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Michelle Ponder of Student Records dressed up as a clown and visited the Ranken-Jordan center for seriously ill children during the United Way Days of Caring program last month. Here, Ponder helps a child named Kierra blow up a balloon that will be used to make the likeness of an animal.

Days of Caring
University employees lend a helping hand to United Way agencies

Stepping away from their desks and into the community last month, several dozen employees momentarily left behind the running of the University for another kind of duty. They volunteered. They unloaded furniture at a shelter for women. They packed canned goods at a food bank. They interacted with elderly residents at a nursing home. They entertained seriously ill children.

These efforts, and others, were part of Washington University’s contribution to the annual United Way Days of Caring program held June 24-27.

Nancy Burchfield, director of principal gifts in the Office of Alumni and Development, put her back into her work as she moved new chairs and tables into the Faculty Center on the Medical Campus.

June 28 at the Mary Ryder Home
As she moved new chairs and tables into the annual United Way Days of Caring program held June 24-27.

Continued on page 4

Former residents endowed chair honoring Henry and Edith Schwartz

The School of Medicine is grateful for this endowment,” said William A. Peck, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. “It is a wonderful and fitting tribute to Dr. and Mrs. Schwartz. They were absolutely unstinting in their concern for the welfare of the residents. Furthermore, Dr. Schwartz was the acknowledged leader in the training of outstanding neurologists. Indeed, he trained more professors of neurological surgery than any other American this century.”

Ralph G. Dacey Jr., M.D., professor and head of neurological surgery, added:

“This endowment will help the department continue to conduct basic neurosurgical research and train future academic neurosurgical leaders. Dr. Schwartz emphasized these activities during his entire career.”

Sixty former residents donated a total of $1 million to endow the chair. Others in the department also contributed. “This was an outpouring of emotion,” said 1963 resident Kenneth R. Smith Jr., M.D., now professor and director of the Division of Neurosurgery at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine and president of the Society of Neurological

Vol. 20 No. 34 July 11, 1996

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

PET pioneer dies at age 71

Michel M. Ter-Pogossian, Ph.D., a renowned leader in the development of positron emission tomography (PET) for biomedical research, died suddenly of a heart attack on Wednesday, June 19, 1996, in Paris. He was 71.

Ter-Pogossian was emeritus professor of radiology at the School of Medicine’s Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology. A farewell tribute will be held at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, July 18, in Graham Chapel on the Hilltop Campus.

Parking is available adjacent to and near Mallinckrodt Center.

A physicist by training, Ter-Pogossian played a major role in developing the concept of short-lived isotopes, the first PET scanner and the first multi-slice PET scanner.

In 1970, he led a collaborative research team of physical scientists, chemists and physicians that developed the concept of PET. A major medical contribution, PET displays actual metabolic activity within different regions of organs and tissues.

A PET machine records signals

Oliver Lowry was renowned biochemist

Oliver Howe Lowry, M.D., Ph.D., Distinguished Professor Emeritus of molecular biology and pharmacology at the School of Medicine, died on Saturday, June 29, 1996, in St. Louis from Alzheimer’s disease. He was 85.

A funeral service was held July 3. A memorial service will be held in September in the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology’s Graham Chapel.

Lowry came to Washington University in 1947 and chaired the Department of Pharmacology for the next 29 years. He also was dean of the School of Medicine from 1955-58.

He became an emeritus professor in 1979 but served as acting department chair from 1989-90.

He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1957, the National Academy of Sciences in 1964 and to the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences in 1968.

Oliver Howe Lowry

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Study shows surfactant therapy does not narrow gap in death rate of black and white premature infants

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Aubrey R. Morrison, M.B., B.S., is an expert on prostaglandins, hormone-like compounds in the kidney

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The University’s speechmaking club is officially chartered by Toastmasters International
Surprise finding

Therapy actually widens gap in death rate of black, white newborns

Premature infants with undevolved lungs have a better chance of surviving today because of the advent of surfactant therapy, a liquid that allows babies' lungs to inflate. After the Food and Drug Administration in 1990 approved the use of surfactant to treat potentially fatal breathing problems, the death rate of premature infants dropped significantly.

But a new study by School of Medicine researchers of 1,563 premature births in St. Louis shows that the overall drop is due exclusively to a reduced number of deaths in premature white infants. After the introduction of surfactant therapy, the researchers found that the overall mortality rate of premature infants in the study dropped 16 percent. However, the drop was traced to a 41 percent decrease in the death rate of premature white infants. The researchers found no change in the death rate of premature black infants. The study was published in the June 20 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

"We found that this therapy, which has been shown to be effective, did not have the anticipated effect on the disparity in the black and white newborn death rates once it became widely used in clinical practice," said Aaron Hamvas, M.D., lead author of the study and professor of pediatrics.

Surfactant therapy is given to premature infants with respiratory distress syndrome (RDS). The breathing disorder strikes as many as 50,000 of the 250,000 premature births delivered in the United States and kills 5,000 each year.

RDS is caused by the inability of premature infants' lungs to make surfactant, which is produced in the lungs of a fetus starting in the last trimester and continuing until birth. In the study, the researchers found that the differences in death rates could not be explained by black babies' lack of access to surfactant, though premature white infants in the study were significantly more likely to receive surfactant therapy than their black counterparts. That's because the lungs of black fetuses mature more quickly than those of whites; therefore, the incidence of RDS is lower in premature black infants. Moreover, the death rate of black and white babies who received surfactant was not significantly different — about 20 percent of white infants and 23 percent of black infants who received the therapy died.

"On the surface, it looked like black babies didn't get as much surfactant and therefore didn't have a reduction in mortality," Hamvas said. "But we found the differences in surfactant administration and the change in the death rate were purely due to the differences in the incidence and severity of RDS. The babies who were sick enough to need surfactant got it, and it saved the same number of black and white babies." The mortality rate for all infants is about 2.5 times higher for blacks than for whites. After the introduction of surfactant, the researchers found that black premature infants were three times more likely to die than white premature babies.

Hamvas noted that the birth and death certificates for all 1,563 very low birth-weight infants born in St. Louis with clinical data from the four St. Louis-area neonatal intensive care units during 1987-89 and 1991-92, before and after approval of surfactant for clinical use. Very low-birth-weight infants are those weighing less than 3 pounds, 5 ounces.

The study found the neonatal death rate for very low-birth-weight infants of all races decreased between the two intervals, from 230 deaths to 182 deaths per 1,000 births. The researchers credited the drop in the white death rate to a major decrease in deaths from RDS.

Although the incidence of RDS for whites remained stable during the two time periods, the study found the mortality rate for these newborns dropped 60 percent. In very low-birth-weight infants, the incidence of RDS rose slightly, from 65 percent to 66 percent during the two time periods. However, Hamvas said the death rate for these newborns fell by only 11 percent.

Hamvas said the study shows there is a variety of other reasons premature infants died. These problems, he said, may be attributed to a combination of biologic, social and environmental factors, such as infection, adolescent pregnancy or access to prenatal care.

Overall, the researchers said, trying to prevent premature births is the most effective way to save babies. Hamvas suggested that understanding the causes of pre-term labor, preventing teen-age pregnancy and improving access to prenatal care and education programs may help reduce premature births and deaths related to prematurity.

— Diane Duke

Joel Cooper wins national surgery innovation award

Terry L. Cameron has been named executive director of Billings and Collection Services (WUSBCS). Lee Fetter, chief operating officer at the School of Medicine, announced the appointment, which begins Monday, July 15. The WUSBCS executive director program is one of the largest in the country," Fetter said. "We are fortunate to have recruited a successful senior manager with considerable experience in a large and complex group practice."

WUSBCS is a joint operation designed to better serve the clinical departments and patients of the School of Medicine. It was created in November 1994.

In his new position, Cameron will plan, organize and direct billing and collections activities, reimbursement analysis, department relations and system maintenance. As leader of the WUSBCS management team, Cameron will oversee cash flow from clinical services and the functioning of business operations within WUSBCS.

Dan Cooper, chairman of the WUSBCS Management Committee and executive director of business affairs for the Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina, recruited and directed accounts receivable at Duke. In that position, he was responsible for billing and collection for 800 faculty physicians in 12 departments with annual collections of approximately $270 million.

Cameron was previously on staff at the Duke Private Diagnostic Clinics at the Duke University Medical Center in Durham and was director of accounts receivable at Duke.

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Morrison working to halt kidney disease

An externally committed career path, Morrison said, is a rare thing. That's why he's spent his life trying to get into that kind of groove. His friend's father urged Morrison to apply for the rotating internship because he would be accepted more easily as a foreign medical graduate. "Once you're in, your talent will be recognized," Morrison recalls the father's guidance. "That was perhaps the best piece of advice I ever gave." Morrison landed the rotating internship and was able to transfer directly into medicine without having to go through another internship. He then completed a nephrology fellowship with Saulo Klahr, M.D., through which he became interested in research. "He was a very bright, very devoted individual with a large wealth of clinical knowledge," said Klahr, now the John E. and Adaline Simon Professor and vice chairman of the Department of Medicine. "He was very anxious to isolate a career in basic research. It is clear, during the last 20 years, that he has succeeded. He has become one of the outstanding scientists in the field of prostaglandins." David Kipnis, M.D., now Distinguished University Professor of Pharmacology and professor of molecular biology and pharmacology, became chair of the Department of Internal Medicine in 1973 and asked Morrison to become chief resident. "I was absolutely flabbergasted," Morrison said. "He has greatly contributed to the understanding of renal metabolism in health and disease," he said. "He is a leader," he added. Nancy Baird, M.D., assistant professor of medicine at the University of Cincinnati, worked with Morrison from 1989 to 1993. One of the things she learned from Morrison is that it's important to take risks. "I'm very willing to try something even if it might not work," she said. "He encouraged me to be the person who has to be sure something will work before trying it." Bair said Morrison was an outstanding teacher because he has a great sense of humor and brings humor into most situations.

Morrison enjoys teaching pharmacology to second-year medical students. He sees every year, by the questions they ask, why it's important to have an influx of young people into a system. "I think that atmosphere is what keeps them interested. They look at medicine in this very broad perspective, and whatever their finite minds see is what comes out. Whereas a lot of us who have been in biomedical research for a while are already conditioned and tend to have more focus," he said.

Although Morrison likes seeing patients and teaching, his focus seems to be research. He said he relishes the concept of designing an experiment. "I really get excited when an initial hypothesis turns out to be correct and we can demonstrate it in the laboratory and go back, in some instances, to demonstrate that the same process occurs in human disease," he said. "The novelty of making discoveries keeps me excited."

Away from work, Morrison enjoys spending time with his three children and traveling. He is interested in how scientific research is conducted in other countries and how different countries function in relation to science. He also has organized efforts to send old textbooks to Guyana's medical school. These textbooks would be too expensive for the students to buy because the exchange rate between Guyana's currency and the U.S. dollar is about 100 to 1. "At one point, I even sent a dialysis machine. It was not really for dialysis patients but for education," he said.

If the retiree, Morrison might be interested in getting involved with medical missions. "I believe humanitarian activity is to become an adviser on some of the diseases that still are endemic there," he said. Whether he's working with patients, teaching or conducting research, Morrison has no second thoughts about his career choice. "I never, ever regretted that decision from the time I started medical school," he said.

-Aubrey R. Morrison, M.B., B.S., is an expert on prostaglandins, hormone-like compounds found at sites of inflammation in the kidney.

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Wednesday, July 17
7:30 p.m. Gateway Symphony Orchestra chamber music concert. Program: Violin Concerto in A major by Johann Strauss Jr. Brookings Quadrangle. 935-5581.

Wednesday, July 17
7:30 p.m. Gateway Symphony Orchestra at WU concert. Directed by Dan Provence, instrumental music coordinator. Graham Chapel. 935-5581.

Wednesday, July 18

Friday, August 23
8-10 p.m. Freshman orientation parent/ students reception. Sponsored by the Gallery of Art. Steinberg Hall Aud. 935-5540.

Saturday, August 24
7:30-8 p.m. Freshman orientation parent/ students reception. Sponsored by the Gallery of Art. Steinberg Hall Aud. 935-5540.

July 11-Aug. 24

Burton Wheeler's contributions recognized by awards bearing his name

Burton M. Wheeler, Ph.D., professor emeritus of English and of religious studies in Arts and Sciences, will have his mark on the Washington University community in many ways including two awards named in his honor.

Both a new teaching fund — from the Burton M. Wheeler Fund for the Arts and Sciences — and a Phi Beta Kappa Fund were launched this week by Johann Strauss Jr. Brookings Quadrangle. 935-5581.

Wheeler established nearly 20 years ago. The University's Phi Beta Kappa chapter has renamed the award the Burton M. Wheeler Freshman Book Award of Phi Beta Kappa. "We are doing this in honor of his long and distinguished service to Phi Beta Kappa, both on the local and national levels," said Ronald Freiswald, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematics in Arts and Sciences and the organization's secretary. "He was thoughtful, innovative and made a remarkable contribution to the University."

As before, the renamed award will be presented each spring to a Phi Beta Kappa freshman who has demonstrated "the highest standards of personal and intellectual achievement." The recipient also must be an active member of the Phi Beta Kappa chapter.

Wheeler began his career at the University in 1959 as an instructor of English and of religious studies. He chaired the Task Force on Undergraduate Education and was the chair of the national Phi Beta Kappa Committees on Qualifications, among other activities. He has held a variety of administrative positions since his first major administrative role as faculty secretary in the 1970s. Wheeler has served as dean of the national Phi Beta Kappa Book Awards. The books, which cover a wide range of the arts and sciences, are then presented to the students at a reception attended by honoraries and chapter officers. Election to Phi Beta Kappa is reserved primarily for seniors, with a few juniors elected each spring. Freiswald noted. The University's Phi Beta Kappa chapter presents the book award, however, to both honor freshmen and introduce them to the society, he said. Wheeler said he was honored and pleased in the recognition in both the new teaching fund and the renaming of the PBK award.
Henry and Edith Schwartz "inspired all who went through the program"—from page 1

Schwartz obtained a bachelor's degree from Princeton University, which he entered at age 15, and a master's degree from Johns Hopkins, he was an intern in surgery there from 1932-33. He spent the following three years as a National Research Council Fellow and then anatomy instructor in the Jewish Hospital Medical School.

The Schwartzes moved to St. Louis in 1936, when he became a fellow in neurological surgery at the Washington University School of Medicine. During that year, he made the first direct recording in the United States of electrical activity from the human brain.

"It is very gratifying to know that your brood is contributing to the welfare of the profession." — Henry G. Schwartz
Admission office aids those traveling 'Road to College'

The Road to College, an all-day summer program at Washington University, helps high school students and their parents navigate the many choices on the route to undergraduate education.

In its third year, the program offers free all-day seminars designed to teach high school students who are juniors and younger the ins and outs of planning for college. Last year, families had been able to choose from four sessions: June 29 and July 13 and Aug. 2.

The program is the same for each seminar, which runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The sessions begin with presentations by the University’s admission staff and highlight important considerations about college preparation and the application process in general. "It’s nice for the students and parents to see the high school personnel and the University personnel working together to address the needs and anxieties of people applying for college," said Nan Chastain, director of recruitment in the Office of Undergraduate Admission. "For us, it’s a community service."

The seminars address such issues as how to choose the best college-preparatory program, the importance of extracurricular activities in high school, tuition and payment options, and preparation for college placement tests. The program also gives an inside view of campus and college expectations from a panel of college students. A panel made up of practicing attorneys is to discuss why and how to choose the best college-preparatory facilities.

The program is open to high school juniors and seniors. "We want to make the space more accessible to all floors of the building. Completion of temporarily housing those working in the Brookings facility, "Macias said. "Moving also want to make the space more accessible to students and their families."

We are using Eads Hall so that we can renovate South Brookings to better serve currently enrolled students as well as prospective students and their families. We also want to make the space more accessible and to more efficiently use the South Brookings facility," Macias said. "Moving quickly is important because the early completion of the main college building on Forsyth gave us a window of opportunity to take advantage of the Eads space for a relatively short period of time. The availability of Eads also reduces the cost of temporarily housing those working in South Brookings in less convenient space.

The improvements to South Brookings and Eads are part of a University-wide effort to modernize facilities during the next decade — including student residence halls, dining services, classroom and laboratory space, and offices and research facilities for students and faculty. Work already completed toward this goal includes the construction of the new psychology building and the Mullinckroit Center Food Court; recent renovations to Ridgley Hall for the Arts and Sciences departments of German and Russian and the Program in Comparative Literature; and work done in Duncker Hall for the Department of English in Arts and Sciences.

Several South Brookings offices temporarily relocate

The improvements to South Brookings and Eads will go to more flexible future use. Currently, there are seven classrooms in Eads. At the end of the 1996-97 academic year, additional renovations will be made to add at least three more classrooms.

We are using Eads Hall so that we can renovate South Brookings to better serve currently enrolled students as well as prospective students and their families.

Edward S. Macias

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University supports light-rail extension linking Medical, Hilltop, West campuses

Washington University is supporting the extension of the Metrolink light-rail line from the Forest Park stop at DelBalevior Avenue to the government center in downtown Clayton. The extension of this “Government Center Line” would link the Hilltop and West campuses with the Medical Campus, which already is serviced by Metrolink.

The proposed Metrolink extension would run from the DelBalevior stop along the south side of Millbrook Boulevard, with a stop at either Skinker or Big Bend Boulevards. It then would head toward Clayton, with a stop near West Campus, and continue to the government center.

University officials are working with transportation officials to provide the right-of-way along the north side of the Hilltop Campus if this government center route is approved.

The East-West Gateway Coordinating Council, the Bi-State Development Agency and the Missouri Department of Transportation are planning a study on proposed improvements for all transportation modes in what is known as the “cross-county corridor,” which extends from north to south St. Louis County and from west St. Louis County to the city of St. Louis.

Ann Nicholson

University of Law building construction site

University Police received two reports of vandalism.

• University Police received 18 theft reports totaling a loss of $7,128.

• A contractor's truck with tools was reported stolen from Hoyi Drive. The estimated value is in excess of $25,000.

• A burglary was reported at the construction site to the School of Law building. Seven windows, valued in excess of $20,000, were reported stolen.

Two students were arrested for allegedly trespassing in the new School of Law building construction site.

University Police received a report ofarring with a vehicle.

University Police received four reports of vandalism.

• University Police received three reports of telephone harassment.
Kerry Back fills Piper Chair in Olin School of Business

Kerry E. Back, Ph.D., associate dean for academic affairs and professor of finance at Washington University, has been named the William and Margaret K. Piper Chair in financial economics. The Pipers, known for their contributions to the Washington University community, established the endowed chair in 1989 to support teaching and research.

Back, a leading financial theorist especially in derivative asset pricing, will join the faculty of the Olin School of Business, which is home to the Washington University Financial Engineering Program.

Kerry E. Back

James McKelvey, Rodolpho Motard named senior professors in engineering school

James McKelvey, Ph.D., the Edward C. Dicke Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering, and Rodolpho Motard, the L. Glenn Luettje Jr. professor of mechanical engineering and professor of materials science and engineering, received an honorary doctor of engineering degree in 1996 Oak Ridge Associated Universities' (ORAU) Junior Faculty Enhancement Award. Turner, an expert in air pollution, won the award in the engineering category. The award honors outstanding faculty research at ORAU that will trace air particulate emissions from engine exhaust, tire wear and brake wear.

Speaking of

Kathleen Clark, J.D., associate professor of law, gave a talk on "Financing the Legal Representation of Education Employees Facing Investigation" in March at the St. John's University Law School, and she spoke on "Building a Team for Disability Employees" that same month at the St. Louis University Law School.

Rebecca L. Copeland, Ph.D., associate professor of Japanese language and literature at the University of Missouri, was named to the Bi-State Chapter board of directors. As senior professors, McKelvey and Motard will continue teaching and their involvement in the education of students. The senior professor concept is modeled on the federal judiciary program in which judges continue their work at their own pace on cases of their choosing. Similarly, senior professors are able to teach and research in their specialized areas as the opportunities present themselves.

"We want to retain real talent and decades of experience and offer the opportunity for value-added service to our academic community," said Clark.

Law school honors four with alumni awards

Four School of Law graduates received alumni awards this spring at the 24th annual Alumni Awards dinner at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Clayton.

The award recipients were Melvin F. Brown, John Antone, the Hon. Joseph J. Simonne and Charles Alan Seigel. "This year's group of awardees is an outstanding and accomplished class of graduates that we are proud to see as models for our peers as well as our current students," said Dorsey D. Ellis Jr., J.D., dean of the law school.

Brown, founding partner and chief executive officer of Deutsche Bank AG's unit of的日子 Capital Markets, received an honorary doctor of humane letters from McKendree College in Lebanon, Ill.

Richard Axelbaum garners NASA grant

Richard L. Axelbaum, Ph.D., assistant professor of mechanical engineering, is one of 20 U.S. researchers to benefit from $7 million worth of NASA grants for research in nanotechnology.

The grants are sponsored by NASA's Office of Life and Physical Sciences and Applications in Washington, D.C.

Combustion research involves many industries and is especially in demand in the aerospace, defense, medical and chemical processes. In recognition, they received the School's Dean's Medal in 1996. Said Dean Stuart I. Greenbaum, Ph.D., "We're very grateful for their support, which has been key to achieving national leadership in the field of combustion research and the leading school of business.)
Uncommon Market closes its doors

The Women's Society of Washington University closed the Uncommon Market, a corner store on the Hilltop Campus, effective June 14. The Women's Society, which has operated the market since 1969, reluctantly made the decision because of declining business and operational losses over the past two years. The Uncommon Market, which once provided a unique service to the University community, now serves its faculty and staff and the surrounding community with the Women's Society's philanthropic programs. The store's closure is not necessarily a forerunner to other corner store services throughout the Hilltop Campus, which are provided by other University transportation and delivery services.

The Women's Society operates two other stores on the Hilltop Campus: The Beach, a Star News convenience store gift shop in the Wahl Student Center, and The Furniture Exchange in the University Center on the Hilltop Campus.

Lowry was an experimental physicist whose passion for measuring minute quantities of blood led to the development of a technique that would later prove highly sensitive to the smallest variations in the blood's chemistry. This technique, known as the technique of Lowry, allowed him to measure the chemical composition of biological materials at the molecular level, making possible the study of cellular processes and the progression of diseases.

The technique of Lowry remains one of the most widely used methods in clinical and research settings. It has been instrumental in the development of many new drugs and treatments, and it continues to be a staple of biological research today.