2-15-1996

Washington University Record, February 15, 1996

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In speech, Gerald Early gives a tribute to a former teacher

My teacher in the fifth and sixth grades was Lloyd Richard King, a black man with a loud voice and a dedication to his profession that was something to behold. I am sure he wanted to be something other than a schoolteacher. He was the only schoolteacher I got to know well. For years after leaving school, I would pass him in the street and shout out, "Mr. King! Mr. King!" He seemed easy enough to do. Scrawled on a sheet, it was hamstrung upon my doormat, as much to me as Emerson's whine. But not so easy, I discovered, to be a good writer. What work and work! What toil and labor! What endless series of embarrassments and blemishes! Even harder still was trying to be an honest man....

I have been asked to make a brief address to you in which I should discuss my work and its meaning or, perhaps put another way, that source and foundation, which will show how I ended up here today.

During a Feb. 6 reception honoring his appointment as the Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters in the Department of English and Arts and Sciences, Gerald Early, Ph.D., delivered a heartfelt speech. Early, who is also professor and director of the African and Afro-American Studies Program in Arts and Sciences, succeeds the late Stanley Ellik as the Kling professor. He said that Ellik was created to honor Kling on his retirement in 1983 as provost. The following are excerpts from the speech Early gave in the packed Women's Building Formal Lounge:

"I have been asked to make a brief address to you in which I should discuss my work and its meaning or, perhaps put another way, that source and foundation, which will show how I ended up here today."

Former HUD Secretary Jack Kemp to lecture in Assembly Series

Jack Kemp, former secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), will speak at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21, in Graham Chapel. His lecture, "America on the Eve of the 21st Century," is part of the Assembly Series. Kemp will discuss the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) during his term in office and provide an overview of the current issues facing the U.S. housing market.

Kemp is a former professional football player who was named the NFL Coach of the Year in 1978 and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1985. He served as the U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development from 1989 to 1993 and as a member of the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity International. Kemp is a well-respected commentator and author with a strong background in government and public service.

The lecture is open to the public and is free of charge. For more information, please contact the Office of the President at 212-570-4000.


**Medical Update**

**Infertility treatments**

Future drugs may alleviate frequent injections, risk of multiple births

Irving Boime, Ph.D., professor of molecular biology and pharmacology, has gone back to the drawing board to make infertility treatments easier on women. By tinkering with reproductive hormones, he is creating forms that may stimulate ovulation without the drawback of frequent injections or the risk of multiple births.

"Women who take hormones prior to in vitro fertilization or for other infertility problems receive several injections daily," said Boime, also a professor of obstetrics and gynecology. "But we have designed longer-acting versions that might be effective with fewer injections."

Studies with cultured cells and animals are paving the way for human trials. Boime discussed the advent of designer hormones Monday, Feb. 11, at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Baltimore. Fifteen percent of American couples are infertile. Many of the women who seek treatment receive a pituitary hormone called follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH). Circulating in the bloodstream, FSH binds to cells in the ovary, stimulating egg production. But it can only be given by injection, which must be repeated because the hormone is broken down after it has circulated for a while. FSH belongs to a family of hormones called gonadotropins. Each member is made of two related proteins that snap together like Lego blocks. One protein, the alpha sub-unit, is the same in all gonadotropins. The beta sub-unit differs. Boime took advantage of this difference to "improve" the FSH molecule. Through genetic manipulation, he created cell lines that secrete a hybrid FSH. The beta sub-unit of the altered hormone carries a piece of the beta sub-unit from a related placental hormone. Human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) maintains pregnancy, and its beta sub-unit allows it to stay in the bloodstream longer than FSH.

A colleague at Stanford University, Aaron J.W. Hauch, Ph.D., found that the new version of FSH survived in animals three times longer than natural FSH. "These results establish a rationale for making such hybrid molecules for clinical use," said Boime. "Moreover, treatments with natural FSH have the potential to oversaturate the ovary, which can result in multiple births. So by controlling the dose, it should be possible to give women one injection of the long-lasting FSH without causing overstimulation."

The modified FSH has been patented, and Organon, a pharmaceutical company in the Netherlands, has licensed the technology for commercial development. Boime also has modified human chorionic gonadotropin, which is used in lieu of another natural hormone to stimulate sperm production in infertile men. Because the hormone's two sub-units are unassimilated before it is broken down, Boime thought it might last longer if the sub-units were welded to each other in tandem. So he joined the genes, making sure the relevant parts of both units still fit together to make the active part of the molecule. "This single chain works both in cultured cells and animals," he says. "And it is active for longer than natural hCG."

Boime said he believes these recombinant techniques could be applied to other two-part hormones and growth factors. "Our approach could produce a variety of clinically important molecules that would be more potent, safer and easier to use," he predicted. — Linda Sage

Wayne Barnes named 1996 Missouri Inventor of the Year

Wayne M. Barnes, Ph.D., has been named the 1996 Missouri Inventor of the Year. He received the award, given by the Patent, Trademark and Copyright Section of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, on Monday, Feb. 12, at the Newman Education Center.

Barnes, an associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, has been a pioneer in the field of molecular biology and pharmacology, participating in the Health Professionals Recruitment Exposure Program, which is sponsored by the Student National Medical Association. In the program, Bridges and other School of Medicine students are teaching fifth and sixth graders about medicine and other health-related fields.

Varmus emphasizes community advocacy for biomedical research

In an era of fiscal conservatism, Dr. Harold Varmus, M.D., director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), told Washington University students and faculty that being an advocate for biomedical research within their communities is one way to help ensure the continued federal support for university research. Varmus spoke Feb. 3 at the Eric P. Newman Education Center to students and faculty in the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences' cell and molecular biology graduate program. He addressed the group during a retreat organized by the students to discuss research and career prospects.

The likelihood of receiving NIH funding for research "goes well beyond the ability to write a good grant application or the ability of your peers to review it adequately," Varmus said, adding that it's important for the public to know how many of the important research findings at the NIH are funded by the NIH. Public recognition of the NIH's crucial role in funding biomedical research is important, he said, when the White House and Congress set their budget priorities. The more money appropriated to the NIH, the more available for funding research. Despite a bleak budget forecast, the NIH received a 5.7 percent increase for fiscal 1996, which raises its budget to $11.9 billion.

However, at a time when scientists are making key discoveries at a faster pace, the agency is turning down an increasing number of grant applications. One reason for the cutback, Varmus explained, is a dramatic rise in the number of workers in biomedical science. Between 1987 and 1992, the number of workers in biomedical science increased 47 percent to $33,000, pushing the demand for research funding even higher.

He cautioned that universities must give prospective graduate students a realistic assessment of career opportunities. He emphasized that graduate students can expect to become NIH-supported scientists, there are many career paths, in addition to bench research, available to graduate students in scientific fields. He also warned that the public should question the science journalism and science policy. — Caroline Decker

Washington University Record
After paying dues, Fahey reaps dividends

To watch Nancy Fahey coach on the basketball sidelines is to be transfixed by the conductor instead of the orchestra. To be visually captivated, Fahey need not have an imaginary conductor at the controls. She is her own. It can be a compelling — and telling — way to watch a game. Yes, if you enter the gym midway through the contest, it still will be necessary to peek at the scoreboard to see what’s already occurred. But if you want to know what’s transpiring at that exact instant, you need only study Fahey’s face.

No one can look painted like Fahey. No one can transmit utter disgust with such an efficient squint. Granted, displays ranging from satisfaction to approval to jubilation tend to blur into the same (light-tinged) semi-smile — but in those instances, the corresponding number of rapid-fire handclaps help complete the equation.

Tightrope-walking the sideline, Fahey quibbles, then cuddles. She preaches, then teaches — all the while keeping a pace that would exhaust an aerobic instructor. Standing stoically in a “thinker” pose with one hand cradling her chin and the other arm folded in front, Fahey suddenly bursts into motion with her trademark triple-stomp of the heel, following an official down the legal length of the sideline and then spinning back toward her usually vacant chair. In mid-stride, though, she then spinning back toward her usually vacant chair. In mid-stride, though, she

"You don’t motivate a team — you motivate individuals."

"You don’t motivate a team — you motivate individuals."

While most of the imaginary games climax with the same winning scenario, the actual endings tended to have a customary conclusion. "Eventually, the ball would land in something. Game over," she said.

The breakthrough opportunity to attend a summer basketball camp — "an $86 debt I can never fully repay my parents" — and the fortune of having her high school initiate a girls’ hoop program just before her freshman year helped pave her path.

Life on the bench

That road led to the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where Fahey joined the Badgers as a walk-on (non-scholarship) player. For two full seasons, she sat. Way, way, way at the end of the bench. "There were three of us down there, and we called ourselves 'The Nonexistants,'" Fahey said. "I mean, we used to lay our empty uniforms on a bed and take pictures of them. My coach pronounced my name wrong for the first two years.

"As a player, it probably was difficult at the time. As a coach, it probably was the best experience for me. Even though my players may not think I’ve been around there, believe me, I have."

"A big part of our philosophy here is opportunity. I realize that with a roster of 20 or 25, not everybody is necessarily going to be a varsity player. But they get the opportunity. And, just as important, I certainly hope, whether they play a lot or a little, that they are treated equally as people. If someone comes out of the program and doesn’t feel an important part of it, then I’ve done them an injustice."

"That message is being received loud and clear," said Jennifer Kennish, one of the Bears’ senior tri-captains. "Coach Fahey doesn’t go into a game thinking, ‘This kid isn’t going to play,’ said Kennish, a role player herself throughout her Wu-Career. ‘It’s something you learn pretty fast as a freshman."

"Earlier this season, we had a shoot-around before leaving for a game," continued Kennish. "It wasn’t mandatory, but it’s a good idea to be there. One of the freshmen felt he needed the extra shooting time before the game and said, ‘Well, I didn’t think I was going to be playing in the game, so I didn’t think I should come.’"

Wrong answer, you silly girl."

Fahey, too, played. She earned a starting role as a junior. She also captain and guided the team toward a berth in the NCAA tournament — and seven total — including two pilgrimage youngish face, Fahey (pronounced “Fay”) wire-rimmed glasses framing her

Standing stoically in a “thinker” pose with one hand cradling her chin and the other arm folded in front, Fahey suddenly bursts into motion with her trademark triple-stomp of the heel, following an official down the legal length of the sideline and then spinning back toward her usually vacant chair. In mid-stride, though, she then spinning back toward her usually vacant chair. In mid-stride, though, she

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Fahey also is making an imprint on the game she fell in love with as a girl on a dairy farm. Selected as the NCAA Division III region’s outstanding women’s basketball coach, Fahey has piloted Washington University to unprecedented heights. Entering this season’s home stretch, the Bears have posted a 17-3 record. Overall, Fahey has steered the Bears to 212 wins and just 51 losses in her Wu-Career. Her .806 winning percentage ranks fifth-best among 300-plus NCAA Division III coaches. The Bears have made six consecutive trips to the NCAA tournament — and seven total — including two pilgrimage youngish face, Fahey (pronounced “Fay”) wire-rimmed glasses framing her

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Exhibitions

“Versions of the Self: The Poetry of John N. Hansen” through March. Gallery of Art, Steinberg Hall. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays and weekends. 362-6750.

Films

All Filmboard events cost $3 and are open to the public. For 24-hour hotline, call 935-5983.

Thursday, Feb. 15

7:30 p.m. French Film Series, “Delicatesse” (1991), with English subtitles. Room 219 South Ridgley Hall. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays and weekends. 362-5155.

Friday, Feb. 16

7 and 9:30 p.m. and midnight, Filmboard. “Monty Python & The Holy Grail” (1975), starring John Cleese, Graham Chapman, Eric Idle, and Terry Gilliam. Note: 9:30 p.m. showing is open to students only. (Also Feb. 17, same times, and Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.)

Monday, Feb. 19

3 p.m. Russian film, “Lonely Woman Seeks 3 p.m. Russian film.” (Also Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m.)

Tuesday, Feb. 20

7:30 p.m. Japanese Film Series, “Black Rain,” with English subtitles. Room 219 South Ridgley Hall. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays and weekends. 362-5155.

Wednesday, Feb. 21


Thursday, Feb. 22


Friday, Feb. 23


Monday, Feb. 19


Wednesday, Feb. 21


Thursday, Feb. 22


Friday, Feb. 23

**Performances**

**Friday, Feb. 16**

4:54 p.m. Hilliet Center partnership dinner. Featured guests are flood reconstructions and their families who wish to meet with and hear from members of the Hilliet Center. Tickets are $18 for members and $22 for non-members. Hilliet Center, 6300 Forsyth Blvd. For more information, call 935-5994.

**Saturday, Feb. 17**

8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. German symposium. Buffet lunch provided by graduate students in the Dept. of Germanic Languages and Literatures. First Floor, Stix International House. 935-9585.

10:11:30 a.m. Art workshop. "Unusual Children's Books," by Charlotte Johnson, book artist and head of the University of Chicago's Children's Literature Collection, 7:30 p.m. in the Bixby Gallery of Art, upper gallery, Steinberg Hall. Cost: $20 for the general public, $11 for WU students. 935-5490.


8 p.m. Black Alumni Council's "February Fiesta," a party for WU graduate students and young professionals to their 20th, Hilliet Center, 6300 Forsyth Blvd. 726-6177.

**Tuesday, Feb. 20**

9 p.m. Jewish Awareness Month event. Join together to sing Hebrew songs. If you have a guitar, bring it along. Friedman Lounge, Women's Bldg. Student Center. 726-6177.

**Saturday, Feb. 24**

10-11:30 a.m. Student panels. Discussion: "Painting in a Modern World: Who Makes Art?" 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Bixby Gallery of Art, upper gallery, Steinberg Hall. Cost: $20 for the general public, $11 for WU students. 935-5490.

**Miscellany**

**Thursday, Feb. 15**

Deadline for abstracts for graduate student presentations will be announced in March. To submit a brief abstract to the Graduate Student Senate, Campus Box 1187, or contact your Graduate Student Senate representative.

4 p.m. Jewish Awareness Month event. A Jewish student presents "The Jewish State," winterim, James Stone Goodman of Neve Shalom Synagogue. Graduate Student Senate Senate. 725-9156.

9 p.m. Washington University Record / Feb. 15, 1996 5

Rinde Eckert brings 'Iodiat Variations' to Edison

Performance artist extraordinaire Rinde Eckert is bringing his solo cabaret, "Iodiat Variations," to Edison Theatre this week. Eckert's act is an attempt to straddle the line between what distinguishes idiocy from genius when he brings "The Idiot Variations," to the Edison Theatre, 935-1414, at 7:30 p.m. March 3.

Eckert is known for his technical brilliance and innovative and flexible singing voice. He can play the tuba; the next, a paranoid loner cowering furiously on a drum; the next, a sad and from genius when he brings "The Idiot Variations," to the Edison Theatre, 935-1414, at 7:30 p.m. March 3.

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**Sports**

Bears gun for second UAA crown in a row

Finishing its grueling road schedule (15 away games) with a pair of University Athletic Association (UAA) victories, the Washington University men's basketball team is poised to repeat as conference champions. The equation is simple for the 24-3 ranked Bears — win their final three games at home, and they will capture their fourth UAA title and make their sixth NCAA postseason tournament appearance since 1987.

The Bears stayed a full game in front of second-place teams New York University and the University of Chicago with road wins at Emory University (Atlanta) and Carnegie Mellon University. Senior Brent Dalsyme had 26 points, eight rebounds and four steals in the Bears' 74-67 win at Emory. The Bears concluded their road season with a 78-67 victory over Carnegie Mellon as senior Kevin Folkl scored a season-high 20 points.

Current record: 24-3 (10-1 UAA)

This week: 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, vs. New York University, Field House; 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18, vs. Brandeis University, Field House.

Swim teams gear up for UAA Championships

In their final tune-up before hosting the UAA Championships on Feb. 21-24, the men and women's swimming and diving teams sunk Prinicipia College (Elsh, Ill.). The women, led by two wins each from Sophomore Liz Burrow and junior Terri Martinez, emerged with an 11-6 victory. Together, the two UAA teams won 18 of the 26 events. The Bears will be idle this week as they continue tapering for the nine-team UAA Championships — the season's centerpiece event.

Current record: men 8-2, women 4-3

This week: idle

Indoor track squads produce solid effort

The Bears produced a trio of individual first-place showings, one school-record effort and a solid team performance at the Illinois Wesleyan University Indoor Invitational last weekend in Bloomington, Ill. Freshman Monica Lewis provided the day's highlight by winning the 400-meter dash in a 59.59-second clocking. That time bettered her own WU record of 1:00.61 and dipped below the provisional standard of 1:00.24 deemed necessary to qualify for the NCAA Division III championships.

Lewis was joined on the victory stand by Jerrilyn Jordan, who won the 3,000 meters in 9:51.71, and freshman Claudine Rigaud, who took the men's 5,000-meter dash in 15:53.2 seconds. The men were led by sophomore Jeremy Dulkow, who set personal bests while placing second in the 1,500 (4:03.54) and third in the 3,000 (9:49.7). The Bears men and women's swimming and diving teams sunk Principia College (Elsh, Ill.). The women, led by two wins each from Sophomore Liz Burrow and junior Terri Martinez, emerged with an 11-6 victory. Together, the two UAA teams won 18 of the 26 events. The Bears will be idle this week as they continue tapering for the nine-team UAA Championships — the season's centerpiece event.

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To better serve the Washington University community, the three Hilltop Campus copy centers, previously operated by the University, now are under the management of Xerox Business Services.

In the past, the University purchased and maintained its own copiers in the copy centers located in South Brookings and Simon halls and in Mallinckrodt Center. In addition, those three centers were staffed by five University employees. That is no longer the case under the new agreement with Xerox. Instead, Xerox owns and maintains all the equipment in the copy centers, and the copy center staff members are employed by Xerox.

Glen F. Horton, assistant director of general services at the University, said he believes the conversion will better serve the campus community. He cites the installation of new, state-of-the-art Xerox machines as one area of improvement. Some of the copiers owned by the University dated to the mid-1980s. Xerox has replaced those machines with up-to-date models.

In addition, the South Brookings Hall copy center has been equipped with a Xerox DocuTech publishing system. The DocuTech system takes the image to be copied and scans it into its computer memory. The image — whether text or photos — then can be manipulated to produce the cleanest, most desirable copy. For example, when a page out of a book is copied on a traditional copier, the copy usually shows the text surrounded by black ink at the edges of the page. With the DocuTech system, the black areas can be eliminated, thus leaving a clean black positioned in the center of a page.

Storing the text and images in memory will make it easier to reproduce jobs in the future. For example, suppose a professor places an order to have three chapters of a textbook copied and bound for students. Then, two semesters later, the professor needs the same three chapters copied for a new set of students. Because those chapters are stored in DocuTech's memory, the original job can be reprocessed, eliminating the need for the professor to retype the chapters.

Eventually, by installing Xerox software on personal computers with access to the network, customers will be able to send electronic documents from their offices to the DocuTech system for copying.

In addition to the DocuTech system, Xerox will install a color copier in the South Brookings copy center this month. Xerox also is providing delivery service for the Hilltop, West and Medical campuses. A Xerox representative will collect customer orders, take them to the copy centers, and then return the completed jobs to the customers.

Although Xerox now operates the copy centers, the University's policy on copyright protection will be posted at the three centers and will be followed by the copy center employees.

The three copy centers are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Xerox is exploring the possibility of extending the hours at either the South Brookings or Mallinckrodt copy centers. In addition, Xerox and the University are exploring the possibility of opening a center in the South 40 to better serve students.

For more information, call the South Brookings copy center at 935-7900; the Simon Hall copy center at 935-5776; or the Mallinckrodt copy center at 935-4509 — Michael Stahin

Bear's Den fire puts planned renovations ahead of schedule

The Bear's Den eatery in Wool Student Center will be closed for eight to 12 weeks now. To make way for the addition, those three centers were staffed by five University employees. The B "We made these changes based on student requests and suggestions about what would suit their needs," said Burrell. "There will be constant feedback and adjustments, but we are trying to offer as close to as many options as students had before the fire." The fire, which began in a deep-fryer that had a faulty thermostat, was extinguished by Clayton Fire Department personnel and security staff. According to Student Life, a student pulled an alarm when he saw that Marriott School of Management Service employees were having trouble putting out the fire. There were no injuries.

Exhibit showcases works of high school students

The public is invited to view works created by some of the area's most talented young artists in a special exhibit through Feb. 8. "The High School Art Competition is open to all high school students in more than 400 area high schools," said Burrell. "The exhibit features works of high school students entering the 18th annual High School Art Competition, which recognizes both the creative talent of high school students and seniors within a 100-mile radius of University campus. The exhibit will feature original works of high school students and seniors with 'grab-and-go' food items such as sandwiches, salads and pastries. "The ordering and making of all the equipment has to be custom-made to our specifications," said George Burris, director of Housing and Food Service Operations. "The ordering and making of the parts takes a long time."
Drama students progress to semifinals

During the prestigious Irene Ryan Scholarship Competition, five Saint Louis University students placed in the semifinals in the physics category. One of the students, Franklin B. Shull, Ph.D., professor emeritus of electrical and computer engineering, placed fourth.

Franklin B. Shull, Ph.D., professor emeritus of electrical and computer engineering, was named a semifinalist in the National Science Foundation's 1996 Physics Career Development Award. He is the only Saint Louis University faculty member to win the award.

In the competition, students were given a set of problems to solve within a limited time. The problems were designed to test their knowledge of advanced physics concepts.

Shull is a well-respected physicist who has made significant contributions to the field of physics. He is a member of the American Physical Society and has received numerous awards and honors for his work.

He is currently working on a new project that involves the development of new materials for use in electronic devices. His research has the potential to revolutionize the field of physics and has received funding from the National Science Foundation.

In addition to his research, Shull is also committed to teaching and mentoring the next generation of physicists. He has taught at Saint Louis University for over 30 years and has mentored many students who have gone on to successful careers in physics.

The competition is open to all physics students at universities in the United States. The top 10 finalists will be announced in the near future.

For The Record

Guidelines for submitting copy:
Send your full name, complete title, department, phone number, and highest earned degree, along with a typed description of your noteworthy accomplishment, to For The Record, 140 S. Washington, Box 1076, or 92245c@umvue.wustl.edu. Items should be submitted at least two weeks in advance for more information, call 935-5293.

For The Record contains news about a wide variety of faculty, staff, and student scholarly and professional activities.

Of note

Seth Carlin, professor of music and director of performance studies in the Arts and Sciences, has conducted a successful workshop with the San Francisco Philharmonia Baroque. He is conducting a total of six concerts in San Francisco, Sacramento, and Berkeley, Calif. He is performing the Messiah's Concerto in the final concert (the "Jephthaham"). A special feature of the performances is Carlin's use of his own original cadenzas interwoven with Baroque.

Robbin S. Wellford, J.D., director of legal writing at the School of Law, received an award from the Lexis Electronic Authors Program (LEAP) in Dayton, Ohio, which sponsored a component of her legal writing course materials that she has produced in an electronic database. The award was submitted to the LEAP's Faculty Advisory Board for their consideration.

Speaking of

During the Acoustical Society of America's meeting at the Mark Hotel in St. Louis, several members of the Central Institute for the Deaf (CID) community delivered presentations on their research. The presentations were Julius L. Goldstein.

University's cultural offerings earn praise

I n a year-end review published in The Riverfront Times (RFT), drama critic Whitney Weber cited the university's performance of Mozart's Concerto No. 9 in E flat (the "Jeunehomme") as one of the best exhibitions of 1996. Bellows also cited the School of Art's faculty show "Cortag" and the book "Critical Circle Award in the poetry category.

The book is titled "Vibration for Engineers" and is authored by S. Yose, M.D., Ph.D., Bernard Becker Professor of Ophthalmology and vice chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Washington University School of Medicine.

The book offers a comprehensive guide to the medical and surgical approaches to the diseases of the eye.

Guidelines for submitting copy:
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Footprints to be buried again, then re-excavated 100 years from now— from page 1

Lanellie St. G. Scientifically, the southern section of the trackway is for the most important portion; it includes about 6.8 meters of the clearest and best-erved hominid prints. The tree was a major concern for Marshall’s crew, which included two of her graduate students, Chester Cain and France Amako. A dozen or fifty-five tree trunks had grown in a 10-by-4.5-meter area, not including four trees that had been there since the study in 1969. Marshall, who will return to the site this summer, and her team excavated around them to determine where the tree had grown through the prints and to protect the footprints so conservators could save what remained and scientists could study the prints for future research.

"We had to excavate the roots as if they were going to grow back," said Marshall. "We did not know where they would end."

Roots narrowly miss footprints— Microlithica, a group of footprints coming from the trees, only about a half a meter from the surface level of the footprints. And not a single penetrating root, hitting the surface between footprints instead.

"It was truly amazing, a miracle and an enormous relief," said Marshall.

When Marshall’s team discovered that the footprints were intact, they called Leakey, who still lives in Kenya in the house she and her late husband, Louis, had built. (The team had a satellite phone for emergencies, and team members were allowed to make phone calls home to their families every two weeks.) Leakey, who is in her 80s, sounded quite relieved, and arrangements were immediately made for her to visit the site.

Even more exciting than the hominid footprints alone was their relationship to the footprints of other animals, said Marshall. A three-foot-long horse and a foal appear to have galloped to the south. Other microlithics include a giraffe and a small, jackal-sized carnivore. In addition, at a nearby site known as Site A, many other types of footprints were found, including birds such as guineafowl and hens. In 1969, these precious samples were preserved in the volcanic ash.

"I knew the footprints would be exciting because I had a sense of individuals walking around more than 1 million years ago," said Marshall. "I had not been as excised by the sense of early humans in their environment moving about at the same time as all those other animals," said Marshall.

Scientists say the footprints were made when a volcano erupted during a rainstorm and the wet ash covered the trackway. Animal passersby— including hominids— left their prints in the resulting mud for posterity.

Volcanic ash saves prints

This was an amazing confluence of events because not only was it raining during the eruption, but the volcanic ash had not a trace of carbonates, which has some unusual chemical properties similar to cement. When it falls and mixes with water, it sets hard, though not as hard as cement, said Marshall. Geologists have identified the volcano, which is called Sodanum and is just north of the site, almost entirely within view.

When archaeologists first asked Marshall to lead the excavation, her reaction was, "The moon is my life." She was well aware of the difficulties involved in excavating such a delicate and complex site. But as the professor of an area of research, she knew that if she accepted the invitation, one colleague said, "You'll be crazy to do that project. It has no future. No one will back you up if you're risking your reputation."

That comment pushed Marshall to accept the challenge, she said.

"I felt that this is the way to approach life. I love these sites and values and I am committed to doing what I can to save them. You have to at least try," she said.

There have been numerous proposals about how best to preserve and protect the footprints. Mary Leakey had envisioned a museum at the site with the prints on display, and Tim White, a physical anthropologist working with Leakey, had proposed lifting the prints and displaying them in a museum elsewhere. After exploratory work in 1993, the GCI team determined that the best way to completely preserve the footprints for posterity was to carefully rebury them. The GCI team particularly concerned about the vulnerability of the volcanic sediment, known as tuff, to changes in temperature and moisture, even minor changes through brushing and cleaning.

In order to preserve the footprints for a museum display, they must be consolidated with plastics and, no one in the GCI team wanted to consider that as the way to preserve the footprints as an essential component of the conservation materials. The footprints will be re-excavated in 100 years, and then again can assess the condition of the prints and whether there is any need to protect them further. We are preserving the footprints in a museum setting.

"It was very interesting to me, as an archaeologist and a conservationist," said Marshall. "I am always looking back in time, but the GCI conservators who are dedicated to conservation are always thinking as far forward as they can go."