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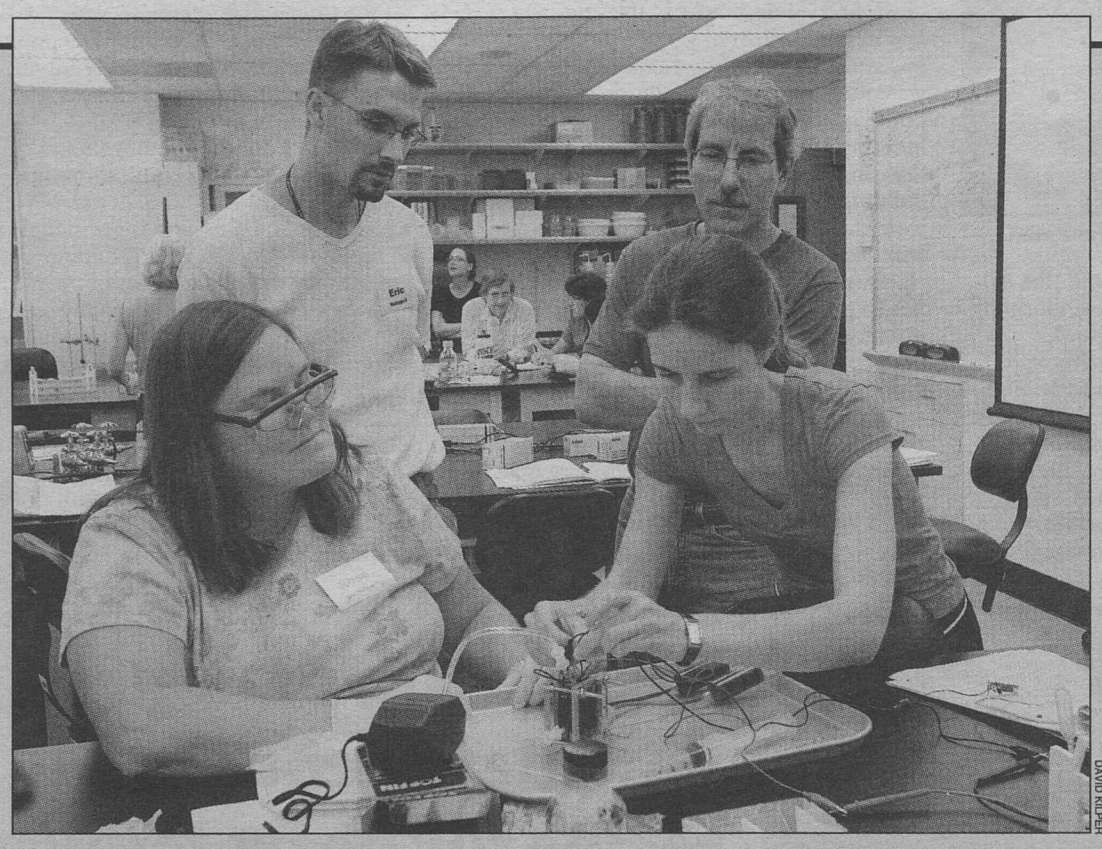
Washington University in St. Louis



DAVID KILPER

Alternative energy About 20 area science teachers were on the Danforth Campus July 18-19 to study alternative energy and laboratory science experiments that teachers will take back to their classes in the fall. The teachers from private schools and the St. Louis, Ferguson-Florissant, Hazelwood, Rockwood, Webster Groves and Kirkwood districts participated in the Biofuels: Hot Topics program, sponsored by Washington University Science Outreach with funding from the National Science Foundation and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Above from left, Rose Davidson, a chemistry teacher at St. Joseph's Academy; Eric Knispel, a chemistry teacher at John Burroughs School; Jeff Fornero, a graduate student in the lab of Lars Angenent, Ph.D., assistant professor of energy, environmental & chemical engineering; and Miriam Rosenbaum, Ph.D., post-doctoral researcher in Angenent's lab, make a microbial fuel cell to produce electricity from wastewater microbes July 19 in 151 Busch Laboratory.

Scratch no more:

Gene for itch sensation discovered

By Gwen Ericson

Itching for a better anti-itch remedy? Your wish may soon be granted now that School of Medicine scientists have identified the first gene for the itch sensation in the central nervous system. The discovery could rapidly lead to treatments directly targeting itchiness and providing relief for chronic and severe itching.

The "itch gene" is GRPR (gastrin-releasing peptide receptor), which codes for a receptor found in a very small population of spinal cord nerve cells where pain and itch signals are transmitted from the skin to the brain. The researchers, led by Zhou-Feng Chen, Ph.D., found that laboratory mice that lacked this gene scratched much less than their normal cage-mates when given itchy stimuli.

Chen

The laboratory experiments confirmed the connection between GRPR and itching, offering the first evidence of a receptor specific for the itch sensation in the central nervous system. The findings were reported in late July in the online version of Nature.

A widespread problem, chronic itching can be caused by skin disorders like eczema, or it can stem from a deeper problem such as kidney failure or liver disease. It can be a serious side effect of cancer therapies or powerful painkillers like morphine. For some people, chronic itching can be very disruptive, interfering with sleep or giving rise to scratching that leads to scarring. Effective treatment options for itchy patients are limited.

Historically, scientists regarded itch as just a less intense version of the pain sensation. As a result, research on itching has been somewhat neglected.

"Many genes have been identified in the pain pathway," said Chen, associate professor of anesthesiology, of psychiatry in Arts & Sciences and of molecular biology and pharmacology. "But itch research has lived in the shadow of pain research, and no one knew which gene was responsible for itching in the brain or in the spinal cord until now."

In fact, Chen's team became interested in GRPR because it was looking for genes in the pain pathway. Among potential pain-sensing genes the team identified, GRPR stood out because it is present in only a few nerve cells in the spinal cord known to relay pain and/or itch signals to the brain.

So the team began to study some mice that were missing the GRPR gene to find out how they were different from normal mice.

"The research was a little disappointing at first," Chen said. "The knockout mice seemed to have the same reactions to painful stimuli as normal mice."

But when post-doctoral fellow Yan-Gang Sun, Ph.D., injected the spinal cords of normal mice with a substance that stimulates GRPR, the mice started scratching themselves as if they had a bad itch.

"That's when we thought the gene might be involved in the itch sensation," Chen said.

The team studied scratching behavior in two sets of mice — normal mice and GRPR knockout mice.

Normal mice scratched vigorously when exposed to a variety of itch-producing substances, but the knockout mice scratched much less.

"The fact that the knockout mice still scratched a little suggests there are additional itch receptors," Chen said. "We know of some proteins that are similar to

See **Gene**, Page 6

Reading program gives incoming students a head start on homework

By Neil Schoenherr

Members of the Class of 2011 have just arrived on campus today, but they've already completed their first assignment.

The students have all read Alan Lightman's book "Einstein's Dreams" in preparation for discussion with faculty and peers and a semester of programming based on the book and its themes.

The annual Freshman Reading Program is designed to reach freshmen before they arrive on campus to help them focus on skills they will continue to cultivate throughout the year and their entire college careers. It also encourages interaction with members of the WUSTL faculty in informal discussions outside the classroom setting.

As part of Fall Orientation 2007, students will attend discussions led by nearly 70 faculty members Aug. 27 and were encouraged to participate in online discussions about the book before arriving on campus.

"We're very excited about this book," said Karen Levin Coburn, assistant vice chancellor for students, dean for the freshman transition and a member of the reading program steering committee. "I think it's a provocative book that will stimulate students to think about the concept of time and what it means

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'Be prepared' Geologist plans volcano safety for Ecuadorians

By Tony Fitzpatrick

A University geologist is doing his part to make sure that the small Latin American country of Ecuador follows the Boy Scout motto: Be prepared.

Robert Buchwaldt, Ph.D., lecturer in earth and planetary sciences in Arts & Sciences, is the only American who sits on an international committee that is seeking ways to address the volcanic threat in Ecuador, especially in Quito, a city of 5 million nestled against a volcano, Guagua Pichincha, that erupted just two years ago.

Buchwaldt, a couple of German scientists and a mixture of Ecuadorian politicians and citizens comprise the committee, which is called the Ecuadorian Volcanic Hazard Assessment Group. Its task is to develop an emergency plan in case of an eruption, which could happen again soon because magma temperatures are rising, according to Buchwaldt.

"Dealing with the threat of a volcano is not an uncommon problem," Buchwaldt said. "In North America, we have Seattle, which is adjacent to Mount St. Helens and two other volcanoes. They

See **Geologist**, Page 6

COURTESY PHOTO

Researchers inspect a Lahar flow — picture a mix of water and rock fragments that looks like moving concrete — near the Tungaruhua volcano close to Banjos, Ecuador.

Emergency texting system offered

As of Aug. 1, the University has added the ability to send text messages to cell phones.

This capability is called the WUText Emergency Notification System and will be used only for imminent or actual campus emergencies and school closings.

WUText alerts only will be issued by the Chancellor, the Office of the Chancellor, the Office of Public Affairs, the chief of police or the director of the School of Medicine Protective Services' Office.

The WUText system will not be used for routine University messages, alerts or vendor commercial announcements.

Participation in the WUText Emergency Notification

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School of Medicine Update

Adverse housing conditions contribute to diabetes risk

BY JIM DRYDEN

Studying people in their homes and neighborhoods, investigators have found that poor housing conditions contribute to the risk for diabetes in urban, middle-aged African-Americans.

A team of investigators from the School of Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine and other institutions conducted the study and published their findings in the Aug. 15 issue of the American Journal of Epidemiology.

"We looked at several risk factors to see if they could explain why some African-Americans were more likely to develop diabetes," explained Mario Schootman, Ph.D., assistant professor of epidemiology and of medicine and chief of the Division of Health Behavior Research. "And we found that housing conditions somehow contribute to the development of diabetes."

The study looked at many risk factors for diabetes including weight, smoking, exercise, alcohol use, marital status and education. But when the researchers adjusted for all of those factors, housing conditions still influenced diabetes risk.

"So far we can't explain why that is," Schootman said. "It could potentially be related to lead. Lead is associated with the development of diabetes, and we know that in some poorer housing conditions, there's likely to be lead exposure. But it also could be related to other, unknown environmental contaminants."

Schootman also said stress might be involved. Individuals who live in poor housing conditions may be more likely to be under stress because of where they live, and there are known links between stress and diabetes that could help explain the increased incidence of diabetes in this population.


Schootman

"But a counter-argument against that would be that diabetes risk was associated with housing but not neighborhoods," he said. "We would have expected that if stress was playing a role, the neighborhood conditions also would be involved."

The researchers found that although there was no direct association with neighborhood conditions, sub-standard housing more than doubled diabetes risk. The two neighborhoods studied were a poor, inner-city area and a less-impoverished, suburban area that included several pockets of residents from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds.

Interviewers spoke to participants in their homes. They gathered data about health status, access to medical care and demographic characteristics, but they also were trained to look for certain things in neighborhoods and houses.

They rated neighborhoods on noise, air quality and the conditions of houses, streets, yards and sidewalks. Broken windows, bad siding, cracks in the sidewalks and nearby industrial sites or traffic noise lowered a neighborhood's rating. Houses were rated on cleanliness inside of the building and the physical condition of the building's interior and exterior, as well as the condition of the furnishings in the building. Neighborhoods and houses then were classified as fair, poor, good or excellent. Housing included apartments and single-family homes, and conditions rated as fair or poor were associated with increased risks for diabetes.

"It's not clear exactly how housing conditions are exerting this influence," said senior author Douglas K. Miller, M.D., the Richard M. Fairbanks Professor in Aging Research and Regenstrief Institute research scientist at the Indiana University School of Medicine. "But it is clear that it won't be possible to reduce disparities in health status among subgroups in the population without understanding how a person's environment can affect that person's health."

This study grew out of a larger health study involving African-Americans. In the original study, researchers looked at several factors responsible for the higher incidence of health problems experienced by about 1,000 African-Americans living in St. Louis who were born between 1936 and 1950.

At the time initial interviews were conducted, more than 25 percent of this population had diabetes. The new study found that over the next three years another 10 percent developed diabetes.

"I think that's a huge finding in and of itself," Schootman said. "Think about how many middle-aged African-Americans live in a place like St. Louis, and if our sample is at all representative of the larger community, you can see that the number of people with diabetes is growing very rapidly over time. I also think it's likely that we would find comparable results if we had done similar research in Detroit, Atlanta or New York City."

Schootman said more studies will be needed to determine what specifically increased the risk of diabetes as a result of poor housing conditions, but many factors have already been ruled out.

COURTESY PHOTO

Jeffrey Lowell, M.D., (left) and Eric Shirley, lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy, perform clubfoot repair surgery on a child while on board the USNS Comfort.

Lowell uses surgical skills on military hospital ship in Central America

BY BETH MILLER

In late July, Jeffrey Lowell, M.D., was in El Salvador operating on a Salvadoran soldier who had been injured by a grenade explosion while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Lowell and a colleague from the U.S. Navy spent about an hour removing tiny pieces of shrapnel from the soldier's shoulder and neck.

Lowell, known at the School of Medicine as professor of surgery and of pediatrics, was deployed on a mission serving in his role as a commander in the U.S. Public Health Service Reserve. Commander Lowell was deployed on the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Comfort July 13-Aug. 6 to serve as a general surgeon while the ship was in Panama, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

The nearly 900-foot-long ship, originally built as an oil tanker, is on a four-month mission in South America, Central America and the Caribbean providing training, free medical treatment and humanitarian assistance.

Lowell and the other physicians on board saw patients in land-based clinics, most without electricity or air conditioning in stifling heat, to provide adult and pediatric medicine, optometry, dermatology, preventative medicine and dental care. Hundreds of patients would be lined up at the clinic before the physicians arrived, Lowell said.

Because the ship was too large to dock at many of the ports, patients who needed surgery were taken to the ship via boat or Blackhawk helicopter. The surgeons would each handle about six or seven cases a day, including hernia repair, clubfoot repair and other orthopedic procedures, and gynecological and urological procedures, Lowell said.

"The experience was personally and professionally gratifying," Lowell said. "These people have no money and little access to health care. The frustrating thing was not being able to help more of them."

The ship has a crew of 800, including 500 medical personnel, and personnel from the Military Sealift Command, U.S. Navy, U.S. Public Health Service, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army and Canadian Armed Forces.

In addition, Operation Smile, a non-governmental organization that provides cleft palate repair, and Project Hope, a non-governmental organization that provides medical and dental services, are also on board.

The medical personnel are providing services to citizens in Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The ship's Seabees are repairing medical equipment, restoring existing medical facilities and providing needed construction services on hospitals, schools and other facilities in those countries.

High blood pressure, low energy equal a recipe for heart failure

BY GWEN ERICSON

Many people with long-standing high blood pressure develop heart failure.

In trying to explain why some people do and others don't, the latest research by Daniel P. Kelly, M.D., and his colleagues at the School of Medicine and at other institutions reveals that impaired energy production in heart muscle may underlie heart failure in some patients with high blood pressure.

The researchers say that a molecular factor involved in maintaining the heart's energy supply could become key to new approaches to prevent or treat heart failure.

The molecular factor, a protein called estrogen-related receptor alpha (ERR alpha), helps the heart keep up with energy-draining conditions like high blood pressure, which makes the heart work harder to pump blood.


Kelly

In the July issue of Cell Metabolism, Kelly and his colleagues report that mice born without any ERR alpha developed symptoms of heart failure when their hearts were forced to pump against high pressure. The hearts of normal mice took that pressure overload in stride and stayed healthy. Those contrasting outcomes suggest that heart health greatly depends on ERR alpha.

"The stress of a cardiac pressure overload asks heart muscle to manufacture more high energy compounds, and without ERR alpha, they can't do it," said Kelly, the Tobias and Hortense Lewin Professor of Cardiovascular Diseases and chief of the Cardiovascular Division.

"You could say that in high blood pressure conditions, the heart fails because it becomes starved for energy. And if you could feed the heart — by using a drug that enhances ERR alpha, for example — you might enable the heart to better keep pace with its energy requirements."

Although prevention and treatments are now available for heart failure due to high blood pressure, almost all of those drugs act outside the heart by dilating blood vessels throughout the body to reduce resistance. In the future, doctors might look for diminished energy capacity in the hearts of hypertensive patients and administer drugs that would rev up energy-producing pathways such as those controlled by ERR alpha, according to Kelly.

Kelly is also director of the Center for Cardiovascular Research and professor of medicine, of pediatrics and of molecular biology and pharmacology.

ERR alpha sits in the nucleus of cells and senses how much energy is needed. When a heart cell finds itself short on energy, perhaps because it's being called on to contract harder or faster, its ERR alpha is activated by an inducible co-activator called PGC-1, turning on genes that increase the heart's capacity to burn fats for fuel.

In mice that lacked ERR alpha and that were exposed to pressure overload, the researchers observed signs of early heart failure: The mouse hearts dilated and didn't contract effectively, the heart walls thinned, fibrous connective tissue accumulated and some heart cells died. They also saw that the hearts had depleted fuel reserves.

Kelly indicated that these studies show for the first time that changes in the ability of the heart to produce energy lead to heart failure in some cases.

"ERR alpha and some of its partners in the cell are a little like puppeteers controlling the expression of genes for energy production," Kelly said. "This research is especially exciting because ERR alpha can be activated with small compounds, making it a good target for drugs."

School of Medicine Update

Recycling program grows at the School of Medicine

BY BETH MILLER

Things are getting greener around the School of Medicine, but there is no paint or new landscaping involved.

The school kicked off a comprehensive recycling effort last month, distributing about 300 containers throughout its buildings for "commingled" recyclables, including aluminum, tin, plastics, glass, steel, cardboard and other materials (see box). The blue containers were placed in hallways near the existing paper recycling bins or near elevators.

The School of Medicine has been recycling various items for several years, including office paper, newspaper and shredded paper, mercury, lead, fluorescent light bulbs and some chemicals.

But interest from various campus groups led to the expanded program, said Michael Koch, environmental manager at the School of Medicine.

"Along with interest expressed by students, faculty and staff, this program goes along with the Chancellor's initiative to decrease the University's environmental footprint," Koch said. "The success of this program depends on everyone who works, learns or visits here. If everyone does their part by reducing, reusing and recycling, we can cut our solid waste by 50 percent to 60 percent."

Under a new contract with a local recycling vendor, the Facilities Management Department (FMD) will transport recyclable waste from within the buildings to outdoor containers. The vendor, BJ Partnership, will then collect the materials weekly, properly dispose of the waste through recycling partners and report to the School of Medicine how much has been recycled and kept out of area landfills. The vendor will also remove old shipping pallets, which will be recycled when possible or processed as decorative mulch.

BJ Partnership has a similar recycling contract with the Danforth Campus.

Gregg Evans, director of Support Services at the School of Medicine, said the school is also teaming with Barnes-Jewish Hospital to recycle cardboard by sharing the hospital's cardboard compactor. In addition, the School of Medicine has placed a large bin in the hospital's main vending area to collect plastic recyclables such as soda or water bottles.

The expanded program should boost the University's ranking in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's RecycleMania competition, which pits U.S. college and university recycling programs against one another to see which has the highest recycling rate and which can collect the most recyclables and produce the least amount of trash per capita. In 2006, the University ranked ninth nationwide, but Evans and Koch said the goal is to move up.

Evans and Koch said the expanded recycling program is one of many steps the medical school is taking to lessen its impact on the environment. For instance, under a new agreement with the University's trash hauler, the trash compactors now have gauges that indicate when they are full and ready to be emptied, saving trips to empty the compactors when they are only partially full. This saves unnecessary hauling and cuts down on vehicle mileage, further reducing unnecessary emissions.

In addition, since 1992, the School of Medicine has saved $26 million in energy costs by replacing and upgrading old systems, including replacing boilers, chillers and other production equipment with more efficient and reliable models, and updating heating, ventilating and air-conditioning systems in several buildings.

Evans said FMD's Custodial Services also is making changes by using more environmentally friendly cleaning products, and plans to use a different kind of wet mop that doesn't take as much water to launder or chemicals to clean.

The school is also collecting laboratory supplies and equipment for recycling, including mercury-based thermometers and pipette tips. Koch said since November 2005, when the pipette tips recycling program began, the effort has kept nine tons of discarded pipette tips out of landfills.

"Recycling is not a cost savings, it's an expense, but it's the right thing to do," Evans said. "The success of this program starts at each employee's desk."

Acceptable items for the commingled containers:

- Aluminum cans, trays and foil (empty and rinsed)
- Steel cans and tin (empty and rinsed)
- Soda, water and flavored-beverage bottles (empty and rinsed)
- Yogurt cups (empty and rinsed)
- Glass bottles and jars, clear, brown and green (empty and rinsed)

Unacceptable items:

- Plastic bags from a grocery or department store
- Styrofoam

Project ARK receives $6.7 million to provide HIV care to women, children

BY BETH MILLER

Project ARK, the St. Louis area's only organization that coordinates medical care, social support and prevention services for children, youth, young adults, women and families living with or at risk for HIV infection, has received a $6.7 million, five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The grant, the largest that supports Project ARK and the foundation of the program, was awarded through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act Part D, allowing Project ARK to continue to provide HIV care to children, youth ages 13-24, and women through a family centered approach.


Storch

Project ARK, or AIDS/HIV Resources and Knowledge, is a collaboration among the School of Medicine, St. Louis Children's Hospital and other area healthcare providers including the Saint Louis University School of Medicine. Together, the collaborators provide HIV primary care, case management, mental health and substance abuse evaluation and treatment, counseling, support groups and primary prevention education.

The St. Louis area has an estimated 4,700 people living with HIV/AIDS. Up to 40 percent of them are unaware they have HIV, which disproportionately affects minorities and the poor. In 2006, Project ARK provided services to 653 people infected with HIV, of which about three-fourths were African-American. In 2007, the project expects to serve 679 clients.

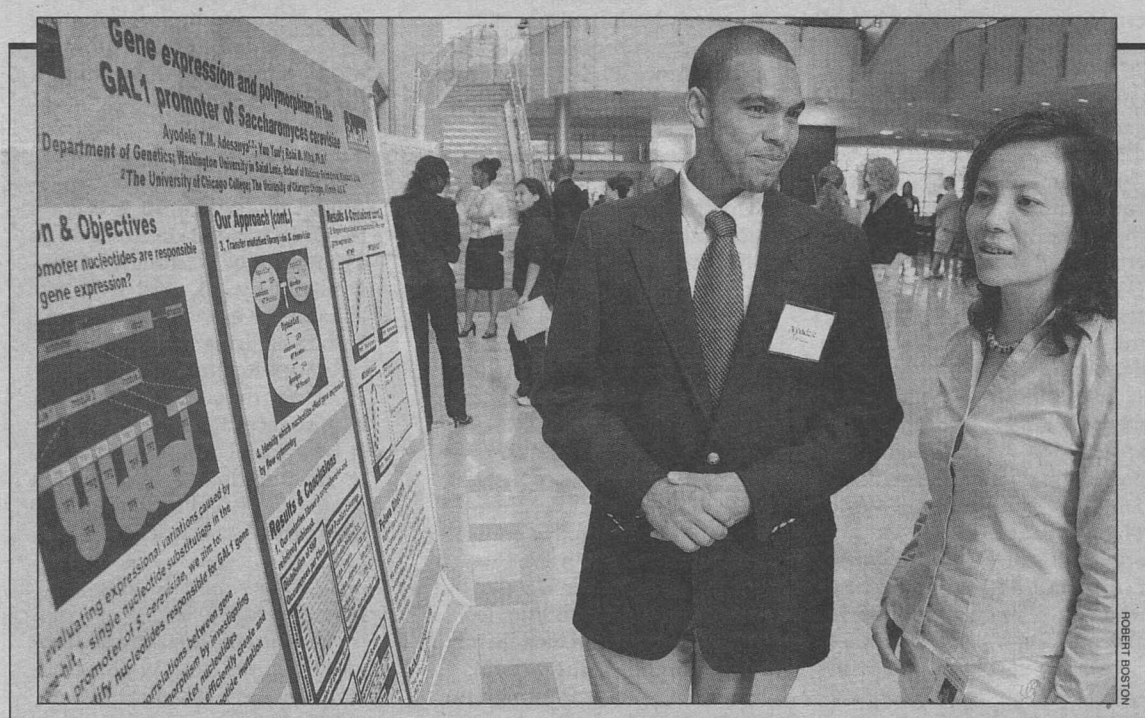
"We are very happy to receive this grant as it will allow us to address the needs of newly enrolling individuals and their families while continuing to provide optimum service to existing clients," said Gregory Storch, M.D., medical director of Project ARK and the Ruth L. Siteman Professor of Pediatrics.

"Last year, we had more than 100 new HIV-infected clients in the program. Those individuals often have a high level of need for social support services when they enter the program," said Storch, also director of the Division of Infectious Diseases at St. Louis Children's Hospital.

The federal Ryan White program is named after an Indiana teenager whose own struggle with AIDS and AIDS-related discrimination helped educate the nation. Ryan White died in 1990, the same year the program was enacted.

For low-income, uninsured AIDS patients, the Ryan White Act also provides access to HIV drugs, including protease inhibitors that are known to prolong the lives of HIV patients, mental health services, case management and dental care.

Project ARK also receives funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Ryan White Parts A and B and private foundations. It has been funded by the Ryan White Act since 1995.



ROBERT BOSTON

Gene scene Ayodele Adesanya, a University of Chicago undergraduate who took part in the summer Biomedical Research Apprenticeship Program (BioMed RAP), talks about his research poster, "Gene expression and polymorphism in the GAL1 promoter of Saccharomyces" with Yue Yun, a doctoral student in the Computational Biology Program. Adesanya completed his summer research under Robi Mitra, Ph.D., assistant professor of genetics. The participants in the BioMed RAP program, sponsored by the Medical Scientist Training Program, the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences and the Genome Sequencing Center Office of Outreach, presented their posters in the Farrell Learning and Teaching Center Atrium Aug. 3. BioMed RAP is a 10-week summer research program for undergraduate students, particularly those from groups traditionally underrepresented in graduate education, who are interested in pursuing biomedical research careers. The program is designed to provide a rigorous in-depth research experience to prepare participants for top-quality doctorate and M.D./Ph.D. programs.

Kidney research center launched with $5.7 million grant

BY CAROLINE ARBANAS

A $5.7 million grant will establish a center at the School of Medicine that will investigate the underlying causes of kidney disease to speed the development of new treatments.

The center, directed by Marc R. Hammerman, M.D., the Chromalloy Professor of Renal Diseases in Medicine, is funded by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), one of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

"Kidney disease is a devastating illness, and we don't fully understand its causes," said Hammerman, who also directs the Division of Renal Diseases and is a staff physician at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. "The grant will establish core facilities within the renal division to focus scientists' efforts to discover why kidneys fail."

WUSTL was one of only three institutions to receive the funding to establish a kidney disease research center of this type.

"It's a testimony to the depth and breadth of renal division faculty that NIH chose to base this center at Washington University," Hammerman said.


Hammerman

An estimated 19 million Americans have chronic kidney disease, a condition that often develops gradually as the kidneys lose their ability to filter waste out of the bloodstream. Diabetes and high blood pressure are major risk factors, but certain forms of kidney disease run in families. Drugs that lower protein levels in the urine and help protect damaged kidneys from worsening over time are the mainstay treatment.

"But these medications are fairly broad-based, and they can't cure the disease," Hammerman said. "If we understood the biological basis that underlies different types of kidney disease, we would have a better idea about how to treat these conditions."

The grant brings together a tour de force of 43 basic scientists and clinical researchers at WUSTL, and 12 investigators at several other academic medical centers in the United States and worldwide. Their overarching mission will be to better understand the way the kidney develops, including the role that particular genes play in the structure and function of the organ. The investigators also hope to determine how abnormalities in genes and their expression increase an individual's risk of developing kidney disease.

In addition to Hammerman, key investigators in the center include Daniel Brennan, M.D., professor of medicine; Jeffrey Miner, Ph.D., professor of medicine and of cell biology and physiology; Aubrey Morrison, M.B.B.S., professor of medicine; Raphael Kopan, Ph.D., professor of molecular biology and pharmacology; Andrey Shaw, M.D., the Emil Unanue Professor of Pathology and Immunology; Sanjay Jain, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine; Helen Liapis M.D., associate professor of pathology and immunology and of medicine; Rakesh Nagarajan, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of pathology and immunology; Mark Watson, M.D., Ph.D, associate professor of pathology and immunology; and Mark Schnitzler, Ph.D., associate professor of internal medicine at Saint Louis University.

Levine is first Biggs distinguished professor

BY BARBARA REA

For years, John and Penelope Biggs have supported the classics department in Arts & Sciences. Now, they have extended their generosity to the economics department with the establishment of the John H. Biggs Distinguished Professorship in Economics in Arts & Sciences.

David K. Levine, Ph.D., became the first to hold this distinction in a ceremony April 12 in Holmes Lounge.

"John and Penelope Biggs have a long history with our institution, and their association has benefited us on many levels," said Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton in announcing the gift.

"Their service and support over the years have been deep and enduring, and we are truly grateful for their genuine affection for Washington University and their commitment to its mission."

Levine's research interests include his work with Michele Boldrin, Ph.D., the Joseph Gibson Hunt Distinguished Professor of Economics, examining intellectual property and endogenous growth in dynamic general equilibrium models. It includes also the endogenous formation of preferences, institutions and social norms; learning in games; and the application of game theory to experimental economics.

His research with colleague Timothy Kehoe was instrumental in establishing the theoretical foundations of self-fulfilling prophecy equilibria, and in helping to establish the general equilibrium underpinnings of modern research on asset market frictions.

Furthermore, his work with colleague Drew Fudenberg on game theory has established conditions for efficiency in repeated games, and the limitation on equilibrium theory imposed by the necessity of learning. Together, they authored the book, "Learning in Games." His prolific research is supported by grants from the National Science Foundation.

In addition, he has published more than 80 articles that have appeared in the most significant professional journals, including The American Economic Review, The Journal of Political Economy, The Quarterly Journal of Economics, and Econometrica, which he serves as co-editor. He also co-edits NAJ Economics.

Among Levine's many professional roles are serving as president of the Society for Economic Dynamics, as a fellow of the Econometric Society, as a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research, as a member of the Sloan Research Fellowship Program Committee, and as a member of the American Economic Association Honors and Awards Committee.

After earning a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's in economics from the University of California, Los Angeles,

MARY BUTKUS

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton presents David K. Levine, Ph.D., with a medal signifying his appointment as the inaugural John H. Biggs Distinguished Professor in Economics in Arts & Sciences April 12 in Holmes Lounge.

Levine graduated with a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Prior to joining Washington University in 2006, most of his career was at UCLA, where he held the Armen Alchian Chair in Economic Theory and twice served as chair of the economics department.

He also has taught at many institutions worldwide, among them the University of Minnesota, Cambridge University, California Institute of Technology, Tel Aviv University, the University of Texas, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Australia National University.

Penelope and John Biggs are both alumni of Arts & Sciences and both are dedicated to keeping the classics alive.

Eighteen years ago, they created a residency in the classics department, whereby an eminent scholar in Greek or Latin studies visits Washington University for a week to teach and promote an area of the classics. In 2002, they made a commitment to establish the John and Penelope Biggs Distinguished Professorship in the Classics.

Native St. Louisan John Biggs is an eminent economist with a life-long interest in advancing education. He graduated from Harvard in 1958 with a bachelor's degree in classics, but his mathematical abilities led him to his first job at General American Life Insurance Co., where he ascended through the ranks.

By the time he met then-chancellor of Washington University, William H. Danforth, in 1977, Biggs was chief financial officer for General American. Danforth offered him the vice chancellor position for finance and administration, and Biggs held it until 1985, when he became president and chief executive officer of Centerre Trust Inc.

During his tenure at Washington University, he earned a doctorate in economics and taught classes in the department.

In 1989, he became president and chief operating officer of TIAA-CREF, an investment company that offers a wide range of investment products and services primarily for those who work in education. Four years later, he was named chairman, president, and chief executive officer; he led the company until retiring in 2002.

Since his retirement, Biggs has remained active in corporate, community and professional associations. The former chairman of the influential National Bureau of Economic Research still serves as a director. In addition, he is a director for the Boeing Co. and J.P. Morgan.

Other distinctions include being a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. In addition to serving as a trustee of Washington University, Biggs has assisted his alma mater in many other ways, such as chairing the University's New York Regional Cabinet.

Currently, he is an executive in residence at the Stern School at New York University.

After graduating summa cum laude from Radcliffe College, where she first met John, with a bachelor's degree in classics, Penelope Biggs married John and moved to St. Louis.

She earned master's and doctorate degrees from Washington University in 1968 and 1974, respectively, in comparative literature. She joined the faculty of Lindenwood College (now University) as an assistant professor of literature.

Later, she taught Latin at the high school now called Mary Institute Country Day School. Her writings on classical and post-classical literature have been published in scholarly journals.

Both John and Penelope Biggs are life members of the Danforth Circle.

Bruce Lindsey appointed E. Desmond Lee Professor

BY LIAM OTTEN

Bruce Lindsey, dean of the College of Architecture and the Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design, has been named the E. Desmond Lee Professor for Community Collaboration in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts.

"We are fortunate to have recruited Bruce Lindsey to the University, and his record of community engagement is impressive," Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said. "Bruce is distinguished in every respect we value, and it is rewarding to have him as a member of the academic leadership team in the Sam Fox School. He will be another wonderful holder of the E. Desmond Lee Professorship."

The professorship is one of four established at the University since 1997 by St. Louis philanthropist E. Desmond Lee, a 1940 graduate of the John M. Olin School of Business. The professorship is intended to recognize faculty who already have made, and will continue to make, important contributions to the mission of engaging the community. As such, the professorship appointment is open to all schools at the University, and is reviewed every five years. It was previously held by W. Patrick Schuchard, professor of painting in the Sam Fox School's College and Graduate School of Art, who retired this summer.

Lindsey

"Pat has done amazing work as Des Lee Professor," said Carmon Colangelo, dean of the Sam Fox School and the E. Desmond Lee Professor for Collaboration in the Arts. "Bruce brings a similar energy and engagement to his teaching and professional practice, focusing on the ways in which architecture can serve and shape community. Indeed, I think that we're fortunate to be able to keep this professorship within the Sam Fox School."

Schuchard, during his tenure as Des Lee Professor, has developed a wide range of public art projects and initiatives, including the new Delmar Boulevard master plan and Critical Mass, a coalition of local arts organizations.

Perhaps most notably, Schuchard spearheaded creation of University Lofts, 1627 Washington Ave. The $5.6 million redevelopment project transformed an eight-story, 64,000-square-foot downtown warehouse into affordable living/working space for dozens of artists.

Lindsey, who arrived at the University in fall 2006, has also developed low-income housing as well as environmentally sustainable projects. He previously served as head of Auburn University's School of Architecture and led its acclaimed Rural Studio, which allows students to design and build innovative "charity houses" that are then donated to impoverished families.

Meanwhile, Lindsey's design for the Pittsburgh Glass Center (with Davis Gannon Architects) earned a gold rating under the U.S. Green Buildings Council's Leadership in Environmental & Energy Design, or LEED, guidelines. The project also received a Design Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and was chosen as one of 2005's top 10 green buildings by the AIA's Committee on the Environment.

Lee is the former president of Lee-Rowan Manufacturing Co., a leading manufacturer of closet accessories, plastic-coated shelves, hangers and other products for consumers and retailers. He started the company in 1939 with friend and fellow alumnus James P. Rowan, a 1938 graduate of Arts & Sciences. Over the years, Lee has been a leader in promoting citizenship, civic pride and dedication to the growth and vitality of the St. Louis region, giving more than $50 million to local institutions and charitable causes. In 1996, he was named St. Louis Man of the Year, and in 1997 received the National Outstanding Philanthropist Award. In 1999, Worth magazine named Lee one of "The 100 Most Generous Americans."

For his outstanding efforts, the University has bestowed Lee with the Robert S. Brookings Award in 2000, as well as an honorary degree in 2002.

Lee has provided significant support for Washington University. He has made generous contributions for business programs, scholarships and cancer research.

In addition to the appointments held by Lindsey and Colangelo, Lee has endowed the E. Desmond Lee Professorship for Racial and Ethnic Diversity. Recently, the Lees have provided another gift to establish the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Professorship, dedicated to advance entrepreneurship. Also named in Lee's honor is the Sam Fox School's Des Lee Gallery, located in the University Lofts development.

A formal installation ceremony for Lindsey will be Aug. 24.

University Events

Zoonotic Disease • Images to Outcomes • Might versus Right

"University Events" lists a portion of the activities taking place Aug. 23-Sept. 6 at Washington University. Visit the Web for expanded calendars for the Danforth Campus (webevent.wustl.edu) *and the School of Medicine* (medschool.wustl.edu/calendars.html).

Exhibits

"Horse Series." Abstract images of Clydesdale horses by Robert Boston, School of Medicine photographer. Through fall. Farrell Learning and Teaching Center, 520 S. Euclid Ave., Lvl. 2.

Lectures

Thursday, Aug. 23

1 p.m. Midwest Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research Guest Lecture. "Zoonotic Disease at the Human Animal Nexus." Gregory C. Gray, dir., Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases. McDonnell Pediatric Research Bldg., Rm. 8101. 286-0432.

4 p.m. Chemistry Lecture. Bayer Distinguished Lecture. "A Multi-dimensional Approach to Molecular Recognition in Chemistry and Biology: Towards New Therapies Against Infectious Diseases." François Diederich, lab. of organic chemistry, Swiss Federal Inst. of Technology, Zurich. (Reception follows.) Lab Sciences Bldg., Rm. 300. 935-4108.

Friday, Aug. 24

9:15 a.m. Pediatric Grand Rounds. Annual Dodge Lecture. "The Neurotrophic Unit: Signaling to Make, Maintain, and Monitor Circuits." William Mobley, chair of neurology, prof. of pediatrics and neurology, Stanford U. Clopton Aud., 4950 Children's Place. 454-6006.

11 a.m. Chemistry Lecture. "Acetylene and Fullerene Scaffolding: Carbon-rich Advanced Materials." François Diederich, lab. of organic chemistry, Swiss Federal Inst. of Technology, Zurich. Louderman Hall, Rm. 458. 935-4108.

Saturday, Aug. 25

7:30 a.m.-6:15 p.m. Radiology CME Course. "Images to Outcomes VII: Cardiovascular Imaging Nuclear Cardiology and Beyond." (Continues 7:45-10:30 a.m. Aug. 26.) Cost: $350 for physicians, $250 for allied health professionals. Sheraton St. Louis City Center, 400 S. 14th St. To register: 362-6891.

Tuesday, Aug. 28

4:30 p.m. Freedom from Smoking Class. Continues weekly through Oct. 2. Farrell Learning & Teaching Center, Rm. 214 A&B. To register: 362-6961.

'Window | Interface' at Kemper Art Museum

New media artworks explore connections between the visual and the physical

BY LIAM OTTEN

Windows shape and frame, both literally and figuratively, the ways we see the world around us.

Interfaces represent the points of contact between different systems, spaces and entities — for example, the screen, the mouse or the keyboard that connects the computer with the human user.

In August, the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum will present "Window | Interface," the second installment in its series Screen Arts and New Media Aesthetics.

The exhibition will highlight a variety of artistic projects, including videos, photographs and digital installations, that explore the roles of windows and interfaces as both boundaries and sites of transaction between machine and mind, data and perception, the world of the body and the world of the imagination.

Drawn from private collections and major museums, "Window | Interface" is organized by Sabine Eckmann, Ph.D., director and chief curator of the Kemper Art Museum, and Lutz Koepnick, Ph.D., curator for new media and professor of German and Film & Media Studies in Arts & Sciences.

The first section of the exhibition explores the ways in which artists such as Doug Aitken, Cerith Wyn Evans, David Hilliard and Jeff Wall have used windows to represent abstracted, disembodied and framed sight.

For example, Evans's "Think of this as a Window" (2005) consists of cool neon letters spelling out the title on a horizontal, window-like sheet of plexiglass. The piece highlights the role of architectural windows as mechanisms for framing space and sight while also alluding to the range of framing and display devices we have come to experience as windows today, electronic or not.

Conversely, Jeff Wall's "Blind Window" series (2000) posits a kind of dysfunctional window that seems to deny the very act of seeing. Displayed in backlit boxes, these three large-scale transparencies depict sites in which dilapidated window frames are barricaded or encased by rough wooden planks. At once formally elegant and claustrophobic, these scenes renegotiate the long tradition of associating the window with transparency and realism, thus "opening our view" to the different types of framed viewing explored throughout the exhibition.

The second section looks at ways in which multimedia installations, videos and photographs offer new aesthetic experiences with the help of electronic screens and interfaces.

These works, by artists such as Joseph Beuys, Peter Campus, Olafur Eliasson, Jeffrey Shaw and Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle frequently move beyond visual experience to involve other senses, including hearing, touch and physical movement, thus underscoring the significance of the body as central to aesthetic experience.

For example, Eliasson's "Seeing Yourself Seeing" (2001) draws attention to the viewer's own body and its role in framing visual experience. The work consists of a large sheet of glass suspended from the ceiling, upon which mirrored elements have been applied in thin vertical strips.

Viewers, peering through their own reflections and into the space beyond, are thus recast as active participants, creating a kind of fragmented double-image that shifts and changes with their every movement.

Other works, such as Manglano-Ovalle's "Le Baiser (The Kiss)" (1999), investigate the relationship between the window, the body and contemporary media. This room-sized video installation consists of an imposing double-sided aluminum-frame screen that mimics the glass walls of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's iconic Farnsworth House. A multitrack film depicts two figures — a window washer (played by the artist) and a young woman wearing earphones — who, despite their physical proximity, seem to occupy different worlds, isolated from one another as well as from the external viewer.

The exhibition also includes a series of groundbreaking video works from the late 1960s and early 1970s. Campus' "Prototype for Interface" (1972) consists of a glass sheet upon which the viewer's image is both reflected and broadcast. "TV Cello Premiere" (1971), a collaboration between Naim June Paik, Jud Yalkut and Charlotte Moorman, depicts Moorman, a Julliard-trained musician and Fluxus artist, in her first performance on Paik's "TV cello." Also on view will be Beuys' "Filz TV (Felt TV)" (1970), in which the artist interacts with a felt-covered television screen; and Valie Export's provocative "Touch Cinema" (1968), a videotaped performance in which passers-by were invited to reach inside a miniature "theater" concealing Export's naked chest.

The Screen Arts and New Media Aesthetics series is designed to stimulate discussion about the aesthetics of the digital and its role in contemporary research, discourse and artistic practice. The series highlights emerging electronic forms as well as older forms of technological art such as photography, film and video through publications, exhibitions, lectures, workshops and discussions.

Tuesday, Sept. 4

5:30 p.m. Biophysical Evenings Seminar. "Membranes: Barrier/Gateway of Eukaryotic Cells." Paul Schlesinger, assoc. prof. of cell biology & physiology. Cori Aud., 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-4152.

Wednesday, Sept. 5

8 a.m.-5 p.m. St. Louis STD/HIV Prevention Training Center Course. "STD Update." (Continues 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 6.) Cost: $75. For location and to register: 747-1522.

Thursday, Sept. 6

4 p.m. History Colloquium. "Might Versus Right: The German Foreign Office and the Laws of War in 1914." Isabel V. Hull, prof. of history, Cornell U. (Reception follows.) Duncker Hall, Rm. 201, Hurst Lounge. 935-5450.

Sports

Martin contender for Woman of the Year

Track and field standout Delaina Martin has been selected as one of the Top 30 contenders for the 2007 NCAA Woman of the Year award, as selected by the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics.

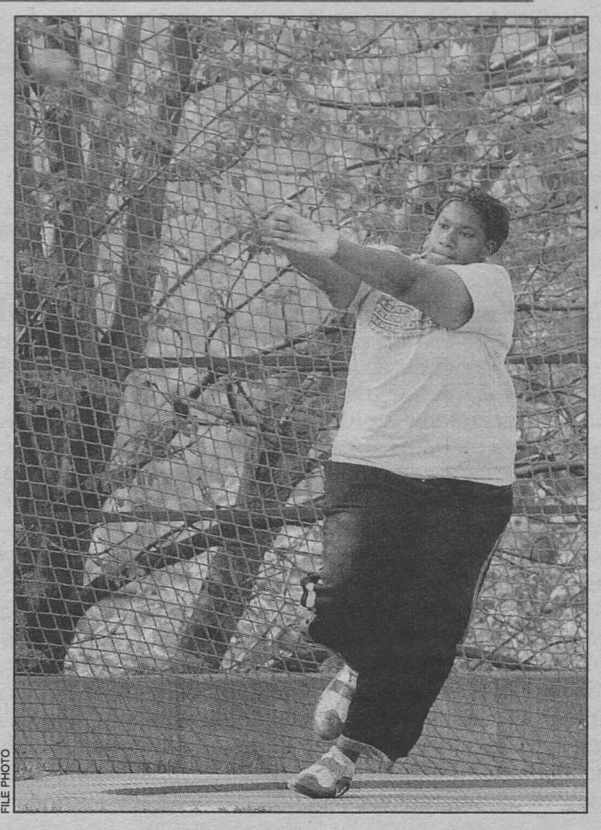
From the 30 contenders, 10 from each NCAA division, the Committee on Women's Athletics will narrow the field to nine finalists, eventually selecting the 2007 NCAA Woman of the Year.

Martin completed her undergraduate studies in May with a 3.67 grade-point average as a mathematics and Spanish major, both in Arts & Sciences. She finished her four-year college career as the school record holder in four events — the 20-pound weight throw and shot put indoors, and the hammer throw and shot put outdoors.

Martin is one of the most decorated track and field athletes in University Athletic Association (UAA) history with 16 All-Conference honors (10 outdoor, six indoor). In indoor competition, she was a three-time UAA champion in the 20-pound weight throw (2005-07) and also won the shot put (2006). Outdoors, Martin claimed league titles in the hammer throw (2005, 2006), the discus (2004, 2005) and the shot put (2006).

She was twice named the field events Most Outstanding Performer in the indoor championships (2006, 2007), garnered Most Outstanding Performer accolades at the outdoor event in 2005, and was named the UAA Rookie of the Year in 2004. Martin also earned All-America accolades as a junior and senior at the NCAA Division III Championships, finishing fourth in the weight throw in 2006 and third in 2007.

The NCAA will salute the achievements and accomplishments of the Top 30 contenders and the nine finalists at the NCAA Woman of the Year awards dinner, to be held Saturday, Oct. 27, at the Murat Centre in Indianapolis.



FILE PHOTO

Delaina Martin completed her undergraduate degree in May with a 3.67 grade-point average as a mathematics and Spanish major, both in Arts & Sciences.

Women's, men's soccer

The women's soccer team is ranked No. 11, while the men's team was tabbed No. 23 in the NSCAA/adidas preseason top-25 poll, as announced on the Web site.

The **women's team** finished the 2006 season with a program-best 17-3 record and advanced to NCAA Sectionals. The Bears posted a 7-0 record in UAA play, capturing their fourth UAA championship in school history. Sixth-year head coach Wendy Dillinger has guided the Bears to a 69-21-8 overall record, ranking 14th among active Division III coaches with a .745 winning percentage.

WUSTL returns 24 letter-winners and eight starters from last year's squad.

The **men's team** posted a 12-4-2 record in 2006 and finished third in the UAA with a 4-2-1 mark. The Bears fell to Wheaton College (Ill.), 1-0, in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament.

It was the first postseason action for the Red and Green since advancing to the NCAA Second Round in 1999.

Washington U. returns all 11 starters from the 2006 squad, including senior defender Elie Zenner, sophomore forward John Hengel and sophomore goalkeeper John Smelcer.

Zenner, a first-team all-UAA honoree, bolstered a defense that allowed just nine goals all year. Smelcer earned UAA Rookie of the Year honors after posting an 11-4-2 record in net and boasting a 0.53 goals against average, the fourth lowest in team history.

May named assistant dean in Arts & Sciences

BY TONY FITZPATRICK

Victoria L. May, science outreach director since 1998, has been appointed assistant dean of Arts & Sciences by Edward S. Macias, Ph.D., executive vice chancellor, dean of Arts & Sciences and the Barbara and David Thomas Distinguished Professor in Arts & Sciences.

The appointment was effective July 1.

"Vicki has made our science outreach program a model for other universities in this country," said Macias. "This new position recognizes her great success and anticipates further outreach efforts in all parts of Arts & Sciences."

"I think teaching is the hardest job in the world," May said.

May knows of what she speaks. She is a former high school and college chemistry instructor, who since coming to the University in 1993 has dedicated her career to supporting K-12 teachers and students. May has been the director of science outreach since 1998.

May

As director of science outreach, May works closely with the science faculty to improve teaching and learning in K-12 schools. A strong believer in the power of partnerships among universities, science education organizations and schools, she has developed programs to help all students learn science through investigation and exploration.

Sarah C.R. Elgin, Ph.D., professor of biology and founder of science outreach, hired May as a consultant for the Modern Genetics high school program in 1993.

"Vicki has done a tremendous job of making Washington University's expertise in science accessible for the K-12 community," Elgin said. "She knows both worlds and is wonderful at making the right connections that lead to productive interactions. Without Vicki, we would still have a lot of good intentions, but much less to show for our efforts in science education outreach."

The National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health, the State of Missouri, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and other private foundations fund science outreach projects.

Since coming to the University, May has been instrumental in securing outside funding of more than $19.7 million for K-12 outreach and undergraduate education programs. In 2006-07, science outreach graduate courses for teachers, school partnerships and student programs were budgeted at $3.6 million.

"Our work wouldn't be possible without the wonderful University faculty and staff involved with our programs, many of whom donate their time to working with teachers and kids," May said.

In the past year, May has worked with Department of Biology members Barbara Schaal, Ph.D., the Spencer T. Olin Professor of Biology; Jon Chase, Ph.D., associate professor; Tiffany Knight, Ph.D., assistant professor; Ken Olsen, Ph.D., assistant professor; Ursula Goodenough, Ph.D., professor; plus several graduate students and postdoctoral researchers to develop a master's degree program in biology for high school teachers.

Called Life Sciences for a Global Community, the first cohort of teachers began studies in July, with support of $3.9 million from NSF.

May is the principal investigator for the MySci hands-on science for elementary students project, a partnership between the St. Louis Science Center, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Saint Louis Zoo and the Visual Communications Research Studio in the Sam Fox School of Art and Design.

Educators from area schools and these institutions collaborated to build the mobile Investigation Station, where young children can explore science through their senses. Supported by the Monsanto Fund, MySci fills an important gap especially for urban students in underserved school districts.

May also is a leader in science education at the national and statewide levels. She has served as an adviser to the American Society of Cell Biology's education committee.

Most recently, she has assumed a leadership role in the education initiatives of the Missouri METS (Mathematics, Engineering, Technology, Science) coalition, which serves in an advisory role to Gov. Matt Blunt. Through the METS work, May hopes to improve workforce development in science and technical fields throughout the state.

May looks forward to broadening K-12 science education outreach efforts in the future.

"I am thrilled about the vote of confidence Dean Macias has shown in our work," May said, "and hope it opens the door for greater collaboration among faculty and programs involved in K-12 education throughout Arts & Sciences."

City Year/Coro partnership with GWB

The Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs and City Year are partnering with the George Warren Brown School of Social Work to offer their alumni added incentives when applying to the University's master of social work program.

"Coro/City Year Fellows bring exactly the kind of leadership and social change experience we seek for the Brown School," says Edward F. Lawlor, Ph.D., dean and the William E. Gordon Professor. "I have always been so impressed with the passion, skills, and commitment to social justice that these fellows bring to their work."

The Brown School offers the following admissions benefits package to City Year members and alumni:

- Two $25,000 scholarships awarded to two City Year alumni or one-for-one tuition award match for alumni with AmeriCorps educational award funds.
- No application fee.
- A one-year deferral for students admitted to Brown's MSW program who decide to complete their 1,700 hours of City Year service before starting the MSW program.
- Opportunities for City Year scholars to volunteer and participate in activities and projects sponsored by the Gephardt Institute for Public Service.

"City Year and the George Warren Brown School of Social Work are both committed to developing diverse, idealistic leaders who are on the forefront of addressing our nation's most pressing challenges," says Michael Brown, co-founder and CEO of City Year Inc.

"We are proud to partner with such an outstanding academic institution that values the leadership skills of our alumni network and shares our vision for social change. "

For alumni and members of the Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs, the Brown School offers:

- A $20,000 scholarship award for two years of study to each Coro alum admitted to the program who is deemed scholarship worthy. Admitted alumni will be considered for other merit-based scholarships, up to and including full-tuition awards.
- No application fee.
- A one-year deferral for students admitted to the MSW program who decide to complete the nine-month Coro internship before enrolling in Brown.
- Ability to pursue independent study opportunities in an area of interest with Brown faculty members.
- Ability to participate in community service cohort projects.

"Coro's St. Louis center is extremely pleased that the Brown School is extending such a wonderful opportunity to the Fellows who participate in our program locally as well as to those who go through the Fellows in Public Affairs programs in Coro's other centers in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York and Pittsburgh," says Barbara Abbett, Coro Leadership Center - St. Louis Board member.

"These men and women from all across the country are some of the best and brightest coming out of our colleges and universities and will be well suited for the master's program at the Brown School. We are delighted to have been extended this partnership."

For more information about these and other scholarships, contact Janice Wells-White at 935-6694.

Reading

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in our lives. It's really a wonderful bridge between science and art."

"Einstein's Dreams," written by physicist Lightman, adjunct professor of humanities at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is a fictional collage of stories dreamed by Albert Einstein in 1905 when he worked in a patent office in Switzerland.

The book was chosen following solicitations from current students and faculty.

These were collected and reviewed by the Freshman Reading Program steering committee, comprised of students, faculty and staff members.

Early in the summer, incoming freshmen were sent a copy of the book as well as an introductory DVD movie, created by WUSTL sophomore Jeff Nelson and Alicia Schnell, project manager for the Freshman Reading Program.

"This is an excellent opportunity for freshmen to challenge themselves, to meet their new classmates and to engage in meaningful interaction with members of the faculty," Coburn said.

Freshmen will encounter themes from "Einstein's Dreams" during the semester in classes, discussions and on-campus programming and exhibits. The programs are further explorations of the issues raised in the book and the theme of time.

Lightman will serve as a Hurst Visiting Professor for two days and will deliver a lecture for the Assembly Series Sept. 19.

For more information and to view the DVD, go online to frp.wustl.edu.

The reading program is part of Fall Orientation 2007, which runs through Aug. 28

Orientation officially kicks off today with "move-in" and residence hall floor meetings, followed by Convocation, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton's opportunity to welcome all new students and parents to the University.

An array of departmental open houses is scheduled for Aug. 24. The open houses give students an opportunity to meet with representatives from the faculty and staff to learn more about the departments. Various placement exams, financial aid meetings and campus ministry dinners will also take place today.

Friday's closing event is the Club 40 Dance at 10 p.m. in the South 40 Clock Tower Plaza.

Aug. 25 will feature placement exams, deans meetings and residence hall floor meetings.

Highlighting the evening will be "Choices 101 — An Introduction to the First Year Experience," presented by upper class students. A discussion will follow. The presentation will be at 8 p.m. in Edison Theatre.

Aug. 26 will open with worship opportunities. The day consists of a full schedule of adviser meetings for all incoming students. At 8 p.m., students can attend "The Date," an interactive theatrical presentation that examines the issues of sexual assault and alcohol on college campuses. A discussion will follow.

Aug. 27 will feature peer advising and more campus orientation. "Freshmen Foundations," a presentation by Richard J. Smith, Ph.D., the Ralph E. Morrow Distinguished University Professor of physical anthropology in Arts & Sciences, provides an opportunity for students to gain an insider's view of how to succeed in the classroom while at the same time creating a healthy balance outside the classroom. Cornerstone will host a panel of students who will talk about their academic experience.

The Aug. 28 schedule includes meetings, faculty presentations, library tours and receptions. An outdoor movie will be shown from 9-11:30 p.m. in the South 40 Swamp.

Also scheduled during the week are a variety of events designed especially for international, commuter and transfer students.

To view the complete schedule for freshmen, transfer students and parents, go online to orientation.wustl.edu.

Texting

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System is voluntary, and text messages only will be sent to individuals who have provided their cell phone data and elected to participate. There is no cost to register for the program, although charges for receipt of a text message may apply, depending on the cellular service agreement.

Voluntarily registering for the system includes acknowledgment and acceptance of costs related to receipt of emergency messages and test messages.

The University has engaged clearTXT to provide this service. clearTXT is a Web-based program that is supported by technology in multiple locations outside of the St. Louis region. Using a third-party provider with data centers in different parts of the country further reduces the risk of disruption of our communications. clearTXT has the ability to send text messages and e-mails and will soon introduce the ability to send alerts to PCs.

In August, students, faculty and staff will receive an e-mail inviting them to participate in this program. The e-mail will include a user ID, a password and a link to the registration site.

The registration site must be visited directly and cell phone information must be input in order to receive text messages.

Registration can also be initiated by going directly to the Web site, wustl.cleartxt.com, without waiting for the e-mail invitation.

Parents, guardians of students and other partners of the University who wish to receive emergency text messages will be able to register and input their cell phone information directly at wustl.cleartxt.com.

Text messages are limited to 120 characters in length. The alert message will typically notify recipients that there is an emergency and it will direct them to other University emergency notification systems for more information, including the Emergency Notification Web Page (response.wustl.edu/), the Phone Emergency Announcement System (935-9000 or 1-888-234-2863), the Emergency E-mail Broadcast System, and the Chancellor's, Deans' and Department Heads' offices.

Any questions about his program should be directed to Telephone Services at 935-5005 or University Information Services & Technology at 935-5707.

Geologist

– from Page 1

have a plan. We're trying to implement one in Quito, but the Latin American culture is different."

A key problem is wealth, or the lack thereof, in Ecuador.

"America is a First World country, but Ecuador is Third World, so financial support is not strong," Buchwaldt said. "Setting up seismometers is an expensive process. Hundreds will be needed, but currently there are only two near Quito set up by German researchers."

Ecuador, roughly the size of Nevada, has a whopping 270 volcanoes, 20 of which are active, the most active being Tungurahua, with 70 eruptions over the past 3,000 years.

Buchwaldt said a second major problem is communications.

"As scientists, we need to avoid the academic gobbledygook," he said. "The politicians, though, tend to dummy things down. We're seeking a communications platform that will enable us to communicate between different fields.

"What happens when you get a volcanic eruption, you have excited scientists because it means data, but data mean nothing to a normal citizen sitting there while a one-mile pyroclastic flow starts streaming by."

A pyroclastic flow is a very violent, destructive, gas-rich and fast-moving mass of rock flow from a volcanic vent. Imagine opening up a cola bottle and seeing the white flow of foam that accompanies that — the foam is an indication of gas separating, and that is what you have with the pyroclastic flow.

Buchwaldt said that the committee has plans in effect for public meetings that will educate the citizenry and government officials, explain the dangers and develop escape plans for Quito and other communities.

He made a presentation on projects and the committee's work at Goldschmidt Conference 2007, held Aug. 20-24, in Cologne, Germany.

Buchwaldt is just beginning research in Ecuador, and he has projects in Madagascar and Cameroon. His main interests are geochronology, petrology and geochemistry.

"I'm interested in using well-established methods to understand the dynamics of systems, especially Earth systems," he said. "Volcanoes interest me greatly because they are very dynamic."

He said that western Washington and Ecuador are similar in that they each are situated along a major subduction zone. A collective zone occurs throughout the Pacific Ocean and is called the Ring of Fire. Most of the volcanism on the planet occurs around these subduction zones.

Volcanoes produced in subduction zones have different magmas than those produced in hot spot areas, such as in Hawaii, for instance. In subduction zones, water is brought down into the mantle where it gets dissolved in the magma and therefore creates a gas-rich magma that produces a very explosive situation. In hot spot volcanoes, water is not involved, so the magma is more viscous and thus flows more easily.

Buchwaldt is looking at the chemistry of different magma deposits to see how different volcanoes evolve and determine the evolution of different volcanoes as well as the kinds of dynamic processes involved in volcanic eruptions. He also is using Geospatial Information Systems technology to detect the dominant flow patterns in the area with the goal of classifying different regions in terms of the severity of their volcanic potential.

What he finds will add to the geological record of Ecuador and the general knowledge base of volcanoes. But his findings also will help Ecuadorians plan city buildings and emergency buildings and escape routes to avoid future volcanic destruction.

During Spring Break 2007, Buchwaldt took 30 members of his geosciences class to a field trip in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands to study the differences in volcanoes.

"It was an extremely interesting opportunity for students to actually see real geology, at times as it was happening," he said. "A geologist needs to be outside looking at rocks and minerals. One of the memorable things was standing on a pyroclastic flow that had come down just two months before, and that flow was atop the foundation of a house it had overrun.

"It's kind of scary when you actually stand on a volcano and you feel the rumbling of the volcano mountain when the magma comes up and you see ash coming up at the top of the volcano. We were truly seeing the surface expression of this dynamic planet we're living on."

Gene

– from Page 1

GRPR, so now we're trying to determine if there is functional redundancy in the itching pathway."

GRPR knockout mice had normal reactions to painful stimuli, indicating that pain and itch are mediated by separate sets of genes in the spinal cord.

This suggests that drugs can be used to suppress the itch sensation without affecting the painsensation, according to Chen.

And because pain can be an important protective cue that warns of danger, it may be a distinct advantage to have an anti-itch medication that doesn't compromise our pain-sensing capability.

GRPR had been fairly well studied before, but no one could provide a compelling link between GRPR and itching before now.

"Scientists have been studying this receptor for more than a decade," Chen says. "One interesting thing they've found is that GRPR is implicated in tumor growth. As a result of research like this, a lot of substances have been made that block the activity of GRPR.

"So now researchers can study the effect of these agents on the itch sensation and possibly move that research to clinical applications fairly soon."

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Notables

More than 1,000 students volunteer for Service First

By Neil Schoenherr

Students in the Class of 2011, arriving on campus today, will be busy buying last-minute notebooks, pens, highlighters and maybe a few paint brushes.

Paint brushes?

More than 1,000 newly arrived freshmen will need those brushes, and more, as they volunteer their time Sept. 1 to paint, landscape, clean and beautify 13 area public schools to make the school year more enjoyable for students and their teachers.

It's all part of the annual Service First, an initiative that introduces first-year University students to community service in the St. Louis area.

Service First sends approximately 90 students to each of the chosen schools, and all projects are developed by principals and their staffs. Projects include painting indoor and outdoor murals, painting activities and maps on the playground, creating bulletin boards and preparing classrooms.

"Service First continues to be a very popular event for our new students," said Stephanie Kurtzman, director of the Community Service Office and associate director of the Richard A. Gephardt Institute for Public Service. "It's a fun day that allows students to become friends with other freshmen, to get a better sense of the St. Louis community and to make the first steps in what we hope will be a lasting commitment to service during their stay at Washington University."

After a day of work, students will participate in a Community Service Fair and barbecue featuring more than 30 student-run organizations that focus on community service. It allows students to learn more about opportunities in which to get involved during their time at college.

Service First is co-sponsored this year by The Women's Society of Washington University, Student Union and Congress of the South 40, among others.

Service First began in 1999 with about 600 student volunteers helping to clean and beautify scenic trails. It has grown and flourished every year and now typically involves more than 1,000 students, staff and faculty volunteers.

Schools to be visited this year are Eskridge Elementary in the Wellston School District; Barbara C. Jordan Elementary in the University City School District; and Baden, Herzog, Long, Mann, Mullanphy, Oak Hill, Shaw and Wallbridge elementary schools and Carr Lane, Long and Stowe middle schools in the St. Louis School District.

For more information, call Kurtzman at 935-5066.

WUSTL ranked 12th in undergraduate programs

By Neil Schoenherr

Washington University — consistently ranked among America's 20 best national universities — is ranked 12th again for undergraduate programs among the nation's best 248 national universities by U.S. News & World Report, the magazine announced Aug. 17.

The University tied with Cornell University for the second straight year.

The University also ranked 18th in the "Great Schools, Great Prices" category in this year's results, to be published in the Aug. 27 issue of U.S. News and its America's Best Colleges guidebook.

The University ranked highly in several other categories: seventh in faculty resources, sixth in selectivity, fourth in financial resources and 11th in alumni giving.

WUSTL also was tied for fifth in highest proportion of classes with fewer than 20 students and 17th in graduation and retention.

The undergraduate program at the Olin School of Business is ranked as the 12th-best business school among national universities, tied with Cornell, Emory University, University of Illinois, The Ohio State University and the University of Wisconsin. The school's finance program ranked 15th.

The School of Engineering undergraduate program is ranked 43rd, tied with Brown University, Michigan State University, the University of Notre Dame and Vanderbilt University. The school's Department of Biomedical Engineering ranked 16th.

The U.S. News overall undergraduate rankings are derived from peer assessments by university chief executive officers, provosts and admissions deans, as well as from data gathered from each institution.

These data are broken down into categories and assigned a weight reflecting the magazine's judgment about which measures of quality matter most.

A complete list of the rankings is posted on the publication's Web site, usnews.com.

A complete list of the most recent rankings for all WUSTL schools, departments and programs is available online at rankings.wustl.edu.

Bagenstos named associate dean for research and faculty development

By Jessica Martin

Samuel R. Bagenstos, J.D., professor of law, has been appointed associate dean for research and faculty development at the School of Law, effective July 1, according to Kent Syverud, dean and the Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor at the School of Law.

Bagenstos succeeds Peter Wiedenbeck, J.D., as associate dean.

"I am grateful to Sam Bagenstos for agreeing to take up this demanding position after Peter Wiedenbeck's very successful tenure as associate dean," Syverud said.

"Sam is a natural intellectual and academic leader who will be helpful to all of us at the law school and in the University."

Bagenstos joined the faculty of the School of Law in 2004.

His research focuses on civil rights and antidiscrimination law, with some emphasis on disability law and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

> **"Sam is a natural intellectual and academic leader who will be helpful to all of us at the law school and in the University."**
> Kent Syverud

In his new role, Bagenstos will have responsibility for promoting and enhancing the intellectual life of the law school. He will coordinate external and internal faculty workshops, as well as conferences and speakers at the law school. He will also assist untenured faculty in their scholarly development.

Bagenstos earned his juris doctorate from Harvard in 1993, where he received the Fay Diploma for highest combined average for three years of study.

He clerked for Judge Stephen Reinhardt on the 9th Circuit for one year and then joined the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Following three years in that position, he served as law clerk for Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

He was appointed research fellow and lecturer in law for one year at Harvard and became assistant professor of law at Harvard in 2000.

Gregory, Shearrer named to new positions in Medical Alumni and Development

By Diane Duke Williams

Patricia Gregory has been named assistant vice chancellor and executive director of medical corporate and foundation relations, and David Shearrer has been named executive director of development for clinical programs in Medical Alumni and Development.

Gregory

Shearrer

Gregory, Ph.D., has been the University's executive director of corporate and foundation relations since 1992.

In her new role, she will continue to direct corporate and foundation fund raising at the medical school and will take on additional responsibilities in Medical Alumni and Development Programs. As part of the Medical Alumni and Development Leadership Team, she will report to Pamela Buell, associate vice chancellor and director of Medical Alumni and Development.

Before she joined Washington University, Gregory spent four years at Northwestern University as assistant chairman and senior lecturer in its Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Cell Biology and associate director of its Center for Biotechnology. She also held a research appointment at University College London for three years.

Shearrer formerly was senior director of medical development for clinical programs, where he raised funds for the departments of neurology, neurological surgery and psychiatry. Previously, he was senior associate director of medical development and executive faculty liaison. Among other accomplishments, he spearheaded the William A. Peck Scholars Program, which provides scholarships for medical students.

In his new position, Shearrer will build a program to enhance the relationship with donors and potential donors who are familiar with the medical care provided by the School of Medicine. He also will supervise the medical development clinical programs team. As part of the department's Leadership Team, he will report to Buell.

Campus Card Account expands services

In response to the interest of students, parents and other members of the University community, the Campus Card Account (CCA) has expanded its services.

Accessed through the University ID, the CCA will soon be able to be used for Danforth Campus purchases at the Campus Store, Bear Necessities and the Edison Theatre and 560 Building box offices.

This expands the cashless system that includes undergraduate laundry, some vending machines and most University Libraries print stations on the Danforth Campus.

The undergraduate and graduate student CCA will continue to be managed through WebSTAC. Faculty and staff manage their accounts through HRMS Self-Service.

The CCA most recently expanded to include the three Aramark-managed dining locations at the School of Medicine. All members of the University community may use their CCA at the School of Medicine, as well as Bon Appétit-managed dining locations on the Danforth Campus, West Campus and North Campus.

Obituaries

Kornfeld, pioneer for women in science, 72

Rosalind H. Kornfeld, Ph.D., distinguished professor emerita of biochemistry in medicine, died Friday, Aug. 10, after a long illness. She was 72.

Kornfeld joined the School of Medicine faculty in 1965 as research instructor of medicine and was named professor of medicine and of biochemistry and molecular biophysics in 1981. She retired in 2001.

Kornfeld

Her scientific research focused on the structure and biosynthesis of oligosaccharide chains on glycoproteins.

These sugar chains serve many important functions in the cell, including acting as recognition markers that allow proteins to get to their destinations. She was among the first to discover the structure of many oligosaccharides and to characterize how they were formed. Much of her early work was done in collaboration with her husband, Stuart A. Kornfeld, M.D., the David C. and Betty Farrell Professor of Medicine and co-director of the Division of Hematology.

"Rosalind Kornfeld's impact on our department goes well beyond her scientific discoveries," said Kenneth S. Polonsky, M.D., Adolphus Busch Professor and chairman of the Department of Medicine. "She was an outstanding role model for trainees and younger faculty, both men and women, on how to balance the demands of a rigorous career in research with personal and family needs."

Philip Majerus, M.D., professor of medicine, of biochemistry and molecular biophysics and co-director of hematology, said for about 15 years, Kornfeld wrote the grant for the division's training program, one of the largest clinical training grants in the country.

"I wrote it the last time it had to be renewed since she had retired," Majerus said.

"It made me realize what a true citizen and team player she was to Washington University."

Kornfeld was a founding member and first president of the Academic Women's Network (AWN), which aims to assist and mentor female junior faculty and trainees. In 2000, the group awarded her with the first of its now annual Mentor Awards.

Linda Pike, Ph.D., associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biophysics and a longtime member of the Academic Women's Network, said Kornfeld was "a central force" in AWN from the very beginning.

"There was no question in our minds that she would be our first president," Pike said. "We were all a bit in awe of Rosalind since most of us who founded AWN were junior faculty. Ros was established in her career and showed us by example that it was possible for women to succeed in science, so it was natural for us to look to her for leadership."

Kornfeld earned a bachelor's degree in 1957 from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and a doctorate in biochemistry in 1961 from Washington University School of Medicine.

She is survived by her husband, Stuart, and three children: Katherine Kornfeld; Kerry Kornfeld, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of molecular biology and pharmacology; and Carolyn Lesorogol, Ph.D., assistant professor in the George Warren Brown School of Social Work; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were private.

Arias, 73

Fernando Arias, M.D., Ph.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology and head of the division of maternal-fetal medicine from 1974-1982, died Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2007, in Maumee, Ohio, of complications from cancer. He was 73.

Washington People

Rachel Keith, associate registrar at the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, watches as Bob Chekoudjian examines a DVD player for use in an interactive display for an upcoming exhibit.

From chords to computers

Bob Chekoudjian has transitioned from punk rocker to computer expert

BY ANDY CLENDENNEN

It could be said that Bob Chekoudjian's life has been a matter of being in the right place at the right time.

Whether it was getting his job at the University, falling in love with bike riding, meeting his wife or joining a band that would eventually open up for the Ramones at the old Mississippi Nights, Chekoudjian has been pretty fortuitous regarding major life events.

Born and raised in St. Louis, Chekoudjian, LAN engineer in Personal Computing Support Service (PCSS) in the Office of Information Services & Technology, has been a part of the University community for nearly seven years.

But his background gave no real indication of his career path at WUSTL.

He's taken more fine arts classes than computer classes, and his educational background is pretty much all art-related. But he came into computers when they were first introduced, at a time when nobody had a computer background.

"Everybody got one and just played around with it to see what they could do with it," he says. "It's a very organic relationship that I have with computers in that regard. I didn't get my information out of a book. I learned things by figuring it out."

Chekoudjian is one of about eight full-time employees in his office tasked with keeping the University's computers up to date and running smoothly. He boils his job description down to simply "computer support."

His areas of responsibility include Office of Accounting Services, the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum and the Office of Public Affairs.

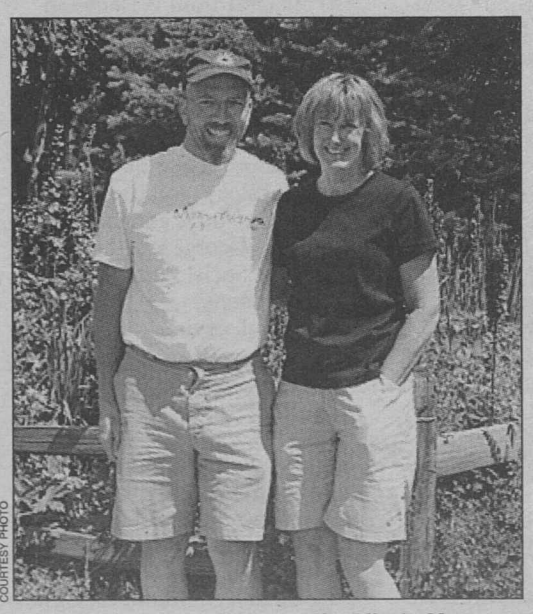
"For the most part, given time, almost anyone can learn the 'technical' part of 'technical support,'" says Garrie Burr, supervisor of technical services in Information Systems & Technology. "The 'support' part is more difficult because for that, you need plenty of patience — and generally, you cannot learn patience.

"He always keeps his cool and his sense of humor. Those of us involved in fixing problems especially appreciate this quality."

'School's out for summer'

Coming out of what was then Webster College, Chekoudjian accepted a position at Webster Groves High School as a part-time aide to the media department, which had just received a grant to install a broadcast-quality television studio.

The gear was similar to the equipment he had used in college, so he applied for the job and was hired.



Bob Chekoudjian and his wife, Mindy Mass, on vacation in Breckenridge, Colo.

Over the course of the next 15 years, Chekoudjian's responsibilities expanded to include teaching a yearbook course and some graphic arts courses.

That's when he started dabbling in computers.

"We had some of the first computers in the school in the lab — the old Apple IIe," he recalls. "One or two brainiacs in the school would come down and beg for time on the computer. This is when computers ran off two 5 1/4-inch floppies and cost 2,500 bucks, so your average family wouldn't buy these.

"So it was cool. You had these kids who were valedictorians clamoring for time on the computers, so it was a fun environment to be working in."

After awhile, he itched for something new but with no designs on a new job. He came back after his summer vacation and turned in his resignation, only knowing that his future work should be computer-related.

"It was sudden, but it was one of those things where I either had to do it now or be miserable for a year and I'm going to hate it and everyone is going to hate me," he says.

"One thing I told myself is that I never wanted to be in that position — be somewhere I didn't want to be, there's too much at stake with the kids — you don't want to screw them up."

His then-girlfriend, now wife Mindy Mass, quit her job a month later, so in his words, they spent the next six months "goofing off, burning through our savings and getting to know each other."

Then, just when the money started to run out, along came the University.

"I got a call asking if I wanted to come work here and I said, 'Sure, why not?'" he says with a laugh.

'Sheena is a punk rocker'

"Bob is always cool under pressure," says Craig Luciano, systems engineer in PCSS. "He's a consummate professional and he helps out co-workers even when he's busy. He's loved by everybody.

"He's also certified cool because he was in a punk band in the '70s and early '80s."

Ah yes, the punk band. Music is something Chekoudjian started 39 years ago, when his father decreed that all the kids in the family would play some sort of musical instrument.

Some brothers chose the accordion — he recently unearthed a 45-rpm record of them playing "Merrily We Row Along" — but he chose the electric guitar, then gravitated toward bass guitar as bass guitarists were harder to find.

It was a good choice. He went to audition for a band in his first year of college, and when he was done, another band said, "Hey, we're starting a band, why don't you come play with us?"

And so his involvement with The Retros was born. Fans of the local music scene in the late 1970s/early 1980s may remember The Retros as being a popular punk band, just as the genre was becoming more accepted.

"I think we had close to 100 songs," Chekoudjian recalls. "We were together for maybe three years and you get tired of playing the same songs over and over again. In those days, you were playing to the same audience because the audience was somewhat limited back then."

However, that audience knew what it liked. And when one of the granddaddies of the punk movement came to town, The Retros were ready.

"I called Mississippi Nights and said that we wanted to open for the Ramones," Chekoudjian said. "Our reputation was out there, we would have been the natural band, from my perspective, to open. But we were told they were touring with an opening band."

Fast-forward to the night before the show. Chekoudjian received a call at 12:30 a.m. asking if The Retros were still interested in opening. They were.

The Ramones roadies took everything and set The Retros up like they were the headliner, Chekoudjian recalls.

"Talk about your heroes living up to your expectations, that was it," he says.

But heroism only goes so far sometimes.

"I still swear to this day, one of the songs of their next album was a rip-off of one of our songs," Chekoudjian says with a laugh. "They were all three-chord songs back then, but I'm sticking to my story. They stole one of our songs!"

'I want to ride my bicycle'

Chekoudjian's other pastime is biking, and he discovered his love of riding on a trip to Austria in 1985.

His parents had emigrated from Austria; his mother died when he was 12, and the trip was the first time he had met any relatives on her side of the family.

It was an eye-opening experience, to say the least.

"Everybody in the world was riding bikes!" he says. "They lived in a town of about 500 people, so it was easy to hop on a bike.

They'd go to the store almost daily and get fresh bread or produce. It was part of the culture, part of the fabric of everyday life and it really piqued my interest. It's not kids playing on a bike, it's people using a bike for life.

"I came back here and started riding a bike, reading and researching. And I started riding — my house to Ted Drewes, which was about three miles each way — I thought that was enough to earn my concrete when I got there. I learned otherwise later."

Chekoudjian became more serious about riding later, to the point where he'd join Saturday morning rides that would sometimes cover 70 miles.

One day, a woman showed up.

"I don't know how she found out about it, but she showed up at one of our rides," he says. "I was just getting out of a relationship, and I found out later that she was just getting out of one.

"It was basically all guys, so a woman shows up and you don't want to annoy them. I was attracted to her but I didn't want to be aggressive, I wanted her to have fun and come back. And she rode very well, I was impressed — she was up in the front of the group. She was a good rider and I found out later she was new to cycling. It was pretty amazing."

After three or four more rides, they started talking. One thing led to another and after five years of dating, Chekoudjian and Mindy were married Aug. 23, 2003.

"When you are that comfortable with someone right off the bat, you don't want to believe it because you don't want to be disappointed," he says. "But we'd gotten to where we were going to be in life. I think what made it so good is that we were very comfortable with who we were then."

Once again, they are getting comfortable — cautiously so — after a rough start to 2007. Mindy was diagnosed with breast cancer in January, but it was caught early and she finished the chemotherapy about two months ago.

"That's probably the hardest thing I've ever seen anybody deal with, but she kept her attitude positive," he says. "When she gets herself into something, she researches it completely. She knew what options she was going to get before the doctor even gave her the options. She was on top of the game."

Now, they are organizing a triathlon in Colorado to benefit the Lance Armstrong Foundation and the search for a cure for cancer. Still in its infancy, the target date is next July 26.

Once again, he'll be in the right place at the right time.