A model of cooperation

Universities pool resources to offer innovative engineering degree

They're 30-something, married with children, burdened with bills to pay and twin diminishing resources — time and money. Many of them punch a time clock and work more than 40 hours a week, yet they're beast with a simmering drive to change their lives. So, why not change course in midlife and become an engineer?

That's the profile and logic of typical students enrolled in one of the most distinctive engineering programs in the world, the University of Missouri-St. Louis/Washington University Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program.

A concept as innovative as the creation of the junior college system after World War II, the joint program began very modestly in early 1993 with a tiny enrollment of eight students. In less than two years, the program has expanded phenomenally to 188 students — 65 upper division students and 123 pre-engineering students. It is unique among all known engineering programs because it combines the efforts and resources of two contrasting universities with differing philosophies and missions to achieve a common goal: the availability of an affordable engineering degree to demographic groups who ordinarily would be lost in the academic shuffle. These groups encompass, among others, "mature" students, with an impressive representation of women and minorities.

"There just hasn't been an engineering education alternative in the St. Louis region for the kind of student enrolled in the joint program," said William P. Darby, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Washington University Department of Engineering and Policy and dean of the joint program.

"When the two institutions were considering creating the program, we looked around for a model and couldn't find one. We've pretty much crafted the program based on combining the strengths of the two schools to give students an opportunity that wasn't available before."

"These aren't the kinds of students who are going to pack up and move out of state or even to Rolla or Columbia and live two years in the dorms. These are people who are literally installing car stereos or selling computer software during the day, punching out at 5 p.m. and taking courses at 5:30 at night, footing the bill on their own."

Rolla and Columbia, located in central Missouri, are University of Missouri System campuses with engineering curricula. Each is at least a two-hour drive from St. Louis. The University of Missouri-St. Louis and Washington University are only about 15 minutes apart from each other via interstate.

"The program provides an opportunity for students who are place bound to get an engineering degree at reasonable tuition rates," said Nancy Shields, Ph.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis assistant professor of sociology and associate dean of the program. "This is the first time anything like this has been available in St. Louis, a region of 2.3 million people. The University of Missouri-St. Louis has wanted an engineering program for more than 20 of its 31 years, and now through this cooperation, there finally is one, and a very good one at that."

The program provides bachelor's degrees in electrical, mechanical and civil engineering. There also is a minor in environmental engineering available. In the collaborative program students

Knock on wood

Horticulturist helps preserve campus' age-old trees

There is a giant Scotch Elm just east of Brown Hall. Its heavy branches grow out up, but out and down. Their gnarled fingertips brush the ground in a wide circumference. A footpath winds between the 80-year-old trunk and its wide, arching tentacles, allowing pedestrians bustling from the parking lot to campus the fleeting feeling of being deep in a primordial forest.

It is one of horticulturist Paul Norman's favorite spots.

"When I first saw this tree, I thought it had been struck by lightning, but its growth habit is naturally horizontal instead of vertical," said Norman. "My guess is that it was planted around 1906-1907. It is healthy and strong. The shiny bark is not characteristic of the tree; it's characteristic of people climbing on the tree."

Norman, the University's one-man horticultural staff, is about one-third of the way through a detailed inventory of trees on campus. Since he started seven years ago, 60 trees have had to be removed for a variety of reasons, including disease, safety threats and plain old age. The University tries to replace every tree it removes.

"The unique thing about this campus is its age. That also hurts us. Some of our trees are at the end of their life expectancy," Norman said. "They begin to break down, need repairs and to be replaced. Like a human, the healthier a tree is, the less likely it will get the disease."

Three of four beautiful elms planted in Brookings Quadrangle were removed when they fell victim to Dutch Elm disease. The American Elm in the southwest corner is one of the few remaining large specimens of this once common species. Until the 1960s, when Dutch Elm disease killed off almost all large examples of this tree, the American Elm was the traditional backbone of college landscape design. We do not know why this remaining example in the quad has stayed in relatively good health," said Bill Wiley, manager of maintenance operations. "This specimen may have unique genetic characteristics that are providing a defense against disease."

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In this issue...

Heart pangs

Study shows patients' attitudes about chest pain vary; findings could affect angina treatment

The role of nutrition

Saule Khal's research showed that kidney function is markedly decreased in people who are chronically malnourished

'The latest In attitude'

Fashion students premiere designs ranging from irreverently campy-ant to classically practical

Employees embrace 'Service for Success'

After only seven months, "Service for Success" administrators say they are well ahead of their goal of training every University staff member in the program's principles by 1997. Since September, more than 400 employees who were placed in focus groups, they wanted training that would help them do their jobs better and learn about other areas of the University. The program was developed with the help of Mark Ammerman, a management consultant with Ammerman Associates Inc. based in Wynne, Pa. It is being carried out by about 40 University employees who were trained in the program's principle. According to the mission statement, their goal is to "provide an ongoing service training program for the benefit of those whom we serve (students, parents, alumni, faculty, college, community, and others) and to help us all be more effective in what we do in support of the mission of Washington University."

In September, Hilltop Campus employees received a letter from Chancellor William H. Danforth inviting them to participate in the program. Immediately, required participants in the program, school, division and office on campus. The training, which involves five half days three times a year, is being held at the West Campus Conference Center. Participants learn how to communicate better, provide better service, manage communications and handle difficult situations.

Training sessions emphasize experiential learning, including OEM (outside, environment, problem-solving and case studies. Universal themes, such as cultural diversity and empowerment, are included. Classes are composed of heterogeneous groups, crossing departmental and role boundaries, as well as different types of service areas to encourage communication and cooperation among the administration, departments and schools.

"The training helped me see service and its purpose here at Washington University in a new light," said Linh Yung, an administrative assistant at the Career Center. "Not only did it help me develop better communication and cooperation among the administration, departments and schools."

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST LOUIS

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Patients’ attitudes about chest pain vary; findings could alter treatment

Doctors treating patients with chest pain need to pay more attention to how bothered patients are by their symptoms, School of Medicine researchers reported in the April 19 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association. The study shows that attitudes about pain vary substantially, even among patients with similar severities of angina or chest pain caused by heart disease.

"We found that some individuals are much more bothered by their pain than others — even among patients with similar levels of symptoms," Nease said. "Guidelines are often silent about the symptoms than were patients with severe symptoms. Nease said that finding suggests that guidelines for managing chest pain should be based on preferences of an individual patient rather than on symptom severity alone. "Making decisions without taking into account how the patient feels about symptoms could lead to inappropriate treatment," Nease said. "Good decision-making should respect both the available scientific information and the preferences of the individual patient." — Mary Cardillo

Center will train healthcare professionals in prevention of sexually transmitted diseases

The School of Medicine will play a leading role in establishing the St. Louis STD/HIV Prevention Training Center, a regional center that will train healthcare professionals in detecting, treating and preventing sexually transmitted diseases.

The project is being funded by a five-year $2.1 million grant from the national Centers for Disease Control. The grant was awarded to the St. Louis County Department of Health, in partnership with the School of Medicine and the City of St. Louis Department of Health and Hospitals.

The School of Medicine will receive $1.48 million of the grant to establish and maintain training center operations, said Bradley P. Stoner, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine and anthropology, and the project's medical director. Only nine other U.S. sites were selected to offer regional training centers as part of a federal program to curb the rise in sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS and syphilis. The St. Louis center will serve healthcare workers in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas. Training courses will begin in 1996.

The project also will involve the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Saint Louis University. Since 1992 more than 3,000 residents of St. Louis county have been diagnosed with HIV. The St. Louis Center will serve healthcare workers in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas. Training courses will begin in 1996.

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Klahr seeks to halt kidney disease progression

In the academic medical community, Saulo Klahr, M.D., is known as one of the world's most accomplished kidney disease researchers. But when he visits friends and family in his native Colombia, South America, he is known simply as David's brother. David is one of Colombia's leading architects. Saulo's lifelong interest in medicine comes from his brother. David is one of Colombia's leading architects.

Klahr's research focuses on understanding how disease affects the kidneys, organs that hold the critical responsibility of maintaining proper chemical balances in the body. Twenty-four hours a day, these organs keep water and salt balance steady and remove waste products generated during the digestion of food.

Klahr made seminal contributions to our understanding of how disease affects kidney function and how kidney disease progresses, said Richard Glassock, M.D., chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of Kentucky School of Medicine and a fellow kidney researcher.

Klahr's independent research began in Colombia in the mid 1960s with a groundbreaking study on the effects of chronic protein malnutrition on kidney function. Still considered one of the best studies in this area, it showed that kidney function is markedly decreased in people who are chronically malnourished. The study established Klahr as one of the first to recognize the importance of nutrition in normal kidney function. He later built on this work to examine diet's effect on the progression of kidney disease.

In 1971, Klahr joined the Washington University faculty in 1996 as an assistant professor of medicine. Since then, he has explored the underlying characteristics of chronic kidney disease and the factors that lead to its inevitable progression. In animal models, Klahr's laboratory has simulated the role of several factors in controlling progression, including dietary protein restriction and the use of lipid-lowering drugs. His research has laid the groundwork for clinical studies looking for ways to prevent progression in humans.

The years are beginning to yield answers; Klahr recently was chosen to head a major National Institutes of Health study examining the value of restricting dietary protein and controlling blood pressure to slow kidney disease progression. The study found that reducing blood pressure to levels below those currently recommended slows progression for patients who have high blood pressure and kidney disease characterized by loss of protein in their urine.

Klahr is also known for his important work on the effects of obstruction of the urinary tract on kidney function and structure. He became interested in the area almost by accident in the early 1970s when Neal Bricker, M.D., asked Klahr to help write a textbook chapter about urinary tract obstruction. Soon after the book was published in 1972, Bricker left St. Louis to become chair of medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, and Klahr took his place as division director.

"I started getting a lot of phone calls from physicians about urinary tract obstruction. But we had not done any research in this area. We just reviewed the literature and said, "It's not very interesting." It wasn't my expertise." The calls raised his interest. More than 20 years later, he is one of the premier laboratories looking at the effects of urinary tract obstruction on the kidney.

Obstruction of the urinary tract transiently increases the rate of kidney growth. "We are trying to understand how that increased pressure is transformed into a series of biochemical events that lead to organ damage and loss of kidney function," Klahr said. His laboratory has identified several of the inflammatory cells and substances involved in causing renal damage. The work is nearing the therapeutic stage. "We think that certain drugs can interrupt this cycle and prevent or slow the progression of damage. In another couple of years, we may be ready to start looking at therapeutic interventions in patients," Klahr said.

"We haven't stopped the disease. So there is still a lot of work to do," Klahr said.

Klahr has had a hand in teaching — particularly books of the Medical Center's role in training future scientists and clinicians, colleagues said. On a more personal basis, he has trained many researchers in kidney disease who have gone on to successful careers. "He was very supportive and very accessible, always open to look at interesting data — and even uninteresting data," said Morrison of Klahr's experience in his lab. "He has a tremendous knowledge of the literature in all areas. He can explain to you something quite complex to make it seem quite complex with his knowledge. He used to serve on an NIH advisory council that advises the Secretary of Health and Human Services about the study and treatment of kidney disease and diabetes.

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Klahr's pleasure with words has won him many friends over the years, said Shaul Masry, M.D., Bernard J. Hanley professor of medicine at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, also a kidney disease specialist. He describes Klahr as a humanist. "By that I mean that he is a kind, compassionate person who sees the needs of others beyond his own needs." The years also have brought more challenges, more time at his desk and less time for leisure. Klahr said. But outside of work, he enjoys reading — particularly books by Colombian author and Nobel laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez. He also follows baseball and was converted into a college basketball fanatic by his two sons, who are both lawyers. He has been married to Carol De Clue Klahr since 1965.

During his career, Klahr has made significant contributions to kidney research, including the development of medical specialties centered at Jewish Hospital, said Wayne Lerner, D.P.H., president of Jewish Hospital. "He played a major role in the establishment of the Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology at Jewish Hospital, and he has been a leader in the national and international medical community."
Exhibitions

“Master of Fine Arts II.” School of Art, gallery opening: 5-7 p.m. Exhibit closes Monday, April 24. Thursday, April 27

Films

All filmmaker movie cost $3 and are shown in Room 100 Brown Hall. For Filmboard hotline, call 395-5983.

Thursday, April 27

1930’s Classic Film Series. “Survival’s (1941).” B&W, written and directed by Preston Sturges; based on a novel by Sinclair Beckett.

Friday, April 28

7 and 9:30 p.m. Filmboard Features Series. “Pulp Fiction,” directed by Quentin Tarantino, April 28, same times, and April 30 at 7 p.m.

Midnight. Filmboard Midnight Features. “Animal House.” (Also April 29, same time, and April 30 at 9:30 p.m.)

Lectures

Thursday, April 27


Calendrical guidelines

Events sponsored by the University-its departments, divisions, organizations and its recognized student organizations—are shown in bold. Events sponsored by other entities are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted.

Calendar submissions should state time, date, place, sponsor, title of event, name of person presenting (if known), and contact information. Event materials are due in Mary Ann O’Donnell, director. Tietjens Hall. 935-5581.

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Major conference explores women's issues in pre-revolutionary France

More than 140 scholars from Europe, the United States and Canada are expected to attend a major conference in Paris titled "Literary Images of Women During the Renaissance," published in Paris by the Presses Universitaires de France (University Presses of France).

In conjunction with the conference, the Library's Special Collections has organized an exhibit titled "An Exhibit of Books and About Women." The exhibit opens at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 27, in Special Collections, which is located on the fifth floor of Olin Library. A reception, sponsored by Olin Library, will be held simultaneously with the exhibit opening. The exhibit continues through July 21.

The conference, which costs $45, includes a banquet dinner, musical entertainment and a reception. Individuals may attend the conference for one day at a cost of $10, or four days at a cost of $20, excluding meals, and can register on site. The conference is sponsored by the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, the Department of Art History and Sciences and the French Consulate's office in Chicago.

For more information about the conference, call the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at 935-5180.

Service program boosts morale

The judges for the competition were Mike Wolf, director, and David Moessner, asst. director, sports information.

The program is sponsored by the Division of Bone and Mineral Research at the University of Chicago. The money raised will be used to support the University's Dance Program, which provides opportunities for students to perform in professional settings.

The program also will feature violinist Juliet Kurtzman performing Max Bruch's "Habanera" and "In the Hall of the Mountain King." Elizabeth Macdonald, associate professor of music, will introduce the program.

The orchestra closes the program with "Verdi's "La Traviata.""

For more information about the concert, call 935-5984.

Service program boosts morale — from page 1

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FASHION STUDENTS SELECT COLLECTED OBJECTS AT GALLERIA RUNWAY SHOW

"The Fashion Show" features selected collections from 10 junior and five seniors, a run of 20 clothing and furniture designs, as well as a design competition. The show will be held in the Court at the Saint Louis Galleria, located at the intersection of Clayton Road and Brentwood Boulevard.

"This is a rare opportunity for St. Louisans to see some of the lovely things that are on the runways of Paris and Milan, but is in no way an attempt to rival the New York or Parisian fashion shows," said Deirdre Cullen, director of the University's fashion design program. "Guests not only will see the latest designs, they also will be able to meet the clothes on the floor, and, if interested, purchase items."

Fashion designers will be on hand to discuss their work at small booths on the second floor of the Garden Court. The booths were created especially for the show by another group of art students who are in the "2-D Design" class taught by Alison Croceta, a lecturer in the school's sculpture department.

The event promises to be more than fashion alone. It is a showcase for an internationalchoral collection, which is presenting the latest in music, the latest in lighting, the latest in attitudes," said Singleton.

For more information, contact Cullen, 935-5210.
Robert Wiltenburg

Excellence in Teaching, which is administered by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. The award is presented to those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the quality of education at Missouri's colleges and universities.

"Bob has done an outstanding job over the last several years teaching, overseeing the University's freshman seminar for graduate teaching assistants," said Wayne Fields, director of University College, wins award for Higher Education.

Robert Wiltenburg named associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences to oversee the University's freshman seminar for graduate teaching assistants. "Bob has done an outstanding job over the last several years teaching, overseeing the University's freshman seminar for graduate teaching assistants," said Wayne Fields, director of University College.

Robert Wiltenburg said he would like to draw the students' attention to the possibility of cloning the tree to duplicate the species, one that would thrive in the location. Like real estate, the key to a tree's value is its longevity in its location. Unfortunately, a busy university campus in a landlocked urban setting is not the healthiest location for a tree. On campus, the enemies are not cars, but foot traffic and narrow root zones along pathways and sidewalks.

A prime example of a tree that could not survive the combination was a green ash tree that grew in the quadrangle along an aisle that was used during Commencement exercises. An elm tree, were selling religious books. The golf ball-sized balls that fell, injuring a student, who was treated at Jewish Hospital.

"People call and say there's a tree blocking a light pole. I say there's a light pole blocking my tree. They say move your tree. I say move your light pole," Norman said.

Right now, the campus is at its most beautiful. It's conducive to that location, the trees are looked after, and students, faculty and staff who appreciate the beautiful work done by the Horticulturist Paul Norman are urged to call 935-5555. This release is provided to alert the community to the possibility of cloning the tree to duplicate the species, one that would thrive in the location.
For The Record contains news about a wide variety of faculty, staff and student professional and academic activities.

Of note

Daniel C. Breneman, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics and of cell biology and physiology, was elected a fellow of the American College of Physicians, the second largest physician organization of internists. He received the 1995 Medical Education Award from the National Medical Education Association. He was also named a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. He received a master's degree in medical education from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Memory

Ervin-Lewis, Ph.D., professor of microbiology in the biological sciences, received the 1995-1996 Award from the World Congress on Biotechnological Development to improve the production of substances of Plant and Marine Origin. She was cited for her paper on "Optimizing Marine Production of Useful Compounds." She presented her work at the American Society for Microbiology meeting in Indianapio.

J.C. Moog, professor of education and director of the Allogeneic Bone Marrow Transplantation Project, received an additional $180,000 to support a research project on "Genetic Analysis of Neuromuscular Disease." The project is to assess the genetic basis of muscular disease and to evaluate the potential for new treatments.

Michael L. Nonet, Ph.D., assistant professor of anatomy and neurobiology, received a 1995-1996 fellowship from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. He will use the funds to study the role of the genetic receptor in Alzheimer's disease.

Jerome R. Cox, Jr., S.D., Harold B. and Adeleade C. St. Louis Professor of Computer Science, and Jonathan Turner, Ph.D., assistant professor of computer science, were named recipients of the 1995-1996 Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award recognizes excellence in teaching and is the highest honor given by the university to faculty members.

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Engineering program appeals to minorities, women and blue collar workers – from page 1

take-pre-engineering core curriculum categories. The program is a pre-engineering and other disciplines at the University of Missouri-St. Louis from Faculties of Engineering at the University of Missouri-St. Louis upper division, the students acquire an additional with Math, science and computer sciences, the students gained an engineering foundation engineering program is described as an introduction to engineering. The program provides an opportunity for students to explore the field of engineering, to develop an understanding of the mathematical and physical sciences upon which engineering principles are based, and to gain an appreciation for the social, ethical, and environmental implications of engineering decisions.