

5-7-2009

Washington University Record, May 7, 2009

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/record>

Recommended Citation

"Washington University Record, May 7, 2009" (2009). *Washington University Record*. Book 1179.
<http://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/record/1179>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Washington University Publications at Digital Commons@Becker. It has been accepted for inclusion in Washington University Record by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Becker. For more information, please contact engeszer@wustl.edu.

Record

Washington University in St. Louis

May 7, 2009

record.wustl.edu

David C. Farrell receives Search Award at 42nd annual Eliot Society dinner

By BARBARA REA

The Search Award — the William Greenleaf Eliot Society's highest honor — was given to David C. Farrell at the society's 42nd annual dinner April 16 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. The award is presented each year to a person who has made enduring contributions to Washington University.

In addition to the award ceremony, guests were treated to a presentation by former NASA astronaut Capt. Jerry M. Linenger.

At the ceremony, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton praised Farrell "for going the extra mile to ensure success in everything you undertake."

"Over the years, we have come to rely on David Farrell's expert guidance and counsel," Wrighton said. "His commitment has advanced the mission of Wash-

ington University, the School of Medicine, and medical education and health care."

Farrell retired as chairman and chief executive officer of the May Department Stores Co. in 1998, capping a career that spanned four decades. Under his leadership, May became one of the nation's largest and most profitable retailers.

Farrell is an emeritus trustee and a member of the Advisory Board of the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center as well as the School of Medicine's National Council. As a member of the Eliot Society's executive committee and chair of The Danforth Circle, he helped grow The Danforth Circle's membership by 28 percent in three years.

As a member of the Board of Trustees for 30 years, Farrell served on the executive, University finance, See Farrell, Page 5



David C. Farrell (left) receives the Search Award from Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton at the 42nd annual Eliot Society dinner April 16.

Drug reduces prostate cancer diagnosis

By CAROLINE ARBANAS

A drug widely used to shrink enlarged prostates has been shown to lower the risk of prostate cancer by 23 percent in men who have an increased risk of the disease, according to results of an international clinical trial presented April 27 at the American Urological Association's annual meeting in Chicago.

The four-year, phase III trial, known as REDUCE (Reduction by Dutasteride of Prostate Cancer Events), is the first to look at chemoprevention for prostate cancer in men at increased risk for the disease. The trial involved 8,200 men ages 50-75 who were randomly assigned to receive a

placebo or a daily 0.5 mg dose of dutasteride (Avodart), manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline.

"Dutasteride has the potential to offer many thousands of men a way to reduce their risk of being diagnosed with prostate cancer," said lead investigator Gerald Andriole, M.D., chief of urologic surgery. "This should ultimately mean more men will avoid treatment for prostate cancer and the cost and unwanted side effects associated with treatment."

Men in the study had elevated PSA levels (2.5-10 ng/ml), indicating they were at increased risk of prostate cancer. They also had undergone biopsies that found no evidence of cancer within six

See Drug, Page 6

Proctor, Gordon to be honored with 2009 faculty achievement awards

By CAROLINE ARBANAS AND JESSICA MARTIN

Enola K. Proctor, Ph.D., a pioneer in the field of mental health services research and the social work profession, and Jeffrey I. Gordon, M.D., whose groundbreaking studies have revealed the contributions of gut microbes to human health and disease, will receive Washington University's 2009 faculty achievement awards, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton announced.

Proctor, the Frank J. Bruno Professor of Social Work Research and associate dean for research, is the recipient of the



Proctor



Gordon

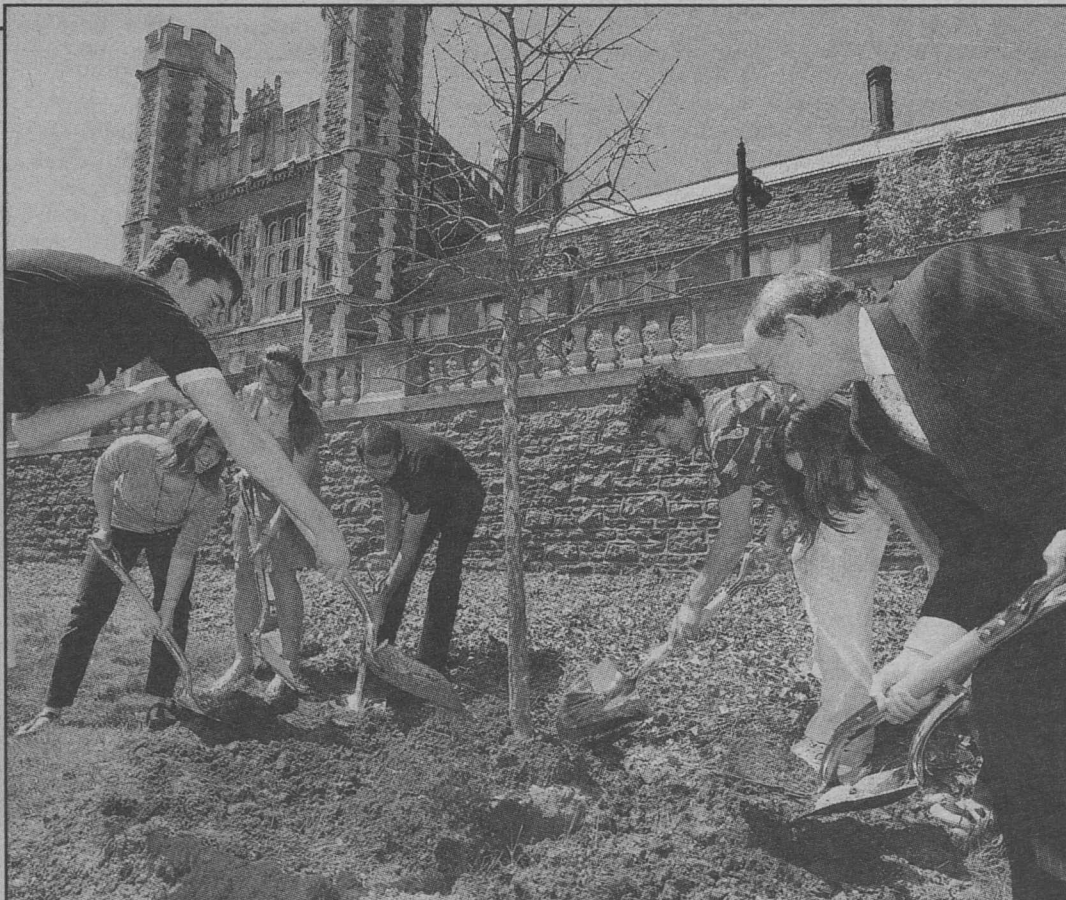
Arthur Holly Compton Faculty Achievement Award, and Gordon, the Dr. Robert J. Glaser Distinguished University Professor and director of the Center for Genome Sciences, is the recipient of the Carl and Gerty Cori Faculty Achievement Award.

They will receive their awards and give presentations of their scholarly work during a ceremony in December.

"Professors Proctor and Gordon are outstanding selections for this important honor," Wrighton said. "Both have made extraordinary contributions through their research, and each has excelled as a leader in their field and at Washington University. I am proud of their accomplishments and pleased to see their colleagues recognize them with these awards."

Proctor is recognized for her work in advancing the imple-

See Awards, Page 5



A new addition to campus Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton (right) plants a tree, a Swamp White Oak, in front of Brookings Hall with students April 22 to celebrate Arbor Day/Earth Day. The new tree replaces a Swamp Chestnut Oak, which had been removed because of disease concerns. The students are (from left) freshman Dan Robinson, junior Christine Orchard, sophomore Cindy Gallin, junior Joey Stromberg, junior Will Fischer and junior Melissa Legge.

Ultrasound imaging on smartphone may change global medicine

By TONY FITZPATRICK

Computer engineers at Washington University are bringing the minimalist approach to medical care and computing by coupling USB-based ultrasound probe technology with a smartphone, enabling a compact, mobile computational platform and a medical imaging device that fits in the palm of a hand.

William D. Richard, Ph.D., associate professor of computer science and engineering, and David Zar, research associate in computer science and engineering, have made commercial USB ultrasound probes compatible with Microsoft Windows mobile-based smartphones, thanks to a \$100,000 grant Microsoft awarded in 2008.

In order to make commercial USB ultrasound probes work with smartphones, the researchers had to optimize every aspect of probe design and operation, from power consumption and data transfer rate to image formation algorithms.

As a result, it is possible to build smartphone-compatible USB ultrasound probes for imaging the kidney, liver, bladder and eyes, endocavity probes for prostate and

uterine screenings and biopsies, and vascular probes for imaging veins and arteries for starting IVs and central lines. Both medicine and global computer use may never be the same.

"You can carry around a probe and cell phone and image on the fly now," Richard said. "Imagine having these smartphones in ambulances and emergency rooms. On a larger scale, this kind of cell phone is a complete computer that runs Windows. It could become the essential computer of the developing world, where trained medical personnel are scarce, but most of the population, as much as 90 percent, have access to a cell phone tower."

"Twenty-first century medicine is defined by medical imaging," Zar said. "Yet 70 percent of the world's population has no access to medical imaging. It's hard to take an MRI or CT scanner to a rural community without power."

Zar said the vision of the new system is to train people in remote areas of the developing world on the basics of gathering data with the phones and sending it to a centralized unit many miles or half a world away, where

See Smartphone, Page 6





Thank you, Mrs. Mueller Senior Sonalee Ravi (left), a chemistry major in Arts & Sciences, visits with her former teacher, Sandra Mueller (center), and Leonard Green, Ph.D., professor of psychology in Arts & Sciences, during the 2009 Cornerstone Mentor Awards presentation April 19 in Holmes Lounge. Mueller, a chemistry teacher at John Burroughs School in Ladue, Mo., was on hand to accept the Cornerstone Outstanding Teacher Award. Each year, Cornerstone: The Center for Advanced Learning invites graduating seniors who have served as academic mentors to other students to nominate an elementary or secondary school teacher they believe has significantly contributed to their intellectual and personal development. Ravi chose Mueller because "she greatly helped my intellectual growth, not only improving my confidence and writing skills but also helping me to realize that, with hard work, I had the capabilities to master any task."

Stanley named president of SUNY Stony Brook

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., vice chancellor for research, has been named president of State University of New York (SUNY) Stony Brook effective July 1.

In a press release issued by SUNY Stony Brook, Chancellor-Elect Nancy Zimpher, Ph.D., cited Stanley's experience as an accomplished leader, administrator, educator, medical researcher and physician as well as his demonstrated commitment to excellence.

"I am honored to have been selected as Stony Brook's next president," Stanley said. "In its short life, Stony Brook has accomplished remarkable things. I look forward to working with my new colleagues on the faculty, staff and students in a collective and strategic way to continue Stony Brook's remarkable trajectory of increased

excellence and to position the university to take its place among the truly great research universities of the nation."

Stanley, also professor of medicine and of molecular microbiology, came to the School of Medicine in 1983 as a fellow in infectious diseases and has been a member of the faculty since 1987.

He was appointed vice chancellor for research in 2006. He also is an attending physician in internal medicine and infectious diseases at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and director of the Midwest Regional Center for Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research.

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said that Stanley has made significant contributions to the University during his more than

25 years at WUSTL.

"During Sam Stanley's tenure, we have benefited enormously from his leadership and research," Wrighton said. "He is a distinguished member of the faculty of the School of Medicine with an excellent track record of academic contributions, including very significant research accomplishments. He has substantially advanced the research at the University, overseeing more than \$548 million in external funding for undergraduate, graduate and faculty research.

"We at Washington University in St. Louis will miss Dr. Stanley, yet we are confident that he and his new university home will thrive in response to the exciting opportunity for him at Stony Brook," Wrighton said.

Trustees hear report on endowment, investments

At its spring meeting, the Board of Trustees received reports on the endowment, investments and budgets for the 2009-10 fiscal year. Reports also were delivered by the undergraduate and graduate student representatives.

In his remarks to the board, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton reviewed a number of extraordinary accomplishments over the past few months, including a new partnership between the University and the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. The new program will involve joint programs, including internships, lectures and other educational activities as well as an agreement under which the Olin Business School will lead management of the Brookings' executive education programs.

Wrighton noted that the largest research award in the history of the Danforth Campus was made April 27 — a \$20 million award from the U.S. Department of Energy to do research on plant-based, novel energy initiatives.

Similarly, the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center will receive a \$15 million award, creating two new Energy Frontier Research Centers in the St. Louis area supported by \$35 million in funding over the next five years. Researchers from the University and the Danforth Center will be working on both projects.

The chancellor also said that a \$5.5 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will fund study of childhood malnutrition at the School of Medicine, focusing on severely malnourished infants living in Malawi and Bangladesh.

He reported on the first live Web broadcast to the University community as part of a "State of the University" forum to discuss the University's current and future financial circumstances.

On April 17, David Kemper, chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Wrighton hosted the dedication of the Danforth University Center attended by a large audience of alumni, students, faculty, trustees and friends. Participants also included William H. Danforth, chancellor emeritus; Robert L. Virgil, Ph.D., trustee emeritus; and Ann Rubenstein Tisch, trustee.

Wrighton indicated that the biomedical research building — the BJC Institute of Health at Washington University — is scheduled for completion in December 2009. Laboratory fit-out has begun on the upper floors and will be completed after the building's core and shell are completed for this LEED-certified project.

Construction continues on Stephen F. and Camilla T. Brauer Hall, with completion expected in 2010. Opening next fall will be yet another LEED-certified "green" residential and dining complex on the South 40. Renovation of one of the University's oldest buildings — Busch Hall — will be completed in time for summer move-in.

Wrighton praised the varsity athletics program for winning nine University Athletic Association championships during the 2008-09 year, including a second consecutive national championship for men's basketball and a No. 2 finish for women's basketball.

Reviews of the past year were presented by undergraduate student representatives senior Kavya Reddy Naini in the School of Engineering & Applied Sciences and junior Kira M. Sargent in Arts & Sciences.

Speaking on behalf of graduate students were Timothy J. Bono in psychology in Arts & Sciences and Tracy Nicholson in molecular microbiology in Arts & Sciences.

Four new student representatives also were named to the board.

Undergraduate representatives are junior Kaitlin McFadden in Arts & Sciences and junior Danielle Porter in the School of Engineering & Applied Science. The new graduate student representatives are Brooke Curtiss, a dual-degree candidate in law and social work, and Erik Shumaker in psychology.

Trustees received reports from the following standing committees: nominating and governance, compensation, development, educational policy, honorary degrees, medical finance, University finance, audit and the alumni board of governors.

The trustees also observed a moment of silence and passed a memorial resolution in honor of trustee emeritus Benjamin F. Edwards III.

Missouri high-school science achievement tied to quality teachers, study finds

By NEIL SCHOENHERR

While public officials aim to establish Missouri as an attractive destination for emerging life-sciences companies, a study by researchers in the Department of Education in Arts & Sciences indicates that high-school science proficiency in the state, especially among high-minority and high-poverty populations, is greatly dependent on having a core group of certified teachers who are highly qualified to teach courses in their content area.

The study, "School Composition and Context Factors that Moderate and Predict Tenth-grade Science Proficiency," will be published in a forthcoming issue of the journal *Teachers College Record*.

"We wanted to examine the relationship between 10th-grade science proficiency and school context factors related to school environment, courses and teachers," said William F. Tate, Ph.D., the Edward Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor in Arts & Sciences and chair of the Department of Education.

"While we did find that largely minority schools with higher drop-out rates and higher rates of free-reduced lunch resulted in poorer science scores, it's interesting to note that higher science scores were associated with greater percentage of master's degree teachers, especially in largely minority schools," Tate said.

The study focused on 2002 data from 423 Missouri high schools with a 10th-grade class size of at least 25. It was co-authored by Mark Hoglebe, Ph.D., research statistician in the education department.

"The good news of this study is that having high-quality teachers — in this case, quality defined as certified — can positively influence achievement," Tate said. "While that has been

indicated in previous studies, this is the first to look at it in the context of science achievement in Missouri."

The implication, Tate said, is a need for increased public policy aimed at making sure students in high-poverty and high-minority schools have high-quality teachers if the state wants to give students an opportunity to learn science.

"In the 'Obama world,' some people think we are living in a post-racial society and we are 'beyond all that' and we don't need to talk about it anymore," Tate said. "But our study indicates that we still have students in schools without high-quality teachers and, in Missouri, race/class interaction is very important."

He said that while it is common for progressive cities such as St. Louis or Kansas City, Mo., to want to become the next biotechnology or telecommunications hub, the human resources development strategy often does not align with economic goals.

"I think this study has real implications for our state's largest cities," Tate said. "It says that a lot of people indigenous to those cities won't have a chance to participate in emerging science efforts unless we change our policies."

Tate does not think, from a federal standpoint, there will be money available to hire more master's degree teachers in the state. However, a program enacted last year in which anyone with a college degree can become state certified without going back to school requires careful examination for its potential.

"They are making some attempts to bring in people who have training in a range of subjects, including science and math," Tate said. "However, this is such a new program we don't know how successful it will be in the long term."

WUSTL works to eliminate motor vehicle idling on Danforth Campus

The Washington University Police Department and Parking and Transportation Services are partnering to increase awareness on campus about the importance of eliminating vehicle idling on the Danforth Campus.

Motor vehicle idling endangers public health, pollutes the environment and wastes both fuel and money.

This summer, WUSTL will install "No Idling" signs at loading docks, bus stops and other key

locations on campus.

Students and faculty associated with the School of Law's Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic are working with Grace Hill Settlement House to inform the public about the benefits of idle reduction and encourage compliance with idle reduction laws.

The City of St. Louis, St. Louis County and the State of Missouri all have adopted laws and regulations that limit idling by motor vehicles.

2009 Spector Prize goes to Kraft, Ye

Each year, the Department of Biology in Arts & Sciences awards a prize in memory of Marion Smith Spector, a 1938 WUSTL graduate who studied zoology under the late Viktor Hamburger, Ph.D., professor of biology and a prominent developmental biologist who made many important contributions while a faculty member at the University.

This year, the Spector Prize was shared by two recipients: Andrew Kraft and Musi (Audrey) Ye. Kraft and Ye were nominated by their research mentors for their outstanding work in research and the substantial contributions they made to the field of that work.

Kraft worked in the lab of Jin-Moo Lee, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of neurology and of radiology at the School of Medi-

cine. His thesis was titled "Activated Astrocytes Suppress Amyloid Plaque Pathogenesis in APP/PS1 Mice."

Kraft will apply to M.D./Ph.D. programs this summer and will continue to work in Lee's lab during the application process.

Ye worked with Maurine Linder, Ph.D., professor of cell biology and physiology at the School of Medicine. Ye's thesis was "Elucidating the Role of Erd1 in Localization and Function of Pfa3, a Protein Acyltransferase in Yeast." Ye is planning to attend medical school at Vanderbilt University.

As part of the departmental recognition of this outstanding work, the two students presented their work at a special biology department seminar April 27.

School of Medicine Update

New tool calculates risk of bleeding in heart attack patients

BY GWEN ERICSON

With eight basic medical facts in hand, doctors can now estimate the risk of bleeding for a patient having a heart attack.

Using clinical variables, researchers at the School of Medicine, Duke University and collaborating institutions have created a new method to estimate bleeding risk and help lessen the chances that heart attack patients will experience this common complication.

"Until now, there hasn't been a simple tool applicable to the general population that can predict the risk of bleeding before patients are treated for heart attack," said Richard G. Bach, M.D., associate professor of medicine and an author of the study. "Older methods for estimating risk either were derived from a low-bleeding-risk population or used variables that aren't available until after treatment is begun."

The assessment tool is described in a study in the April 14 issue of *Circulation*.

Doctors treat heart attacks with medications and procedures intended to prevent ischemic complications, or damage caused by lack of oxygen to the heart. But these treatments — anticoagulating drugs and catheter-based interventions to the heart — also increase the likelihood of bleeding, which can be deadly.

"The risk of bleeding is substantial in people with heart attacks," said co-author Brian F. Gage, M.D., associate professor of medicine and director of the outpatient Anticoagulation Service. "We found that this population could be risk-stratified, so that people at high risk of bleeding could receive less-aggressive anticoagulant and antiplatelet therapy, while those at low risk could receive full-dose therapy."

Led by Sumeet Subherwal, M.D., a former Barnes-Jewish Hospital resident and now a cardiology fellow at Duke University, and in collaboration with several investigators, including Karen Alexander, M.D., a Duke Clinical Research Institute cardiologist, the

researchers analyzed the medical histories of more than 89,000 patients hospitalized in the United States for non-ST-elevation heart attack. This type of heart attack is the most common and usually results from a partial blockage of the heart's arteries.

The patient histories were part of the CRUSADE (Can Rapid risk stratification of Unstable angina patients Suppress ADverse outcomes with Early implementation of the ACC/AHA guidelines) Quality Improvement Initiative, a national multicenter program that aims to improve outcomes for heart attack patients. The risk-assessment tool is called the CRUSADE bleeding score.

"A lot of treatment decisions have to be made very promptly after the patient arrives," said Bach,

also medical director of the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. "So we designed a bleeding-risk stratification tool that would require only those variables that can be obtained up front. It's a practical tool that can be used in any hospital setting."

The CRUSADE analysis identified eight factors that could predict the odds that a heart attack patient might suffer a bleeding event. The factors are gender, heart rate, blood pressure, hematocrit (the concentration of red cells in the blood), creatinine clearance (a measure of kidney function), diabetes, peripheral vascular disease or stroke, and congestive heart failure.

The bleeding score calculation assigns points to each factor so that the total score coincides with risk of bleeding evidenced in the CRUSADE cases. The range of possible scores is divided into five categories from a very low to very high risk of bleeding.

The bleeding risk score is intended to help guide critical early treatment decisions for clinicians caring for heart attack patients, but the impact of its use on outcomes will need to be tested in clinical trials, Bach said. Potentially, the score will be used in conjunction with other practice guidelines to optimize heart attack treatment and minimize risk.



Bach

Brain damage found in cognitively normal people with Alzheimer's marker

BY MICHAEL C. PURDY

School of Medicine researchers have linked a potential indicator of Alzheimer's disease to brain damage in humans with no signs of mental impairment.

Although their cognitive and neurological assessments were normal, study participants with lower levels of amyloid beta 42 (A-beta 42) in their cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) had reduced whole brain volumes, suggesting that Alzheimer's changes might already be damaging their brains. Scientists previously showed that low CSF levels of A-beta 42 mark the presence of amyloid deposition in the brain, a key diagnostic marker of the amyloid plaques that characterize Alzheimer's disease.

Evidence is mounting that Alzheimer's harms the brain for many years before symptoms can be detected and is leading to

conclusions that successful Alzheimer's treatments may only be possible if scientists find ways to identify pre-symptomatic sufferers.

The results are an encouraging sign that this search for new indicators may be succeeding, said senior author David M. Holtzman, M.D., the Andrew and Gretchen Jones Professor and chair of Neurology and neurologist-in-chief at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

"We still need to confirm with long-term follow-up studies that subjects with this biomarker and brain damage go on to develop the cognitive changes characteristic of Alzheimer's," Holtzman said. "For now, the evidence we've uncovered further proves that identification and treatment prior to the start of the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease are likely going to be essential to preventing irreversible brain injury."



They've got the beat (From left) Shaun Yockelson, Natalie Villafranco, Brandon Holmes, Tim Laumann and Eric Kim, all first-year students at the School of Medicine, play at the end of the class show May 1 in Moore Auditorium. The show includes skits and videos produced by the first-year class.

Medical students to benefit from two new simulation centers

BY BETH MILLER

Students at the School of Medicine have two new state-of-the-art simulation centers in which they can get hands-on clinical training.

The Saigh Foundation Pediatric Simulation Center opened April 14 at St. Louis Children's Hospital, and the Howard and Joyce Wood Simulation Center at the Farrell Learning and Teaching Center opened last fall. Both centers allow medical students, interns and residents training at the school to fine-tune diagnostic and treatment skills in a realistic situation.

The 5,600-square-foot Wood Simulation Center has mannequins that allow instructors to program changes in the circulation or respiratory system to illustrate principles learned in the classroom, said David Murray, M.D., the Carol B. and Jerome T. Loeb Professor and director of the center.

Simulated events are used to provide experiences in managing high-acuity conditions. The scenarios and associated instructor feedback provide a safe yet lifelike learning environment for medical students to acquire essential skills required in clinical care.

In addition, a task training room is available for students to learn many of the physical exam and procedural skills expected in

clinical practice. Mary E. Klingensmith, M.D., associate director of the center and director of the Surgical Skills Laboratory, oversees this aspect of the center.

"Students are able to learn basic skills such as IV insertion and some of the more invasive aspects of the physical examination free from the pressures of patient discomfort and harm," she said.

The center was made possible by a gift from Howard and Joyce Wood, both graduates of the Olin Business School and certified public accountants. Howard Wood is a member of the Board of Trustees, the Olin School of Business National Council and the School of Medicine Finance Committee. Joyce Wood is a member of the National Council of the School of Medicine and of the National Advisory Council of the Institute for Public Health.

The 2,300-square-foot Saigh Foundation Pediatric Simulation Center, developed with support from the Saigh Foundation to St. Louis Children's Hospital, is the only medical simulation center within 300 miles dedicated specifically to pediatric patients. The center, on the fifth floor of St. Louis Children's Hospital, has three mannequins — a newborn, a toddler and a young adolescent — each with a unique physiology. James Fehr, M.D., associate

professor of pediatrics and director of the center, said the simulation experience will make medical students better prepared to handle a patient's bedside challenges — improving responsiveness, situational awareness and team interactions.

"As a parent, I'd rather have the most educated practitioner possible caring for my child," Fehr said. "This is a method of bringing education in an almost-real and immersive environment."

Fehr and his team plan to use the simulation center to enhance existing academic training models.

The center is set up to resemble an operating room, with the same tools, equipment and work stations one would find in a typical operating environment. The simulated operating room sits between a control room, where computer technology and robotics control the subjects' signs and symptoms and manipulate mounted cameras that allow instructors to closely monitor a drill in progress, and a debriefing room, where students can gather after the drill, watch a video replay and discuss what they learned.

The two new simulation centers are in addition to the Clinical Simulation Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and the Surgical Skills Lab at the School of Medicine.

Faculty donate textbooks to hospital in Sudan

School of Medicine clinical faculty and staff recently collected more than 1,500 medical textbooks to be donated to the Lui Hospital in the war zone of southern Sudan.

The Missouri Hospital Association made the request earlier this year, as the staff who work at Lui Hospital rely on outdated medical references, some dating back to the 1930s and '40s.

Ivory Reed, director of facilities administration, said Kenneth Smith, custodian II, Brian Ryterski, facilities technician I, and Steve Smith, facilities supervisor/receiving/mail, gathered the books from various departments and took them to a room to be sorted.

James Crane, M.D., chief executive of the Faculty Practice Plan, and Laura Howard, executive assistant, worked about nine hours sorting and packing books. Of those collected, nearly

600 of the most appropriate books were packed into 46 boxes, which members of the facilities department loaded onto two skids.

Reed said Marc D. Smith, Ph.D., president of the Missouri Hospital Association, planned to come to St. Louis to pick up the books. But because of the large load of books, Reed and Leo Lewis, administrative assistant, offered to drive the books to Jefferson City April 18 in the School of Medicine's mail truck, which can hold up to 1,600 pounds, he said.

Crane said the response was far greater than expected.

"We want to thank all those who contributed very usable medical literature and thank the facilities staff who transported hundreds of pounds of books to be sorted," Crane said.

Books not used for the Lui Hospital will be sent to other charities and hospitals.

University Events



COURTESY PHOTO

J. Taylor Wallace used a rocking chair, X-ray film, freshwater mollusk shells, taxidermy fish forms, wood and stainless steel to create "Daydream (Paradigms of Tennessee)," part of the MFA Thesis Exhibition on view at Kemper Art Museum May 8-July 27.

MFA exhibition to feature work of 27 at Kemper

By LIAM OTTEN

The Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts will present its annual MFA Thesis Exhibition in the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum beginning Friday, May 8. The exhibition will feature thesis projects by 27 master of fine arts candidates in the Sam Fox School's Graduate School of Art.

Works will explore a wide range of thematic territory, from formal concerns to social issues, ecological simulations and scientific research. Media include painting, printmaking and sculpture as well as photography, video and site-specific installation.

"We live in an age that represents enormous richness in terms of diversity of perspective and both overlapping and contrasting interests," said Patricia Olynyk, the Florence and Frank Bush Professor in Art and director of the Graduate School of Art. "The range of issues that confront today's artists also challenge our artists-in-training."

"It is no surprise that so many of our students are responding to global sociopolitical and economic forces and environmental issues with a sense of urgency," Olynyk said. "Public practices are central to their concerns, and they are skilled in navigating emerging technologies while offering playful counterpoints to the all-pervasive influence of digital media."

For example, Rebecca C. Potts' digital prints contemplate the effects of global warming through an almost geological strata of paper, photographs, maps, melting ice and growing plants. Natalie Toney's politically charged video "PTSPEACE" centers on military veterans and draws from psychology, medicine and social services as well as film and the visual arts. Process-oriented sculpture by Amelia Jones explores the reuse of found materials, while Joel Parker wittily

conflates college parties and historical painting.

"No single medium, narrative direction theoretical stance or sociopolitical position takes precedent over another," Olynyk said. "Likewise, our students engage in a broad spectrum of creative methodologies and intellectual frameworks and are taught to balance 'making' with the production of ideas."

The MFA Thesis Exhibition is curated by Meredith Malone, assistant curator for the Kemper Art Museum. Other exhibiting artists are: Stephanie Barenz, Carolyn Dawn Bendel, Jacob Cruzen, Rachel Ann Dennis, Bryan Eaton, Maya Escobar, Meredith Foster, Morgan Gehris, Gina Grafos, Stephen Hoskins, Hye Young Kim, Anne Lindberg, Goran Maric, Kelda Martensen, Erica L. Millsbaugh, Carianne Noga, Shannon Randol, Elaine Rickles, Michael Kenneth Smith, Dan Solberg, Glenn Tramantano, Kathryn Trout and J. Taylor Wallace.

The exhibition will open with a reception at 7 p.m. Friday, May 8, and remain on view through July 27. In conjunction with the exhibition, the Sam Fox School will sponsor an open house and panel discussion at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 9. Students will be present in the Kemper Art Museum and available to answer questions about works on view.

The panel discussion — which will touch on issues of place, identity, online artistic practice and the artist and society — will begin at 5 p.m. in Steinberg Auditorium, located immediately adjacent to the museum.

In addition, the school will host a satellite exhibition, titled "Runneth Over," at the University's South Campus (formerly Christian Brothers College High School) from May 9-22.

Both exhibitions are free and open to the public. For more information, call 935-4523 or visit kemperartmuseum.wustl.edu.

Membranes and Mysteries • Physical Activity and Weight Control

"University Events" lists a portion of the activities taking place May 7-20 at Washington University. Visit the Web for expanded calendars for the Danforth Campus (news-info.wustl.edu/calendars) and the School of Medicine (medschool.wustl.edu/calendars.html).

Exhibits

"Expressions of Jewish Life Through Texts and Objects." Through June 28. Olin Library, Lvl. 1, Grand Staircase Lobby and Ginkgo Rm. 935-4151.

"MFA First-Year Exhibition." Through May 17. Des Lee Gallery, 1627 Washington Ave. 935-4523.

"MFA Thesis Exhibition." May 8-July 27. (Opening reception 7 p.m. May 8.) Kemper Art Museum. 935-4523.

"Rirkrit Tiravanija: Chew The Fat." A multifaceted video installation. May 8-July 27. Kemper Art Museum. 935-4523.

Lectures

Thursday, May 7

8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. **Program in Audiology and Communication Services.** Annual PACS Student Research Symposium. (Also 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. May 8.) Farrell Learning & Teaching Center, Holden Aud. 747-0108.

4:30 p.m. **Freedom From Smoking Class.** "Winning Strategies." (Also at 5:30 p.m. May 7.) Center for Advanced Medicine, Barnard Health and Cancer Info. Center. To register: 362-7844.

Friday, May 8

9:15 a.m.-5:30 p.m. **Center for the Study of Ethics & Human Values Conference.** "Justice and the American Metropolis." (Continues 9:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. May 9.) Co-sponsored by American Culture Studies Program, the Center for New Institutional Social Sciences and the Political Theory Research Group. Women's Bldg. Formal

Green Your Office

If you need to buy office supplies, purchase recycled-content paper, pens and other necessities. This helps create a market for the things we recycle.

Lounge. For more information: cniss@artsci.wustl.edu.

9:15 a.m. Pediatric Grand Rounds.

"Phosphorus, A New Cardiovascular Risk Factor. What Can We Do For Kids?" Keith Hruska, prof. of pediatrics, medicine and cell biology. Clopton Aud., 4950 Children's Place. 454-6006.

11 a.m. Energy, Environmental and Chemical Engineering Seminar.

"Multiscale Atmospheric Modeling: From Urban Air Pollution to Global Climate." Yang Zhang, asst. prof. of marine earth and atmospheric sciences. Lopata Hall, Rm. 101. 935-5548.

Monday, May 11

5:30 p.m. Cardiac Bioelectricity & Arrhythmia Center Seminar.

"The Genetics of Hereditary Cardiac Arrhythmias." Silvia G. Priori, prof. of molecular cardiology, U. of Pavia, Italy. (5 p.m. reception.) Whitaker Hall, Rm. 218. 935-7887.

Tuesday, May 12

Noon. **Molecular Microbiology & Microbial Pathogenesis Seminar Series.** "Infection and Spread of Alpha Herpes Viruses in the Nervous System." Lynn W. Enquist, prof. of molecular biology, Princeton U. Cori Aud., 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-2689.

4:30 p.m. Freedom From Smoking Class.

"The New You." (Also at 5:30 p.m. May 12.) Center for Advanced Medicine, Barnard Health and Cancer Info. Center. To register: 362-7844.

Wednesday, May 13

4 p.m. **QUAD-Departmental Seminar Series.** "On Sperm, Membranes and Mysteries." Barbara Wakimoto, prof. of biology, U. of Wash. Co-sponsored by depts. of Genetics, of Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics, of Cell Biology & Physiology and of Developmental Biology. Moore Aud. 362-2139.

Friday, May 15

9:15 a.m. Pediatric Grand Rounds.

"Walking the Highwire From Synaptic Development to Axonal Degeneration." Aaron DiAntonio, assoc. prof. of developmental biology. Clopton Aud., 4950 Children's Place. 454-6006.

Monday, May 18

4 p.m. **Immunology Research Seminar Series.** "Xbp1 and Mst1: Key Molecular Regulators of Cellular Architecture in Epithelial and Immune Cell Development." Jason Mills, asst. prof. of pathology & immunology. Farrell Learning & Teaching Center, Connor Aud. 362-2763.

4 p.m. Siteman Cancer Center Seminar.

"Physical Activity and Weight Control in

Breast Cancer Prevention." Anne McTiernan, dir., Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Center for Advanced Medicine, Farrell Conference Room 2. 454-8981.

5:30 p.m. **Cardiac Bioelectricity & Arrhythmia Center Seminar.** "The Role of Connexons in Conduction of the Cardiac Action Potential." Andre Kleber, prof. of physiology, U. of Bern, Switzerland. (5 p.m. reception.) Whitaker Hall, Rm. 218. 935-7887.

Tuesday, May 19

4:30 p.m. **Freedom From Smoking Class.** "Staying Smoke Free." (Also at 5:30 p.m.

May 12.) Center for Advanced Medicine, Barnard Health and Cancer Info. Center. To register: 362-7844.

Wednesday, May 20

4 p.m. **Institute for Public Health Faculty Seminar Series.** "Dementia Screening in Diverse Communities, Global Applications of the AD8 Informant Interview to Detect Dementia." James Galvin, assoc. prof. of neurology. Steinberg Aud., Medical School. 454-7998.

4 p.m. **QUAD-Departmental Seminar Series.** "Epigenetic Mechanisms of Pluripotency and Lineage-Commitment." Stephen Baylin, prof. of cancer biology, The Johns Hopkins U.

School of Medicine. Co-sponsored by depts. of Genetics, of Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics, of Cell Biology & Physiology and of Developmental Biology. Moore Aud. 362-2139.

And More

Saturday, May 9

1 p.m. **Memorial Service for Abdullah Nassief.** Farrell Learning & Teaching Center, Connor Aud. 286-0072.

Commencement Week

This is a schedule of events for Commencement 2009. For more information, call the Commencement Office at 935-5985 or visit the Commencement Web site commencement.wustl.edu.

Wednesday, May 13

5 p.m. **Black Senior Alliance Commencement Celebration.** Graham Chapel. Reception immediately following: Tisch Commons, Danforth University Center.

7:30 p.m. **University College Recognition Ceremony.** Simon Hall.

Thursday, May 14

10 a.m. **College of Arts & Sciences Recognition Ceremony.** Field House, Athletic Complex.

2:30 p.m. **School of Engineering Undergraduate Recognition Ceremony.** Field House, Athletic Complex. Reception immediately following. Location: Lopata Gallery and Whitaker Atrium.

4 p.m. **Program in Clinical Investigation Recognition Ceremony.** King Center. Reception immediately following.

5 p.m. **School of Medicine Reception.** Atrium, Farrell Learning and Teaching Center.

8 p.m. **Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts College of Art/Graduate School of Art Recognition Ceremony.** Graham Chapel.

Friday, May 15

8 a.m. **Degree candidates assemble.**

8:30 a.m. **Commencement exercises in Brookings Quadrangle.**

The following programs begin immediately after the close of the Commencement exercises:

College of Arts & Sciences Diploma Distribution and Reception. The Green, west of Olin Library and north of Graham Chapel. Rain Location: Francis Gym, Athletic Complex.

University College Diploma Distribution and Reception. Ann W. Olin Women's Building Lounge.

Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Hooding and Recognition Ceremony. 560 Music Building, 560 Trinity Ave. in University City. Reception immediately following.

Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts College of Architecture/Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design Diploma Ceremony. Brookings Drive Mall. Reception immediately following. Rain time and location: 3 p.m., Graham Chapel. Reception immediately following: Givens Hall.

College of Art/Graduate School of Art Diploma Distribution and Reception. Shapleigh Courtyard and Terrace, Earl E. and Myrtle E. Walker Hall. Rain Location: Steinberg Hall Terrace.

John M. Olin School of Business Undergraduate Diploma and Awards Ceremony. Field House, Athletic Complex. Reception immediately following: Simon Hall.

School of Engineering Undergraduate and Graduate Diploma Distribution. Reception immediately following: Whitaker Atrium.

George Warren Brown School of Social Work Diploma Ceremony. Graham Chapel. Reception immediately following: Lucy and Stanley Lopata Courtyard, Goldfarb Hall.

Program in Occupational Therapy Reception. Holmes Lounge. Diploma Ceremony immediately following: Graham Chapel.

Program in Physical Therapy Reception. Sheldon Concert Hall. Diploma Distribution and Hooding Ceremony: 1:30 p.m.

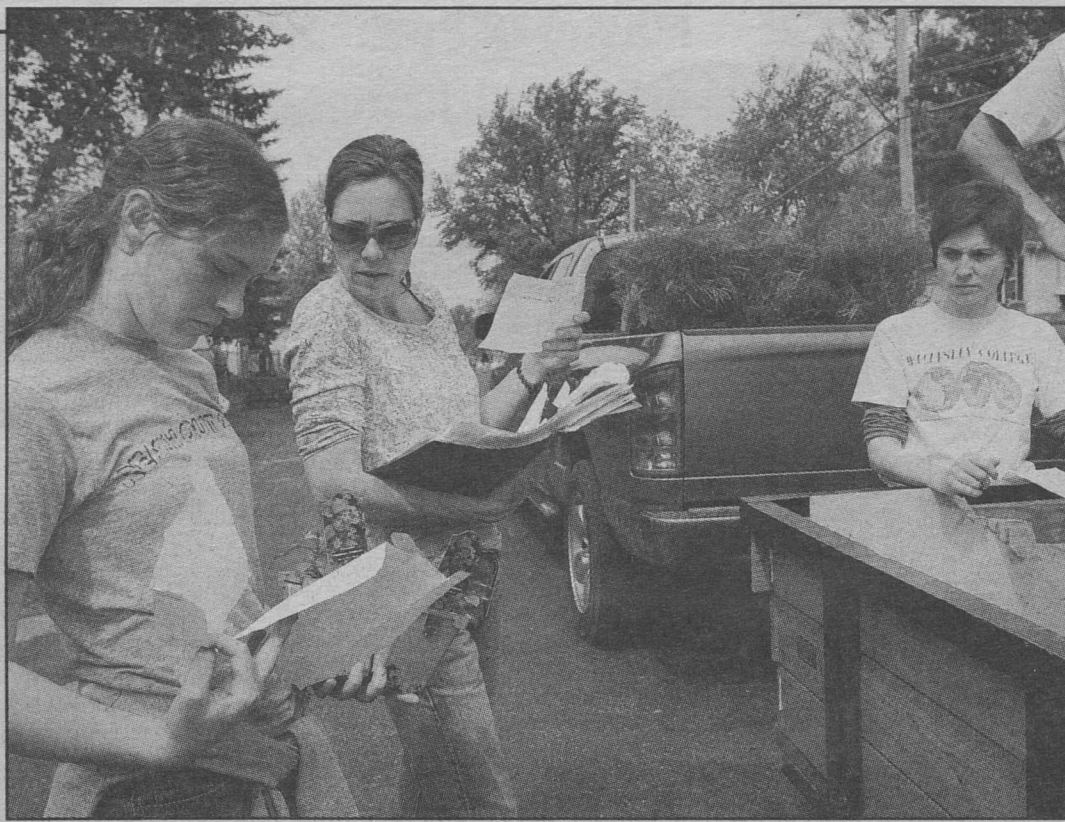
School of Law Diploma Ceremony. Seeley G. Mudd Field. Rain Location: Recreational Gymnasium, Athletic Complex. Reception immediately following: Anheuser-Busch Hall.

1 p.m. **Program in Audiology and Communication Sciences Recognition Ceremony and Diploma Distribution.** Central Institute for the Deaf. Reception immediately following.

2 p.m. **School of Engineering and Applied Science Graduate Recognition Ceremony.** Edison Theatre. Reception immediately following: Lopata Gallery.

3 p.m. **John M. Olin School of Business Graduate Diploma and Awards Ceremony.** Field House, Athletic Complex. Reception immediately following: Simon Hall.

3 p.m. **School of Medicine Commencement Recognition Ceremony.** Ferrara Theater, America's Center. Reception immediately following: Atrium, America's Center.



From the classroom to the community Emily Hawkey (left) and Cristina Greavu (right), graduate students in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, work with Jodi Polzin, visiting assistant professor, on a community project in Pagedale, Mo., May 2. Volunteers from WUSTL and the City of Pagedale — with support from St. Louis nonprofit organization Beyond Housing — spent the day working with residents of the 6500 block of Whitney Avenue to add bushes, fruit trees, flowerbeds and other individualized landscaping. The project was organized by graduate students Kate Lafsky, Megan Roy and Tim Wooster as part of Polzin's architecture seminar "Reconsidering the Margin: Spaces of Meeting, Spaces of Transformation," which was funded in part by a grant from the Gephardt Institute for Public Service.

WUSTL math team wins state meet

On April 16 and 17, two Washington University teams took part in the 14th annual Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition, sponsored by the Missouri Section of the Mathematical Association of America, at Truman State University.

One team, seniors Alexander Cloninger, Jeremy Diepenbrock and Jonathan Swenson, took first place in a field of 30 teams from 15 colleges and universities across the state.

A second team, senior Joseph Hutchings and sophomores Melissa Lim and Andrew Soffer, captured third place. The teams were accompanied and sponsored by Ron Freiwald, Ph.D., professor of mathematics in Arts & Sciences, and Russell S. Woodroffe, Ph.D., the Chauvenet postdoctoral

lecturer in mathematics.

WUSTL has participated in this contest every year since its inception and has taken the first-place position eight times.

Earlier this year, 12 students participated in the William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition in December 2008.

Nearly 4,000 undergraduate mathematics students from the United States and Canada participate in this annual event, which allows one team from each school and an unlimited number of students participating individually.

The WUSTL team finished 48th. Three students ranked among the top 300 individuals, including freshman Alex Anderson, who ranked 145th.

Sports

Men's tennis to host NCAA early rounds

The No. 1-ranked and defending national champion men's tennis team will host the Central Regional of the 2009 NCAA Division III Championship Friday, May 8, through Sunday, May 10, at the Tao Tennis Center.

The Bears received an opening-round bye and will face the winner of No. 4 seed Carthage College and No. 5 seed Westminster College in the semifinal Saturday, May 9. No. 2 seed DePauw University and No. 3 seed Grinnell College will meet in the second semifinal match.

The Bears qualified for their 10th straight NCAA tournament and earned an automatic berth as

2009 University Athletic Association champions.

Softball No. 3 seed in Midwest Regional

The softball team earned the No. 3 seed in the eight-team NCAA Midwest Regional and will face No. 6 seed Luther College at 4 p.m. Thursday, May 7, at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa.

The Bears earned an at-large berth into the tournament field and are making their eighth straight postseason appearance, while Luther earned an automatic berth into the field as the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champions.

WUSTL last won a regional

championship in 2007, when it advanced all the way to the NCAA championship game.

Women's tennis earns postseason bid

The No. 14 women's tennis team earned an at-large berth into the 2009 NCAA tournament field and will face Manchester College (Ind.) in the regional quarterfinals on Saturday, May 8, in Greencastle, Ind.

The winner of the match between WUSTL and Manchester will advance to meet regional host DePauw University Saturday, May 9. The Bears are making their second straight trip to the NCAA tournament and their 10th in school history.

Farrell

Also active in many civic, cultural activities
— from Page 1

medical finance, development and compensation committees.

He chaired the compensation committee from 1999-2005, at which time he was elected to emeritus status.

In 2003, he and his wife, Betty, made a leadership gift to build the Farrell Teaching and Learning Center on the Medical Campus. Three years earlier, the Farrells, in partnership with the former May Department Stores Co.,

established the David C. and Betty Farrell Distinguished Professorship in Medicine. They are Annual and Life Members of The Danforth Circle.

In 2006, the couple received the Robert S. Brookings Award, which is conferred by the Board of Trustees upon individuals for advancing the alliance between the University and the greater St. Louis community.

Farrell also has received an honorary doctorate from WUSTL as well as the 2nd Century Award from the School of Medicine.

In addition to his commitment to Washington University, Farrell is active in civic and cultural organizations,

including the Saint Louis Art Museum, the Saint Louis Symphony and the Boy Scouts of America Greater St. Louis Area Council.

His contributions for enriching the quality of life for St. Louisans were acknowledged by the Regional Commerce and Growth Association with its Right Arm of St. Louis Award in 1997 and by The Mayor's Spirit of St. Louis Award in 1998.

The Search Award is a hand-wrought replica of the sculpture "The Search," designed by Heikki Seppa, professor emeritus of art.

The Eliot Society, founded in 1959, has more than 5,000 members providing unrestricted support for the University.

Conference to examine 'Justice and the American Metropolis'

By GERRY EVERDING

Putting questions of justice in the foreground of debates about American urban and suburban politics is the goal of an academic conference Saturday and Sunday, May 8 and 9, in the Women's Building Formal Lounge.

Titled "Justice and the American Metropolis," the conference is designed to foster interaction between political theorists who study justice and equality and empirical scholars who study historical, legal and political aspects of urban life.

Conference organizers Clarissa Hayward, Ph.D., associate professor of political science in Arts & Sciences, and Todd Swanstrom, Ph.D., an urbanist at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, plan to publish papers presented at the meeting in an edited volume offering the best of normative and empirical work on power and justice in the contemporary city.

"The goal of both the conference and the volume is to put questions of justice and fairness back in the foreground of urban policy debates in this country," Hayward said. "Forty years ago, grassroots organizers, political leaders and city planners debating urban issues were motivated by a vision of a more just and egalitarian city. Today, our urban policy

debates are driven almost exclusively by economic considerations: by concerns about efficient production and service provision, and competitiveness in an increasingly globalized economy. We want to help shift the terms of that debate."

Thirty renowned scholars will participate in this event, including Harvard philosopher Tommie Shelby, Ph.D.; Princeton political theorist Stephen Macedo, Ph.D.; Stanford legal theorist Richard Thompson Ford, J.D.; Harvard urbanist Susan Fainstein, Ph.D.; and Yale political scientist Douglas Rae, Ph.D.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Political Theory Research Group, the Center for New Institutional Social Sciences, the American Culture Studies Program and the Center for the Study of Ethics and Human Values, all at Washington University. It is co-hosted by the Washington University Political Theory Research Group and the Des Lee Collaborative Vision at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

The sessions, which run from 9:15 a.m.-5:30 p.m. May 8 and from 9:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. May 9, are free and open to the public.

For more information, including a detailed agenda of panel topics and speakers, visit cniss.wustl.edu

Awards

Proctor, Gordon make significant contributions
— from Page 1

mentation of evidence-based practices in social service settings.

For more than a decade, she has led the Brown School's Center for Mental Health Services Research (CMHSR). Continually funded by the National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH) since its inception in 1993, CMHSR collaborates with its partners to build a base of evidence designed to address the challenges of delivering mental health services to vulnerable populations. The center is the only one of its kind that is part of a social work school.

Proctor's scholarship has significantly advanced the field of mental health services research. She is a national leader in the scientific study of the movement of health practices from clinical knowledge to practical applications, and her distinguished career is reflected in the more than 100 books and articles that she has published or co-published over the years.

Nationally, Proctor was appointed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to serve on the National Advisory Mental Health Council of NIMH — the only social work researcher to receive this prestigious appointment.

Among her numerous awards are recognitions by the National Association of Social Workers and the Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

Proctor joined the Brown School faculty in 1977. She currently serves as associate dean for research, leading the development of the school's research excellence through the careful mentoring and support of faculty, the creation of a strong research infrastructure and relentless work to connect the scholarship of faculty to external support.

A generous and committed teacher to both doctoral and master's students, Proctor's teaching focuses on research and

evaluation methodology as well as social work in health and mental health-care settings. She also leads a pre- and postdoctoral training program, now in its 13th year with NIMH support.

Gordon is internationally recognized for establishing a link between obesity and the trillions of friendly microbes that live in the intestine.

He recently received a \$5.5 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to study whether those microbes may also contribute to severe malnutrition in infants who live in developing countries.

Additionally, Gordon's research has helped launch a worldwide effort to use genomic and computational methods to characterize the microbes and microbial genes in the human body.

He earned a medical degree from the University of Chicago and completed his clinical training in internal medicine and gastroenterology at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and the School of Medicine and his research training at the National Institutes of Health.

Gordon joined the School of Medicine faculty in 1981. He served as head of the Department of Molecular Biology and Pharmacology from 1991-2004 before being named director of the newly created Center for Genome Sciences, part of the University's BioMed21 initiative in translational medicine.

Throughout his career, Gordon has been an advocate for interdisciplinary science education. From 1994-2003, he was director of the University's Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences, which oversees all doctoral students in biomedical sciences.

As an avid supporter of the University's educational mission, Gordon has mentored 100 doctoral, M.D./Ph.D. and post-doctoral students.

He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Institute of Medicine. A prolific scientist, Gordon has published 400 scientific papers and holds 23 U.S. patents.



'Profound paper' Carl Bender, Ph.D. (left), the Wilfred R. and Ann Lee Konneker Distinguished Professor of Physics in Arts & Sciences, and his son, Michael A. Bender, Ph.D., associate professor of computer science at State University of New York (SUNY) Stony Brook, share a light moment during the 2009 Quantum Mechanics in the Complex Domain conference, held at Washington University March 27 and 28. Some 60 mathematical physicists from around the world attended the conference, which recognized Carl Bender on the 40th anniversary of the publication of his landmark paper, "Anharmonic Oscillator," in *Physical Review* in 1969. With more than 1,000 citations, it is one of the most cited papers in quantum mechanics — the physics of very small, submicroscopic or atomic particles that underlies nearly all modern science and technology. "It is one of the most influential and mathematically profound papers written on quantum mechanics in the latter half of the 20th century," said Barry McCoy, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Physics at SUNY Stony Brook and winner of the Heineman Prize for Mathematical Physics.

Students win grants for social change

By NEIL SCHOENHERR

The Community Service Office has announced the winners of three Social Change Grants, awarded annually to students pursuing innovative ideas that serve the common good in the spirit of social entrepreneurship.

The grants have a total value of \$22,000.

Sophomore David Fox and junior Jacob Siegel each received a \$6,000 Stern Social Change Grant for projects on environmentalism as a conduit for peace and inner city peace, respectively.

The Stern Social Change Grant was established in 2000 to provide undergraduates with the means to pursue creative and meaningful activities during the summer, geared toward finding solutions to society's needs. Two grants are available for domestic or international projects, and priority for

one of the grants is given to a student involved in any program supported by the St. Louis Hillel center on campus.

Sophomore Maxwell Woods received the Kaldi's Social Change Grant. The \$5,000 award will help Woods provide high-level music instruction to students currently unrepresented in the music education system through the creation of a Lemp Summer Music Program.

The Kaldi's grant was established in 2005 to enable students to develop sustainable community projects in the St. Louis region. Awarded to one undergraduate student each year, the grant supports full-time work to implement a community project over the summer as well as part-time work to sustain the project over the following academic year.

Graduate students Lindsey Horton and Kelly Scott received

the \$5,000 Gephardt Social Change Grant to begin a job-matching and training program for young Cambodian women.

The Gephardt Social Change Grant is funded by supporters of the Gephardt Institute for Public Service to broaden the availability of Social Change Grant funding resources for undergraduate, graduate and professional students. This grant supports international civic engagement or service projects demonstrating capacity for sustainable impact on an identified community issue.

The Community Service Office provides mentorship and support to prospective grant applicants in the development of their project proposals and to grant recipients in the implementation and wrap-up of their projects.

For more information, go to communityservice.wustl.edu/grants.

Drug

— from Page 1

months prior to enrolling in the trial. Therefore, these men either did not have prostate cancer or possibly had microscopic tumors that were too small to be detected by the pre-study biopsy.

The investigators performed scheduled biopsies on the men two years after they enrolled in the study and again after four years. After two years, prostate cancer was found in 17.2 percent of the men who took a placebo, compared with 13.4 percent who took dutasteride. After four years, prostate cancer was diagnosed in another 11.8 percent of men who received a placebo and 9.1 percent who received dutasteride.

"In these men, the most likely explanation is that dutasteride worked by shrinking tumors and/or slowing their growth, thereby making them less likely to be detected by a biopsy," Andriole said.

The reduction in prostate cancer risk was constant across multiple subgroups of men in REDUCE — dutasteride worked well in men regardless of age, prostate size, PSA level and family history of prostate cancer.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved dutasteride in 2001 for the treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). This condition causes

"We are very encouraged by this finding. Clearly, the data show dutasteride did not lead to more high-grade tumors, even though they would have been easier to detect in the dutasteride-treated men due to their smaller prostates."

GERALD ANDRIOLE

frequent urination that is difficult or painful. The study was conducted because data collected as part of the FDA-approval process suggested that men with BPH who took dutasteride had fewer diagnoses of prostate cancer.

The investigators found no significant increase in aggressive tumors among men who took dutasteride. This outcome was closely watched because an earlier trial of a similar BPH drug — finasteride (Proscar) — for the prevention of prostate cancer found that while the drug lowered cancer risk, it was linked to more aggressive tumors, although a later analysis of the data suggested that may not be the case.

Over the course of the study, 6.8 percent of men in the placebo

group and 6.7 percent of men in the dutasteride group were found to have aggressive, high-grade tumors.

"We are very encouraged by this finding," Andriole said. "Clearly, the data show dutasteride did not lead to more high-grade tumors, even though they would have been easier to detect in the dutasteride-treated men due to their smaller prostates."

Prostate cancer and BPH both can raise PSA levels. Dutasteride blocks two forms of the enzyme 5-alpha reductase, which converts testosterone produced in the testicles into dihydrotestosterone. In contrast, finasteride only inhibits one form of the enzyme. Dihydrotestosterone is known to be a potent stimulator of benign prostate growth and the development of prostate cancer.

The REDUCE investigators also found that dutasteride significantly reduced episodes of urinary retention and the need for surgery to alleviate BPH in men taking the drug compared with those taking a placebo.

Prostate cancer is the second most deadly cancer in men after lung cancer. Worldwide, it is responsible for more than 221,000 deaths annually.

The REDUCE trial was conducted at 250 sites in 42 countries. GlaxoSmithKline funded the study. Andriole is chairman of the REDUCE steering committee and a consultant for the company.

Master of Public Health program offers full-tuition scholarships

The new Master of Public Health program (MPH) at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work is offering four new full-tuition, merit-based scholarships to support students interested in improving community health locally, nationally and internationally.

The scholarships are available to prospective MPH students who have professional interests or experience in a range of areas, including health communications, nursing and community or public service as well as to prospective students completing health and preprofessional health majors who seek career opportunities in public health. Additional tuition assistance also is available to students entering the program, which debuts with the fall 2009 class.

"Tackling today's public health challenges requires a new approach to graduate public health education," said Timothy McBride, Ph.D., professor and associate dean for public health. "Our innovative curriculum will provide students with a framework for understanding and addressing public health challenges that draws upon different disciplines, including architecture, community development, economics, environmental engineering, law, medicine and social work. We believe this approach will better prepare our graduates with the skills they need for a range of careers."

Recognizing that changing health behaviors is critical to improving individual and community health, the Brown School will award one full-tuition Health Communication Scholarship to a prospective student interested in melding an interest in communi-

cations, journalism, marketing, public policy, sociology or related fields with that of public health.

The school also is making a full-tuition scholarship available to a registered nurse who wants to pursue an MPH at WUSTL. The scholarship is available to prospective students who have at least a bachelor of science degree in nursing and who are seeking to advance their interests in public health.

The remaining full-tuition scholarships will be awarded to students with strong leadership potential and academic records and who are committed to improving the health of communities or specific populations.

The Brown School will give special consideration to those with extensive community service experience or who are alumni of service corps such as Peace Corps, Teach For America, AmeriCorps, City Year, Coro Fellows and others. Undergraduates majoring in health and preprofessional health disciplines will be given special consideration as well.

"I am pleased that we will be able to offer financial assistance to members of our inaugural MPH class," McBride said.

"The Brown School has a history of providing generous financial support to its graduate students, and we want to continue to provide the resources needed to attract the brightest minds looking to improve the quality of people's lives," he said.

Learn more about the MPH program at gwweb.wustl.edu or start an application online at applyyourself.com/?id=wustl-sw.

For more information, contact the Brown School's Office of Admission and Recruitment at 935-6676.

Smartphone

— from Page 1

specialists can analyze the image and make a diagnosis.

Zar wrote the phone software and firmware for the probes; Richard came up with the low-power probe electronics design. He began working on ultrasound system designs 25 years ago, and in that span he has shrunk the electronics from cabinet-sized to a tiny circuit board one inch by three inches. A typical portable ultrasound device may cost as much as \$30,000. Some of these USB-based probes sell for less than \$2,000, with the goal of a price tag as low as \$500.

Richard and Zar have discussed a potential collaboration with researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology about integrating

their probe-smartphone concept into a suite of field trials for medical applications in developing countries.

"We're at the point of wanting to leverage what we've done with this technology and find as many applications as possible," Richard said.

One such application could find its way to the military. Medics could quickly diagnose wounded soldiers with the small, portable probe and phone to detect quickly the site of shrapnel wounds in order to make the decision of transporting the soldier or treating him elsewhere on the field.

Richard and Zar demonstrated a fully functional smartphone-compatible USB ultrasound probe at Microsoft Research Techfest 2009 in February, and Zar presented the technology at the 2009 World Health Care Congress in Washington, D.C., April 14-16.

Record

Volume 33, Number 33

Founded in 1905 • Washington University in St. Louis community news

Associate Vice Chancellor Steven J. Givens
Executive Editor Susan Killenberg McGinn
Editor Leslie Gibson McCarthy
Associate Editor Neil Schoenherr
Assistant Editor Jessica Daues
Medical News Editor Beth Miller
Calendar Coordinator Angela Hall
Print Production Carl Jacobs
Online Production Tammy Ritterskamp

News & Comments
(314) 935-5293
Campus Box 1070
record@wustl.edu

Medical News
(314) 286-0119
Campus Box 8508
millerbe@wustl.edu

Calendar Submissions
Fax: (314) 935-4259
Campus Box 1070
recordcalendar@wustl.edu

Record (USPS 600-430; ISSN 1043-0520), Published for the faculty, staff and friends of Washington University. Produced weekly during the school year, except school holidays, and monthly during June, July and August by the Office of Public Affairs, Washington University, Campus Box 1070, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130. Periodicals postage paid at St. Louis, MO.

Where to send address changes

Postmaster and nonemployees: Record, Washington University, Campus Box 1070, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130. Employees: Office of Human Resources, Washington University, Campus Box 1184, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130.

Reprint permission

Articles may be reprinted with appropriate credit to Washington University in St. Louis Record.

Notables

Olin Business School honors distinguished alumni, faculty

BY MELODY WALKER

A choreographer, bank president, investment banker and the president of the United States' largest brewer were among the honorees at the Olin Business School's 2009 Distinguished Alumni Awards April 22 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Clayton. More than 500 alumni, faculty and friends attended the ceremony, where winners of the second annual Olin Award and Dean's Medal were also named.

Dean's Medal

Mahendra R. Gupta, Ph.D., dean and the Geraldine J. and Robert L. Virgil Professor of Accounting and Management, presented the Dean's Medal to **Jerald L. Kent** (BSBA '78, MBA '79) and **Judith L. Kent** in recognition of their \$3 million Olin scholarship program that will significantly support 20 undergraduate students over the next seven years.

Jerald Kent's commitment to scholarship funding also has been reinforced by his work on the Board of Trustees. Kent founded Charter Communications and is president and CEO of Cequel III LLC. Judy Kent is a community volunteer and co-owns a women's clothing boutique.

Distinguished Alumni Awards

David C. Dorfman (BSBA '77) is a noted dancer and choreographer who founded his eponymous dance company in 1985. He is chair and the William Meredith Professor of Dance at Connecticut College.

Dorfman draws on his Olin studies in organizational behavior to get the most out of his dancers. David Dorfman Dance is an award-winning company that has performed on stages around the world. Dorfman has received a Guggenheim fellowship and four National Endowment for the Arts fellowships.

David A. Peacock (MBA '00) is president of Anheuser-Busch InBev, responsible for all U.S. operations for the newly combined company. Peacock's career began in advertising at A-B and quickly moved to corporate planning, brand management, corporate media and retail-sales promotion.

As a graduate of the Olin Executive MBA program, he maintains close ties with the

school; Peacock also serves as a director for the American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter and St. Patrick's Center.

Sally H. Roth (MBA '95) is president of Regions Bank Upper Midwest Area — 128 branches in Missouri, Iowa and western Kentucky. Banking is her second career; her first was teaching. From positions at Mercantile, Bank of America and the Private Bank, Roth moved to Regions Bank in 2002.

She serves on the board of the Olin Alumni Association, where she is past president; the BJC Hospital Foundation; the Regional Chamber and Growth Association; and the Wyman Center. She also is a member of Olin's National Council.

Lawrence E. Thomas (BSBA '77) is a partner, minority market recruiting, at Edward Jones. An internship at Edward Jones during his years at Olin led to a job in the corporate bond trading department and a lifelong career with the firm.

Thomas, with two other Olin alums, founded "The Tie That Binds" a scholarship initiative challenging African-American alumni campus-wide. He also sponsors two annual Olin scholarships and an endowed scholarship at the University.

Thomas serves on Olin's National Advisory Council and the Executive Alumni Association as well as the University's Alumni Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees. He serves on multiple civic and educational boards in St. Louis.

Olin Award

Richard Mahoney, Olin executive in residence and former chairman and CEO of the Monsanto Co., presented the second annual Olin Award for faculty research. The \$10,000 award, initiated by Mahoney, highlights scholarship that has practical and performance-enhancing applications to critical management issues.

This year's winning paper, titled "A Theory of Strategic Problem Formulation," is authored by **Markus Baer**, Ph.D., assistant professor of organizational behavior; **Kurt Dirks**, Ph.D., professor of organizational behavior; and **Jackson A. Nickerson**, Ph.D., the Frahm Family Professor of Organization and Strategy. The paper is under consideration for publication in the Harvard Business Review.

Law school center, clinic renamed

The School of Law's Center for Research on Innovation & Entrepreneurship has been renamed the Center on Law, Innovation & Economic Growth (CLIEG).

Gerrit De Geest, J.D., Ph.D., professor of law, is the new co-director with founder Charles McManis, J.D., the Thomas and Karole Green Professor of Law.

"With four years of accumulated experience to build on and the encouragement of the University-wide Skandalaris

Center for Entrepreneurial Studies, the original center has transformed into the Center on Law, Innovation & Economic Growth," McManis said. "The new name more accurately reflects the research mission of the center henceforth, and, in particular, highlights professor Gerrit De Geest's interest and expertise in comparative law and economics."

In addition, the Intellectual Property & Business Formation Legal Clinic is now the Intellectual Property & Nonprofit Organizations Clinic to better reflect the clinic's work with the nonprofit sector. The clinic is associated with CLIEG.

Both renamings were celebrated with a virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony in which the touch of a computer key allowed the previous name to morph into the new one on a large video screen.

For more information, visit law.wustl.edu/CLIEG.

Arts & Sciences presents alumni awards, Dean's Medal

Arts & Sciences will recognize the achievements of five alumni at 4 p.m. May 15 in the Jerzewiak Family Auditorium in the Arts & Sciences Laboratory Sciences Building.

Ralph S. Quatrano, Ph.D., interim dean of Arts & Sciences and the Spencer T. Olin Professor in Arts & Sciences, also will present the Dean's Medal to **Edward S. Macias**, Ph.D., provost, executive vice chancellor for academic affairs and the Barbara and David Thomas Distinguished Professor in Arts & Sciences, who served as Arts & Sciences dean for 13 years before stepping down June 30, 2008, to take on expanded leadership responsibilities as provost.

Distinguished Alumni Awards

The Distinguished Alumni Awards are presented annually to recognize those who have attained distinction in their academic or professional careers and have demonstrated service to their communities and to the University.

Joel W. Abramowitz, M.D., Ph.D. (A.B. '69), is chief of staff at Memorial Hermann Memorial City Hospital in Houston and listed among the "Top Doctors in America" for oncology.

He studied zoology at WUSTL and earned medical and doctoral degrees in biochemistry from the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. He completed a fellowship in hematology and oncology at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston.

He is defined professionally by his reputation for being an excellent private-practice oncologist who cares for and supports his patients and their families during an extraordinarily difficult time in their lives.

He and his late wife, Joan, endowed the Jesse Nathan Abramowitz Scholarship in Arts & Sciences in memory of their oldest son, who died shortly after his 1999 graduation from Washington University. Abramowitz is married to Rita Mosko Berger; his middle and youngest sons are Michael Abramowitz and Carl Matthew Abramowitz (A.B. '04), a Spanish major.

Yvette Drury Dubinsky (A.B. '64, M.A. '66, MFA '90) is an award-winning St. Louis artist whose works — which often combine photography with printmaking, drawing or collage — have been featured in national and international exhibitions and are part of museum, corporate and private collections.

After earning two degrees in sociology, she worked as a researcher and taught at the

University of Missouri-St. Louis and at community colleges. In 1972, she married John Dubinsky (A.B. '65, MBA '67).

Since earning a visual arts degree, she has taught at the Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill in Massachusetts and at the University of Chicago; later in 2009, she will teach at the Provincetown Art Association and Museum in Massachusetts. Her awards include the Cité Internationale des Arts residency in Paris.

A member of the WUSTL Art National Council, she has served on search committees for two art deans.

Shelby L. Jordan (A.B. '74), considered one of the greatest pass blockers in National Football League history and a member of the 1984 world champion Los Angeles Raiders, has tackled different adversaries since 1989: scarce affordable urban housing and services for those in need.

Jordan and his wife of 30 years, Donzella, fund and direct a Los Angeles nonprofit economic development corporation that permanently removes blight, stabilizing neighborhoods once characterized as economically and socially fragile. The results include six affordable housing complexes for families and seniors.

While in WUSTL's Career Scholarship Program, directed by his mentor, the late Gloria W. White, Ph.D., Jordan excelled academically and athletically.

A premed student, he earned a degree in psychology while working part-time and gaining local and national collegiate athletic distinctions. He attributes his success as a student-athlete to the environment created by then-Chancellor William H. Danforth, who inspired people to be their best.

Martin K. Sneider (A.B. '64) majored in history before earning a master's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri and an MBA from Harvard University. He joined Edison Brothers Stores, the nation's largest retailer of women's shoes at that time.

Sneider played a key role in developing Edison's men's and women's apparel divisions. When named president and co-CEO in 1987, he became the first person outside the Edison family to hold that position. Before stepping down in 1995, Sneider had successfully transformed the company into a multicategory fashion retailer operating approximately 3,000 stores and generating sales of \$1.5 billion.

For the past 16 years, Sneider has been an adjunct professor at the Olin Business School, teaching retailing and corporate social responsibility courses and receiving numerous teaching awards.

He chaired the Alumni Board of Governors and served on the

Arts & Sciences National Council. His wife, Jill (A.B. '66, M.A.'85), is pursuing a doctorate in American literature at WUSTL.

Pamela L. Tremayne, J.D., Ph.D. (A.B. '64), earned a bachelor's degree in sociology with an emphasis in Latin American studies and Spanish; a master's degree in Latin American studies from the University of Florida; and a juris doctorate and a doctorate in sociology from Emory University.

In 1986, she established the Law Offices of Pamela L. Tremayne in Atlanta. As principal in the law firm, she represents clients from business, medicine, law, politics and professional athletics in high-asset, complex domestic relations matters, including divorce and custody.

The St. Louis native enhances her practice with academic, cultural and international experience and hours of pro bono work.

The first woman president and longest-serving president of the International Club of Atlanta, Tremayne also is a seven-year board member of Big Brothers/Big Sisters. A member of the WUSTL Atlanta Regional Cabinet, she has hosted alumni events and served on the Alumni Board of Governors.

Dean's Medal

During Macias' tenure as dean of Arts & Sciences and executive vice chancellor from 1995-2008, Arts & Sciences advanced to the first tier of the nation's best undergraduate and graduate liberal arts programs. Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton calls Macias "one of the most effective academic leaders in America."

Equipped with what one department chair called "broad vision, excellent judgment, the ability to make tough decisions, all combined with personal warmth and diplomacy," Macias strengthened Arts & Sciences by recruiting superb faculty and students and by fostering interdisciplinary programs.

Because Arts & Sciences is the heart of the University, its programs are essential for the interactions Macias is now building among all schools.

In his role as provost, he works with WUSTL's seven deans to explore common educational issues from intraschool programs to internationalization, and he is developing new ways to enhance diversity as he meets critical academic, budgetary and capital planning responsibilities.

Macias joined WUSTL's chemistry faculty 39 years ago after completing a doctoral program at MIT.

In addition to teaching, he long studied the chemistry and physics of atmospheric particles and their effects on air pollution.

Of note

Alexandre Carter, M.D., Ph.D., instructor in neurology, has received a \$420,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for a four-year post-doctoral research award under the foundation's Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program. ...

Kelley Greenman, senior in environmental studies in Arts & Sciences, was named to USA TODAY's annual All-USA College

Academic Team's First Team. The 20 First Team students were selected by a panel of judges from hundreds of students nominated by colleges and universities across the United States. Judges considered grades, leadership, activities and, most importantly, how students extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom. ...

Joshua York, senior in electrical engineering, won the first-place award for best overall presentation at the St. Louis Area Undergraduate Research Symposium April 4.

York presented his research on acoustic source localization using an array of microphones and generalized cross-correlation signal processing algorithms. His research was conducted as an Undergraduate Research Project under the supervision and guidance of **Arye Nehorai**, Ph.D., the Eugene and Martha Lohman Professor and chair of the Department of Electrical and Systems Engineering, **Patricio La Rosa**, graduate research assistant, and **Ed Richter**, research associate in electrical engineering.

Obituary

York, 91

Simone York, head reserve division and library assistant from 1952-1974, died April 6, 2009, in Chaumont, France, after a brief illness. She was 91.

Washington People

When Katie Plax, M.D., talks about her life and career, there's one concept she repeats often: how lucky she is.

But it's more than luck that has gotten this Washington University pediatrician to her role as director of the Adolescent Center at St. Louis Children's Hospital.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have Katie Plax as a member of our School of Medicine faculty," says Alan L. Schwartz, Ph.D., M.D., the Harriet B. Spoehrer Professor and chairman of the Department of Pediatrics. "She is the real deal — a gifted clinician, a passionate advocate for children and teens, especially those challenged by suboptimal family and life circumstances, a committed educator and a revered role model for so many junior faculty. If 'impact' is the coin of the realm, Katie delivers."

Plax did not always want to be a doctor — she started undergraduate premedicine courses at Brown University but ended up earning a psychology degree. She first worked at a nonprofit agency with pediatric hematologist/oncologist Peter Smith, M.D., at Brown University, who cared for boys with hemophilia who became infected with HIV. Smith



Katie Plax, M.D. (left), and Regina Whittington, director of Supporting Positive Opportunities for and with Teens (SPOT), discuss some of the resources the SPOT offers its clients. "(Dr. Plax's) presence at the center is a powerhouse of resources for youth accessing services," Whittington says. "She approaches medicine in a practical manner and empowers youth with knowledge and understanding. ... Her work is not confined to an exam room — she is actively engaging in the community and determining action that can be taken to promote and foster a healthier life."

By BETH MILLER

Advocating for youth

Plax's work with teens goes from exam room to community

worked with parent organizations at schools to allow the boys to attend school.

"I went out with him on these presentations, and I thought to myself, 'That's the kind of doctor I want to be,'" she says.

She went back to school at night to finish premed courses. During medical school, she continued to work on issues related to HIV, teaching community groups and volunteering at a homeless shelter.

"It was very clear then why I wanted to go into medicine — to work with an underserved community," she says.

She came to Washington University and St. Louis Children's Hospital for her residency and then went to work as a pediatrician at St. Louis County's John C. Murphy Health Center in Berkeley, Mo. Less than a year later, the county reorganized its health-care model and released its physicians. That's when the door to Plax's interest in politics and academic medicine opened. She joined an effort opposed to the reorganization and learned about the county political system.

"During this experience, I met a lot of people in the community who were interested in caring for underserved families, and it gave me the opportunity to develop skills that you don't necessarily get to develop in medicine, like speaking at a County Council meeting or writing letters to the editor," she says.

She also developed a relationship with Lynn White, M.D., then director of the Adolescent Center at St. Louis Children's Hospital, who offered Plax a job.

"I was incredibly lucky because I had this model doctor of someone working in the community serving a population of adolescents in need and who was willing to do the needed work to advocate for patients," Plax says.

Before she left John C. Murphy, Plax noticed that 40 percent of the center's patient population was uninsured, despite Missouri's policy that allows children to get state coverage. Working with Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, she trained volunteers to help uninsured families enroll in Medicaid, now known as the

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In addition, she started exploring changes to current policies that would make it easier to enroll children in the program.

At the same time, she received a two-year fellowship through the Soros Foundation. This allowed her to spend about half of her time working on what led to a state policy called presumptive eligibility, which allows income-eligible children to be immediately enrolled in Missouri's CHIP program at community sites without a waiting period.

Splitting time

Plax splits her time between patient care and advocacy. She has been legislative chair for the Missouri chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics since 2004. She continues to work on expanding CHIP coverage in Missouri using funds from the federal stimulus package as well as working with the state to use stimulus funds to reverse cuts to health and social service agencies.

She also spends some of her free time in politics and says she loves to work on campaigns. Last fall, she canvassed for President Barack Obama and attended his inauguration.

On the SPOT

When she started working in the Adolescent Center at St. Louis Children's Hospital, pediatricians were beginning to treat teenagers who had been infected with HIV at birth as well as those who had behaviorally acquired HIV. Plax joined the team and now spends one half-day a week in the hospital's teen HIV clinic.

Her love of medicine and advocacy combined again in 2008 when she became medical director of the SPOT (Supporting Positive Opportunities for and with Teens). The first of its kind in the St. Louis area, the SPOT is a one-stop, drop-in center for youth ages 13-24 that provides testing for HIV and sexually transmitted diseases, health care and counseling, social support, prevention and case management services at no cost.

Since its September 2008 opening, the SPOT has treated nearly

1,000 individual youth and tested more than 500 for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.

"It's really rewarding to see this model work and to see the young people who come to the SPOT now referring people to us — to me, that's the ultimate seal of approval," she says.

Regina Whittington, director of the SPOT, says it is a privilege to work with Plax.

"Dr. Plax is one of the most inspirational physicians I have ever met," Whittington says. "Her presence at the center is a powerhouse of resources for youth accessing services. She approaches medicine in a practical manner and empowers youth with knowledge and understanding. She doesn't just see a patient, she forms a relationship and advocates for them. Her work is not confined to an exam room — she is actively engaging in the community and determining action that can be taken to promote and foster a healthier life."

Plax is quick to praise the SPOT staff for their role in the project's early success.

"Frankly, I've been incredibly fortunate that I have the most amazing people to work with and who share the vision," she says. "Sometimes you get to dream about things you'd like to see happen. I got to dream about this, I got to go out and do it, and everybody was excited about doing it with me. How many times do people get to do that in their life? That's just a huge gift."

Plax is sharing her passion and vision for underserved teens with resident physicians who are helping out at the SPOT.

"I'm excited about that because I think about what Peter Smith did for me," she says. "I think sometimes you just need to see things in living color and expand people's horizons about what doctors can do. We're only limited by our own creativity, and I'm hopeful that I can pass on that good hands-on message."

A close family

Plax and one of her brothers, Danny Plax, M.D., instructor in clinical pediatrics at the School of Medicine and a pediatrician in private practice, had another pediatrician role model — their father, Steven Plax, M.D., professor emeritus of clinical pediatrics, who she says loved his job, was good at it and set a very high standard of what a pediatrician can be and can do. She also says both parents set an incredibly high standard of how to be a good parent.

Plax and her partner, John Cross, have two sons: Jacob, 6, and Jeremy, 2½. The family likes to do anything outside, including playing ball and gardening. She also loves to cook, and each week, Plax and her family get together with her parents and Danny's family for Sunday night dinner. She also has two brothers who live in Chicago.

Plax says the support of Cross, her family and her colleagues have helped her balance the demands of a career and a family.

"One of the things I see again and again at the SPOT is that not everybody has a family they can rely on," she says. "I have a family I can rely on."

"One thing that's very clear personally and professionally is that you can't do it alone. If you can find those partnerships, it makes a huge difference."

Katie Plax

Education: B.A., Brown University; M.D., University of Rochester

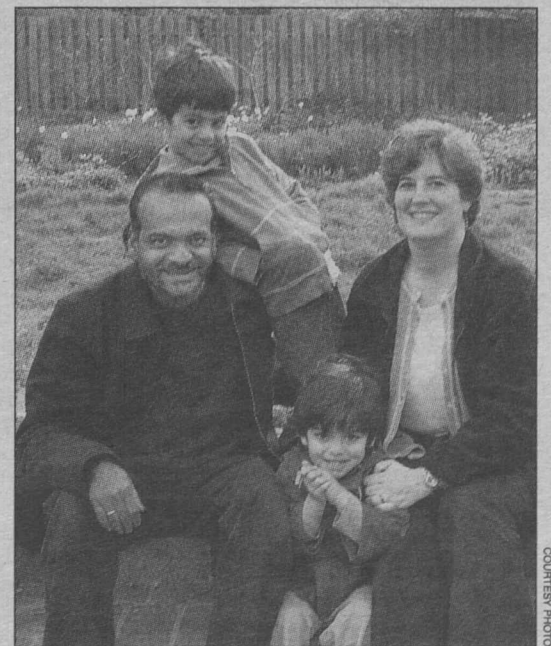
Title: Associate professor of pediatrics, medical director of the SPOT and director of the Adolescent Center at St. Louis Children's Hospital

Also directs: A pediatrics rotation called Pediatricians in Community, which allows residents to make patient home visits with community social services agencies to give residents a deeper understanding of how the agencies help families

Hobbies: Cooking, gardening, playing outside with her sons, travel, reading and politics

Fascinated with: The Supreme Court. "I read the biography about former Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun," she says, "and I loved 'The Nine.'"

Likes to read: Fiction, nonfiction and the Sunday New York Times



(From left) John Cross, Jacob (standing), Jeremy and Katie Plax.