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Underground Railroad project blends history, technology for city youngsters

Robert Blackmon has heard how his great-grandmother—“three times great,” he reckons—picked cotton as a young girl in the fields of Mississippi. “She told my grandma and my grandma told me. That’s how I know.”

Now 11-year-old Robert is telling the world how thousands of slaves, perhaps even his own kin, found freedom via the Underground Railroad.

Robert is one of 14 students, ranging from grades four through eight, taking part in an endeavor that blends both the old and the new: history and technology.

Dubbed “HistoryWeb St. Louis,” the project is teaching after-school clubs at Compton-Drew Investigative Learning Center Middle School and Delmar-Compton-Drew Investigative Learning Center how to design pages for the World Wide Web.

The theme is the Underground Railroad—and the goal is to create an integrated Web site to be posted as an exhibit at the Missouri Historical Society and on the Internet.

Overseeing the project, which is backed by a McDonnell Foundation grant, is Joe Polman, Ph.D., a postdoctoral research associate in education in Arts and Sciences. James Wertsch, Ph.D., professor and chair of education, is sponsoring Polman.

The aim of “HistoryWeb St. Louis,” Polman said, is three-fold. Students are being introduced to new technological skills while learning history in a more personal way. The synthesis will allow Polman to further test educational approaches that encourage project-based learning in informal settings.

“History is not just a matter of memorizing what happened on what date,” Polman said. “We want to try to begin to make history personally meaningful to these kids and get them interested.

“We’ve tried to choose an exciting topic, with some issues that are relevant to our local area. St. Louis and Missouri, as we all know, have a really tortured racial history. Missouri was a slave state, bordering Illinois, which was ‘free.’ In many ways, St. Louis is still a border, and a lot of the issues are still going on today.

“The students get to act as detectives,” he continued, “trying to determine what happened on what date, what was the significance of the event, and why is it important to the local area.

“Great,” he reckon, “picking up when we thought would still be up.”

“We didn’t know until the end of the night that we hit $10,000,” Lottner said, recalling the painstaking job of counting the donation slips by one. “As we hit six thousand, seven thousand, eight thousand, nine thousand, ten thousand—we were ecstatic. We were running around the house, yelling and screaming, telling all the guys and making calls to whoever we thought would still be up.”

“Last year, the trio of marketing majors at Washington University’s prepaid meal-plan points and Schaefer recalled with a laugh. “And I thought, ‘Thirteen what?’ Thirteen dollars?”

“That total quadrupled the goal of $5,000, which we thought would still be up.”

Washington University has received a $15 million challenge grant from Emerson Electric Co. and its chairman, Charles F. Knight, for the John M. Olin School of Business. Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton announced. The grant is a combination of company and personal funds. Along with a $15 million grant from the John M. Olin Foundation in 1988, this is the largest single gift the business school has ever received.

The donation from Emerson and Knight will help the business school accelerate its ascent among top business schools to become a world-class provider of management education. In particular, the grant will strengthen executive education, a new emphasis including degree and non-degree programs for management professionals. Strengthening these programs, which are in great demand nationwide, and developing an executive education center are among the school’s top priorities.

The grant will be used as a challenge to encourage University alumni and friends to support the school’s priorities. Terms of the challenge grant are being developed.

“The partnership formed many years ago between Chuck Knight, Emerson Electric and Washington University has been a rewarding one,” Wrighton said.

“This gift will help us realize our aspirations by augmenting world-class faculty and other essential teaching resources.”
Costing lives
Long delays in angioplasty deadly to heart attack patients

Delays in angioplasty may be costing lives, according to a study by cardiologist Alan J. Tiefenbrunn, M.D., associate professor of medicine and assistant professor of radiology.

When a heart attack patient is brought to a small hospital that can't perform angioplasty, the physician has two choices: Treat the patient with clot-busting drugs or transfer the patient to a larger hospital for angioplasty. According to the study, sending the patient away for angioplasty may be the more dangerous option. Patients who are transferred are more than 50 percent more likely to die in the hospital compared with patients who receive drugs or angioplasty without being transferred.

"The delay caused by transferring patients for angioplasty poses a very real threat," said Tiefenbrunn, who presented the results last month at the American Heart Association's 70th Scientific Sessions in Orlando, Fla.

Tiefenbrunn conducted the study with researchers from Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, the University of Washington, the Harbor UCLA Medical Center, the University of Massachusetts Medical Center and the University of Alabama Hospital.

Using records from the National Registry of Myocardial Infarction, the researchers examined the cases of 1,307 patients who were eligible for thrombolytic drugs but were sent to another hospital for angioplasty. On average, these patients underwent angioplasty six hours after their heart attacks, and almost 8 percent of them died in the hospital.

More than 50,000 other heart attack patients included in the study fared about four hours after their heart attacks, and only 5 percent of them died in the hospital. The death rate for patients who received drugs also was about 5 percent.

Angioplasty may be a life-saving procedure, but it often isn't worth a trip, Tiefenbrunn said. "Patients who are sent to another hospital for angioplasty can wait far too long to get treated," he said. "We think the increased mortality in these patients is related to the delay." Tiefenbrunn noted that almost 25 percent of transferred patients ended up getting their angioplasty 11 or more hours after their heart attacks.

The trip from one hospital to another rarely takes more than an hour, but other logistical problems slow down treatment, Tiefenbrunn said. He noted, however, that some hospitals have managed to streamline the transfer process and can treat patients promptly. Every hospital and emergency department in America is equipped with thrombolytic drugs, and patients who receive the drugs generally fare just as well as patients who undergo angioplasty, Tiefenbrunn said.

But angioplasty has its advantages. Using a tube snaked through an artery in the leg or the arm, the doctor is able to view the obstructed vessel with X-rays and then break apart any blood clots. Thrombolytic drugs, in contrast, stage a blind attack against the clots. The doctor never sees the obstruction and can't be sure if the treatment was successful. In addition, angioplasty is the only option for many patients who aren't good candidates for thrombolytic drugs. These include patients who are in shock or who are at increased risk for bleeding.

Tiefenbrunn, who has performed many angioplasties on heart attack patients at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, said the procedure is extremely valuable — if it can be done quickly. At Barnes-Jewish, people who have heart attack during the day, when the heart catheter lab is fully staffed and ready for patients, generally undergo angioplasties. But those who have heart attacks at night often receive thrombolytic drugs. Each treatment costs about the same and gives patients the same chance for survival, Tiefenbrunn said.

— Chris Woolston

The facts about pneumococcus

KMOW-TV medical reporter Al Wiman interviews Gregory Storch, M.D., professor of pediatrics, for a story about antibiotic resistance to pneumococcus, which can cause pneumonia and ear infections. The story aired Nov. 25. Last year, School of Medicine faculty appeared some 2,000 times in major newspapers and magazines and on radio and television.

Peck named to Research/America Board of Directors

William A. Peck, M.D., executive vice chancellor of the School of Medicine, has been named to the board of directors of Research/America, a national not-for-profit alliance that works to promote medical research.

A world-renowned internist, Peck is recognized for his osteoporosis and bone metabolism research. He is the founding president of the National Osteoporosis Foundation and has served on numerous academic society committees, medical editorial boards and pharmaceutical company advisory boards.

In November, he became chair-elect of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Peck has received numerous honors and awards, including a National Institutes of Health's Dean's Award and a Food and Drug Administration Commissioner's Award. The Society of Hospital Medicine honored Peck with its Visionary Leadership Award in 1992.

Peck has served on numerous academic administrative committees including more than 350 businesses, academic institutions, hospitals, research institutes, health organizations, philanthropies and individuals.

Research/America works to gain funding and public support for medical research. Its membership includes more than 350 businesses, academic institutions, hospitals, research institutes, health organizations, philanthropies and individuals.
Crane heads up key medical school initiatives

In 1977, he came back to Washington University as a faculty member and as the first medical director of the Perinatal Diagnosis and Prevention Programs. Over the years, he and his staff established a wealth of programs: a cytogenetics laboratory to do chromosome testing, a genetics program for neural tube defects and a hotline for physicians and patients who have concerns about potential drug exposure during a woman's pregnancy.

At the same time, he conducted his own research, publishing papers on laboratory in-новities related to genetic diagnosis. That work led him to think about embryonic development at a cellular level. But by 1981, Crane had run out of lab space, so when Jewish Hospital offered him the position of obstetrician-in-chief, with a 2,500-square-foot laboratory, he decided to accept.

While at Jewish, he and Ronald Strickler, M.D., then professor of obstetrics and gynecology, flew to Norfolk, Va., to learn the techniques of in vitro fertilization (IVF) from the only center in the country then doing the procedure. They came back to St. Louis, and after Missouri's first program — then called the birth of the state's first IVF baby in 1985.

His own accomplishments during these years include the establishment of Michael Nelson, M.D., Ph.D., who now holds the chair in obstetrics that Crane previously held, was a medical student at Barnes in 1977 when he first met Crane. "One of the reasons I went into high-risk obstetrics was that Jim Crane showed me by his own practice what an academic career can be," he said.

In 1987, Crane began looking into the question of routinely offering ultrasound screening for low-risk pregnancies. With colleagues from Harvard University and the University of Missouri-Columbia, he embarked on a randomized clinical study of 15,530 pregnant women. The results, which were published in the New England Journal of Medicine in 1993, showed that routine tests do not improve maternal or fetal outcome — and they cost hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

"That is the question of prudently applying medical resources," he said, "and I felt that before prenatal care was being doubled by the number of ultrasounds performed during pregnancy, and there were similar risks in the medical discipline. That was one of the reasons I was interested in doing more in the area of clinical outcomes and the cost of medical care."

Managed care's impact on patients

Increasingly, Crane also became concerned about the evolution of managed care and its impact on patient care. "I saw a less-than-rational duplication of medical services across the community," he said, "and I felt that physicians needed to take a greater responsibility for medical decision making."

So when Peck recruited him for the associate vice chancellor position in 1991, he decided to accept. Now his days are long, filled with meetings and phone calls. He sometimes misses teaching, a role that garnered him several awards, though he still manages to serve as associate editor of the Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine.

His colleagues praise him for his grace under pressure. "Jim brings truly remarkable leadership to dealing with the turbulent changes in health care that face the School of Medicine," said Alan L. Schwartz, M.D., Ph.D., the Harriet B. Spoehrer Professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, who has worked closely with Crane in developing the Faculty Practice Plan.

"He has an in-depth understanding of the factors that affect our ability to remain a premier medical center."

In his spare time, Crane is volunteer chair of the St. Louis Health Care Alliance, a group that works to improve the quality of care in the hospital system. He also likes to bike, ski, listen to classical music and spend time with his family — his wife, Pamela; son, Jim; and daughter, Nancy.

"I am interested and optimistic about our ability to maintain and enhance the outstanding reputation of our nation's leading medical schools," Crane said. "I have a deep sense of commitment to Washington University, and I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to serve the school and its faculty during these challenging times."

James P. Crane, M.D., discusses the School of Medicine's campus integration plan with Joan Podleski, assistant vice chancellor for clinical affairs.

"Our community has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the country. If we have limited health care dollars to spend, how do we best use them?"

Washington People

Crane, born in Altion, Ill., decided to become a doctor because of a life-changing experience when he was a junior in high school. A strong science student, he thought he was interested in medicine. So he asked a family practitioner in town if he could tag along with him for a day.

"I still remember it vividly," Crane said. "We went from about 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and I followed him through rounds at the hospital, through his day in the office and back to the hospital in the evening. At the end of the day, I had no doubt what I was going to do — and I never wavered from that decision."

He graduated from Indiana University at Bloomington and then its medical school in Indianapolis, where he got his first taste of providing care for the indigent. With several other residents, he organized a free clinic in south Indianapolis.

In 1970, he came to Barnes Hospital for a residency
Calendar

Dec. 4-13
Visit Washington University's on-line calendar at http://calendars.wustl.edu/calendar/events/

Exhibitions


"Graduate Round Tables." "Bound Conformation of a Peptide Ligand" (continued). Stanley Sawyer, prof. of mathematics. Room 113 Cupples I Hall. 935-6763.


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Frantic holiday shopping not inevitable, says expert

Whether it's a last-minute rush to the mall, a year-long obsession or an endless quest for the "perfect gift," the joy of giving has the potential to turn the holiday season into a seasonal nightmare.

Edward B. Fisher, Ph.D., professor of psychology in Arts and Sciences and director of the Center for Health Behavior Research at the School of Medicine, has tips to share about how psychological principles of self-control might help keep shopping from interfering too much with the holiday spirit.

An expert on helping people gain control of personal habits, such as smoking and overeating, Fisher said many of the same techniques can be used to get a grip on holiday shopping.

"Obsessive holiday shopping can result from unrealistic expectations about how important it is to find the perfect gift," Fisher noted. "Just as they need to put in perspective their goals for the perfect figure or physical shoppers might ask if their family wouldn't view their presence in good cheer at family gatherings as more important than the present given.

Those desiring the prospect of shopping might benefit from some of the same self-control strategies that help people deal with temptations to overeat or smoke. "Pinpoint the specific problem, whether it's waiting until the last minute, overspending or going into a funk that the perfect present hasn't emerged," Fisher said. "Then think of specific ways of engineering things to keep this from happening. Schedule a shopping day in early December. Take cash rather than plastic cards, but be careful where you keep it. Or convene a focus group of office mates or friends to brainstorm some alternatives, such as a really bottle of perfume for Aunt Agatha."

Fisher thinks that malls may so over-stimulate their senses that they are trying to find the perfect presents from all the options available, but this strategy can backfire," he said. "The mall is a stimulius-laden place that people get distracted. They may be more creative at home. WallaWallah shops in town or thinking of gift ideas with a pad or perhaps some catalogs at home."

But Fisher isn't totally convinced that the holidays are the time for self-control. "Maybe an important lesson of the holidays is to show us that all is not self-control," he suggested. "We indulge our childish parts, hoping for our own perfect gift, hoping that this year everybody will be single and looking for a soul mate or showing our unglued side by the manner in which we manage to get the shopping done. Marisol's the act of this."

Fisher urges others to shop early but allows that his own self-control strategy is to "remember that FedEx operates on the 23rd and 24th." He added: "My friends write the strength that I depend on this 'crutch,' but the cost of the shipping buys me three weeks of a lot less stress. Actually, by the time it's December 20th, I think I enjoy the four days of frenzy!"

Playwright Rivera visits campus for performance of 'Marisol'

Award winning playwright Jose Rivera will visit Washington University Dec. 4-6 when the Performing Arts Department (PAD) in Arts and Sciences presents his realistic drama "Marisol." Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4, 5 and 6, and at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 6 and 7, in the A.J. Hitchcock Studio Theatre, Arts and Sciences.

Rivera will lead a discussion after the Dec. 4 performance, followed by a reception in his honor. At noon, Dec. 5, Rivera will lecture on his work in the Women's Building Lounge. Both the reception and the lecture are free and open to the public.

Rivera's visit is co-sponsored by PAD and Thyrus, a student-run performing arts organization.

"Part Lustful Desires," part "Mad Max," "Marisol" tells the story of Marisol Perez, a young woman whose guardian angel has, at last count, saved her from "one place of death to another." But the angel, led by Marisol's guardian, abandons the human race to wage a bloody war in heaven, Marisol must learn to survive on her own in a nightmarish urban jungle.

"I think Rivera really captures the spirit of the millennium," said director Robert Nolbert, an Arts and Sciences doctoral candidate in comparative literature with an emphasis in drama. "We live in the '90s and think that our myths have been destroyed, but Rivera reminds us that myths are always being made. He creates myths."

But Neblett emphasizes that the play is not a recitation of contemporary ills. "I don't want to give the impression that 'Marisol' is just some grand, apocalyptic diorama. While there are some pretty scary, violent scenes, it's also a very funny play with some very light, ironic, human moments."

Rivera was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1955. His other plays include "The House of Ramon Iglesias," "The Promises," "Each Day Dies With Sleep," "Guns Have Us in Their Books" and "Cloud Tectonics," among others. Honors for "Marisol," which is jointly produced by Dramatists Play Service, American Theatre Magazine and Theatre Communi-
tations Council, include an Obie Award for Outstanding Play and six DramaL ogo Awards including Best Play.

Tickets are $10 for the general public and $7 for senior citizens and Washington University staff and faculty. Tickets are available at the Arts and Education Council ticket outlets (334-1111). For more information, call 935-5858.

Author David Foster Wallace to read for International Writers Center series

A author David Foster Wallace will read from his works at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9, at the West Campus Conference Center. The event will inaugurate the 1997-98 Reading Series for the International Writers Center in Arts and Sciences.

Wallace’s book of essays, “A Supposedly Fun Thing I’ll Never Do Again,” published this year, is "animated by Mr. Wallace’s wondrously exuberant prose, a zingy, elastic gift for metaphor and imagina-
tive sleight of hand that has influenced all kinds of tastes from amphetamine-like stream-of-

Wallace also wrote the novels "Infinite Jest" (1996) and "The Broom of the System" (1987) and the short story collection "Gant With Curious Hair" (1989). With Mark Costello, he wrote "Signifying Rappers" (1990), an investigation of rap and popular culture in America. Wallace has received the Whiting Award, the Lannan Award for Fiction, the Paris Review Prize for humor, the Guggenheim Joe Savago New Voices Award, an O. Henry Award and a 1997 MacArthur Fellowship.

Born in Ithaca, N.Y., in 1962, Wallace grew up in central Illinois. He received a bachelor's degree in 1986 in English and philosophy from Amherst College and a master of fine arts in 1987 from the University of Arizona. He now lives in Bloomington, Ill., and is an associate professor of English at Illinois State University.


A season subscription to the reading series is $15. Individual readings are $5 and free for students and senior citizens with I.D. Tickets are available at the Ar
tis and Letters Awards including Best Play.

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Ongoing odyssey from patent to market for hearing aid

Underground Railroad project blends history and technology

A half million transistors occupy this tiny chip — smaller than the ibuprofen tablet on the left — making possible the fully digital hearing aid conceived and patented by Robert E. Morley, D.Sc., (above) and University colleagues.

Washington University/CID device never made it to market. In 1990, the sum of $3,398 was approved to fund this research project. It was an exciting time for Senesky's group and the people who made it possible.

Morley hatched his idea in 1981 in the medical center's basement, not long after he joined the electrical engineering department. He observed the analog hearing aid that Martin Luther King Jr. carried shortly after he joined the religious engineering department. He observed the analog hearing aid that Martin Luther King Jr. carried shortly after he joined the religious engineering department. He observed the analog hearing aid that Martin Luther King Jr. carried shortly after he joined the religious engineering department.

That's a very motivating thing. The idea went on and tell the stories from the Underground Railroad project blends history and technology. Undergraduate student blends history and technology. Undergraduate student blends history and technology. Undergraduate student blends history and technology.

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department from Nov. 17-30. Readers with information that could help solve any of these crimes are urged to call 938-7272. The campus police are offering a $200 reward for information leading to an arrest and recovery of the lost or stolen property.

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Pancreatic cancer Nov. 25, 1997, at his home in Pittsboro, N.C. He was 66.

John Nelson Morris

1979 he won the Award in Literature in Arts and Sciences, for his poetry book "Reflections of Paris," which was recently displayed in a joint exhibit with the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the French Institute in New York. Morris was a frequent contributor to the New York Times and the New Yorker.

Morris taught poetry and 18th-century literature at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a professor and chair of English. "He always had a knack for explaining complex ideas in a way that made them accessible to students," said his former student David Moessner, now a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "He was a master of the craft and a generous mentor to his students."
Hilltop Campus

Information regarding these and other positions may be obtained at the Office of Human Resources, 4490 Clayton Road, St. Louis, 63121. Applications are accepted at any time. Applications need not currently be posted at the above address. However, we will call your attention to new positions as they become available.

Computer End-User Support Specialist

Software Engineering

University's Board of Trustees. In 1996, he

SAE brothers raise consciousness and $20,000 to help the hungry——from page 1

John M. Oliver, Chairman of the

Medical Campus

The following is a partial list of po-

gations available at the School of Medicine. If you are interested in one of these positions you should contact the medical school's Department of Human Resources at 662-7195 or visit the school's Office of Career Services.

Staff Editorial Assistant 09149

Requirements: Some college, telephone proficiency, word processing skills, attention to detail, ability to meet deadlines, ability to work independently and with minimal supervision; attention to detail.

Manager, University Accounting Department 09157

Requirements: Bachelor's degree, five years progressive experience in performing and supervising accounting and analytical services, ability to manage multiple projects; ability to work in-dependently with minimal super-

recently, Chuck has been a

Executive Master of Business Administra-

tion (EMBA) and two new programs, the

Executive MBA program in

University's Department of Human Re-

The enhanced facilities and augmented senior faculty will permit the Business School to offer a more diversified, more flexible, and more attractive to employers considering candidates.

The development of the business school will expand its current programs for executives with content designed specifically for the needs of executives. The School intends to begin offering open-enrollment programs

Knight-Emerson gift supports Olin School of Business——from page 1

Stuart I. Greenbaum, business school dean, said, "As a result of this gift, the Olin School will become an even greater resource to the St. Louis region and its educational opportunities to companies of all sizes throughout the entire region. In addition, the availability of executive education opportunities of the highest quality will make us even more attractive to employers considering graduates.

In addition to professional development programs, the business school offers three degree programs for executives — the Master of Business Administration (EMBA) and two new programs, the Executive MBA program in Manufacturing Management, and the Master of Business Administration.

The University has maintained a School of Business since 1917 and awarded its first degree in 1919. The school added a MBA program in 1956. In 1963, it added an MBA program in manufacturing and in 1983, and, in 1997, the master's programs in manufacturing and health services.

In 1988, the business school was named in honor of the late John M. Oliver, Chairman of the Olin Corp., University trustee and a major benefactor of the University.