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Symposium to foster dialogue on research

The Oct. 6 Inaugural Symposium commemorating Mark S. Wrighton's installation as Washington University's 14th chancellor. The first symposium session will begin at 9 a.m. in May Auditorium of Simon Hall, followed by a break at 10:15 a.m. The second symposium session will begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by closing remarks from Wrighton at 11:45 a.m. The entire event is open to the University community.

The two faculty members come from a variety of disciplines and will be split into two panels. One panel will discuss the topic "New Century, Old Planet: Development and Its Impact." A symposium committee developed the topics for the two panels during a brainstorming session in which committee members identified five or six subjects being discussed in current research - Danial B. Shea, Ph.D., chair of the symposium committee and also of the Department of English, said members identified areas such as DNA sequencing, information technology, South Africa, and the role of the arts in a technological society.

"It became clear that we could not have a symposium that covered each of those topics in-depth," Shea said. "So we've asked distinguished faculty members to come together, to challenge each other and to find common ground, in that we are all educators and we all have a responsibility to the nation and the planet." Shea said the exact format of the symposium has not been set. However, he did say a moderator will lead each panel discussion. Shea stressed that the symposium will not include formal presentations by the panelists but will, instead, rely heavily on dialogue.

Executive vice chancellor, three vice chancellors appointed by Wrighton

Edward S. Macias, Ph.D., provost and interim dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Washington University, will become executive vice chancellor and dean of Arts and Sciences, effective July 1, according to Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, Ph.D. In addition, Wrighton has named three other people as vice chancellors.

In a letter sent Sept. 1 to faculty and staff, Wrighton praised Macias for his "leadership experience and distinction," noting that the new position of executive vice chancellor "represents the importance of arts and sciences to the future of Washington University."

Wrighton appointed James E. McLeod as vice chancellor for students, in addition to his current role as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Shirley K. Baker has been named vice chancellor for information technology, in addition to her continuing role as dean of University Libraries. Baker and McLeod will report to Macias, as well as to Wrighton.

Leigh Weks becomes vice chancellor for financial operations, in addition to his current position as chief financial officer and controller.

In addition to these promotions, Wrighton appointed an administrative group called University Council, which will meet every two weeks throughout the academic year. Composed of the eight school deans and all vice chancellors, the council will assist the chancellor in "formulating University policy and will be responsible for implementation of policy," Wrighton noted. Also serving on the University Council will be the chair of the Faculty Senate Council, Gustav Schonfeld, M.D., the William B. Kountz Professor of Medicine.

The following is a list of the panelists:

Panel 1: Learning to Learn: The Technology of Discovery

James T. Little, Ph.D.
Professor of finance and economics

Continued on page 4

In this issue...

Tell tale whiskeys
Brown bag beginnings
All-out support

Continued on page 6
Out of touch

Whisker experiments give clues to nuances of brain development

With a twitch of a rat’s whisker, researchers are learning how the brain develops the sense of touch. A new study shows that trimming off a rat’s whiskers daily from birth hinders the development of electrical circuits in the brain that relay information about an animal’s surroundings. This limits the rat’s ability to detect which part of the face is being touched.

The research, by Mark F. Jacquin, Ph.D., research professor of neurology, suggests that subtle nuances of brain development are affected when early stimulation is lacking. The study was published recently in the Journal of Comparative Neurology. “This simple model has allowed us to understand some features of circuit development in the mammalian brain,” Jacquin said.

The brain was puzzled by a difference between the development of the brain’s visual system, which processes information from the eyes, and the somatosensory system, which receives information from the skin, muscles and internal organs.

Visual deprivation alters the gross architecture of the developing brain. Harvard University researchers David Hubel and Torsten Wiesel concluded from studies that earned them a Nobel Prize in 1981. They discovered that the visual system contains alternating bands of tissue that process information from the left eye and right eye, respectively. When they prevented young animals from seeing one eye, only the bands corresponding to the functional eye developed normally.

In the early 1970s, Thomas A. Woolsey, M.D., professor of neurosurgery at the School of Medicine, discovered that a rat’s brain contains clusters of neurons called barrels, which are laid out in rows, duplicating the exact pattern of the whiskers. When a particular whisker bends, the trigminal nerve conveys messages to the corresponding barrel, allowing the brain to link information about the environment with the location from which that information came.

In 1992, Jacquin and colleagues were surprised to see a normal pattern of barrels after they blocked activity in the trigeminal nerve of young rats. “So the barrel pattern develops normally even when there is no sensory stimulation,” Jacquin said.

Thinking it unlikely that somatosensory deprivation has no effect on brain development, the researchers looked for more subtle changes than alterations in gross tissue patterns. “We wondered whether sensory experience affects the refinement of electrical circuits in the brain,” Jacquin recalled.

The researchers trimmed off the whiskers on one side of the face every day from birth and made electrical recordings from single neurons in the brain stem of the resulting adults. Earspiercing on the part of the brain stem that relays messages to the barrels, they determined which parts of the face sent messages to which neurons.

Neurons of deprived animals sample from a larger number of other neurons, thereby collecting information from the skin, muscles and internal organs. The researchers saw branches that were normal in number, shape and size. But they found strikingly fewer boutons on the branches that contacted the electrically abnormal neurons than on branches that contacted neurons on the untrimmed side of the face. “So when you deprive an animal of normal somatosensation, you get fewer boutons,” Jacquin said. “It logically follows that, in normal development, sensory deprivation stimulates the production of boutons. Maybe there is a requisite number of boutons that a brain stem neuron must get to access in order to function normally.”

Jacquin speculates that brain stem neurons of deprived animals sample from a larger number of other neurons, thereby collecting information from the skin, muscles and internal organs. The animal therefore is unable to determine precisely which part of the face a stimulus is coming from.

Medical Center Block Party set for Sept. 14

The sixth annual Washington University Medical Center Block Party will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, on Children’s Place, near St. Louis Children’s Hospital and the Clinical Sciences Research Building. Food, games and entertainment will be provided for the staffs of Barnes, Jewish and St. Louis Children’s hospitals and the School of Medicine. A shuttle will be provided to transport Washington University Shared Billing and Collection Services employees.

For more information, call 362-6825.

Neurons reach out to other neurons via connections called synapses, and a single neuron may make synaptic connections with thousands of other neurons. To see how the electrically abnormal neurons in the brain stem were getting information, the researchers stained the neurons of individual neurons that brought messages to them from the face. They could see the rounded tips of these branches under the microscope — the tips, called boutons, release chemical messages into the synapse.

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Berg committed to Alzheimer's research

n 1972, when neurologist Leonard Berg, M.D., was a successful private practitioner, he wanted to improve the diagnosis of dementia. So he asked his department head, William Landau, M.D., if he could start a faculty discussion group. Landau was glad to oblige and offered to supply lunch. “We’ll bring brown bags, Berg insisted.

Berg, a professor of neurology and director of the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, is now the recipient of $5.2 million in federal grants for dementia research. “This tremendous investment is the result of his initiative to establish a long-term scientific effort,” said Landau, professor of radiology and the medical school’s associate dean for research.

Berg chairs the medical and scientific advisory board of the national Alzheimer’s Association and sits on the parent board. When the group organized a congressional hearing in 1992, Berg spoke about the burden of the disease and hopes for a treatment in the near future.

Several C-SNP patients called the association the next day, impressed that this erudite man, with his broad grasp of scientific issues, also was the type of person they would want for a family physician. “He comes across as very knowledgeable but very caring,” said Creighton Phelps, Ph.D., director of the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Centers Program at the National Institute on Aging (NIA).

“He is a scientific leader as well as a compassionate doctor,” takes on a unique persona.

Berg’s connection with Washington University began in 1943, after he graduated from Soldan High School at age 15. He enrolled in an accelerated pre-med program in psychology and chemistry, and worked his way through school by playing dance music on his clarinet and saxophone. In 1945, when tuition was $500 per year and dementia was considered a normal part of aging, he entered the School of Medicine. He decided to become a neurologist during a freshman neuroanatomy class taught by neurologist James L. Levy, M.D., Ph.D.

After internships and residencies at Barnes Hospital, the Neurology Institute in New York and the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., Berg returned to St. Louis in 1958. He turned down a full-time faculty position, preferring to teach part time. “I was concerned that I could believe the number of cases could triple in the next 50 years,” he said.

Because Alzheimer’s affects mainly the elderly, finding ways to delay the onset of the disease by just five or 10 years would halve the number of affected people.

“I was concerned that I wouldn’t be successful in research,” he recalled. Instead, he went into practice with Irwin Levy, M.D., then professor of clinical neurology.

That partnership survived until Levy’s death 24 years later, eventually moving to Barnes Hospital West Pavilion. During this time, Berg encountered Alzheimer patients with a dementia condition caused by hydrocephalus — excess fluid in the brain’s cavities. “The burning question was how to help patients who would benefit from surgery to drain the fluid from those with cerebral atrophy, which also enlarges the cavities,” Berg explained.

Alzheimer’s disease is now known to be the leading cause of cerebral atrophy — shrinkage of the brain. First identified in 1906 by the presence in the brain of tangled fibers in the brain’s cavities. “The burning question was how to help patients who would benefit from surgery to drain the fluid from those with cerebral atrophy, which also enlarges the cavities,” Berg explained.

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Berg’s 65-hour workweek has shrunk since he suffered a heart attack in 1993. For several months after his bypass surgery, his office received thousands of phone calls and letters from around the world. “It seemed everyone on earth knew of his illness and was concerned,” said Kathy Mann Koepke, Ph.D., research assistant professor of neurology and executive director of the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center.

Berg chairs the medical and scientific advisory board, which he now chairs. The board assigns about $5 million in research funds each year. He joined the association’s parent board in 1989, is on its ethics advisory panel and often acts as a spokesperson for the Alzheimer’s Association.

Because Alzheimer’s affects mainly the elderly, finding ways to delay the onset of the disease by just five or 10 years would halve the number of affected people.

Shortly after the first grant was awarded, Berg realized that families in the research field needed a support group, so he helped establish a St. Louis chapter of the association. Various members of his team still are involved, and Berg is a frequent speaker on the Alzheimer’s Association’s behalf. “He is very willing, kind and insightful,” said Executive Director Kathleen O’Brien. “He can see how laboratory research, clinical research and ways to help families all fit into the big picture.”

In 1986, Berg was elected to the national Alzheimer’s Association’s medical and scientific advisory board, where he now chairs. The board assigns about $5 million in research funds each year. He joined the association’s parent board in 1989, is on its ethics advisory panel and often acts as a spokesperson for the Alzheimer’s Association.

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Since Alzheimer’s disease and Senile Dementia project has set international standards for evaluating a patient’s Alzheimer’s disease. “Diagnosis is what I associate with Dr. Berg and his colleagues,” said the NIA’s Phelps. “They have developed a dementia rating scale that allows one to find patients at a very early stage and then track them to see how the disease develops.”

“This diagnostic expertise permits patients to plan for care while they are still able. "And being able to identify patients at a very early stage will be extremely useful when there is some treatment that will stop the progress of the disease," Phelps explained.

The Washington University team was the first to publish its criteria through autopsy studies. Ninety-five percent of the patients they identified as having Alzheimer’s disease are found to have plaques in the brain when they die. The criteria are accurate even for patients in the initial stages of the disease.

The Healthy Aging and Senile Dementia project also has shown that the disease presents with the brain from degenerating irrelevant information as people try to learn new tasks. One component studied the effects of the disease on patients’ families. Researchers also have discovered that neurofibrillary tangles accumulate in certain regions of the healthy brain and therefore do not necessarily indicate Alzheimer’s disease. Plaques, on the other hand, appear to be a hallmark because “control”

radiologic and electrophysiologic studies. To date, 1,200 subjects have participated in the study.

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Berg’s top priority for the next five years is to persuade more School of Medicine colleagues to study Alzheimer’s disease — though 16 departments and divisions already are collaborating. “It is the most important health problem because it has complex causes and mechanisms,” Berg said. “The challenge is to understand how multiple genetic, environmental and aging factors interact to bring about the disease and all of its human and social consequences.”

— Linda Sage
Exhibitions

"The Kreest of Senses: Celebrating the Becoming of the Collection in Ophthalmology." Printed out in ophthalmology journals and other relevant newsletters. Through Dec. 22. Glaser Gallery, The Ber- nard Becker Medical Library, 660 S. Euclid Ave. Hours: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. weekdays; 1-5 p.m. weekend days. 362-4339.

"Motherwell in St. Louis: A Selection From Local Collections." Private collectors, museums and art galleries in St. Louis are lending paintings, prints and collages by abstract expressionist Robert Motherwell for this exhibit. Through Oct. 22. Opening reception, 6-8 p.m. Sept. 8. Gallery of Art, upper gallery, Steinberg Hall. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays; 1-5 p.m. weekends. 935-4500.

"Engineering at Washington University: 125 Years of Excellence." Sponsored by WU Libraries. Through Oct. 30. Special Collections, Old Library. Open hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. 935-5444.

Films

Friday, Sept. 8

4 p.m. American documentary film. The Friday, Sept. 8 show is sponsored by the Ameri- can Culture Studies Institute. Room 149 McMillan Hall. 935-5316.

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Lectures

Friday, Sept. 8


Performances

Friday, Sept. 15


Music

Thursday, Sept. 7


Sunday, Sept. 10


Miscellany

Monday, Sept. 11

7 p.m. Memorial program. WU Libraries presents "A Reading of America: The Interna- tional Library Program," celebrating the life and legacy of Holy Hall, who worked with the WU Libraries for 20 years. Many writers and members of the WU community will give readings. Edison Theatre. (Received fol- lowing the event. nerva, Options Library, Level Five.) 935-5400.

Thursday, Sept. 14

11 a.m. Chinese archaeology lecture/lecture series presentation. "The Discovery of the Tsaxi Site" at 11 a.m. Sept. 15 and 1315 SBM McDonnell Conference Room, U. of Missouri-St. Louis. and "Western Zhou Tombs at Chang'an" at 5 p.m. Sept. 15 in Steinberg Hall. Sponsored by the department of ethnology, Art History and Archaeology, and the Dept. of Anthropo- logy, the Center for International Stud- ies, U. of Missouri-St. Louis.

Scholar, writer Henry Louis Gates Jr. discusses diversity

S

cholar and author Henry Louis Gates Jr. will address "Multi-culturalism and Cultural Diversity" at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13. His talk, part of the Assembly Series, will be held in Graham Chapel. An hour-long informal discussion with Gates is scheduled at 2 p.m. in Lambert Lounge, Room 303 Multichild. Center. Both the lecture and discussion are free and open to the public.

Since 1991 Gates has taught at Harvard University, holding the positions of W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Humanities, professor of English, chair of Afro-American Studies and director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research. Prior to these appoint- ments, he was professor of English and literature at University from 1990-91 and taught on the faculties of Columbia University (1974-1984) and Cornell University (1985-1995).

Gates is a prolific essay writer on many diverse subjects. In 1989, he co-authored "First Amendment," an anti-Semitism, ethnicity and race- music to what he considers to be a crisis in black leadership. He has criticized black leaders for being preoccupied with "the intoxicating rhetoric of 1960s black nation-
Chancellor Wrighton builds Arts and Sciences, business leadership from page 1

Macias' previous position as provost will not be filled. The school dean's all will report to Wrighton.

Related administrative changes include the appointment of Benjamin S. Sandier as treasurer in Washington University as director of financial services for the Business Management Department.

Vice Chancellor and Dean of Arts and Sciences John Berg, who heads the library, will continue working with Macias.

Related administrative changes include the appointment of Benjamin S. Sandier as vice chancellor for budget and institutional research.

James E. McLeod, Vice Chancellor for Students and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, joined Washington University in 1974 as an assistant professor of German, was named associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1977, and then became assistant dean of the Graduate School in 1980. He held the same position at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he was named associate vice chancellor for budget and institutional research.

Benjamin S. Sandier, Treasurer

Sandier joined Washington University in 1967 as assistant director of financial services. In 1973 he was appointed director of financial services. In 1984 he held the same position at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he was named associate vice chancellor for budget and institutional research.

Benjamin S. Sandier

Sandier is a 1961 graduate of Bowdoin College and earned his master's degree from Columbia Teachers College in 1966.

Gerald H. Williams

Williams was named to the Washington University faculty in 1973 as an assistant professor of German and comparative literature. Six years later she was named associate professor and in 1987 became a full professor in the history of German languages and literatures.

Gerald H. Williams

Lectures on public school reform

Philadelphia Coelho, executive director of The Children's Aid Society, said in New York City, will discuss "Public School Reform: A Community View," a project of the Children's Aid Society and the Children's Aid Society of New York.

Lecture focuses on public school reform

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Weeks was group vice president and chief financial officer of the Missouri Section of the Children's Aid Society.

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Brothers Stores Inc. He was the Republican nominee for the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners in 1979.

Women's soccer team looks solid at festival

The women's soccer team played three solid matches at the season-opening Trinity University Labor Festival. The Bears finished sixth in the eight-team format, held Friday through Monday in San Antonio.

The Bears opened on Friday with a 1-0 victory against the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio. On Saturday, the Red and Green edged the University of Texas at Arlington 2-1, 16-14, 15-3, 5-0, and then topped the University of Missouri 15-13, 15-13, 14-14 in the championship final.

Three goals and a 1-yard touchdown allowed the underdog Bearcats to win 3-2.

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Faculty panelists will answer questions from audience...

School of Law promotes faculty

Michael Greenfield, J.D., has been appointed the Walter D. Coles Professor of Law, and Stephen Legomsky, J.D., Ph.D., has been named the Charles F. Nagel Professor of International Law, Dorsey D. Ellis Jr., dean of the School of Law, has announced.

Greenfield, who has been a member of the School of Law faculty since 1969, has written numerous books and articles on consumer law. His most recent book is "Consumer Transactions," a casebook published in 1991, and "Reasons for the Costs of Inadequate Tenancy Law," a treatise that will be published this summer by Little, Brown and Company. Greenfield received a bachelor's degree in history from Grinnell College in Iowa and graduated with honors in 1969 from the University of Texas at Austin School of Law, where he was an editor of the Texas Law Review.


Legomsky received a bachelor's degree in math from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and worked as an actuary for five years. He received his J.D. from the University of San Diego in 1977, where he was comments editor of the San Diego Law Review. He also earned a doctorate of philosophy degree in law from the University of Oxford in 1984.

In 1993 Legomsky was elected to a three-year term on the University City Board of Education.

Legomsky on a variety of Asian foods to build their own rice bowls or order food a la carte. Carlos Pepper's offers vegetable and chicken fajitas, as well as feta rice and refried beans. In addition to a chargrilled or fried chicken sandwich, Chick-fil-A offers several salads. Pizzas from Salubre, which means "healthy" in Italian, are made with honey wheat dough.

Food court offers healthy variety...
Unions will shift focus from politics to gaining members

Raymond L. Hilgert, D.B.A., professor to the November 1996 presidential campaign, he said, noting that the percentage of union workers — now less than 16 percent of the workforce, was awarded a Fulbright to lecture on Islamic studies at universities in the United States and on various aspects of the Islamic intellectual tradition. He has also directed research at the National Institutes of Health and the National Institutes of Health on immunological and genetic aspects of diabetes. He is an expert on the role of the immune system in the development and manifestation of diabetes.

Students win Goldwater Scholarship competition

Juniors Hardave S. Kharbanda, Akshanda S. Sandhu and Jake P. Vinn have been awarded the Goldwater Scholarship. Kharbanda is an electrical engineering major and Sandhu is a biology major. Vinn is a mathematics major.

In this year's competition, two universities, Duke and Princeton, had four winners each. The University of Texas at Austin, Washington University in St. Louis, and the University of California, Los Angeles, each had three winners. Washington University has consistently ranked at or near the top of the list in terms of total scholarships won. Nineteen students from the University have received scholarships since 1990.

These results show several trends over the past few years: first, departments strongly confirm our sense that undergraduate education and research in the sciences here is consistent with the excellence that is achieved at only a handful of the nation's best universities. second, Red Whitney, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry, was awarded a Fulbright to lecture on the role of the immune system in the development and manifestation of diabetes.

Emission for Low-level Stimuli in Human Speech and Other Communication Disorders. She participated in a session titled "Path in Newborns: Revolutionary Impact on Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Care." Her talk was titled "Children's Voice: A New Paradigm for Caregiver Intervention of Newborn Pain."

On assignment

Three faculty members received Fulbright grants to teach and conduct research in the United States and the 1995-96 academic year, Michele Shoreman, Ph.D., associate professor of the Office of Research and International Studies, has been designated as a "National Director" of the Office of Research and International Studies. She has also been designated as a "National Director" of the Institute of Technology in Haifa, Israel, this fall.

Peter Heath, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics, lectured on electromagnetic theory in London from a grant awarded by the British Physics and Astronomy Research Council. His grant application to the council, which is similar to the National Science Foundation, was ranked No. 1. In addition, Heath has been associated with the National Director of the Institute of Technology in Haifa, Israel, this fall.

The Freshman Book Award is given each year to one or two first-year students who are interested in the liberal arts. Selection is based on the student's academic record. For information, call 953-5293.
United Way drive spurs friendly competition between campuses

The fund drive for this year's Greater Washington United Way Campaign begins Sept. 12. The University's United Way campaign coordinator, Catherine C. Barksdale, said this year's campaign has a renewed sense of mission.

"Our goal is to increase not only the dollar amount, but the percentage of the campus faculty and staff participating in the fund drive," Barksdale said. "This year, the United Way campaign on the Hilltop campus will have its own campaign coordinator to encourage donations and pledges from their faculty and staff.

This year the University will be divided into three teams: Medical, Hilltop, and West. Each team will be encouraged to be the top team. The team whose faculty and staff make the greatest contributions will be given gold cards in recognition.

At last year's United Way campaign, 95 percent of the University campus community participated in the fund drive. In addition, in 1989 the University's United Way campaign ranked 93rd on the list of the top 100 campaigns.

In addition to the gold cards and the ranking of the top teams, there will be a large-scale prize for the person who raises the most money during the campaign. The prize will be a trip to New York City to attend an event sponsored by the United Way.

On Aug. 28, 9:20 a.m. - A student reported that between 2 and 6 p.m. Aug. 24, someone stole a bicycle that was parked under a chair in the Mallinckrodt Center Food Court. The total value is estimated at $37.

Aug. 29, 11:30 a.m. - A student reported that someone stole a swimsuit and a towel from a locker in the women's locker room at the Atlantic Complex. The estimated value is $110.

5:13 p.m. - University Police responded to a non-injury auto accident in the parking lots north of Givens, Steinberg and Bixby halls. A female student struck another vehicle, and the driver of the second vehicle sustained injuries. Residents may submit a resume to the Human Resources office on the Hilltop Campus.

Sept. 1, 9:36 p.m. - A security guard at West Campus reported seeing two men and a woman near the parking lot. One of the males appeared to be a crowbar, and the others were looking into vehicles. They fled when approached by a security guard.

Sept. 2, 1:42 a.m. - A fraternity member reported that someone vandalized a utility closet in one of the fraternity houses. The vandalism apparently caused the telephone service to be turned off.

Aug. 29, 9:20 a.m. - A student reported that between 2 and 6 p.m. Aug. 24, someone stole a bicycle that was parked under a chair in the Mallinckrodt Center Food Court. The total value is estimated at $37. This release is provided as a public service to persons with disabilities.

The following critical locations were reported in the University Police Department 3:27 p.m. Sept. 7. Residents with information that could assist in the ongoing investigation are urged to call 935-5555. This release is provided as a public service to persons with disabilities.