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Money managers

Feiner appointed vice chancellor

Barbara Feiner, the University’s chief financial officer, will become vice chancellor for finance effective immediately, according to Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. She assumes overall responsibility for the financial operations of the University.

"Barbara Feiner has shown exceptional leadership as our chief financial officer, as well as our chief investment officer," Wrighton said. "In this new position, she will continue to help develop appropriate strategies for the most effective and efficient use of University resources. She is an experienced professional who will bring much to her new role."

As vice chancellor for finance, Feiner will continue to serve as chief financial officer. She will have responsibility for approximately 130 people in financial management and financial services, which includes accounting services, treasury, risk management, investment management and financial analysis. In addition, she will coordinate the development of the annual operating budget, as well as monitor and control the overall fiscal operations of the University.

Feiner joined the University in September 1996 as director of investment management. The following year she became the chief investment officer, as well as the chief financial officer. Previously, she held a number of positions at Edmen Brothers Stores Inc., including serving as president of the S-5-9 clothing store chain.

She received a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Saint Louis University in 1971. She

Sandler to become special assistant to chancellor

Ben Sandler, vice chancellor for financial policy, will become special assistant to the chancellor for administration on July 1, according to Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. This change is occurring at Sandler’s request. Sandler will continue to serve the University on a part-time basis after three decades in the administration.

"Ben Sandler has brought greater understanding of financial aid, financial planning, budgeting, research spending and institutional studies to the University," Wrighton said. "He has contributed enormously to improvements in all these areas and to the success of Washington University throughout his more than 30 years with this institution. Ben has served the University extremely well as vice chancellor, and we will continue to benefit from his wisdom and knowledge. I am pleased that we have Feiner appointed, page 2

Trailblazer

Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences celebrates 25th anniversary this month

A

n April 15-16 symposium celebrates the 25th anniversary of the University’s Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences, will celebrate the division’s groundbreaking influence on graduate education and explore the future of graduate training in the biological and biomedical sciences. The division provides training for Ph.D. and M.D./Ph.D. students in the biological and biomedical sciences.

The symposium will take place April 15 in Room 215, Reckstock Hall and April 16 in the Eric P.

Inhalant abuse on the rise

‘Huffing’ kills and cripples children in silent epidemic

By GERRY EVERDING

It has been called America’s silent epidemic. Known by such street names as huffing, sniffing and wanging, the dangerous habit of getting high by inhaling the fumes of common household products is estimated to claim the lives of more than 1,000 children each year. Many other young people, including some first-time users, are left with serious respiratory problems and permanent brain damage.

"Surveys show that approximately one out of every five American children will experiment with inhalants before they complete eighth grade," said Matthew O. Howard, Ph.D., an assistant professor of social work and the author of two recently published studies on inhalant abuse among children.

Despite national efforts to warn of the dangers, information about the terrible toll inhalant abuse is debilitating does not seem to be reaching the nation’s parents, much less their children.

"I don’t think these kids have any idea how dangerous inhaling these substances can be," Howard said. "One or two kids in a group will experiment with something

and before you know it, you have a mini-epidemic on your hands. Some kids just don’t get the message until a friend ends up dead or in the hospital. Parents need to know that hundreds of items commonly found in the home are being inhaled by kids seeking a quick buzz, a high that can easily turn deadly."

Inhalant use has joined alcohol and marijuana as one of the top three drugs of choice among grade-school children. The National Adolescent Student Health Survey found that 21 percent of eighth graders reported having tried inhalants, compared with only 15 percent for marijuana and 5 percent for cocaine. The most common age of first inhalant use is just before a child’s 12th birthday.

Howard’s studies, which focus on juveniles on probation in Utah and on American Indian youths living in Seattle, found surprising differences in the frequencies of inhalant use. His research, which was supported by a grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, is published in the British journal Addiction and the American journal Addictive Behaviors.

In the Utah study, more than a third of the children on probation reported some history of inhalant use, with nearly 20 percent having abused inhalants in the last year. And while inhalant abuse is known to be rampant on some American Indian reservations, only 12.3 percent of Indian youths living in Seattle, found surprising differences in the frequencies of inhalant use. His research, which was supported by a grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, is published in the British journal Addiction and the American journal Addictive Behaviors.

The variance is not as surprising as it might seem, Howard said, because inhalant abuse tends to occur in isolated

See Inhalants, page 7

Washington University in St. Louis

Volume 23 No. 27

April 8, 1999

Inside: Center for Mental Health Services Research gets new funding

Medical News: Hardening of the aorta can significantly increase risk of stroke

Washington People: Michael R. DeBaun, M.D., is a man with many missions

Distinguished Visiting Scholars on campus

Classifying race in literature, minority mental health

BY GERRY EVERDING

Spring comes to campus Last week’s warm temperatures and greening lawns enticed students outdoors to study and relax. Brad Knieley, a senior business student, catches up on his reading in the quad.

BY GERRY EVERDING

Trailblazer

Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences celebrates 25th anniversary this month

Newman Education Center.

Presenters will discuss the division’s beginnings, opportunities and challenges in plant biology and biotechnology and innovative and multidisciplinary efforts in the biological sciences, among other topics. Students, faculty, the University community and the general public are invited to attend.

The hallmark of the division is its flexibility to change its arrangement in response to the

See Scholars, page 6

See Inhalants, page 7

See Biology, page 6
Expanding horizons

**Daughters’ day seeks to open up new possibilities**

Nearly every school on the Hilltop Campus will participate in some way during the Take Our Daughters to Work Day. Students and employees are encouraged to bring their daughters aged 9 to 15 to spend a day daughters of staff and faculty enjoy a wide range of activities introducing them to a broad array of career choices. This year, the University expects to welcome an even larger group of teens and young women to the University compared to girls. The Ms. Foundation for Women initiated the U.S. — including mothers of working women come in all ages and are working to build on those efforts. It is time for us to recognize the significant role that is played in the development of young women. The research showed that the strong sense of self-confidence found in pre-adolescent girls begins to erode around the age of 10, and they experience a significant drop in self-esteem. While young women with a strong sense of self-confidence in their own worth — as adults in society. Employers interested in participating should look for sign-up forms to be distributed to directors, department heads who are in early April. Visiting girls must register to receive a list of participating schools and a gift from the University. Most activities will have limited attendance and be held on a first-come, first-served basis. See more information, call 935-5285.

Medicine are offering a free screening for head and neck cancer Friday, May 4, to schedule an appointment or for more information, call 747-8246.

Helping hands

Some 20 University students serve as big brothers and big sisters to about 60 children during the school year. Challenges facing students today range from the need to make children better. The University of California at Berkeley has launched the "Daughters' day seeks to open up new possibilities"

Pathbreaking center gets renewed NIMH funding

**By Gert Everett**

Recognizing the George Warren Brown School of Social Work's continued leadership in mental health research, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) has awarded the School an additional five-year funding for the school's Center for Mental Health Services Research (CMHSC).

Established in 1994 with a $3 million NIMH grant, the center was the first NIMH research development center to be re-funded in a school of social work. The recently announced $2.2 million NIMH grant will provide additional funds to extend the center's work through 2003.

"The center has put George Warren Brown on the map as a leader in social work research," said Emao Aismail, Ph.D., Frank B. King Professor of Social Work Research and director of the center. "We have won the recognition and respect of researchers worldwide — in and out of social work — for the importance of asking questions about the significance of the issues we are studying."

To help with the center's work, a school center grant recipient of the NIMH grant was selected in late March. Visiting girls should look for the sign "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" at the front desk of the Washington University Campus Y's KIDCO program, Hilltop Campus employees are encouraged to bring their daughters aged 9 to 15 to spend a day.
Richard A. Chole elected president of otolaryngology research association

Richard A. Chole, M.D., Ph.D., the Lindburg Professor of Dental Medicine and dean of the School of Dental Medicine at Washington University School of Medicine, has been elected president of the American College of Otolaryngology Research Association (ARO). Chole was installed as president at the ARO's annual meeting in Florida.

"The title of his lecture is "Interceptive Guidance of Occlusion with Emphasis on Diagnosis,"" said Victor G. Davila-Roman, M.D., principal investigator of the Peabody Study, ""which is the cell biology of otostectos, which are bone cells that destroy bone. He also works with experimental models of middle-ear conditions that result from inappreciate otostectomy activity.

For more information or to make reservations, call 935-5419.

Orthodontist Jack G. Dale to deliver fourth Shepard lecture April 14

Jack G. Dale, D.D.S., an internationally known orthodontist and practitioner, will deliver the fourth annual Shepard Lecture at 9 a.m. April 14, in the Lindburg Education Center. A free continental breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m.

Dale is a noted author, illustrator, orthodontic speaker. He has served many professional organizations and has been recognized for his achievements and expertise by associations and societies around the world. The title of his lecture is "Interceptive Guidance of Occlusion with Emphasis on Diagnosis."

Orthodontists have traditionally treated patients with missing teeth. The term "interceptive" was coined to describe orthodontic therapy aimed at preventing the development of crowding and malocclusion before the growth of the mandible and maxilla is complete.

Street closures to close for construction

Beginning Monday, April 11, Euclid Avenue between Forest Park Ave. and Parkview Place will be closed to through traffic to facilitate construction of the new Ambulatory Care Center and the Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine. Additionally, access to Euclid Avenue and Children's Place will be limited to construction vehicles, delivery and St. Louis Community College of Pharmacy traffic. This section of Euclid Avenue will remain closed for at least two months.

This street closure will enable contractors to complete the installation of a service tunnel beneath Euclid Avenue to connect a future loading dock with the Lindburg Education Center and the Cancer Center.

"This is the first prospective, long-term study of the relationship between atherosclerosis in the aorta and risk of stroke and death. We found that as this important vessel becomes diseased, long-term risk increases dramatically. Now that we have identified patients at risk, the next step is to identify treatments that can lower the risk," said Davila-Roman.

Street and parking patterns will be altered as this project progresses. This street closure will remain in effect for at least two months. For more information, call 935-5419.

Learning about medicine

Susan CuUcan, M.D., left, an intern in internal medicine/primary care, explains a model of the eye to Joseph Kotten, left, Krista Whip and Ali Lindsay, right, eighth graders at Cross Key Junior High School, at the St. Louis Public Schools Career Awareness Fair. Approximately 12,000 eighth graders attend the annual fair, which was held this year on March 23 and 24 at America's Center.

Medical School Update
Welcome to Wonderland
All-new ‘Alice’ coming to Edison Theatre stage

BY LIZ OTTEN

Over the last year, 15 students from Washington University’s Department of Performing Arts (PAD) in Arts and Sciences have undertaken an ambitious project: to create, from scratch, an all-new theatrical adaptation of Lewis Carroll’s classic children’s tale “Alice in Wonderland.” This month, the group will debut their creation — featuring an original script with original music and original songs — on the Edison Theatre mainstage.

Performances start at 8 p.m. April 16 and 17, and at 7 p.m. April 24, 25 and 26 at 9 p.m. April 23 and 24 at 9 p.m. April 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 at 9 p.m.

Performances at the Edison Theatre are 8 p.m. April 16 and 17 at 5 and 9 p.m. April 18, 20 and 21, 23 and 24 and at 7 p.m. April 22. “Alice in Wonderland” features the adventures of precocious young heroine as she threads her way through a dreamlike and often confounding world. The adventure begins when Alice encounters the White Rabbit (clutching a pocket watch, bumbling through space and time) and follows him down the rabbit hole.

There are more than 30 characters — a cast of thousands — in a variety of curious characters — the mysterious Cheshire Cat, the maniacal Red Queen, the dainty Queen of Hearts and others — who lure Alice into surreal and exasperate the sensible girl. Alice eventually runs afoul of the Queen, who forces her to write letters.

Alice in Wonderland
Where Edison Theatre
When April 16, 17, 23, 24, 3 p.m. April 18, 25
Admission $10; $5 for Will faculty, staff and students, at the Edison Theatre Box Office, 935-6643, or Metrotix, 334-1111.


Friday, April 9


Friday, April 10


Friday, April 11


Saturday, April 12


Reading features author Deborah Eisenberg

Deborah Eisenberg will read from her work for the University’s Creative Writing Program in Arts and Sciences at 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 13.

"Currently the Visiting Hurst Professor of English at Harvard and a Phi Beta Kappa/Phi Alpha Theta/Phi Gamma Delta alumnus, Eisenberg is one of the most widely respected short story writers today," said Steven Meyer, Ph.D., professor of pediatrics. Room 823 Children’s Hospital, Harvard U. Room 1001 Washington Ave., St. Louis. 935-5722.

Tuesday, April 15

Deborah Eisenberg was born in 1948 in Detroit, Mich., and grew up in the Detroit area. She earned her B.A. from the University of Michigan in 1969 and her M.A. from the University of Washington in 1971.


In addition to the reading, a colloquium with Eisenberg about her work will be held at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 14. Both events are free and open to the public and take place in Hurst Lounge, 201 Steinberg Hall Aud.

Copies of Eisenberg’s works will be available for purchase at each event. For more information, call 935-7133.

Deborah Eisenberg
Where Hurst Lounge, Room 201 Steinberg Hall Aud.
When April 13, 1999. 5 p.m. April 13, 1999. 4 p.m. April 14, 1999
Admission Free and open to the public


Reading features author Deborah Eisenberg

Fiction reading

Deborah Eisenberg

Who Deborah Eisenberg

Where Hurst Lounge, Room 201 Steinberg Hall Aud.
When April 13, 1999. 5 p.m. April 13, 1999. 4 p.m. April 14, 1999
Admission Free and open to the public

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Copies of Eisenberg’s works will be available for purchase at each event. For more information, call 935-7133.
Reno remarks: Richard Rorty will deliver the annual Phi Beta Kappa/Sigma Xi Lecture titled,"Spinoza, Pragmatism and Leftist Thought in many books and essays. In his pursuit of other causes. "Spinoza, Pragmatism and Leftist Thought in America in 1949 and 1952, Rorty shared his expertise. Cost: $45. 

Avenue: John Sabraw, American Academy of Arts and Sciences. 935-8403 or 935-7497.


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Avenue: Robert Blair. "Transcription Factor TBP, the TATA-Box of Organic Chemistry." J. Charles Matthews, dir. Room 301 Miller Lab (345-4050)


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Scholars
Program to expand campus diversity
from page 1

Services in America: Issues and Implications for People of Color" at 1:20 p.m. April 15 in Brown Holmes Lounge. 

* Fernando Torres-Gil, Ph.D., a professor of economics at the University of California, Los Angeles, who will discuss "Economists in the Making: Political Consequences for Graying Baby Boomers," will speak April 11 in Brown Holmes Lounge. 

All three lectures are free and open to the public. Each lecture is sponsored by the Department of African and Afro-American Studies. The Davis and Torres-Gil lectures are part of the Georgia Warren Brown School of Social Work's Spring Lecture Series. In addition, Davis and Torres-Gil will conduct interviews during their visits. 

By 1997, the division had graduated 389 Ph.D. scientists, completed all of their postdoctoral training. More than half had done scientific work in foreign countries, with one set of studies. Department of Modern Languages and the first two sets of studies. Assistant professor in several areas of the city. An important goal of Davis and Torres-Gil's work has been to find ways to make the division more attractive to students. 

Davis has extensive experience in the administration of social programs, including five years (1994-95) coordinating mental health and substance abuse programs as a commissioner of the Virginia Department of Mental Health. As commissioner, Davis was responsible for executive leadership of a statewide behavioral health care system comprised of approximately 220 local community service agencies. He managed 17,000 employees and an annual budget of $700 million and provided services to more than 270,000 consumers. He holds a doctorate in social policy and public administration from Brandeis University. 

Davis is a strong advocate of transparency and accountability in social service systems. He is a frequent speaker on topics such as the use of evidence-based practice, the importance of continuous quality improvement, and the role of evaluation in social service systems. He is also a strong advocate of the use of technology to improve social service systems, and has been involved in the development of a number of innovative technologies for social service systems. 

Davis has a long history of service in the military, having served in the Air Force and the Army. He is a past president of the American Psychological Association and is a member of the American Psychological Society. He is also a member of the American Psychological Association's Section on Social Psychology and the American Psychological Association's Section on Public Policy. 

Davis has received numerous awards for his work, including the American Psychological Association's Distinguished Contributions to Science Award, the American Psychological Association's Distinguished Contributions to Practice and Prevention Award, and the American Psychological Association's Distinguished Contributions to Public Policy Award. 

Biology
Division specializes in interdisciplinary work
from page 1

Washington University in 1983 and served as an administrator of the University community since then. Among the many alumni activities, she has served as president of the John M. Olin School of Business Alumni Association and as chair of the Alumni Board of Governors.


He has been active in a number of professional organizations during his years with the University, including the College Scholar- ship Service and The Council of Governmental Relations.

The division comprises 11 programs affiliated with 29 basic science and clinical departments at the School of Medicine, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, and Arts and Sciences. More than 300 faculty members are full-time students to be outstanding scientists.

The following incidents were reported to University Police from March 28 to April 3. For more information about the symposium, see page 66.
Anne H. Cross, M.D., associate professor of neurology, recently for a project titled "HER2/NEU from the National Cancer Institute through direct services, education, and community-based collaboration.

Laura L. Dugan, M.D., assistant professor of neurology, recently received the Innovation Award from the Academy of Science of St. Louis for her project "Overexpression and Pancreatic Molecules in Demyelinating Disease.

Jeffrey A. Drehn, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of surgery, has been awarded a five-year $564,000 grant from the National Cancer Institute for a project titled "HIERHUE Overexpression and Pancreatic Cancer.

Kathleen B. Hall, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, has been named an American Psychological Association fellow.

Rebecca P. McAulder, M.D., assistant professor of otolaryngology, and genitourinary surgery, was named a recipient of the American Cancer Society's Cancer Prevention and Control Achievement Award.

Robert Snarrenberg, Ph.D., associate professor of music, was honored with the Society of Music Theory's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Derrick Bell, lawyer and activist, will lecture on public interest law at the University of Missouri School of Law this semester.
Michael R. DeBaun, M.D., gives Isaac Cornell, 5, a routine checkup. Isaac, who has sickle cell disease, suffered a stroke at 18 months.

Man with many missions

Michael R. DeBaun, M.D., lets little stand in his way as he researches sickle cell disease and other threats to children

BY DIANE DUKE WILLIAMS

Michael R. DeBaun, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics, has many missions. And when he decides to accomplish something, he lets very little stand in his way.

"He's like the Energizer bunny," said Martha Nelson, a pediatric nurse practitioner who works with DeBaun. "He's charged up all the time. His favorite saying is, 'Let's just do it.'" Colleagues describe DeBaun as hardworking, determined, dynamic and inquisitive. They say these qualities, combined with his expertise, have led to his many successes — igniting the clinical research program in pediatric hematology/oncology, building a program for children with sickle cell disease and successfully directing the BCJ Pediatric Hospice Program. "He has expertise in epidemiology and clinical trial design, and he is extremely aggressive in the way he expresses it," said David R. Wilson, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of pediatrics and director of the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. "I have to believe that the data and writes up the research, and I think that's his greatest strength. He's a real workhorse, and that's important in this field."

Wilson added that DeBaun and some of his colleagues in hematology/oncology have been out in front on clinical research projects nationally instead of following other universities, as in years past.

Terrific mentor

Elizabeth Baorts, M.D., a clinical fellow in infectious diseases who is working on a project with DeBaun, said he got her interested in clinical research. "He has terrific mentoring skills, and he can get you excited about anything. He sees excitement in what most people look at as ordinary." DeBaun's clinical research focuses on strokes in children with sickle cell disease and on cancer predisposition syndromes in children.

Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder that affects about one in 375 African-American infants. Children with sickle cell are more prone than healthy children to have strokes. About a fifth of them have a stroke before they are 12 years old, and two-thirds will have a silent stroke, which often goes unrecognized because the child acts normally. The telltale sign, however, is failing behind with schoolwork.

DeBaun is trying to understand how best to identify children who have had silent strokes, the risk factors for strokes and the best way to help these children catch up at school.

"We have preliminary data to strongly suggest that children with silent strokes can receive educational rehabilitation specific for the type of lesions the stroke caused, and it's exciting," DeBaun said.

Historically, sickle cell disease hasn't gotten as much publicity and funding as other diseases. But DeBaun recently has received funds to expand the Sickle Cell Disease Program in St. Louis.

In another area of his research, DeBaun studies Beckwith Wiedemann syndrome (BWS), a rare congenital disorder affecting 350 newborns a year in the United States. Children with BWS often have a number of clinical features, some of which include large size at birth, a large tongue and large kidneys.

"Most importantly, children with BWS are at increased risk for cancer. In 1993, while at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), DeBaun established an international registry for BWS, and he is currently studying the syndrome's genetic epidemiology, as well as several other childhood cancer predisposition syndromes. "This is a fascinating area of investigation," he said, "because we are combining two areas of investigation, classic epidemiology and molecular biology.""}

Michael R. DeBaun, M.D., from St. Louis, Mo.

Education B.S., Howard University; M.S., Stanford University; M.D., Stanford University Medical School.

Position assistant professor of pediatrics and medical director of BJC Pediatric Hospice Program.

Family: Wife, Sandra; children, Rachel, 13, Malcolm, 11; and Morgan, 9.

He is a deeply committed physician — one who cares about people and strives to better their circumstances.

"On a personal level," DeBaun said, "our life is circled around our children." DeBaun plays soccer with Malcolm and Morgan and takes Rachel to the symphony. He also reads biographies.

In 1997, DeBaun became medical director of the BJC Pediatric Hospice Program, a service in which he strongly believes. In this role, he coordinates the care of children who have terminal illnesses. He visits patients at home and helps families come together during these very difficult times. "He's a deeply committed physician — one who cares about people and strives to better their circumstances," DeBaun said. "It's not just the sad times, it's the good times, too. You're not just taking care of the child — you're caring for the whole family."