was not among Principia's strong suits — the subject was taught by the physical education teacher — and Cowell soon began ballet lessons with local legend Alexandra Zaharias. Principia, however, did provide Cowell's first exposure to modern dance, inviting a then-virtually unknown choreographer named Merce Cunningham

to perform for the student body. Cowell was instantly entranced and enrolled in a series of modern dance classes at Washington University's University College, where she studied with Annelise Mertz, longtime head of the Dance Program.

“At the time, I literally didn't know what modern dance was,” Cowell recalled. “I probably thought it was a form of exercise done to music or something. I had no sense of it as a genre or what distinguished it from ballet. But working with Annelise, I quickly realized that modern dance was where I belonged.”

Where she belonged, yes; where she should focus her career, Cowell was not yet so

certain. As a freshman at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, she studied history, art history and French, though she continued to dance all she could. She worked under the tutelage of Elizabeth Sherbon, a founding member of the renowned Martha Graham Company, and, with Sherbon's encouragement, attended a summer workshop with legendary figures like Graham, Lucas Hoving and Louis Horst.

Upon graduation, Cowell received a grant to pursue graduate work in art history at the University of Strasbourg, France. As it turned out, she spent the next month wandering the city in search of a modern dance class — an experience that turned out to be pivotal.

“I found someplace that claimed to teach *la danse moderne*,” Cowell ruefully recalled. “It turned out to be a chubby Frenchman who offered to teach me *le twist*. I realized that I should stop trying to do dance around the edges and make it my main focus.”

Cowell returned stateside and accepted a fellowship to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, graduating with a master's degree in 1965. And like many ambitious young dancers, she longed for the big time — which is to say, she moved to New York, supporting herself by performing with the Katherine Litz Company and teaching at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie.

Asian dance

Though Cowell's main focus continued to be modern dance, while at Illinois she also had taken an interest in Asian Dance — then a fairly esoteric subject — and in New York embarked on three years of voracious reading. In 1968, she took a faculty fellowship from Vassar and traveled to the University of Hawaii, Honolulu, where she began learning Japanese while studying dance styles like Noh and Odori. That summer, she traveled to Japan for the first

time, staying at the home of her Noh instructor.

Once back in New York, Cowell embarked on a doctorate in East Asian languages and literatures at Columbia University, working with renowned scholar Donald Keene. Though her primary interests remained dance and theater, Cowell also focused on Japanese literature, writing her dissertation on poet Miyoshi Tatsuji.

“I tried to look at what the poet did with time and space and energy — which, as it happens, are also the basic components of movement,” Cowell explained. “It was almost like looking at poetry as choreography, which helped provide a fresh perspective.”

All the while, of course, Cowell continued to dance, and before long the various strands of her interests began to intertwine. Things reached a culmination of sorts in 1973 when she

choreographed a modern Noh play called “Pining Wind” for New York's Clark Center of the Performing Arts.

“I invited Keene to the opening,” Cowell recalled wryly, “even though I thought he'd probably hate it, since it combined Noh with modern dance, film and electronic music.”

As it turned out, Keene liked “Pining Wind” quite a bit — so much, in fact, that he recommended Cowell to Kobo Abe, a leading Japanese author and founder of the Kobo Abe Studio, an experimental theater group. Cowell was hired to train Kobo's actors in modern dance and spent the next year in Japan, teaching daily classes, creating improvisational exercises and, after a short time, choreographing performances.

“It was an extraordinary experience,” Cowell added. “I was the only foreigner in a company working six days a week, taking meals together, socializing together in that mixture of family and business so often found in Japan. I was as fascinated by that as by work itself.”

Cowell returned to the United States in January of 1976 and within three days found herself teaching at Washington University, thanks to her old instructor,

Annelise Mertz.

“It didn't take me long to figure out that I really liked our students,” Cowell recalled. “They're the model of students I like to work with — people who are interested in pursuing intense academic work but who also feel that they just have to dance.”

It's a description that applies equally well to Cowell, who, in addition to teaching, has choreographed and performed with local troupes and regularly choreographs for “Washington University Dance Theatre.” She also performs in the faculty showcase “Dance Close-Up” — “sharing our latest research,” she quipped — which she founded. Cowell has presented her work in various national venues, such as the Mid-America Faculty Invitational and the Master Artist Concert of the National Dance Association. Works like her solo “Strata II” and the dance-theater piece “Komachi” reflect her continuing interest in Japanese culture.

In the early 1990s, Cowell was named director of the Dance Program, which, under her stewardship, has reinstated a dance major and developed strong components in ballet and world dance. New courses have been added and some older courses redesigned to bring the program into compliance with current standards for the bachelor of arts degree, which are set by the National Association of Schools of Dance.

‘Real contributions’

“People who major in dance really have to love it; they also have to be brave,” Cowell said. “Which, I think, explains why, for such a relatively small number of majors, we've had a lot of people who've made real contributions to the field.”

Cowell also continues her scholarly work, publishing papers on Mishima Yukio and Michio Ito, as well as a script for “Komachi.” In recent years she has presented a series of conference papers on Ito, with the latest to be given at the National Society of Dance History Scholars in June. “I'm writing a book on Ito one chapter at a time,” she joked.

But Cowell's greatest satisfaction comes simply from helping students discover the pleasure and expressive power of movement.

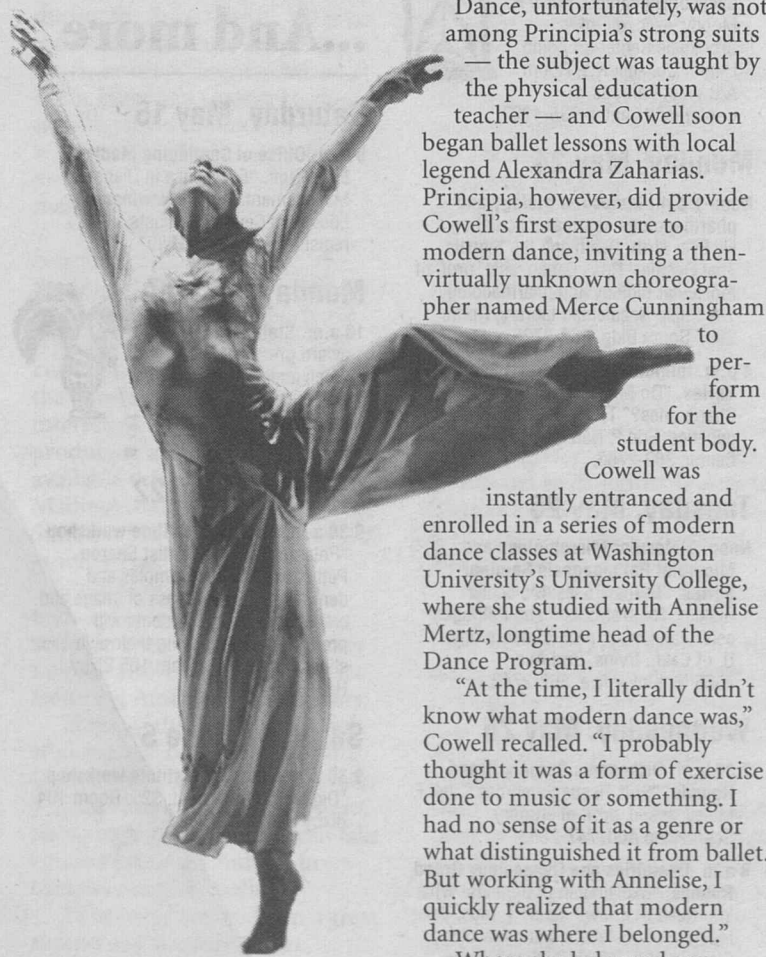
“A lot of people here have considerable training in verbal expression and analysis or quantitative reasoning and so on, but much less in movement and dance,” she explained. “I have students from, say, psychology or pre-med courses tell me how much they appreciate the personal and integrative nature of dance. They're not just learning empirically how and why people move, but involving their total selves. Which really makes you feel that you're doing something worth doing.”

Mary-Jean Cowell, Ph.D.

Raised Snohomish, Wash., and St. Louis

Education B.A., University of Kansas; M.A., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Ph.D., Columbia University

Position Director of the Dance Program and associate professor of performing arts in Arts and Sciences



Mary-Jean Cowell — she just has to dance.