By Anna Nicholson

A 24,500-year-old skeleton found in Portugal shows Neandertals and early modern humans intermixed and produced children, said Erik Trinkaus, Ph.D., professor of anthropology in Arts and Sciences. Trinkaus is the principal paleontologist examining a 4,000-year-old child's skeleton that was excavated from the Abri du Logo Velho, near Leiria, Portugal, about 90 miles north of Lisbon. Radiocarbon dating recently confirmed the age of the skeleton, indicating the child lived 4,000 years after the time that Neandertals and early modern humans coexisted in the Iberian Peninsula, said Trinkaus, a renowned paleontologist who has written several books and numerous articles on Neandertals and early modern humans. The discovery challenges the commonly held theory that the Neandertals were not direct ancestors of modern humans. "This is the wild card in what it means to be human," said Trinkaus, who is working with João Zilhão, Portugal's director of antiquities and head of the excavation team. "Many people like to distance themselves categorically from Neandertals. This skeleton, which has some characteristics of Neandertals and others of early modern humans, demonstrates that early modern humans and Neandertals were not all that different. They intermixed, she said, "much as we do when we adopt children." Trinkaus believes the child lived "in an isolated offspring of one Neandertal and early modern human couple." This is not a unique love child, he said. "This skeleton shows that the results of admixture were in the population 4,000 years after the generally recognized transition from Neandertals to early modern humans in southern Iberia. The age of the skeleton indicates this child was the result of an already extensively mixed population." The skeleton is the first archaeological find demonstrating characteristics of both Neandertals and early modern humans, Trinkaus said. The child's stocky trunk and short leg bones are similar to those of the Neandertals, while its prominent chin and modestly formed teeth are similar to those of early modern humans. Other aspects of the skull and features of the arm and pelvis show a mosaic of blended and Neandertal and early modern human features, the pattern that is seen in individuals between modern species. The Leiden skeleton also presents the first evidence of...
Two stand-out students win leadership award

BY CHRISTINE FARMER

Graduating seniors Amy Magarik and Cindy Pikaard received the 1999 Women's Society Leadership Award April 21 in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the University and the community.

Each received an engraved clock from society member Marilyn Sachs at the group's annual meeting. This is the second year the award was given.

Cindy is known for her dedication to improving the campus community. She was nominated for the award by Craig S. Pikinoff, Ph.D., associate biology professor in Arts and Sciences. She is a biochemistry major and a math minor. Next year she will enter a Ph.D. program at the Cold Spring Harbor Biological Institute, N.Y., and plans to become a professor, teaching and doing basic research.

"She is one of the most exciting students I have ever taught," said Cindy, "my boss nominated me, and he was so proud when I found out I was chosen.

Magarik was nominated for the award by Max J. Okrenfuss, Ph.D., associate history professor in Arts and Sciences, whom she considers her mentor. She is a political science and Russian studies major with a minor in history and an emphasis in economics. Next year she plans to work on Vice President Al Gore's presidential campaign.

"I am so honored because it is chosen by women for women, and also because it's leadership, which says a lot about any woman," Magarik said. "I hope I can live up to what they've bestowed upon me.

Candy has won numerous scholarships and fellowships while at the University and was selected in a national competition for a scholarship in science. She is a political science and Russian studies major and plans to enter a Ph.D. program at the University of California, Berkeley. This is the second year the award was given.

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Findings from a newly published study at the School of Medicine could eventually open opportunities to change it back again.

A study in the April 8 issue of Science, the School of Medicine’s flagship research journal, reveals new evidence that the NMDA receptor may be a target for treatment of brain cell suicide after stroke.

In a study described in the April 8 issue of Science, researchers exposed brain cells and tissue to conditions that mimic those after damaged cell death of neurons, said lead author, M.D., Ph.D., research associate professor of neurology. "And it is the first study to identify a consequence of neuronal necrosis due to excessive glutamate released from brain neurons to lose potassium and undergo apoptosis if extracellular potassium levels were low. It appears, therefore, that potassium efflux through NMDA receptors in cells. Although potassium was known to flow through potassium channels and the channel controlled by the NMDA receptor, the contribution of potassium movement through NMDA receptor channels and disease or normal physiology had not previously been studied.

In the study, Yu made the first direct measurements of NMDA-evoked potassium currents from neurons. The research team discovered that potassium efflux through the NMDA receptor increased potassium levels in the extracellular space, which in turn activated apoptotic genes such as caspases. "This study provides evidence that the NMDA receptor channels might be one of the mechanisms that cause those after damaged cell death of neurons," said lead author, M.D., Ph.D., research associate professor of neurology. "And it is the first study to identify a consequence of neuronal necrosis due to excessive glutamate released from brain neurons to lose potassium and undergo apoptosis if extracellular potassium levels were low. It appears, therefore, that potassium efflux through NMDA receptors in cells. Although potassium was known to flow through potassium channels and the channel controlled by the NMDA receptor, the contribution of potassium movement through NMDA receptor channels and disease or normal physiology had not previously been studied.

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Attendance

**University Events**

**Terra Incognita • Patagonia • Basketball • Fashion Show**

**Exhibitions**

"Terra Incognita." Through July. Highlights early printed accounts of exploration and natural science on the North American continent, featuring selected works from the Lowell S. Class Library. 935-0395

**Lectures**

**Thursday, April 29**

9:15 a.m. Pediatric Grand Rounds.
Thursday, April 29

10 a.m. Chemistry seminar. "Random-

**Tuesday, May 4**

2:30 p.m. Chemistry symposium. 1999
3 p.m. Men's baseball team vs. Fontbonne
3:45 p.m. Music

**Wednesday, May 5**

3:30 p.m. School of Architecture Frontier for Contemporary Art Lecture. William Bruder. Architect, Win P. Bruder Architecture, New River Art. Will present his recent work. Steinberg Hall. 3:30 p.m.

**Friday, April 30**

10 a.m. Chemistry symposium. 1999
10 a.m. SAT/ACT review lecture and practice. "1070 UPDATE." April 30 and May 14, same time. Cost: $20, or $15 for seniors. U. of Mo.-St. Louis National Band, 935-8056. For information, call 935-8056.

**Saturday, May 8**


**Sports**

**Tuesday, May 4**

2 p.m. Men's baseball win vs. Fontbonne College. Kelly Field, 935-5203.

**Friday, May 7**

2:30 p.m. Men's and women's outdoor track and field. 935 Westlake Gym. 935-5203.

**And more**

**Friday, April 30**


**Saturday, May 8**


**Sports**

**Monday, May 3**

11 a.m. Chemical Society lecture. "Academic and Professional Requirements for Graduation." Robert S. Crabbe, prof., and office of the Dean. 11 a.m.

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Students learn law, make a difference
— from page 1

Aiming high and looking higher,
— from page 1

the recommendations of the Task Sciences, appointed the task force chair to sharpen that gaze. Mycobacterium
look at career services for liberal Helio bacteria genetically engineered to
viral, fungal or parasitic disease
make a difference
in the future.

By DAVID MOESSNER

the law students say this emphasis on legal experience and the
world legal experience and the vital role the clinic plays in
the law faculty recently voted to move the clinic from the Legal

BY TONY FITZPATRICK

A comprehensive marketing plan for career services is

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Employee meetings to review health care costs and changes

The University’s annual open enrollment for employee health benefits is scheduled from May 1 through June 1. During this time, employees can consider their health care needs and decide the type of coverage they wish to have starting July 1.

The University offers many health care options and provides employees with a variety of ways to access the open enrollment information and obtain health care claims. Employees are encouraged to discuss their health care needs with their supervisors and human resources representatives to ensure that they choose the best plan for their needs.

Medical Campus

Meetings have been scheduled to meet with employees on the Hilltop Campus in Huskies Lounge on:
- May 13 — 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- May 20 — 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Medical Carrier Meetings

Representatives from all of the insurance carriers will be available to meet with employees on the Hilltop Campus in Huskies Lounge on:
- May 13 — 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- May 20 — 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Syllabi

The following syllabi are available to meet with employees on the Hilltop Campus in Huskies Lounge on:
- May 13 — 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- May 20 — 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Medical Campus

Meetings have been scheduled to meet with employees on the West Campus in St. Louis on:
- May 15 — 3 p.m.

Insurance Carrier Meetings

Meetings have been scheduled to meet with employees on the West Campus in St. Louis on:
- May 15 — 3 p.m.

Syllabi

The following syllabi are available to meet with employees on the West Campus in St. Louis on:
- May 15 — 3 p.m.

Skeletal

Find challenges common view of human ancestry

- from page 1

- early modern humans from elsewhere in Africa to the Americas. Researchers have debated the extent to which Neanderthals practiced cultural rituals, including burial, or whether such rituals originated with early modern humans, who are thought to have had more elaborate burial customs and social cultural systems.

- Portugal's Instituto de Arqueologia originally discovered the Lagar Velho child's lower jaws, now located in the Lagoa capabilities. An archaeological team led by Zilhão then began removing what turned out to be a nearly complete skeleton. In January, Trinkaus flew to Portugal to begin conducting the paleontological analysis of the bones.

The skeleton is now at the Portuguese National Archaeological Museum, where an international team of specialists, including Trinkaus, will be analyzing it in the years to come. This finds strict replacement models of modern human ancestors — that early modern humans evolved in Africa, then spread and wiped out the Neanderthals. Trinkaus said. "While the replacement adherents argue that Neanderthals became extinct about 30,000 years ago, and, therefore, were not ancestors of modern humans, the Lagar Velho find would indicate a transition period in which both populations interbred, leading to the descendent of modern humans."

Trinkaus said that in Spain and Portugal the spread of early modern humans was very late, compared to the transition elsewhere in Europe. "The fossil record is scant, previous finds have indicated Neanderthals lived in Europe until about 40,000 to 50,000 years ago after they had disappeared in western Asia," he said. Using DNA evidence, some scientists have argued that Neanderthals and early modern humans were different species, and, thus, that modern humans did not descend from Neanderthals. While the first evidence of archaic human ancestors dates back more than about 4 million years ago, the genus Homo evolved 2.5 million years ago. Homo erectus, who used advanced tools and fire, appeared about 2 million years ago and evolved into Neanderthals (beginning about 200,000 years ago) and modern humans in different geographical regions. "We are very excited to add this program to our offerings in International Studies and know that it will appeal to a variety of student interest," Stone said. "Young people coming to Washington University to gain a perspective on world affairs, but also are looking for practical skills and the need to thrive in an interna- tional context after graduation." Stone said that the University intends to admit the first group of students this fall and is currently developing the courses and policies of the student's new program, which will be a very important part of their educational process.

"We know that our students are coming to Washington University deeply interested in world affairs and eager to acquire the skills to thrive in an interna- tional context after graduation," said James K. McLeod, vice chancellor for student affairs and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

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Of note

Graduate Arts and Sciences Dean Robert S. Lue announced 15 graduate students in Arts and Sciences April 16 with the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence, recognizing their "superb performance in the teaching of undergraduate students. They are Christine A. Austin, women's studies; Angela K. Biddle, philosophy; and Mark A. Cyr, planetary sciences; Mary A. Czyz, political science; and Richard E. Deacon, history.

Biology students win Speaker Prize

Phoebe Lin and Dian Dickman, both graduating seniors in biology, have been named recipients of the Marian Smith Speaker Prize in Biology for 1999. The students will be honored at a May 14 reception along with other honors students. Lin and Dickman are judged best among more than 25 honors biology graduates, presented research on their work at a special biology department seminar May 16. 

assistant professor of medicine in the department of biomedical and molecular sciences recently was selected to serve on the editorial board of the American Association of Asian Studies in Boston, Most recently, Hansen presented a paper titled "Political Parties and Media in China, A Comparative Analysis in Historical Perspec- tive," at the annual meeting of the Schuman Center of the European University Institute in Fiesole, Italy.

Ahmet T. Karamustafa, assistant professor of urban and regional planning, was the recipient of the inaugural FirstBank Lecture at Miami University. His presentation was titled "American Business and the Changing Global Marketplace."

Glenn D. Stone, Ph.D., associate professor of History in Arts and Sciences, recently received a grant from the State University of New York at Stony Brook for a project that addresses the political corruption in Japan at the time of the Far East. This is the American Association of Asian Studies in Boston, Most recently, Hansen presented a paper titled "Political Parties and Media in China, A Comparative Analysis in Historical Perspec- tive," at the annual meeting of the Schuman Center of the European University Institute in Fiesole, Italy.

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On assignment

Nicholas O. Davidson, M.D., instructor in medicine, has been selected to serve as a member of a study section for the Center for Scientific Review. His four-year term, July 1, 1999, is sponsored by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, one of the National Institutes of Health. His role will include participation in the review of scientific activities, achievements and honors. This term will be a renewable term for five on these assignments he will work at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, and will advise the board and chair on the director's visits or on assignment.

During the 20 years of his work experience with Western Bell Telephone, he went back to school on weekends to earn an MBA degree in 1989. His career with the company included a promotion from secretary to executive assistant to the University president, has been a leader in professional and other industry associations, and has been called the "father of modern telecommunications." He also worked for his parent company, Pacific Bell, and affiliated with the California Public Utilities Commission on behalf of the University and the University System of Maryland. When he left Pacific for the post of vice president and assistant general counsel at the University in 1997, he was named "Outstanding Alumnus" of the University Law School.

Arthur Andersen & Co., where he specialized in the telecommunica- tions industry.

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Understanding the elder-care struggle

Morrow-Howell knows the obstacles to meeting challenges facing seniors

BY GERRY EVENING

Nancy Morrow-Howell, PH.D.

Washington People

Born and raised in St. Louis
Education University of Kansas, B.A., M.A., University of California, at Berkeley, Ph.D.
Position Associate professor, the George Warren Brown School of Social Work
Family Husband, Michael Morrow-Howell; daughter, Claire, 16; son, Matt, 14
Activities Gardening, community volunteering

Understanding the elder-care struggle

Nancy Morrow-Howell, PhD. (left), works with Cathy McDougall, who will receive a master’s in social work degree this spring with a specialization in gerontology.

Morrow-Howell knows the obstacles to meeting challenges facing seniors

Nancy Morrow-Howell knew how tough it could be. She had spent nearly a decade researching how families struggle to help loved ones cope with the challenges of aging. She often talked to a friend who had a daughter in college.

Families do their best, but modern society can make elder care a logistical nightmare. More people work full time. More children take jobs in distant places. Suburban sprawl and increased reliance on the auto can leave elders stranded in their own homes. Morrow-Howell documents this isolation, but she also suggests changes to bring elders into the care-giving network and improve their quality of life.

"I went into aging research by chance, but it's been a passion of mine ever since."

Frustrating process

"The process was frustrating for me because I knew the system worked," Morrow-Howell said. "I knew about Medicare and Medicaid, about visiting nurses and nursing homes, about special programs for transportation and meals. But knowing these programs was no guarantee I could solve my grandmother's problems. Some things I could fix, but I felt as helpless as the next person when it came to fixing the system."

Morrow-Howell studied the process to be closer to her own extended family that brought her to the University of Kansas in 1974 and 1975. For five years, she did clinical social work at psychiatric treatment and juvenile correction centers in Topeka, Kan. There she met her future husband, Michael Morrow-Howell, also a social worker.

Morrow-Howell finds time to volunteer in the community. She taught statistics and was soon invited to join the teaching faculty. She was named associate professor in 1993.

Widely published

Morrow-Howell welcomes the growing "productive aging" movement to harness the untapped potential of senior citizens and use it to strengthen communities through volunteer work, mentoring programs and other social contributions.

Productive aging

"For years, our perspective on old age has been dominated by the three Ds — Depression, Dementia, Disability," she said. "This idea of old people as being needy and dependent has never been very accurate, and now that the baby boomers are growing older, they are demanding that the country change. Aging is not a disease and they want the world to know it."

Morrow-Howell explains "Links-Plus," a hotline she developed with a local agency to provide regular phone counseling and support to depressed elders in the community, for an American Association of University Women's League. "I was delighted to accept the post," she said. "This was a perfect fit for me."

"I wanted to get my doctoral degree in social work and do research and academics, but I was not particularly committed to any one area of study," Morrow-Howell said. "I had a knack for statistics, and a professor invited me to help with a research project in the area of social geriatric services. I got into aging research by chance, but it’s been a passion of mine ever since."

While juggling the demands of teaching, research and family, Morrow-Howell finds time to spend in her garden and to volunteer in the community. She currently serves on advisory boards for local groups, including the Jewish Community Center, the Older Women’s League and the Alzheimer’s Association.

Morrow-Howell has spent much of her career seeking solutions for the neediest and most isolated seniors, but recently she has focused on the "sandwich generation" — adults caring for aging parents. Her studies confirm that one in four elderly patients gets inadequate home care, in part because caregivers are over-whelmed by other duties.

The growing "productive aging" movement aims to harness the untapped potential of senior citizens and use it to strengthen communities through volunteer work, mentoring programs and other social contributions. Morrow-Howell welcomes the fresh perspective on aging, but she also stress that many seniors still need help accessing basic human services.

"I’m excited about the promise of a more productive aging for the majority of our senior population," she said. "But as a social worker, it’s difficult for me to ignore that segment of the senior population that needs help the most — that’s what social work is all about."