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Steinbach named to new Sheldon professorship

By Jim Dryden

Russell D. Sheldon, M.D., and his wife, Mary, have created a new professorship in anesthesiology at the School of Medicine. Called the Russell D. and Mary B. Sheldon Professorship, the chair’s first occupant is Joseph Henry Steinbach, M.D., a professor of anesthesiology and of neurobiology. Steinbach has been a faculty member since 1984. Sheldon, a neurosurgeon who earned a medical degree from Washington University in 1949 after completing undergraduate study at the University of Minnesota, Columbia. The Sheldons also have established a professorship in neurosurgery.

The appointment and gift were announced by Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton and William A. Peck, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the medical school.

“I thank the Sheldons for their generous gift to Washington University,” Wrighton said. “An endowed chair is one of the most coveted gifts a university can receive. Endowments for professorships provide key support for our mission to recruit and maintain the outstanding researchers and educators who make up our faculty.”

Peck added, “Joe Henry Sheldon serves as one of the country’s most accomplished neuroscientists in his field.

Steinbach: Leading neuroscientist

Endowed professorships allow us to recognize outstanding individuals and to support their important contributions to research and education. They enable us to sustain the best. People like Professor Steinbach are a great candidate for such recognition.”

Sheldon served on the clinical faculty of the University of Missouri from 1958 to 1983 and spent most of his medical career at Research Medical Center in Kansas City, Missouri.

Nominations sought for 1999 Faculty Achievement Awards

By John N. Druschel, professor of law and of economics and chair of the Senate Council, the chancellor invites the faculty to nominate recipients of the new Faculty Achievement Awards.

Wrighton announced the establishment of the awards last spring. The first honorees — one faculty member and one senior staff member — were chosen from the School of Medicine — are to be chosen in early 1999 and announced at the Chancellor’s Gala, scheduled for May 1.

As part of their awards, the recipients will give addresses to the university community next fall, summarizing their scholarly work. Each will receive a $5,000 honorarium at the time of the address.

The advisory committee charged with making the selection will consider the basis of these criteria:

• outstanding achievement in scholarship

See Award, page 7

Binge drinking

Nation’s colleges grapple with epidemic

By David Messinger

This is a story about going too far. Way too far.

And since we’re tightrope-walking on the edge, I’m going to break down a journalistic taboo and talk to you in the first person. My name is Dave and 18 years ago I was an 18-year-old at the University of Nebraska. My best friend and roommate throughout college was Gonzo.

Actually his name was Scott, but half the guys in our fraternity couldn’t have told you that.

Gonzo was a Regent’s Scholar, could ree a three-wheel 250 yards down the middle of the fairway and crack us all up with stoic comedy bits from George Carlin. He was a great guy; Otis I didn’t like so much — if any — when we were in high school, I’m in the burgeoning techno-town of San Jose, Calif., he was in the backwater burg of Conad, Neb. That all changed within the first couple of weeks on campus, though.

Gonzo jumped into the foam face-first. Literally. Early that first September, our fraternity continued a 20-year tradition — one that my own dad had helped start in his undergrad days — by constructing a 25-foot by 50-foot front-yard swimming pool made from railroad ties, plywood and huge sheets of plastic. It took three days, two full-flowing hoses and a lot of beer to fill that pool. Gonzo reached capacity about the same time as the pool did.

For a while that night, Gonzo was the life of the party. Cracking jokes, slamming cannonballs. A few beers later, though, he was getting a bit too “handy” with some of the female guests. Another beer or two later, Gonzo slipped off the ledge and fell face-first into the shallow end, bouncing his nose off the bottom of the pool. Three of the seniors pulled him out and carried him up to sleep it off.

That was the first time anyone called him “Otis.” You remember Otis — the perpetual drunk from television’s “Andy Griffith Show” who slept off nightmares in the comfort of Mayberry’s jail cell.

Gonzo was a great guy. Otis didn’t like so much. One beer was often the difference.

We were embarking enough to get our beer. We were close friends and I would pretend to be the Beatles and “jam” at parties. Later one such night, Otis pushed me down the stairs when he thought I blew one out of one of our stereo speakers. Gonzo helped me get through calculus Otis snorozed through too many morning classes — and afternoon classes, costing him his scholarship.

One night when we were seniors, Gonzo graduated from the normal game of “quarters” to “beer bongs.” An entire beer (or two) (or three) was pooled overhead in a funnel — like the ones you’d use for changing your oil. Then, by removing his thumb from the end of the attached tube, Gonzo engulfed the beer, rapid-fire, in one gulp.

Two bongs and 20 minutes later, Otis pitched and plunged head first into the bottom of the same set of stairs that he had once pushed me down. Somehow he managed to crush a beer can, accouterments, between the floor and his forehead — a signal Human Trick, if there ever was one. I watched the water that leaped over the pool of blood and called 911.

Gonzo’s not dead. In fact, today he’s a highly decorated police detective down south. He is a devoted husband and doting father and still him the three wood 30 yards farther than I do.

See Alcohol, page 6
The scoop on construction Work continues on new residential houses being built on the South 40 just east of the bare trees and other outdoor space. Excavation will provide space for a plaza leading to the Forsyth Boulevard underpass. The buildings are part of a multifamily program renovating housing on the South 40.

Challenges Guests from 16 European countries, Canada discuss issues facing U.S. and Europe Nov 5

A distinguished group of professors, scholars and journalists from 16 European countries and Canada will take part in a panel discussion on "Foreign Policy Challenges Facing the U.S. and Europe" at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, in Hunt Lounge, Room 210, in Diederich Hall. Sponsored by the European Studies Program and Arts and Sciences and the World Affairs Council of St. Louis, the event is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the discussion. Reservations are requested, but those without reservations will be admitted as space permits.

The panelists, all of whom are in the country as guests of the United States Information Agency's International Visitors Program, will address foreign policy concerns facing both Europe and the United States. The discussion will conclude with a question-and-answer session and general discussion of regional and international foreign government officials, journalists and professors who will answer individual questions.

This year's panel includes representatives of Albania, Canada, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

For more information, call 727-9888.

Portrait Collection honors nucleus of writers

The Iowa Writers' Workshop — writers as poet Howard Nemerov and novelist/philosopher William Morris — are among the country's first university-based creative writing programs that formed in the early 1920s. In the summer of 1927 many of these writers met at Gass' home where they live. For more information, call the School of Medicine at 286-2683.

Donald Finkel (left), professor emeritus of English, discusses his newly finished portrait with the artist, Barry Schactman, professor emeritus of art.

Correction

An article in the Oct. 29 Record identified Charles A. Buescher as chairman of the Board of Directors of the St. Louis County Water Co. In fact, he is the company's retired chairman. The Record regrets the error.

News Briefs

Volunteers needed Men and women over the age of 85 are invited to join a study of how physical and mental functions change as we age. The study makes yearly tests of mentally healthy people over 85. All medical and pencil-and-paper tests relating to the study are free, and participants who are unable to travel to the medical center can be tested where they live. For more information, call the School of Medicine at 286-2883.

Help in teaching The University's Teaching Center, newly relocated in Eads Hall, provides a range of resources to enhance teaching and support teachers on campus. Its staff works with faculty members, provide group programs for faculty and graduate teaching assistants and serve as teaching advocates on University committees. They are also active in classroom improvement and help faculty members use instructional resources at Washington University Magazine articles at the time, temps flared as the writers, many of whom were good friends, passionately argued about the proper education of a writer. As Gass recalled, "There was a heat that night.

At the heart of the disagreement was whether students needed a highly structured program of study in languages and humanities or a loosely planned curriculum that served a writer's individual needs. The curriculum that emerged remained flexible to suit the disparate needs of the prospective novelists, poets, and essayists. However, students were required to participate in fiction or poetry workshops, have their work critiqued and take academic courses in subjects that would nourish their writing.

In 1991 then-Chancellor William H. Danforth thought that the full-time writers who had brought so much to the University should be recognized in a permanent way. Shirley Baker, vice chancellor for information technology and dean of University Libraries, was the logical person for the portraits. "The libraries house the manuscripts of all the writers featured on our walls, as part of our international-ally known Modern Literature Collection," she said. Baker added: "Many of us knew how these writers served University colleagues and as regulars in the libraries. It is lovely to see portraits of our friends as we go about our work. The staff at the front desk knew Howard Nemerov as an early morning regular and John Morris often sat reading in the alcove near the Help Desk."

The idea for the portraits was the first to be installed adjacent to the entrance of Special Collections. The library now contains the image of Elkin (1991) in the Landing 4 lobby; Thurston and Van Duyn (1993) in the Special Collections Research Room; Gass (1994) with Nichols, his cat, on the fourth floor, between levels 1 and 2; and Morris (1997) in the current periodicals area in the southeast corner; and now Finkel.

The lecture, part of the School of Social Work's fall lecture series, is free, but those without reservations will conclude with a question and answer session and general discussion of regional and international foreign government officials, journalists and professors who will answer individual questions.

This year's panel includes representatives of Albania, Canada, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

For more information, call 727-9888.
**Gene transfer**

**Rice and colleagues tame gene carriers**

**BY LINDA SAGE**

Scientists often use the genetic material of viruses to package and send genetic material into cells. But such vectors carry risks. Some viruses can direct the growth of cancer cells; others can be harmful even after being removed from the body. In a paper in the Oct. 27 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, they show that the vectors are efficient couriers of genes.

"A similar strategy might work for modifying other cytopathic viruses that are being used as gene vectors," said Charles M. Rice, Ph.D., professor of molecular microbiology and head of the research team. Postdoctoral fellow Eugene A. Ferguson, M.D., Ph.D., and Ilya Frolov, Ph.D., research assistant professor of molecular microbiology, were the paper's lead authors.

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"The financial burden of medical care is a major factor underlying the rising cost of health care in the United States," said Peter Palese, M.D., professor of medicine and director of the divinity course. "The researchers mapped the genetic material of viruses to understand their functions under normal and capable of division. Ten twenty-four Washington University scientists are teaming up for a series of studies on brain injuries caused by stroke or trauma. They hope to lead to more effective rehabilitation strategies. Annually, brain injuries cause stroke or traumatic brain injury in more than 1.5 million Americans. The interdisciplinary group has received two grants for the project — a four-year $400,000 grant from the James S. McDonnell Foundation and a three-year $350,000 grant from the University's McDonnell Center for Higher Brain Function. Barnes-Jewish Hospital is providing study facilities for active participation in advisory committee functions. Helping people with brain injuries is one of society's most important challenges at all levels," said Carolyn Brown, Ph.D., a special investigator and assistant professor of occupational therapy at the School of Medicine. "By transferring forensic genetic material of viruses to cultured cells, scientists can study the functions and actions of those genes under different conditions. The vectors can alter the activities of cells — to compensate for a defective gene, for example. Conversely, to transfer foreign genes into cultured cells, scientists can study the functions and actions of those genes under different conditions. The vectors can alter the activities of cells — to compensate for a defective gene, for example. Conversely, to transfer foreign genes into cultured cells, scientists can study the functions and actions of those genes under different conditions. The vectors can alter the activities of cells — to compensate for a defective gene, for example. Conversely, to transfer foreign genes into cultured cells, scientists can study the functions and actions of those genes under different conditions. The vectors can alter the activities of cells — to compensate for a defective gene, for example. Conversely, to transfer foreign genes into cultured cells, scientists can study the functions and actions of those genes under different conditions. The vectors can alter the activities of cells — to compensate for a defective gene, for example. Conversely, to transfer foreign genes into cultured cells, scientists can study the functions and actions of those genes under different conditions. The vectors can alter the activities of cells — to compensate for a defective gene, for example. Conversely, to transfer foreign genes into cultured cells, scientists can study the functions and actions of those genes under different conditions. The vectors can alter the activities of cells — to compensate for a defective gene, for example. Conversely, to transfer foreign genes into cultured cells, scientists can study the functions and actions of those genes under different conditions. The vectors can alter the activities of cells — to compensate for a defective gene, for example. Conversely, to transfer foreign genes into cultured cells, scientists can study the functions and actions of those genes under different conditions. The vectors can alter the activities of cells — to compensate for a defective gene, for example. Conversely, to transfer foreign genes into cultured cells, scientists can study the functions and actions of those genes under different conditions. The vectors can alter the activities of cells — to compensate for a defective gene, for example. Conversely, to transfer foreign genes into cultured cells, scientists can study the functions and actions of those genes under different conditions. The vectors can alter the activities of cells — to compensate for a defective gene, for example. Conversely, to transfer foreign genes into cultured cells, scientists can study the functions and actions of those genes under different conditions. The vectors can alter the activities of cells — to compensate for a defective gene, for example. Conversely, to transfer foreign genes into cultured cells, scientists can study the functions and actions of those genes under different conditions. The vectors can alter the activities of cells — to compensate for a defective gene, for example. Conversely, to transfer foreign genes into cultured cells, scientists can study the functions and actions of those genes under different conditions. The vectors can alter the activities of cells — to compensate for a defective gene, for example. Conversely, to transfer foreign genes into cultured cells, scientists can study the functions and actions of those genes under different conditions. The vectors can alter the activities of cells — to compensate for a defective gene, for example.
Eliot Trio to perform music of Beethoven, Dvorák

Washington University's Eliot Trio, a piano trio made up of three prominent St. Louis musicians, will present "Music of Beethoven and Dvorák" at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17, Thursday, Nov. 19, and Friday, Nov. 20, in Steinberg Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, visit wupa.wusd.edu/assembly or call 935-5983.

The Eliot Trio consists of Seth Carlin, professor of music and director of the piano program at the University; David Hafen, concertmaster for the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra; and John Slatkin, professor of music and director of the piano program in the Department of Music in Arts and Sciences, who will perform with conductors including Leonard Slatkin and Roger Norrington. Hafen has appeared in recital with such artists as Pinchas Zuckerman, Anner Bylsma and Yo-Yo Ma, and at the Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy. He is the Newgay Music Festival in Rhode Island, and Lincoln Center's "Great Performers" series. Carlin graduated and attended Miami University with a bachelor's degree in music, later earning a master's in music from the Juilliard School. He received a Licence de Concert from the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris and studied piano with Rosetta Lerner, Juile Gentil and Morton Karlin and interpretation with William Kaplin. Hafen has been with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra since 1991 and was appointed its concertmaster in 1990. Before coming to St. Louis, he was a member of the Houston Symphony Orchestra, where he served as assistant concertmaster. Hafen's solo performances have included a 1755 Johannes Baptiste Guadagnini violin made in Mittenwald, Germany. Hafen earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at the age of 19. He received a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1979 and was the youngest recipient ever of a Fulbright Scholarship for study at the Freiburg Hochschule fûr Musik in Germany.

Sant'Ambrogio has been the principal cellist of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra since 1968, after playing with the Boston Symphony Orchestra for nine years. Sant'Ambrogio also has served as a cellist with the Boston Trio and the Zinfindeleffo, as principal cellist for the Boston Ballet Orchestra and as a faculty member at the New England Conservatory.

Other upcoming events include: Nov. 12 — Martin Breen, professor adjunct of music at Yale University, will give a free lecture titled "The Gates of Paradise" at 4 p.m. in Room 106 Missouri Classroom Building.

Nov. 11 — The Washington University Jazz Band, under the direction of Ingrid Monson, jazz ensemble director, will give a free concert at 8 p.m. in the Forrestsigler and Meador Practice Building.

Nov. 9 — The Washington University Jazz Band and the Washington University Female Jazz Band will perform in a free concert at 8 p.m. in the Forrestsigler and Meador Practice Building.

For more information about any of these events, call 935-4841.
**Award-winning architects meld structure with locale, culture**

Canadian architect Patricia and John Patkau, whose award-winning designs demonstrate the importance of integrating architecture with locale and culture, will deliver a lecture on their work at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, in Graham Chapel. The Patkaus, who are renowned for their mastery of architecture, won a degree in 1979 in Edmonton, Alberta. In 1984, they relocated to Vancouver, Washington, to work in the Biology Research Institute of Canada, the Patkau's body of work incorporates specific culture to locale and culture in their designs for projects ranging from schools to offices to homes. They view their work combined, first with form, as a means of reversing the homogenization of architecture due to the increasingly international nature of the culture. Among their most prestigious work, the Patkau's won a national design competition in 1986 for the Canadian Museum of Glass Gallery in Water, Ontario. The award won the Canadian Architecture Magazine Award of Excellence in 1990. John Patkau received bachelor of arts degrees in environmental studies and in the University of British Columbia in 1978. He is an associate professor at the School of Architecture at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

**Sports**

Friday, Nov. 6


- 1:30 p.m. — Men's and women's cross country. Forest Park. Cost: $3.80. Location: Forest Park. Cost: $3.80.


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Alcohol
Nation's colleges grapple with drinking
from page 1
No, Gossen was lucky. And so is this University. Because he has the time to look, and lives on virtually every other college campus, as well. The bottom line: 43 percent of students on American campuses are "binge drinkers" — consuming five or more drinks during the past two weeks; 22 percent binged occasionally; one in two binged frequently. Further, half of that group are "frequent" bingers — partaking of binge drinking at least once a week.

The following is excerpted from the televised segment.

It's about setting limits, relying on expectations and providing alternatives — not realizing that saying "alternative" implies that drinking is the norm.

It's about fostering personal choice and growth — yet dealing with the ubiquitousness of the term "responsible drinker" when state laws say "21.

It's about education and relaying expectations and consequences, for ourselves and others, to our students. It's about setting limits, and defining the equation.

They're under a lot of stress, they want to find a niche. But I think that the biggest mistake students make is being "told what to do" it is only fortunate, one was not. The quest, it is about acknowledging that college life is about learning from their own mistakes — yet dealing with the consequences, for ourselves and others. And it's about making the place a healthier, safer place for all students.

Binge Drinking by Student Characteristics

| GENDER | 48.4% | Male |
| YEAR IN SCHOOL | 33.2% | Sophomore |
| | 42.3% | Junior |
| RESIDENCE | 22% | Dormitory |
| | 81.1% | Fraternity/sorority |
| | 40.1% | Off campus |

The tragedy at MIT — as well as the same occurrence last fall at the University of Washington, were high profile but not all that unusual. Each year, an estimated 50 college students die from alcohol poisoning or overdoses.

Nonetheless, Scott Krueger's death at MIT catalyzed many colleges and universities to examine their own policies. On Feb. 19, 1997, the University of Washington, Chancell- lor Mark Cohler announced a task force last winter to review the University's alcohol policy, which had been established by a similar panel in 1989.

"It's about setting limits, relying on expectations and providing alternatives — not realizing that saying "alternative" implies that drinking is the norm. It's about fostering personal choice and growth — yet dealing with the ubiquitousness of the term "responsible drinker" when state laws say "21."

Kevin Newman: By the way of perspective, do the kids on the MIT campus drink more than you or I might have when we were on campus?
Karen Coburn: We really don't know. The Harvard study is the first major comprehensive study of college campuses. But what we do know is that binge drinking, as defined by the Harvard study, is a problem on our campus. We know that students, faculty and administrators are very concerned about it.

Madge Tregear: "Well, I wish I knew that. Probably the same reasons that they always drink. It may be that they are exacerb- ated, but again we don't know."

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE

"We don't outgrow it even when we mature a little bit more and get more responsible! Do we really need to be concerned or are there just more tourists?"

Coburn: "No. I think we have to intervene, I really do. I think that education is very important — it's imperative and not sufficient. What we're seeing is that college campuses in a very holistic and broad approach. For instance, at Washington U., we've hired someone as a director of health promotion and wellness. She's working with our judicial administration and with faculty and with the students them- selves to make the place a healthier, safer place for all students."

They're under a lot of stress, they want to find a niche. But I think that the biggest mistake students make is being "told what to do" it is only fortunate, one was not. The quest, it is about acknowledging that college life is about learning from their own mistakes — yet dealing with the consequences, for ourselves and others. And it's about making the place a healthier, safer place for all students.

Charles M. Vest, president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was quoted in the Nov. 5, 1997, issue MIT Tech Talk. Vest's statements were made upon the formation of MIT's Working Group on Prevention of Binge Drinking, convened in reaction to the drinking-related death of MIT student Scott Krueger.

"I reject the thought that we cannot succeed. Our society has made real progress on seem- ingly insoluble problems: Smoking and drinking driving in America have been reduced substantially. Transmission of the HIV virus has dropped. Diet and exercise in large segments of our population have been improved. To say that change, change has been brought about because we have gained a deepened understanding of the negative consequences, for ourselves and others, of drinking and driving and the messages and images that surround us. Inappropriate, binge drinking behavior sometimes begins well before arrival on campus.

"We need to bring about cultural and attitudinal changes in all our expectations on these matters. Prohibiting, punishing and binge drinking cannot be legislated out of existence. But we cannot just set standards and expect each other to adhere to them. We need to change the climate and determine if we are acting wisely when setting policies. That does not trampe on our right to a reasonable and living environment. We can gain personal and collective resolve to resist thoughtlessly presumed to abandon common sense."
Notables

School of Art appoints Ott head of graduate program

Sabina Ott, associate professor of painting in the School of Art, has been named a Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) Scholar and will receive a $60,000 research award. The RSNA scholars program is designed to recognize and support talented young investigators selected from a cadre of individuals involved in radiology research. The awards are intended to provide major support for the investigator's research projects, including salary support for the investigator and other scientists and support for research activities.

On assignment

Mark DeKay, assistant professor of architecture, is participating in the planning committee of an international project, Architecture and Health: Toward a New Science of Healthcare Environments, which seeks to improve the architecture of healthcare facilities by investigating the working conditions of healthcare professionals and understanding how to design energy-efficient buildings. A three-year academic project, the project is a major part of Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education at the University.

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Psychiatry's head coach

Charles F. Zorumski, M.D., (right) and Jose Mathews, a fourth-year resident in psychiatry, examine photomicrographs of hippocampal slices from the brain of a rat.

In April 1997, Charles F. Zorumski, M.D., became head of the Department of Psychiatry at the School of Medicine. It was not a job he actively sought, but his research made him a good fit for the top spot in a department that has exposed a medical model of mental illness for more than half a century.

Zorumski focuses not on the behavior of patients but on the chemical changes that may influence behavior. He does most of his work in cell lines and hippocampal slices, observing the basic mechanisms of cellular communication in the brain and the changes in molecular activity that underlie mental illnesses such as depression and schizophrenia.

"The idea that mental illness, like any other illness, results from a biological cause was perfected—if not born—at Washington University, and that biological model is at the core of the psychiatry department's history. "Part of the reason I took this job was the history and the tradition of this department," Zorumski explained.

A walk down the third-floor corridor in the Renard Hospital Building thrusts those views into a visitor's face. Just outside the psychiatry conference room are portraits of some of the people whose work made the department one of the most important psychiatric research centers in the world. Pictures of Edwin Gildea, Eli Rokhs, Samuel Gare and others hang on the wall, a constant reminder of the department's storied history. Intimidating?

"Not really," explained Zorumski, who wears the mantle of one of the legends in his title, the Samuel B. Gure Professor of Psychiatry. "I don't feel pressure because I realize it's not possible to measure up to those people. I'm a competitor, but you don't pick the ones you can win. Those people are legends in the field of psychiatry. I just hope to do a good job."

Although relatively new on the job, Zorumski is getting good reviews from his faculty.

Master at administration

"Chuck has been an exceedingly good department head, and I expect he will keep getting better," reported longtime colleague John W. Olney, M.D., professor of psychiatry and neuroacoustics. "He is turning out to be a master at administration, something I had not anticipated, simply because I had not witnessed him in that role before."

Mary Otten was looking in the wrong place, Zorumski may not have worked as an administrator, but he did work as a coach. Soccer is his game. He used to coach his son Erik's team and still coaches his 14-year-old son Ian's select team, and, for several years, he was an assistant coach at his alma mater, Saint Louis University (SLU).

"Coaching really influences my management style," Zorumski said. "In soccer, you don't take good players and shuffle them with a system unsuited to their talents. You adapt and find the way they perform best."Zorumski was a goalkeeper for SLU in the early 1970s. In 1972 and '73, he and his teammates won national championships, the last two NCAA soccer championships in Billikin history. He also traveled to Japan as a goal-keeper for the 1974 U.S. Olympic soccer team.

Zorumski is quick to credit his soccer experience as an important influence on his later life, teaching him the value of teamwork, dedication and cooperation, but even he has trouble making the connection between soccer and neuroscience.

"Tell me about it," Zorumski said with a laugh. "Most of those guys who played for Saint Louis U. ended up in accounting or marketing. There were very few science majors, I assure you."

But he does believe playing soccer helped prepare him for life as a scientist. "Sometimes I've told people the best training for a career in academic science is having been an athlete. Never get too high with the victories. Never get too low with the defeats," he explained.

"Getting grants and being successful is just another form of competition."

St. Louis native

Born in north St. Louis in the summer of 1952, Zorumski was a product of St. Louis Catholic school, attending Holy Rosary grade school and DeSmet high school. He wasn't born into medicine. There were no doctors in the family, but he credits experiences in that role before."

But Zorumski didn't set out to be a doctor. "I noticed there were lots of people in the city who were hanging around on street corners talking to themselves or to the light posts, and it didn't take long to figure out that psychiatric disorders affect quite a number of people."

But Zorumski didn't set out to understand and cure those disorders. As a competitor, he picked his spot and concentrated his efforts on a manageable experimental model.

"That's another lesson from soccer. Sometimes you feel you can gain enough control over the experimental paradigm to actually begin to understand mechanisms," he said. "Early on in psychiatry, I decided we were probably so far away from understanding behavior that I thought it more profitable to work at a more basic level."

"Chuck would personally evaluate all the compounds we made," Coyer said. "He would come to work early in the morning and usually be finished with his experiments before I arrived. He knew I needed those evaluations done in a timely manner, in my lab, and since he did not have a large enough group to assign that task, he did the work himself."

Seizure research

Another of Zorumski's lifelong standing interests is seizure disorder and the effect of seizures on communication between neurons. As a resident, Zorumski worked in the neurological lab of Eric Lothman, M.D., Ph.D., studying how seizures spread through the nervous system.

"I was doing research in a lab in the basement of the Old City Hospital," reported longtime friend Eugene H. Rubbin, Ph.D., a professor of psychiatry who first met Zorumski in 1978, "when the two were residents. "We were doing notations at the old Malcolm Bliss Hospital next door, and Chuck hooked up with Lothman to get his first real exposure to basic bench science."

Those studies formed the basis for what became Zorumski's major clinical research interest, electroconvulsive therapy (ECT). Although years of study have not yet produced a cure for seizure disorder, research through which ECT works to ease symptoms of depression and schizophrenia, he says it is clear ECT does help some patients, and producing effective treatments is a goal Zorumski tries always to keep in the back of his mind. He knows the changes he observes at the molecular and cellular level might be related to behavioral endpoints that influence mental health.

But for his own mental health, Zorumski leaves science and psychiatry at the office when he goes home, and that hasn't changed with his new stature as department head. "My wife, Terry, and I never talk last week. That's not on the agenda," he said. "When I leave, I leave it."

That's another lesson from sports. As a goalkeeper, he had to learn not to worry about being scored on. When he gave up a goal, he would review the play and think about ways to improve, but he tried not to dwell on it.

"But not everyone can leave the game on the field or the job at the office," Zorumski's secret? "I've had a lot of goals scored on me," he said with a laugh. "After a while, you get kind of desensitized to certain things."

"Sometimes I've told people the best training for a career in academic science is having been an athlete. Never get too high with the victories. Never get too low with the defeats."