Lending a hand
Men Active in the Community reaches out to young black males

Men Active in the Community (MAC), which was formed two years ago, is a collaborative effort between Brown and Gant, who both wanted to aid the community while conducting their studies here.

Seniors Charles "Robbie" Brown Jr., John "J.D." Davis and Carlos R. Gant, who both wanted to aid the community, planned a rhythm-and-blues benefit concert, tentatively slated for sometime in April in the Athletic Complex, and serving as "big brothers" to young black boys attending an after-school program at St. John's United Methodist Church in the Central West End.

In the high school's Mark Twain Learning Center, the Clayton students have discussed their future aspirations with MAC members.

"Some say they want to be music producers, They want to own their own businesses. They want to play sports," said Gant, an architecture major. "For those who want to play sports, for instance, instead of saying, 'Not many athletes make it to the big times,' we just say, 'What are you doing to make sure that you can beat the statistics?' It may be hard for them to pursue that particular goal, but at least look at what you have to do to make your goals possible. The main thing I tell them is that 'after you do make it, remember to look back and help somebody else.' I'm just there trying to keep the cycle going."

"When African Americans are in them confidence to pursue their goals, instead of saying, 'Not many athletes make it to the big times,' we just say, 'I'm just there trying to keep the cycle going.'"

Davis, a pre-medicine major, said MAC members relate well to the young men at Clayton because the high school students perceive them as peers. "We come from the same backgrounds. Basically, we just got out of high school ourselves. Instead of them seeing someone on TV telling them what they should be doing, it's more beneficial for the messenger to be closer to them. That's what I was missing when I came up," said Davis, who attended Chicago public schools and is a 1992 graduate of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in Aurora.

Brown is a 1992 graduate of Clayton High School. As MAC members, they have discussed their future aspirations with young black males. Brown approached Gant about interacting with young black boys at Clayton.

Brown's relationship with the Clayton school district began in the second grade when he approached Gant about interacting with young black boys at Clayton.

Chemist discovers new way to grow semiconductors

A new method for growing semiconductor crystals at lower temperatures was discovered by Washington University chemist James Alexander, an award-winning actress and the chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), at Washington University's 135th Commencement address May 17. Alexander also will receive an honorary doctor of fine arts degree. The event, which begins at 8:30 a.m. with the traditional academic procession into Broderick Convocation Center for the 10 a.m. ceremony, is entitled "Looking at recovery."

"We are thrilled that Ms. Alexander has accepted our invitation to speak to the graduates and their families and friends on this joyous occasion," said Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, Ph.D.

"She is an articulate and courageous leader of the National Endowment for the Arts as well as an accomplished film and stage actor," he said. "I'm sure that her message and graduate students to accept the challenges before them."

Joe Deal, dean of the School of Art, agrees. "I can't think of a better person to address a group of graduates," he said. "The arts contribute so much to world culture and to the betterment of human understanding. Jane Alexander's career, in acting and in her current role in public service, is a wonderful example for our students."

A native of Brooklyn, Mass., Alexander has been active in the arts for more than 35 years as an award-winning actress, producer and author. In addition to the Tony Award and several Emmy awards, she was inducted into the National Arts Hall of Fame in 1992. In 1995, Alexander was one of the first four women to be honored with the Elmer Rice Award by the New York Shakespeare Festival. She was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world in the 1997 Time Magazine. Alexander has performed in more than 100 plays on stages across the country. She received a Tony Award for "The Great White Hope" and an Emmy Award for "Playing for Time." She has received six Tony nominations, four Academy Award nominations and five Emmy nominations.

In this issue...
Looking at recovery .......... 2
PET imaging reveals how the brain functions and how it compensates for stroke damage
Experimentalist at heart .......... 3
James G. Miller, Ph.D., is a strong believer in the "hands-on" approach to science

Hitting the road .......... 5
Performing arts students to stage coming-of-age play at Seattle Fringe Theater Festival
Transplant patient on road to recovery

Howard transplanted a donated liver into Sexton, whose own liver was destroyed by an infection with paramyxovirus. Howard directs the liver and kidney transplant programs at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

Rewiring words

PET imaging reveals how brain functions, offers clues to recovery

Modern brain-imaging studies are giving scientists an extraordinary view of the brain at work and the opportunity to begin to understand how the brain recovers some function following an injury.

During the past decade, new tools have emerged in neuroscience that allow researchers to peer into the brain as a person speaks, reads or listens. During a seminar at the 1996 annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Baltimore, neuroscientists explored these powerful technologies and the insights they are yielding. The seminar, "Neuroscience and Technology," was led by Marcus E. Raichle, M.D., a leader in the field of PET (positron emission tomography) imaging and professor of radiology, of neurology and of anatomy and neurobiology at the School of Medicine.

By using PET, Raichle and colleagues have demonstrated which areas of the brain are devoted to certain types of speech, memory and word processing. PET scans use radioactive isotopes to identify brain cells that are most active during certain tasks. The scans are used to research which part of the brain suddenly starts working when a person reads, hears or speaks a word, for example.

PET scans of brains in normal patients now are panning the way to the understanding of how the brain recovers itself to recover some function following an injury, said Steven E. Petersen, Ph.D., associate professor of medical psychology in psychiatry.

"I think accumulation of this type of information is going to be important for rehabilitating people in the future and for helping patients take advantage of the parts of the brain that function after injury," Petersen said.

In the study, the researchers evaluated a 72-year-old stroke patient with damage confined to the left prefrontal cortex. The man could respond to simple questions but initiated little spontaneous conversation. Though he could repeat words, read words and write words when he was asked to, he had difficulties with most complex speech-production tasks.

These complex tasks typically activate the left prefrontal cortex, the same area of the brain damaged by the patient's stroke. However, the patient could say words when he was given a portion of the word as a clue, a task called word-stem completion, which also activates the left prefrontal cortex.

For example, he could not generate a verb, such as fly, when given the noun airplane, or vice versa. He also couldn't generate synonyms, opposites or rhymes. However, if the patient was given a partial word as a clue, he could say the full word. For example, given "cou-" or "hou-," he could say couple or house.

"This was surprising because normal patients activate the left prefrontal cortex when performing this task," Petersen said. "This suggested to us that the patient was performing the task using a compensatory brain pathway."

When the researchers performed PET scans on the patient as he performed the word-stem completion task, they found that it activated the right prefrontal cortex.

The researchers compared the patient's PET scans with those they previously had performed on 16 normal patients. In the normal patients, the word-stem completion task did not activate the right prefrontal cortex. "This area is not typically activated by normal patients performing word-stem completion, and it appears to be used by this stroke patient to compensate for his damaged cortex," Petersen explained.

Their results, Petersen said, may help explain why stroke patients lose some, but not all, language skills. Petersen and his colleagues are now working to use PET to study recovery of speech function in other patients with brain injuries. By documenting preserved speech function in patients, scientists can find other compensatory brain pathways, which likely will vary from patient to patient.

Petersen noted that PET imaging can play an important role in deciphering speech production in normal patients, demonstrating the effects of injury on the brain and finding pathways to recovery.

"Maybe by understanding at a detailed level other ways the brain has of producing speech, you may eventually be able to find ways to encourage patients to use compensatory pathways," he said.

The work was funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health, the Charles A. Dana Foundation and Washington University's McDonnell Center for Higher Brain Function.

Caroline Deckor

High school students learn about anatomy

T he School of Medicine and the St. Louis City/County School Partnership Program hosted area high school students March 2 to give them an opportunity to study anatomy. As part of the Saturday Scholars program, students from city and county high schools studied anatomical features of the human cadaver under the direction of fourth-year School of Medicine students and Richard W. Brand, D.D.S., assistant professor of anatomy and assistant dean for admissions and student affairs. The Saturday Scholars program now is in its 12th year.

Students in the program were selected by their teachers. Students from the following high schools attended: Central, Visual and Performing Arts, Gateway Institute of Technology, Vashon, Lindbergh, Parkway West and University City.

Non-drug therapy helps depressed heart patients

School of Medicine investigators report that depression can be treated successfully with psychotherapy in patients with coronary artery disease or related heart problems.

In a March 9 presentation at the annual meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society in Williamsburg, Va., the researchers reported that cognitive behavior therapy (CBT) appears to be as effective in heart patients as in healthy people. They are the first to test CBT for depression in cardiac patients.

"Depression is a very serious problem for people who have heart disease," explained Kenneth E. Freedland, Ph.D., lead investigator and associate professor of medical psychology in psychiatry.

Unfortunately, Freedland said, many heart patients never are diagnosed as depressed. "Because they are often so sick, symptoms of depression can be mistaken for manifestations of heart disease," he explained. "Not only does depression make people feel bad, but if left untreated, it increases their risk of a serious heart attack.

Antidepressant medications are helpful, but they must be used carefully in patients with heart disease. Some cannot tolerate the drugs, and others prefer not to take them, So Freedland said it is important to try alternative therapies such as CBT."

Freedland and Robert M. Carney, Ph.D., professor of medical psychology in psychiatry, treated 23 depressed patients with a 16-week course of CBT. Each week, patients were asked to complete a questionnaire that measures depression. Of those who completed the therapy, their scores were rated as non-depressed when measured by the BDI, said the Beck Depression Inventory (BDI).

In patients still undergoing treatment, BDI numbers declined, presenting their depression improved. "This is a small sample, and a larger, controlled study is needed before we can say the therapy is truly effective," Freedland noted. But the results look promising, he said, "We hope to learn whether treating depression actually lowers the risk of heart attack and premature death in these patients."

That's still an open question," he added.

--Jen Dryson

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Physicist Miller teaches from the heart

James G. Miller, Ph.D., considers himself a lucky guy. If it weren’t for his amateur ham radio operator license, he might be sticking out his hand on a computer-controlled ultrasonic instrument sitting on a cart behind a lab wall. “You know, what a picnic—somebody pays me to play with all these wonderful toys!”

His enthusiasm for his work goes beyond his hands-on research, as illustrated by his “Physics of the Heart” class. “I put a lot of time into it,” he said in reference to the course he developed 20 years ago, “and I love what I’m teaching.” The students are some of the brightest people you could ever meet. I really consider it a privilege to teach here. Miller, a professor of physics in Arts and Sciences, also is a research professor of medicine at the School of Medicine—an appointment considering that the two fields are so different. More unusual is the fact that Miller knows his way around operating a heart machine just as well as he knows what’s what in a physics lab.

How did Miller, a traditionally educated physicist, become a research partner with cardiologists at the medical school? It started with a telephone call. As a new faculty member in the Department of Physics at the University of Pennsylvania in the late 1950s, he received a doctorate in 1969 from Washington University, where he began to explore the concept of using ultrasound in areas involving biology and medicine.

Meanwhile, over at the medical school, Richard E. Clark, M.D., a cardiothoracic surgeon, had heard that ultrasound could be a useful tool in determining whether blood returning to patients during cardiothoracic surgery contained harmful microemboli. Clark called the physics department’s Laboratory for Ultrasonics for some advice.

Next thing Miller knew, he was in surgical scrubs watching Clark, M.D., use a novel device—a kind of ultrasonic alarm system—to monitor blood returning to a patient from the heart during open-heart surgery. This was the first milestone resulting from a collaboration that has lasted more than 20 years. The research on how ultrasound can reveal the greatest potential in using ultrasound to look into the body non-invasively—without ionizing radiation or pain and discomfort to the patient. Miller said then that the best way they could make a truly fundamental contribution to advancing the use of ultrasound as a diagnostic tool was by first understanding the physics, physiology and pathology of the heart. “I knew we had to look beyond just making a better picture of the heart. That was going to be useful, but the real story was going to be the other things, the mechanical properties of high-performance materials, and the biological and medical sciences. Whether working with cardiologists at the medical school, or with other researchers working in the biological and medical sciences, Miller has strived to communicate his research and how it relates to what they will be doing in medicine.

In the laboratory, Miller’s work is pursuing applications of ultrasound to non-invasive techniques that have medical uses. Miller has been working for decades with the technique of tissue characterization through ultrasound in order to distinguish between normal and diseased heart tissue. His goal is to use ultrasound to see if the heart is diseased. However, the procedure can show if the heart is diseased. An image of the diseased heart can look quite normal, but a tissue characterization test can reveal the effects of whatever disease it is. The results help determine proper treatment, such as angioplasty.

Research earns high marks

Based upon the research and discoveries of Miller and his colleagues— including Jolico E. Perez, M.D., professor of medicine and director of cardiac echocardiography at the School of Medicine— Hewlett-Packard Co. in recent years has developed two diagnostic tools that are used in hospitals worldwide to make accurate measurements of the mechanical properties of heart tissue.

Two other products Miller and members of his team developed early in their research earned them Industrial Research Magazine’s highly coveted I-R 100 awards— referred to by some as the Nobel Prizes of industry. Their ultrasonic instrument for monitoring microscopic parameters in patients’ blood during open-heart surgery was cited as one of the 100 most important new technical products of 1974. The other I-R award, presented in 1978, recognized an acoustoelastic transducer system.

Samuel A. Wickline, M.D., an associate professor of medicine who has worked closely with Miller for more than 10 years, credits the physicist with speeding the progress of their research. “His ability to speak more than one scientific language—that is, medicine, physics and engineering—that was a real plus, is why we do so well in the lab,” Wickline said. “When you have someone who can serve as the translator for these seemingly discordant disciplines, that’s when you make progress.”

“The actually did very well,” Miller said. “We had all of these students,” he added, “and one of them was repairing about three-fourths of what came to us. About one-fourth was beyond us, and we would apologize and bring it back.” Profits basically were used to buy time to purchase equipment. The two kept the repair business going and other obligations that were vitally important for his students today.

“There’s no substitute for using your hands and mind together,” he said. “If there were any that way I would like to improve the educational process for students and engineers, it is to put even more emphasis on hands-on laboratory work as part of the educational process. It’s expensive because you need a lot more instruments, and you need a lot more time—expensive because you have to have almost one-on-one or very small group teaching. But the level of understanding is far better than being standing at a blackboard and drawing things and talking.”

Miller practices what he preaches. As an advisor to about 20 doctoral students over the years, he’s made sure they’ve all had practical hands-on laboratory experiences. Whether working with physicists or with cardiologists, Miller enjoys working with students from both the physics department’s machine shop designing and building a sonic scanning device or with the clinical physiology laboratory at a cardiologist at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, his students are learning by doing.

Another teaching tool Miller initiated for the graduate students in his research group is a get-together every Monday night to hear a 60-minute lecture from a team member, followed by 30 minutes discussing the latest instrumentation.

Dedicated to undergraduate, graduate students

His graduate students are not the only students who devote much time and attention. Because of his desire to share his research activities with undergraduates, he introduced “Physics of the Heart” in 1976. Taken primarily by pre-medical undergraduates with some physics and engineering students enrolled, the course teaches cardiovascular physiology within the context of physics. Miller said the students already have had first-year physics in which they’ve learned the basic tools but, however, the implications of physical laws in the biological and medical sciences are more relevant to what they will be doing in medicine.

Wickline, who along with others from the medical school serves as a guest lecturer in “Physics of the Heart,” wishes he had such a course when he was in school. “I think Jim is one of the few examples I’ve come across of someone who can explain to a potentially dry material both easy and relevant,” Wickline said.

Tom Shoup, Ph.D, a former graduate student of Miller’s who is a researcher at Hewlett-Packard Labs, considered Miller a “great mentor” subject in very practical terms as opposed to very theoretical terms,” Shoup said. Recalling how Miller used a tangerine to demonstrate how forces are measured in the biological and medical sciences, Shoup said, “You’d go away from his class with an understanding that was rooted in terms and descriptions very familiar to you.”

Miller doesn’t believe he’s doing anything extraordinarily difficult. “I am definitely pleased if my contribution gives you the opportunity to do cutting-edge work and then to communicate it across boundaries because it’s not so difficult to communicate to the person next door or down the hall, what is difficult is to communi- cate to a broader audience,” he said. —Photograph Kellenberg

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Exhibitions


Films

All Filmboard movies cost $3 and are shown in Room 100 Brown Hall. For 24-hour hotline information, call 935-5983.

Thursday, March 28

7:30 p.m. "Ain't" (1994). Room 149 McMillan Hall. 935-6543. 

Friday, March 29

4 p.m. "Contemporary American Documentary Film Series. "Block It...Black and White." (1990), with English subtitles. Room 162 McDowell Hall. 726-1560.

Music

Tuesday, March 26

8 p.m. Department of Music student recital. Featuring the Duet of Tahoom and Mozaffar. Graham Chapel. 935-5581.

Performances

Tuesday, March 26

7 p.m. Radio play. The late Stanley Elkin's "The Happy Craftsmen," to be presented by the Missouri Broadcast Theatre. 

Wednesday, March 27

6 p.m. Social work lecture. "Stigma, Social Control, and Mental Health: Implications for the Helping Professions." In the Clopton Aud., Clopton Hall. 935-4761. 

March 21-30
Drama students hit the road, take 'Generation X to Seattle'

Several drama students get a taste of life on the road when they take part in the performing arts department production of "Generation X (Y, Z...)" to the Seattle Fringe Theatre Festival for three performances March 21-24.

The play premiered at Washington University in November as part of the Performing Arts Department in Arts and Sciences production. "Generation X (Y, Z...)" is the only college production selected to perform this year at the prestigous 10-day festival of experimental theater.

Written by St. Louis-based playwright Joan Lipkin and directed by Annamaria Pileggi, artist-in-residence in performing arts, "Stories From Generation X (Y, Z...)" asks what it means to come of age at this moment in history. It explores such issues as sex in the '90s, getting a job, the rise of violence, and the impact of the media on society.

Lipkin said she is looking forward to resurrecting the work in Seattle, as well as incorporating some revisions she has made to the original production. She also praised the university for its support in sending the play to Seattle.

"It's an extraordinary opportunity for all of us, especially the students," Lipkin said. "It gives them a chance to perform scenes from "Romeo and Juliet" in Seattle, where audience members tend to be younger and more progressive."

Founded in 1991, the Seattle Fringe Theatre Festival has become one of the country's premier celebrations of new plays, performances from about 70 mostly professional and semi-professional groups from around the country. This is the second time the performing arts department has been selected to perform at the festival.

For more information, contact Joan Lipkin at 647-3758.

Fiddles to soar in 'OVATIONS!' concert

The humble fiddle will soar to musical heights when two of the world's greatest fiddlers join forces in a concert at 7:30 p.m. March 29 at The Sheldon Concert Hall, 3648 Washington Ave.

Fiddlers great Mark O'Connor and Vassar Clements willinger their way through an eclectic evening of country, bluegrass, jazz, rock and swing tunes.

The concert is part of Edison Theatre's "OVATIONS!" series and is co-sponsored by the Woman's Club. Women's Bldg. 362-8721.

Noon, Newcomer's brown-bag luncheon

Performing Arts students will perform excerpts from "Romeo and Juliet" in MeDonnell Hall. 362-8721.

10 a.m.-noon, Benefit road walk/race... Runners and walkers are invited to join the new "Acting on Film" workshop.

10 a.m.-6 p.m., Acting workshop... "Acting on Film," a two-day workshop by Tony Barr, former vice president of the Los Angeles Shakespeare Festival, and Schrey will discuss the work.

The "Acting on Film" workshop will present scenes from the play in the Saint Louis Art Museum. "Acting on Film" is sponsored by the Woman's Club. Women's Bldg. 362-8721.

"Acting on Film" is the second time the department has sent a workshop to Seattle. The first time was last year.

"Acting on Film" is one of the events scheduled by the Performing Arts Department in Arts and Sciences to be presented in poster format. Sponsored by the Graduate Student Senate. Takes place in various locations in the University Campus. 7-9:30 p.m. March 21-22.

Wednesday, March 20

5:30-7:30 p.m., Student Senate and related events... Staff and students are invited to attend the Student Senate meeting.

6:30 p.m., Student Senate... The meeting will be held in Arts and Sciences.

Friday, March 22

7:30 p.m., Student Senate... The meeting will be held in Arts and Sciences.

Saturday, March 23

4-7 p.m., "The Actors Can See What Is Working"... The Actors can see what is working during a seminar-long performing arts workshop, which they team-taught last spring. The workshop is available at the Seattle Fringe Festival for three performances March 21-24.

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For more information, contact Joan Lipkin at 647-3758.
German literature from 1945-1995 focus of seminar

Chancellor makes the rounds

German literature from 1945 to 1995 is the focus of the 13th biennial

...
Center receives grant to study multiparty political systems

The Center in Political Economy in Arts and Sciences has received a $125,000 National Science Foundation grant to study multiparty political systems in Israel and in European countries, announced the center's director, Norman E. Geers, Ph.D., professor of political economy in Arts and Sciences.

The principal investigator for the study, which is titled "Coalition Politics," is Professor of Political Economy in Arts and Sciences, and Itai Sened, Ph.D., a Washington University alumna, performed the solo dance, titled "A Day in My Life."

Andrey S. Shaw, M.D., assistant professor of pathology, received a $741,706 four-year grant from the National Cancer Institute for a project on "The Role of P62/P68 in Signal Transduction."

Speaking of Susan M. Blinder, coordinator of the Hearing Rehabilitation and Cochlear Implant Program in the Department of Otolaryngology, spoke on "Increasing Patient Compliance Through Family Involvement" at the Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association's annual convention in Chicago.

Several members of the Department of Speech and Hearing participated in the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's convention in Orlando, Fla. The participants were: William W. Clark, Ph.D., professor of physiological acoustics and interim director of research at the Central Institute for the Deaf (CID); Aan E. Geers, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology and director of clinical services at CID; Jean S. Moog, associate professor of education of the hearing impaired and director of deaf education at Duke; and Nancy Tye-Murray, Ph.D., associate professor of audiology and a research scientist at CID.

Mary-Jean Cornell, Ph.D., associate professor of dance and coordinator of the dance program in Arts and Sciences, spoke as part of two lecture demonstrations on modern dance pioneer Michel Ian at the Japan Information and Culture Center, Embassy of Japan, in Washington, D.C. Cornell also participated in a master's program at Deque Place, a well-known dance venue in Washington.

David Felix, Ph.D., professor emeritus of economics in Arts and Sciences, delivered two lectures on "Political Globalization and the Tobin Tax Proposal at the Universitat Nacional de Mexico in Mexico City.

Making the news The Christian Science Monitor published an op-ed piece written by Stephen H. Legomsky, J.D., Ph.D., the Charles F. Nagel Professor of International and Comparative Law. The article called on Congress to establish an independent national refugee board. ... Russell D. Roberts, Ph.D., director of the Management Center in the John M. Olin School of Business, was quoted in a Wall Street Journal article. The piece, titled "Shift Into Reverse: Ban on Mexi- can Trucks in U.S. Interior Shows Rise of Protectionism," noted how election-year politics can change American trade policies. "In terms of symbolism, it's an ugly precedent to say we'll implement our trade agreements only when it's politically convenient," said Roberts.

To press Lucian Krukowski, Ph.D., professor emeritus of philosophy in Arts and Sciences, wrote an article titled "Schopenhauer and the Aesthetics of Creativity" that is featured in a 1996 anthol- ogy titled "Schopenhauer, Philosophy and the Arts" published by Cambridge University Press.


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 activity, to For The Record, c/o Carolyn Sanford, Campus Box 1076, or p72245cs@wuvmd.wustl.edu. Items must not exceed 75 words. For more information, call Sanford at 935-5293.

MTV asks students to 'Choose or Lose'

MTV's custom-designed touring "Choose or Lose" bus stopped outside the Urmathskeller on March 12 to register students to vote. The 45-foot-long bus, which weighs about 40,000 pounds, is part of the music television station's "Choose or Lose" campaign to educate young voters about the political process and the upcoming presidential election. The exterior of the bus features more than 100 quotes from prominent individuals.

Bonnie Kruger's elegant costumes can take the heat

Bonnie Kruger doesn't get ruffled when people sweat all over her work. The law professor, whose creations are built to withstand hot lights and fiery actors on stages both here and abroad, Kruger is an artist-in-residence in the Performing Arts Department in Arts and Sciences. She recently returned from Paris, France, where her costumes were used in the Marseilles Opera's production of "Radamisto" by George Frideric Handel.

Kruger's extravagant 18th-century baroque costumes received high praise from critics and singers alike. "They loved them," Kruger said of cast members in the prestigious opera company. Kruger is one of the busiest costume designers in Europe. "They (the costumes) really helped the singer start into character." During her nearly one-month stint in France, Kruger oversaw fittings and alterations to 18 costumes, which she made in St. Louis for a 1993 production of "Radamisto" staged in Germany. She also worked with singers in the Marseilles Opera during rehearsals, showing them how to move in the full and flowing garments. "These need a bit of care," Kruger said of the costumes that cost about $2,500 each in material alone. One costume takes a week to complete and easily can cost up to $5,000, she said.

Because of such expenses, true baroque operas seldom are performed, Kruger noted. One place the art form does flourish is at the Göttingen Handel Festi- val in Germany, where Kruger has been designing costumes for the past six years. She became the designer at the request of Nicholas McGegan, festival director and former director of the historical perfor- mance practice program in the Depart- ment of Music in Arts and Sciences.

Kruger, a native of Syracuse, N.Y., received a bachelor's degree in theater design in 1978 from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. The designer has a special affinity for the 18th-century sumptuous garments, made with glittering fabrics and bedazzled with trim. "The early 1700s had some wonderful lines to their clothes. I find the whole period incredibly exciting," said Kruger.

Her latest project is designing the...
Campus Spending plans save employees tax dollars

The following is a partial list of positions available on the Hilltop Campus. More information and other positions may be obtained at the Human Resources office located at 4480 University Blvd., Suite A20, St. Louis, Mo. 63110. For more information call 935-6603.

Spending plans have employees tax dollars

Employees who know they will spend money on medical or child-care expenses may find substantial savings from setting aside money for health- or child-care spending plans.

Doing so allows employees to set aside money from their paychecks on a pre-tax basis to pay for such expenses. "The benefit is a real tax savings to employees," said Thomas W. Lauman, the University's director of benefits in the Office of Human Resources, on the Hilltop Campus.

All University employees who work at least 20 hours a week are eligible. They may participate in either the health- or child-care spending plans.

"The health-care spending account is best suited for employees who have one or more children younger than 13 in day care or for those who have medical expenses," said Lauman, that the medical school does not have to pay for medical expenses not covered by insurance, dental charges above those covered by insurance, and unreimbursed health and dental expenses.

Money left in the account at the end of the tax year is taxable and reduces the amount eligible for future contributions.

The child-care spending account is designed for employees who have one or more children older than 13 in day care or for employees with medical expenses. Employees who participate may contribute up to $5,000 annually.

For example, a married employee with two children and a gross annual income of $17,500 would have an annual tax savings of $454 by making monthly contributions of $385 to the health-care spending plan, or $497.50 to the child-care spending plan.

Employees enrolled in either plan must submit original receipts or documents to be reimbursed. Participation is on a calendar year basis, each January.

When employees enroll, they must decide how much money they want to contribute annually to either plan. Employees are not allowed to modify or discriminate contributions unless there is a change in family status. Some reasons for status changes are marriage, birth, divorce or a spouse's death.

Also, any money contributed to either plan can be used for medical, dental or other expenses incurred during the calendar year. Money left in the account at the end of the tax year is taxable and reduces the amount eligible for future contributions.

Employees who participate are allowed to contribute to both the health- and child-care spending plans or only to one of the plans by shifting as little as $20 from one paycheck to the other each month.

The coordinators, advisers and liaisons that make up the Medical Spending Plan office to its training and development program.

The revised policy will introduce the roles and responsibilities of coordinator and adviser for the health and Medical Spending Plans.

There will be two coordinators, one each on the Hilltop and Medical campuses, and six advisers, three each on the Hilltop and Medical campuses. Additionally, a medical spending plan office has been established.

Unit departments on the Hilltop Campus are encouraged to appoint a representative who will also act as resources for those who have concerns and questions.

There is a fair amount of overlap in the responsibilities that will be handled through the newly created roles, with the common focus being on providing service and education," Premt said. "To help create a user-friendly process for staff, faculty and students, we have added these extra avenues by which they can access information and assistance."

The coordinators, advisers and liaisons will work closely with the Medical Spending Plans office to its training and development program.

The updated sexual harassment policy will be communicated to all employees through e-mails of the coordinators and advisers. The names and telephone numbers of the Hilltop and Medical campus coordinators and advisers, the University human resources office. The University's sexual harassment policy will be published in its entirety in a summer issue of the Record. The University adopted its sexual harassment policy in 1986.

NEA Chairman Jane Alexander to keynote Commencement

Since becoming chairman, Alexander has traveled more than 100,000 miles, visited 34 countries and met with people of all ages and backgrounds.

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