3-27-1997

Washington University Record, March 27, 1997
program called TRUVUE and a simulated
tour of the desert through cyberspace. The simulated
tour was created by the Hewlett Foundation, a software
company that specializes in virtual reality. During spring
break, the students were able to use virtual reality to
take a virtual tour of the desert.

The experience, said Raymond E.
Arvidson, Ph.D., professor and chair of
the Department of Earth and Planetary
Sciences, is a forerunner of future field-
work. "Virtual reality can provide a
powerful tool for studying the surface of
planets and other celestial bodies," he said.

"Virtual reality is a new technology that has
the potential to revolutionize the way we
study the natural world," Arvidson said.

During spring break, the students used
a Geographic Information System, a series of
computers and software programs, to create
a virtual map of the Mojave Desert. The map
was used to study the topography of the area,
including mountains, canyons, and rivers.

School of Medicine scientists complete map of chromosome X

School of Medicine researchers have
taken a major step toward understanding
the genetic basis of Alzheimer's disease.

The researchers have used a new
technology called genomewide association
studies to identify genetic variations that
may increase the risk of developing
Alzheimer's disease. The study, published
in the journal Nature Genetics, is the first
to identify such genetic variations.

The researchers studied more than
300,000 genetic variations in more than
30,000 people with and without Alzheimer's
disease. They found that certain genetic
variations were more common in people
with Alzheimer's disease than in those
without it.

"This is the first time we've been able to
identify genetic variations that are linked
to Alzheimer's disease," said lead author
David Schlessinger, Ph.D., director of the
medical school's Center for Genetics in
Medicine and principal investigator for
the X project. "We hope that this will lead
to new treatments for Alzheimer's disease.

William Gass wins major literary award

For the second year in a row, a Wash-
ington University faculty member has
won a National Book Critics Circle Award.
William Gass, Ph.D., the David M. May
Distinguished University Professor in
the Humanities and director of the
Institutional Writers Center in Arts and
Sciences, won this year's National
Book Critics Circle Award in the criticism
category for his book "Finding a Form." Last
year, the late Stanley Elkin posthu-
ously won the award in the fiction
category for his novel "Mrs. Ted Bliss." Elkin,
Ph.D., was the Merle Kling Professor
of Modern Letters in Arts and Sciences
until his death in May 1995. Both Gass and
Elkin are two-time winners of the award.

Gass, who was unable to attend the
ceremony, said in a written statement:
"I promise to come to the ceremony if
I am honored by the National Book
Critics Circle. I'm as hopeful as the
previoussomewhat but I don't think it's
possible for me to attend the award ceremony.
I'm not the most photogenic person, so
I don't think I'd be a 'finalist,' but when I was unable to be
there, I sometimes 'won' by a syllable or
so down the stretch. I must apologize to
my fellow finalists because my absence...
...has given me an unfair advantage.
"I'm glad that I've received this award. In the
very book in question, I have an essay (often, it appears that
the book is not a critical one) which
complains that many prize-giving panels
(not the National Book Critics Circle of
course) 'take dead aim at mediocrity and
always hit their mark.' I'm not a panelist.
I'm not a member of the prize-giving
body, so I can't do better next time. If
there is a next time. If there is a next
year. I promise to come to the ceremony
if on that night I've been

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS
Vol. 21 No. 25 March 27, 1997
Executive Faculty establishes new compensation system

The Executive Faculty of the School of Medicine has approved a new schoolwide policy on faculty compensation. The policy establishes an incentive-based compensation system for all of the school’s investigator-track and clinician-track faculty members. Under the new policy, each department will develop its own compensation plan aimed at recognizing excellence in teaching, research and clinical care. Individual faculty members will be compensated according to the provisions of his or her department’s plan.

“Our faculty members play the essential role in maintaining the school’s tradition of excellence in patient care, teaching and research,” said William A. Peck, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the medical school. “This new policy is designed to help the school remain competitive in supporting and attracting investigators in recruiting individuals of the highest caliber.”

The new policy was developed by an Executive Faculty subcommittee headed by Ronald G. Evans, M.D., the Elizabeth Mallinckrodt Professor of Radiology and director of Washington University’s Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology. In addition to Evans, the subcommittee was made up of Alex S. Evans, M.D., D.D.S., M. Philip Mathews, M.D., professor and chair of the department; David C. Van Essen, Ph.D., the Edison Professor of Neurobiology; and Samuel A. Wells, Jr., M.D., the Bixby Professor of Surgery and chair of the department.

The policy does not apply to emeriti faculty, research-track appointments or research appointments.

Every faculty member covered by the policy will be paid, at minimum, a base salary established by his or her department. In addition, departmental plans can and will be conducted. Each department will independently develop and implement its own compensation plan, Evans said. Departmental compensation plans will be reviewed and approved by the University’s Office of the General Counsel, the Executive Faculty Administration and Finance Committee and the medical school’s dean. Departments should complete their plans and have them approved no later than June 30, 1998.

Once a departmental plan is approved, it will go into effect immediately unless the department requests a later start date, Evans said. At their start date, most departments will enter a three-year transition period during which reductions in total compensation — if they occur — will be limited to 5 percent a year.

At the discretion of the Administration and Finance Committee, some departments may be allowed to start their transition periods retroactively if they can demonstrate that they already have been operating under an incentive-based plan that complies with the schoolwide policy.

“This policy will help the School of Medicine maintain the highest possible levels of compensation in the rapidly changing environment of clinical and academic medicine,” Evans said.

The policy was developed after a careful review of compensation systems at comparable medical schools, he explained. Clinical departments at several of these schools already have incentive-based pay systems similar to the new Washington University policy, and a number of additional schools are considering such policies.

The compensation policy will work in concert with the medical school’s Practice Plan, a broad initiative aimed at improving service to patients, said Peck. One goal of the Practice Plan is to establish patient-care performance standards for clinical faculty. It is anticipated that departments will incorporate these performance standards into the assessment component of their compensation plans.

— Juli Leister

Matching up

Fourth-year medical student Brian Kwon reacts to his match on Match Day, which was March 19. This year on Match Day, Kwon and 13,553 other senior medical students in the United States learned which residency programs they will enter. Kwon will conduct his residency at University Hospitals of Cleveland, where he will train in orthopaedic surgery.

Leonard Berg

The first Leonard Berg Symposium on Alzheimer’s disease will be held at the School of Medicine on April 4, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. in the Eric P. Newman Education Center on May 1.

Leonard Berg, M.D., professor of neurology who will step down from his position as director of the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center May 1, recognize his contribution to the care of Alzheimer’s patients and their families and to the scientific search for a solution to this condition. The symposium is designed for physicians, nurses, social workers and research professionals and medical research scientists, though the general public also is welcome. Topics include an overview of Alzheimer’s disease, its oxidative damage to nerve cells, r-tau, experimental models, and the amyloid hypothesis of the disease. Speakers will come from across the country.

Berg graduated from Washington University School of Medicine and obtained a medical degree from the School of Medicine in 1949. He joined the faculty in 1955. Since then, he has headed federally funded studies that compare aging in healthy older persons and persons with dementia. The Healthy Aging and Smiley Dementia program has set international standards in evaluating patients with Alzheimer’s disease.

Berg has received the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center grants from the National Institute on Aging since 1985. The funding has supported a wide range of clinical and basic-science studies and outreach programs.

In 1985, Berg helped establish the St. Louis chapter of the Alzheimer’s Disease Association. He was elected to the medical and scientific advisory board of the national organization in 1956 and chaired that board from 1981-85. He has also served on the association’s national board and on its ethics advisory panel. From 1988 to 1995, he chaired the Missouri State Advisory Board on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders, and he was a member of the U.S. Congress Advisory Panel on Alzheimer’s Disease.

The symposium is free, but reservations are required. A luncheon, with remarks by William A. Peck, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the medical school, costs $25. Call (314) 362-6891 for further information or fax reservations to (314) 362-1087.
Kropp embraces total quality — totally

It's no wonder that Dean H. Kropp, Ph.D., knows total quality. He writes it on his wall. After all, he teaches the ideals of quality management as they relate to manufacturing and service firms, and he instructs the “Total Quality Schools” course, a program in which Washington University students help area public schools use Total Quality Management principles to improve their effectiveness.

The marvel is the way Kropp, associate dean and the David B. and Nancy Belt School of Engineering Operations and Manufacturing Management, practices what he teaches at the John M. Olin School of Business.

He said having fun and working hard are keys to success. The blend seems to work for him — students have rated him "Teacher of the Year" not only for 1996 but for seven of the last eight years. Beginning with the first course he taught at the business school in 1986, Kropp has won acclaim for his lecturing, accessibility and overall teaching.

"He has tremendous energy and passion for teaching, which clearly comes through in all of his classes," said Cynthia Meiners, who served a master's degree in business administration (MBA) in 1988. "He helped me see that the quest for quality is about motivation, computer systems and algorithms. It's about people and mostly about leadership. He makes his classes come alive by applying them to real-world companies and situations."

These skills serve Kropp well in teaching venues worldwide. He has been a visiting professor at the European School of Management in Paris, and he now teaches in special management programs at Stanford University and at the Institute for Management Development in Geneva, Switzerland.

His consulting clients — companies he's advised on production planning, inventory control, quality management, purchasing strategy and business policy — include Amphenol-Danco Inc., Campbell Soup Co., McDonnell Douglas Corp., the Swiss rolling bearing company SKF Group and Unilever Group, a $50 billion British-Dutch company that includes Lever Brothers, Ragú Pasta Sauces and Cheesecake Factory Inc. These companies and their leaders have benefited from Kropp's research and his grasp of issues affecting their industries.

Another beneficiary is MEMC Electronic Materials Inc., a world-leading supplier of silicon wafers from which microprocessors, memory chips and other semiconductors are made.

"In 1987, when I was plant manager at MEMC in St. Peters (Mo.), I asked Dean to help our plant improve its performance," said Ralph D. Hartung, now president of MEMC/Europe. "He really helped us move from traditional manufacturing to manufacturing excellence. Sometimes it is hard to keep a clear vision of where you need to go while dealing with many day-to-day issues, so it was invaluable to me to have a good counselor such as Dean."

At the business school, Kropp balances administration and research. He's played a pivotal role in many new programs. He is academic co-director of the new executive master's of manufacturing management degree program, which introduces curricula for the professional and full-time MBA programs; and he helped develop the "Total Quality Schools" program. It's also been a production advisory board member, and he still finds time to sustain a program of research on operations management with business school colleagues and doctoral students.

What keeps Kropp going? "Variety," he said. "I'm really a jack-of-all-trades. I'm not the best teacher, the most prolific researcher, the busiest consultant or the most service-oriented — but I try to be one of the best in all those areas. I like variety, and I believe in balance. I don't ever do one thing to the exclusion of all others. I believe research, consulting and teaching enrich each other."
Exhibitions

"Abstract Expressionism: American Art 1940-1960," and the completion of 20th-century masterpieces by artists of the "New York School." Through April 6. Gallery of Art, upper galley, Steinberg Hall. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays; 1 to 5 p.m. weekends. 935-4323.

Lectures

Thursday, March 27

Noon, Genetics seminar. Topic to be announced. Speaker is Francis Collins, National Institutes of Health; and Peter Lawrence, National Library of Medicine. Noon. Neogene Seminars. 935-4323.


3:45 p.m. Science talk. "Behavioral and Neural Responses to Interactive Sensations," John and Penelope Assembly Series. The Faculty of Philosophy, U. of California at Los Angeles. Room 353 West Campus. 935-4567.

4 p.m. Monday, March 31


3:45 p.m. Science talk. "Behavioral and Neural Responses to Interactive Sensations," John and Penelope Assembly Series. The Faculty of Philosophy, U. of California at Los Angeles. Room 353 West Campus. 935-4567.

Events

Filmboard Midnight Series: "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil." Room 219 South Ridgley Hall. 9:30 p.m. Show. 935-5983.

"The Secret of NIMH." (Also March 29, same time, and March 30 at 7 p.m.)

Midnight, Filmboard Midnights. "The Secret of NIMH." (Also March 29, same time, and March 30 at 7 p.m.)

Tuesday, April 1

6 p.m. Repertory Film Series. "The Family Game." Room 219 South Ridgley Hall. 9:30 p.m. Show. 935-5983.

7 p.m. Filmboard Classic Series. "The Wages of Fear." Room 219 South Ridgley Hall. 9:30 p.m. Show. 935-5983.

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Friday, April 4

7:30 p.m. Filmboard Classic Series. "Lone Star." (Also April 5, same times, and April 6 at 7 p.m.)

Monday, March 31

5:30 p.m. Filmboard Midnight Series. "Reservoir Dogs." (Also April 5, same time, and April 6 at 6:30 p.m.)

Films

All Filmboard movies cost $3 and are shown in Room 100 Brown Hall. For the complete Filmboard schedule, call 935-9983.

Friday, March 28

7 and 9:30 p.m. Filmboard Feature Series. "Flight." Room 219 South Ridgley Hall. 9:30 p.m. Show. 935-5983.

Monday, March 31

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Tuesday, April 8
Fiction reading. superb: author of "Criminals" and "Homework," will read from her latest novel, "Staple Lounge, Room 201 Duncar Hall, 935-1590.

Friday, April 4
7:25 a.m. Office of Continuing Medical Education seminar: "Clinical Vascular Update." (Continues April 3.) Eric P. Newman Education Center, Call 362-6891 for costs and to register.
7:30 a.m. Office of Continuing Medical Education seminar: "Alzheimer's disease." Eric P. Newman Education Center, Call 362-6891, see story on page 2. Call 362-6891 to register.
Saturday, April 5
10 a.m.-p.m. Acting workshop. "Acting for the Camera." Sponsored by the Leonard Berg Newman Education Center, $8 for the general public; $6 for senior citizens and UW students, faculty and staff. (See story on page 6.) 935-6543.

Saturday, April 5
8 a.m. Edison Theatre's "OVATIONS!" presents Sweet Honey in The Rock, a female a cappella group known for lush harmonies and varied musical styles. Cost for the 8 p.m. show: $20-$35. (Also 8 p.m. March 30 at 2 and 8 p.m.) Hillel Center, 6300 Forsyth Blvd.; March 28, 7 p.m., and 30 at 11 a.m., Easter Sunday Mass, Catholic Student Center (CSC), 4th floor, 6352 Forsyth Blvd.; March 28, 7 p.m., Twenty-third annual Internal Medicine Review (continued). The topic is cardiology. Steinberg Amphitheater, 935-4523.
5:30-7:30 p.m. "RUMORS," a farce by Neil Simon. Written and directed by Hugh Macdonald, prof, and chair, English. (See story on page 6.) Room 201 Duncker Hall. 935-5190.
6-11 p.m. Easter dance. Sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). "The Culture of Bruising: Essays on Prize-Fighting, Literature and Modern American Culture." Among the finalists in the criticism category were "The True Story of the Novel" by Margaret Atwood, "No Free Ride: From the Mean Streets to the Main Stream," chronicles his rise from a life on the streets to a life as a political leader. He was the co-founder and, from 1974 to 1990, the executive director of the Princeton Review. He is the author of "The Archaeology of Ancient Sicily" at 4 p.m., in Steinberg Hall auditorium. This Assembly Series lecture is free and open to the public.
Holloway is the director of the Center for Old World Archaeology and Art and is a winner of the National Geographic Society's Gold Medal for Archaeological Achievement.
Holloway earned a bachelor's degree, cum laude, in 1960 from the University of Maryland for his master's degree in 1967 at the University of Pennsylvania, and a master's degree and a doctorate in 1969 from the University of Pennsylvania.
For information, call (314) 935-5285.
April Welcome expected to draw 1,000 visitors

Just as the first crocuses are sprouting in Brookings Quadrangle, April Welcome is springing into action. The annual meeting event will bring about 1,000 prospective students of the Class of 2001 to campus to sample life at Washington University.

Each student admitted to next fall's freshman class received a letter or her admission packet inviting her to visit the campus anytime in April. Thousands of letters were mailed from an all-time record of nearly 14,000 undergraduate applications, an increase of 23 percent over last year.

April Welcome is a critical factor in determining whether or not a student chooses to attend St. Louis. Nearly 70 percent of all prospective students are interviewed during April Welcome, and an additional 10 percent or so sign up for campus visits in May and June.

While in St. Louis, the high school seniors can get an up-close look at college life and off campus. They can stay with current Washington University students in a residence hall; sit in on a variety of classes; talk with faculty members; attend meetings and special events sponsored by numerous student organizations; and visit the area's attractions, from The Saint Louis Art Museum to the Gateway Arch.

The second weekend of the month will be a Multicultural Celebration, an event devoted to multicultural students and co-sponsored by the admissions office and co-sponsored by the campus diversity office.

For the entire month, the undergraduate admissions office in the Box Office, 12 Eads Hall, will extend its hours for prospective students and their parents. In addition to its regular 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekday hours, the office will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Student Financial Services, Room 12 Eads Hall, will hold drop-in hours from 1 to 2 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and from 10:30 a.m. and noon Sundays and at noon Sundays.

Additional campus tours will be added to the schedule for April Welcome. Tours will leave from the undergraduate admissions office at 10 and 11 a.m. and at 2 and 3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Center. The man is described as white; in his late 40s to early 50s; with medium-length, thinning gray hair; and wearing a harlequin T-shirt and possibly a ninja mask.

March 17

11:36 a.m. — A VCR was reported stolen from the Women's Building.

March 18

3:16 p.m. — A computer was reported stolen from a Bryan Hall computer lab.

March 19

5:41 p.m. — A portable radio, keys and a wallet containing credit cards were reported stolen from Liggett Residence Hall.

March 20

7:52 p.m. — A backpack containing $50, books and credit cards was reported stolen from a bench on the intramural field.

March 21

11:30 p.m. — A student reported that a man exposed himself in the north lobby entrance of Wohl Student Center.

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department from March 17-23. Readers with information that could assist the investigation of these incidents are urged to call the University Police at 938-8355. This release is provided as a public service to promote safety-awareness on campus.

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

Of note
Lucian V. Del Priore, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences and theotography and molecular biophysics, has received a $978,548, four-year grant from the National Eye Institute for a project titled "Transplantation of the Retinal Pigment Epithelium."

Kenneth E. Freedland, Ph.D., associate professor of psychiatry, has received a $450,000, four-year grant from the National Institute of Mental Health for a project titled "Depression and Heart Failure in the Elderly."

Joe Dalg, professor and dean of the School of Art, recently was elected to the board of directors of the College Art Association (CAA). Deal was among three visual artists and three art historians elected in February to serve through the year 2001. In 1991, the CAA is one of the primary advocacy groups for professional artists and art historians. The 15,000 CAA members worldwide include art critics, curators, conservators and administrators who work in higher education, and in museums, galleries, libraries, art organizations and individual studios.

Gloria W. Chiou, 1949 alumna, is the first individual to receive the award of human resources, recently was appointed to the board of managers for the Central Institute for the Deaf (CID). The appointment was made during the CID's 22nd annual board meeting last December. White also has been re-elected as chair of the board of directors of the Caring Program for Children. This not-for-profit organization provides health-care benefits to children whose parents earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford to buy private health insurance.

Speaking of
John Host, visiting assistant professor of architecture and director of the Master of Architecture in Urban Design Program, recently made presentations at the University's new master's program in Urban Design and Justice and Difference in the Public Realm — Investigating the Implications of Urban Form in the City of Johannesburg at the University of Johannesburg in the Southern Africa at the "What is a City?" conference held at the University of Missouri-St. Louis' Center for Urban and Regional Humanities.

To press

Guidelines for submitting copy:
Send your full name, complete title(s), department(s), phone number and highest earned degree(s), along with a typed description of your noteworthy activity, to For The Record.

The following is a recent release available at the Campus Bookstore in Mallinckrodt Center on the Hilltop Campus or by calling the Campus Information Center. For more information, call (314) 935-5500 (Hilltop Campus) or (314) 362-3240 (School of Medicine).

"Your Voice Like a Ram's Horn"
Themes and Texts in Traditional Jewish Preaching
(Jewish Religious College Press: Cleveland, 1994)
Marc E. Saperstein, Ph.D., the Gloria M. Goldstein Professor of Jewish History and Thought and chair of the Department of Jewish and Near Eastern Studies in Arts and Sciences

The 18 studies in this book continue the exploration of the Jewish sermon — an investigation Saperstein began in his groundbreaking Preaching 1200 B.C.E.-1970 in America. His new research further illustrates the importance of this genre, largely ignored by modern scholars, in understanding Jewish history, spirituality and thought from the Middle Ages to the beginning of the Enlightenment in Europe.

The first half of the book presents thematic studies. Saperstein explores the most important occasions for traditional rabbinic preaching — the Days of Awe and the Passover. The second half presents a comprehensive analysis of classical Jewish texts, and two deal with the historical interactions of Christians and Jews. He discusses the diffusion of philosophical ideas through homilies and identifies the socio-political consequences of Jewish preachers. Other essays include a critical analysis of the work of Saul Levi Morteira of Amsterdam; an examination of sermons in 18th-century Prague for indications of a traditional or modernist bias; and an investigation of the sense of patriotic identification with the state, even before the Emancipation changed that legal status.

In the second half, Saperstein presents newly discovered sermonic texts to explore a full panorama of issues relating to historical context and genre. All are published for the first time, with his annotated translation accompanying the Hebrew original. Included are a "Guide for Preachers"; sermons on repentance and on the Binding of Isaac; and three polemics — the last a fascinating memorialization of the anti-Semitic empress Maria Theresa. (Excerpted from book jacket.)
Research team finds disease genes - page

 `'Focus' class focuses on Mojave Desert during spring break - page 1

Study ing the area for the testing - page 2

The class toured Death Valley one day, making five stops to view such geological formations as cinder cones, dunes of salt, cacti, Joshua trees, and to experience such intriguing places as the Great Chaco, the Zuni Point and Mesa Hills. The class toured Death Valley one day, making five stops to view such geological formations as cinder cones, dunes of salt, cacti, Joshua trees, and to experience such intriguing places as the Great Chaco, the Zuni Point and Mesa Hills. They also hiked to the top of the "Death Valley Bowl."