Students design lemur cage for zoo

Sophomore architecture students discuss details of their first-place design for a new lemur cage at the St. Louis Zoo with Lisa Torkelson (second from right), a keeper at the zoo’s Primate House. The students are (from left): Courtney Martin, Sarah Nurmela, Daniel Osuna and Nick Stoutt. Albert Lam (not present) also was on the winning team.

Washington University in St. Louis

Schaal elected as member of National Academy of Sciences

Barbara A. Schaal, Ph.D., professor of biology in Arts and Sciences, was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences April 27, one of the highest honors a scientist or engineer can achieve. Schaal is widely known for her work using molecular genetic techniques to study plant evolution. Her emphasis is on native species, some of them endangered. She is widely sought for her expertise in plant genetics and conservation genetics.

Scholar honors

Early, Raichle first recipients of Faculty Achievement Award

A pioneer in medical imaging and a nationally recognized expert on the confluence of race and American culture, Schaal was selected among the first Faculty Achievement Awards at Washington University. The announcement of the selection was made Saturday, May 1, at the Chancellor’s Drive in the Holmes Lounge, and the awards will be conferred at a public event in the fall.

By Ann Nicholson

same lucky lemur at the St. Louis Zoo may soon see its living quarters expanded, thanks to the efforts of some of the university's talent. Albert Lam, Courtney Martin, Sarah Nurmela, Daniel Osuna and Nick Stoutt created the winning design for a wire mesh and wooden structure measuring 20 feet by 30 feet, 16 feet high. The team proposed a variety of spaces within the cage, including two main enclosures and several nooks and crannies. A slatted roof also is designed to offer shade at different times of the day while still allowing the lemur's view of the world, which is usually kept indoors, the benefit of an outdoor, seasonal home.

“We tried to consider issues of climate, constructability and feasible materials while designing something that actually could be built,” Martin said. “We also considered how the lemur's live — how they socialize and how they like to climb and jump — in our designs for a nice, natural environment.”

Stoutt added that team members were pleased to be able to use their design skills to benefit the lemur’s healthcare. “We work so much on theoretical designs that have no possibility of being built, especially since it will be years before we finish our professional training,” he said. “It is amazing to think that our cage very likely will be built behind the zoo’s Primate House.”

Zoo officials hope to secure the necessary funding and donated labor to build the new structure. Though visible from the path leading up to the Primate House, the cage would be used for those lemur’s that are not part of the main public display area.

Initially, 45 students in the sophomore studio formed 10 teams, each of which designed a cage. The zoo selected a short list of designs and then chose a winner based on such considerations as construction cost, aesthetics, feasibility, durability and natural feel.

Ingrid Porton, the zoo’s curator of primates, said that since that building the winning structure would be used to care for anywhere from four to 16 resident or visiting lemurs, she noted that the outdoor habitat would be ideal for the zoo’s monogale, black, ringtail, red ruffed and black and white ruffed lemur population.

“The outdoor cage will be such a great opportunity for the students to design something that actually can be built,” said Porton.

By BY DAVID MOESSNER

Schaal Studies plants worldwide

have formed, many with a spiritual emphasis, and there are groups that are much more focused on cultural issues. In fact, today’s college students — 8

New professorship

Lynne Cooper Harvey endows chair in English for American cultural studies

By Barbara Rea

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton has announced the establishment of the Lynne Cooper Harvey Distinguished Chair in English, to be conferred for a faculty position in the American Culture Studies Program in Arts and Sciences.

This is a terrific match between a distinguished professor in American studies and a distinguished chair professor in American culture studies,” noted Wrighton. “Angel has been an inspiration to us all at Washington University, and we are so pleased now to have an endowed chair that celebrates this link.”

Lynne Cooper Harvey, known as “Angel” since childhood, is one of the most influential women in American radio. In 1997 she was Early, Raichle first recipients of Faculty Achievement Award

Washington University in St. Louis

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Preserving a creek system

Franke helps guide development in O'Fallon, Ill.

By Ann Nicholson

A critical river system — the Old Hickory Creek — has been underscored by the development of a residential subdivision, but its restoration and protection are important for the ecological balance and the quality of life in the area.

“Up to this point, the creek systems had remained relatively undisturbed,” said Tim Franke, who has been involved with the preservation of the creek for 13 years. “But now with the construction of new subdivisions, the creek is being affected.”

Franke said that the creek is an important natural resource for the area, providing habitat for a variety of wildlife and playing a crucial role in the local ecosystem. He added that preserving the creek is crucial for maintaining the ecological balance in the region.

Funding for the project has come from a variety of sources, including local and state government grants, as well as private donations. The project is expected to be completed within the next two years.

The preservation of Old Hickory Creek is an example of how natural resources can be protected and preserved for future generations.

Schaal

Widely known expert in plant evolution

—from page 1

plants from around the world — wild rice from Brazil and China, prairie plants from around the world — and a whopping 91 percent will have experienced a year in poverty by age 85, it exceeds 66 percent.

As Americans face much more daunting odds — a third will experience a year of poverty before age 25, more than 60 percent by age 55, nearly 85 percent by age 85, and a whopping 91 percent will have spent a year in poverty by age 75.

Rand and Hirsh were selected based on their official publications guidelines, which currently are the most individual or collective of their lives.

The study suggests a pattern of just how common the experience of poverty is in America.

An average American, now age 60, has a 40 percent chance of spending at least one year in poverty at some point in his or her lifetime. By age 35, about 31 percent of individuals will experience a year in poverty.

A third of American households experience spells of poverty and welfare dependence, he said. “It’s quite common, and it’s the norm for families, and it’s the norm for individuals which can occur to individuals which can be anticipated events,” Rank suggested. “It’s like being able to plan your life around these events.”

The high percentages in the study suggest that the experience of poverty in America is much more widespread than previously thought. In his 1994 book, “Living on the Edge: The Realities of Welfare in America,” Columbia University Press author Mark R. Rank, Ph.D., lead author of the study and an associate professor of sociology at Cornell University, is based on an annual income of data for thousands of Americans for a 25-year period ending in 1992, controlling for income, wealth, official poverty rates fluctuated between 11 and 15 percent.

Franke noted the overall benefit of such planning. “Communities that have taken environmental planning into account realize the economic boom achievements in systems for future growth,” he said. “Community planning on where to locate based in large part on quality of life issues, and the physical environment is certainly a factor in attracting employers and personnel.”

Franke's work with O'Fallon not only furthered the school’s commitment to addressing community design issues, but it also spurred some additional educational opportunities. Graduate students in Franke's lab fall prepaired hypothetical design proposals for the city. The Metropolitan Research Center also recently sponsored lectures on the protection of natural resources and the city’s history.

The work Tim has done for us with respect to water quality development and growth in the area, the Old Hickory Creek environmental plan recognizes the need for growth for the community, while helping us to develop in an environmentally sensitive and responsible way,” O'Fallon city officials view the plan as a step in the right direction for their own community and hope it will serve as a model for other East Side cities struggling to balance growth with quality of life concerns created by intensive development, said Mayor Gary Grahlman, who was instrumental in initiating the update of the city's land-use and environmental plans.

The plan also calls for the creation of a linear park system along the creeks that would include hiking and bicycle trails.

Once a primarily farming town, O'Fallon has become a new residential community in part due to the efforts of its many private planning consultants providing services to the city. "Environmental services are gener-

Visit www.aismail.wustl.edu for more information about American poverty and some of the recent findings and recommendations from the latest research in this field.
A switch off the alarm
Research suggests new way to think about asthma

BY LINDA SAGE

Although most scientists believe that immune cells are the culprits in asthma, a new study indicates that airway epithelial cells might be at fault. These cells contain an anti-virus alarm system which, if not turned off, triggers persistent inflammation. Holtzman said that this JAK/STAT pathway plays a role in asthma by spying even in the absence of viral infection.

"I think this will change the way people think about asthma. And it suggests therapeutic strategies that have not previously been considered."

MICHAEL J. HOLTZMAN

"If you look at a person with asthma, it was usually found that a few of the genes were switched on. But in samples from people with asthma, it was usually found that a few of the genes were switched off."

First, the researchers located Stat1 in epithelial cells they had brushed from people's airways and in biopsy samples of the airway lining. In healthy subjects and subjects with chronic bronchitis, Stat1 was usually in the cytoplasm, where it presumably was inactive. But in samples from people with asthma, Stat1 was found to be phosphorylated and switching on genes.

Thirty years ago, Holtzman said, "I think this will change the way people think about asthma. And it suggests therapeutic strategies that have not previously been considered."
**University Events**

**Diabetes Research • Stress • Architects • Track and Field**

**Pullin’ their weight**  Mike Riggs, front, and Brandon DelaMater, both MBA ’00, had a hand in the top of war on the athletic field Friday, April 30, during Olympia II, an afternoon event for MBA students, as well as faculty and staff, of the John M. Olm School of Business. Getting down to fun and games, rather than business, attendees also enjoyed a three-legged race, water-balloon toss and (raw) egg toss. Capping the celebration, sponsored by the International Business Council, an MBA student group, was a barbecue at the Stanford Loepata Courtyard at Simon Hall.

**Nearly 1,000 prospective students visit campus during April Welcome**

April Welcome brought almost 1,000 admitted students and their families to campus to experience the intellectual, cultural, recreational and community activities of the University and the St. Louis area. A combination of high school students and seniors attended Multicultural Celebration Weekend, held April 15-18.

About 500 high school juniors also took part in the department of admissions office recruitment effort and visited the campus in April. “It was an exciting month,” said Jay McElhaney, director of admissions in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. “The University community continues to find unique and friendly ways to welcome students from around the world. A sincere thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this a successful event.”

The students were busy with campus tours, attending classes, meeting with faculty, mingling with other students and taking in the city’s sights. With campus tours, attending classes, meeting with faculty, mingling with other students and taking in the city’s sights.

**Baseball team sets new mark for wins**

The baseball team, which remains in contention for a postseason berth, established a new school record for victories in a season Saturday, May 1, with a 4-3 and 2-1 doubleheader sweep of visiting Webster University at Kelly Field. The Bears (27-11) concluded their 1985 team record of 25-12 by making no hits in 27 tries this season. The team, which faces St. Louis–neighbor Fontbonne College Thursday, May 6, is in a showdown for a possible playoff berth, kept its postseason hopes alive with a dramatic 19th-inning victory in the bottom of the 12th inning, the Bears went ahead on a Steve Steinhubl sacrifice fly, and Mark Bruggeman scored on an error on the next play. The nightcap made history as well, as Bears second baseman Mark Clover doubled with one out in the fifth inning, leading the Beavers to their seventh consecutive season with 32 singles or more, a team record in a season. Poggie hit 14 doubles in 1986.

**Three women tamed for NCAA play**

Three women’s tennis team qualified as individuals for the 1999 NCAA Division III Championships Saturday-Monday, May 8-10, on the campus of the College of New Jersey. Ending Katie Abrams, who will compete in the singles competition, is the first freshman in Washington U. women’s tennis history to qualify for the NCAA Championships. Senior Priya Vajani and sophomore Vandini Chaturvedi will compete in the doubles competition. The field for the championship, which includes 32 singles participants and 16 doubles teams, is set. As a team, the Bears finished 18-4 in 1999 — setting a school record for victories in a season — and placed second at the University Athletic Association (UAA) Championships. Six Bears were named to the all-UAA squad. Vajani earned second-team honors for her performance at No. 3 singles, while Abrams paired with Kari Coppiro for second-team honors at No. 2 doubles. Sophomore Kell Lief earned second-team honors at No. 6 singles and teams with Laura Marc for second-team honors at No. 3 doubles. Freshmen Ships Reddy earned second-team honors at No. 5 singles.

**Three tennis players earn all-UAA honors**

The men’s tennis team, fresh off its second-place finish at the UAA Championships, landed three players on the all-UAA team. Freshman Mike Pellebon earned second-team honors at No. 4 singles, while junior Arun Nanjappa and sophomore Mark Lihl earned second-team honors at Nos. 1 and 3 doubles. As a team, the Bears combined to earn second-team all-conference honors at Nos. 3 doubles. The Bears finished the season with a 17-4 record with all four losses coming to ranked opponents. The Bears’ top singles player with an 18-3 record after finishing second in singles is expected to receive all-american honors at the 1999 NCAA Division III Championships. The singles tournament May 17-19 in Claremont, Calif.
May 17 Staff Day offers food, fun and frolics

By Christine Farmer

eating lunch! As staff and administrative personnel from the Hilltop and West campuses will be treated to a free May 17 picnic lunch with the day’s activities at the 24th annual Staff Day. Staff will also have access to academic employees’ contributions to the University’s success.

Along with the program’s traditional features—golf, softball, and kickball—the Park—this year’s event adds three artists drawing free caricatures. Two of the artists are current students in the School of Art and the other is an alumnus.

Staff Day kicks off at 10:30 a.m. with the Opening Ceremonies. Lunch is at noon in Bowles Plaza. Staff can participate in various activities from 1 to 3 p.m. or visit the arts and crafts exhibits that will be set up at Mallinckrodt Center. The tennis courts, track, indoor and outdoor pools and the Fitness Center will be available for use and great prizes are waiting to be won at bingo in Holmes Lounge.

It’s not too late to sign up for the following:
• Golf at Forest Park—Call Paul F. Farmer at 935-5361
• A campus tour—Call Jim Burnam at 935-5501
• Bridge and other card games Call Jim Simpson at 935-8161
• A hike ride at Forest Park—Call Bobbe Winters at 935-6231
• Volleyball—Call Jane Stumm at 935-3916
• Softball—Call Diene Wolfe at 935-4161
• Arts and crafts show — Call Jane Brown at 935-9534

Champions in softball, volleyball and golf will receive awarded trophies, and winners of the arts and crafts show will be presented with plaques.

One of the reasons staff day was originated, said Ann Prunett, director of employee relations and human resources, was “to recognize years of service and staff members’ contributions to the University. It’s a thank you for lots of hard work. This is a great opportunity for staff members to make new friends, have a great lunch and a great fun in the afternoon.”

The grand finale of the day is at 3:30 p.m. in Bowles Plaza when the winning names will be drawn for pairs of airline tickets to anywhere in the domestic United States. Winners must be present to win the prize.

In case of inclement weather, the Staff Day lunch will be held in Mallinckrodt Center. For more information, call 935-5990.

Ann Villa Kellers, president of T.A.B. Co., Inc., a year-old business, also said the networking opportunities were invaluable. She and other graduates spent much of Thursday giving informal presentations to business managers of all the University’s campuses.

“One of the reasons I got in the program was to make sure that I am a qualified minority and am able to get employment,” Villa Kellers said. Now I am just looking forward to getting the benefits.”

The entire steering committee and the course participants attributed much of the course’s success to Sandra Marks, the University’s director of supplier diversity programs, who organized the course.

“This is not the end,” Marks told the audience. “We will offer periodic seminars and symposiums for graduates of the course, and we hope many businesses will be announced as part of our team of vendors and suppliers.

The course will be offered again in October. Tuition is $100 with a $50 reimbursement on completion.

New website provides research support

It is an effort to promote, support and facilitate research throughout the University. Through Dr. G. C. Gravel, chair of the department, has created a website that has everything from funding resources, and grant-writing tips to policies and procedures.

The website can be accessed from the University’s home page or at

University faculty and research administrators are encouraged to use the feedback regarding research support services and the website. Faculty and graduate students are being encouraged to use the website to enhance communication as a priority issue,” Cizeroc said. “Improved communication is essential for researchers and proposal development teams. We are a very formalized university and communication is critical.”

Ciero said there would be a list of major funding resources users, such as grants, and University subscriptions, is included in the website. The site also has:

• The daily updated Community of Science, which is considered the most comprehensive searchable database on the market.
• The Grant Advisor, a new subscription that provides funding opportunities by category. The email is free for the first six months.
• The E-bulletin, a publication of the University’s research office that contains funding news and policy changes.

Researchers can access the proposal proposal help for grants. They can follow the on-line funding opportunities. The policy information page is broken into three categories: conflict of interest, research integrity and intellectual property.

Ciero said areas like would be able to develop further includes grants and contract information, training instruction opportunities, additional on-line funding opportunities, and research-related policies and policy changes.

Honors Recipient professors receive new awards

— Gerald Early, associate vice president and provost—recognized prominence within the community of scholars; service and dedication to the betterment of the University and the quality of life; and accomplishments in teaching.

Gerald Early, who joined the faculty in 1982, is a nationally recognized essayist. He is the author of numerous volumes, including "The Blacker the Berry: An Essay on Braving: Essays on Prizewinning, Literature and Modern American Culture," which won the 1994 National Book Critics Circle Award for criticism. Other books include "One Nation Under a Groove: Motown and American Culture," "Tuxedo Junction: Essays on American Culture" and "Doughnut Family and FATHER."

Earl recently edited "The Muhammad Ali Reader" and "Body Language: Writers on Sports." Other editorships include "Lure and Loathing: Essays on Race, Identity and Ambivalence of Assimilation" and "Speech and Power: The African-American and the Cultural Context." Early is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a regular commentator on National Public Radio's "Fresh Air." He also served as a consultant on Ken Burns' Public Broadcast System documentary "Baseball."

Marcus Raichle pioneered the use of noninvasive imaging to monitor brain function. Working with colleagues at the University, Raichle helped develop many of the basic experimental strategies used worldwide to map the human brain with position emission tomography (PET) and more recently, with functional magnetic resonance imaging. Using PET, Raichle initially helped map specific brain areas used in functions such as seeing, hearing, speaking and remembering.

Additional work with both imaging techniques has provided an increasingly sophisticated view of how the normal brain works. Maps of brain chemistry and metabolism are among these images. In combination, these studies tell us not only how brain activity relates to behavior, but also how health problems such as stroke, depression, anxiety and Parkinson’s disease affect brain function.

Raichle, a member of the faculty since 1973, is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Building business

Minority, women contractors benefit from course

By Christine Farmer

The first graduates of a course for emerging contractors, supported by the University and the Associated General Contractors of St. Louis (AGC), were recognized at a luncheon Thursday, April 29, in Brookes Hall.

"The Business of Construction" course was designed to help St. Louis area contractors compete in the construction industry and to help the University increase minority and women participation in campus construction projects.

"We hope to develop relationships with smaller contractors and that those relationships prosper and grow and become long-term relationships," said Executive Vice-Chancellor Richard A. Roloff, a community college administrator and committee chairman."The whole program has just been wonderful," Roloff and Thomas McLaughlin, AGC president, congratulated the 22 business owners who completed the six-week course and gave them some words of advice and counsel. "We are going to make as much of an effort as we can to be sure minority and women-owned businesses get as much work here as possible.

It was an excellent opportunity to learn about the business aspects and detailed construction issues," he said. "I gave me good insight, and it was most beneficial to learn how to control and track costs, I had set expectations at the beginning of the course, and it far exceeded them." Sharon Tuttle, president of TGB Inc., which has been in business for 16 years, also had nothing but praise for the course. "It was very beneficial and a great opportunity to meet other contractors in similar situations," she said. "It was a great relationship builder, and the bottom line is you do business with those you have relationships with.

James Jackson, president of Miles Electric Inc. in Florissant, said even after seven years in the business he learned a great deal that he will be able to implement. "It was an excellent course," he said. "The professors were very interesting and it was diversified. They covered a lot of ground, and everyone was enthusiastic about the class. There were lots of questions asked and experiences shared.

Annette Vickers, president of T.A.B. Co., Inc., a year-old business, also said the networking opportunities were invaluable. She and other graduates spent much of Thursday giving informal presentations to business managers of all the University’s campuses.

"One of the reasons I got in the program was to make sure that I am a qualified minority and am able to get employment," Vickers said. Now I am just looking forward to getting the benefits.”

The entire steering committee and the course participants attributed much of the course’s success to Sandra Marks, the University’s director of supplier diversity programs, who organized the course.

“This is not the end,” Marks told the audience. “We will offer periodic seminars and symposiums for graduates of the course, and we hope many businesses will be announced as part of our team of vendors and suppliers.

The course will be offered again in October. Tuition is $100 with a $50 reimbursement on completion.

Annette Vickers (right), a graduate of "The Business of Construction" course, receives a certificate of completion from Sandra Marks (left), the University’s director of supplier diversity programs. The University and the Associated General Contractors of St. Louis co-sponsored the course to help contractors compete in the construction industry. Thomas H. McLaughlin, president of the AGC, looks on.

May 6, 1999     5
Spirituality
Students exploring issues of faith

from page 1

of their lives," Braun continued. "They have so many options in and out of school that it feels like it's overwhelming..." They would take seven minutes, eight minutes. Everybody was telescoped. It makes them a little more emotional about their lives, even about some of the more mundane and really see God at things beyond their outward experienced went beyond the en route to Israel. "We touched whose parents "were actually by gratitude," Braun said. "I saw that they never really wonder to drive them to their knees." David Levy felt that wondered— December. The sophomore graphic design major was afraid that he'd go to college and grew up at a plane with 860 other college students (12 from Wu), en route to Israel. "We touched people were just bent over crying. "It's something akin to a mid-life crisis at an early age. What sets [the students apart from other schools that I've worked with is that they're interested in perfectionism; the inner dissatisfaction with who they are and how that's incommunicable to determine who they are from what they do. They're a very self-conscious, perfectionistic here. If they separate out who these are the facts for their friends, they're so much freer and so much happier. "I think it's an experience of divinity for them to forget themselves," Braun said. "These years are so self-conscious, these are so much more promotional, when they're helping someone else for a minute, for a flash, for a moment. It's quite clear that students these days need both, they need to supply their lives with meaning, with something that goes beyond the personal, emotional, and spiritual..." he said. "As well as that's touching the very core of the self. Broadly speaking, our job at this university we're trying to the top and we want to better our world prospects—and as well as increase our knowledge," Handoo said. "And that is teaching the university students customarily receive a different type of feedback than architecture professionals," he said. "All of the students' designs were really well done, we plan to incorporate ideas from some of the other nine teams. Lorberbaum, affiliate associate professor of architecture, said the "vacation homes" for the lemurs provided a challenging project for the students, who initially coughed out their ideas in small-scale models, then created quarter-size structures and finally returned to making finely detailed, small-scale models to present in the competition. "Architecture students on the other two finalist teams were Becky Raup, Ryneh Staito, Richard Stewart and Amanda Handoo, a Muslim born to Karamustafa, Ph.D., associate professor of Persian language and literature at the Center for the Study of Islamic Societies and Cultures. "We think it's very important that people in this country who are doing this just outside classrooms," they. "They want to explore this in all its possible dimensions. They would like to experience it on a spiritual, personal level, but they would also like to explore it intellectually, this is a very good sign. They want to talk to a critical mind."

Juniors John Nguyen (left) and Charlotte Moody take time to pause for reflection and prayer at the Catholic Student Center.

Lemur
Architecture students craft winning design

from page 1

an improvement for the lemurs, who will be able to get into the enclosure and have an adequate amount of an enriching environment with more trees, plants, rocks, perches, swings and logs," Porton said. The design was very well crafted and provides an overall structure that is strong, visually appealing and allows a variety of usable spaces for the lemurs.

Porter added that the partnership with the School of Architecture was invaluable. "We really learned a lot from the variety of proposals the students presented," she said. "All of the students' designs were really well done, we plan to incorporate ideas from some of the other nine teams.

As producer of the program Harvey's influence has been felt for more than 35 years. Today, "Paul Harvey News" still holds the No. 1 spot for audience share, described by about 1,500,000 network affiliates and reaches more than 90 million American homes. Other nationally aired and broadcast radio programs she has developed and produced include the four-minute radio program "The Rest of the Story" and two television programs, "Paul Harvey Comments" and "Dilemma." The latter is generally viewed as the prototype for today's talk show format. In fact, Angel Harvey is responsible for introducing the number of stylistic and programmatic innovations currently in place today, such as the humorous "kicker" and the addition of "spoof" stories and humor segments within a newscast.

Harvey earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the English Department at Washington University. An active and active member of the University community, Harvey is also Eliot Patron of the William Greenleaf Eliot Fund, which serves as advocate for the development of the University's American Culture and American Culture programs for her efforts on behalf of the University, she received a Distinguished Alum Award in 1997. In 1998, Harvey was awarded an honorary doctorate in humanities. "Angel Harvey is a superstar graduate of Washington University," said William H. Danforth, chairman of the Board of Trustees. "She is a very accomplished individual who, with her husband Paul and two children, has enlightened millions of Americans. We are proud to continue to educate young people for good.

The gift is part of the Campaign for Washington University, which seeks to raise $1 billion in gift support by mid-2004. To June 7.

April 26
9:00 a.m.—A student reported that he was robbed of $8 while walking on Melville Avenue and Kingsbury Boulevard in Universi- ty City. He said the two men pushed him to the ground while he said a student told him he was pushed by his shirt. University Police are handling the investigation.

April 30
7:39 a.m.—A student reported that a man entered his apartment on Melville Boulevard and took several video games and video game equipment, valued at $170. University Police also reported an in seven vandalism reports, seven theft reports, two harassment reports, one additional burglary report, one auto accident and one fire.
**Notables**

The medal recognizes Catalano’s significant contributions to the field of urologic cancer. A senior teaching assistant in English and assistant dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, Georgie Benninger, assistant dean in the School of Art, Gia Dankahelnkhaus, assistant professor of engineering and assistant dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences are also notable.

**Student Union presents annual teaching awards**

The Academic Affairs Committee of the Student Union recently presented awards for professors of the year, advisors of the year, and teacher assistants of the year in the University’s five undergraduate schools based on nominations from students.

**Touche 2000anniversary**

Touche, 2000’s annual competition, held April 17 at Tulane University in New Orleans, drew 65 teams from 47 universities, which had won the regional competition. One team, which had won for its memorial in the outer portion of the campus, was founded in 1963. The third-year law student Richard Noltemeyer, second-year law student Gilbert Sloan and Andrew Rubenstein, a first-year MBA student Joe Hanzlik comprised the team, which had won the regional competition, placed fifth overall in the competition, all from the $3,000. The four other teams in the competition, which had won the regional competition, placed fifth overall in the competition, were from the University of Texas at Austin, Rice University in Houston, and Tulane University in New Orleans.

**Business students win finance competition**

The team from the John M. Olmsted School of Business won first place in the third annual Houston Business Finance Competition, held April 17 at Tulane University in New Orleans. The winning MBA student, student Nina Long, from the University of Pennsylvania, won first place in the outer portion of the campus, which had won the regional competition. The team, which had won for its memorial in the outer portion of the campus, was founded in 1963.

**Weekend war on campus**

Weekend war on campus is a way for students to express their views on a specific topic. It is a way for students to express their views on a specific topic. It is a way for students to express their views on a specific topic. It is a way for students to express their views on a specific topic.

**Student work on display**

A collection of student work on display at the Chicago Art Institute and School of Professional Studies in Washington, D.C., includes the work of students in the University’s five undergraduate schools. The work includes paintings, sculptures, and drawings by students from the University’s five undergraduate schools. The work is on display through this week and is available for viewing.

**Student Architecture**

The School of Architecture will honor outstanding students with the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards. The awards recognize outstanding female students in the field of architecture in the United States and abroad. The awards will be presented on April 17 at the School of Architecture's annual awards ceremony.

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Weil battles tropical diseases worldwide

Research promises help and hope for victims of parasitic scourges

BY CLAIRE CAN LINZIE

Weil takes a blood sample from a woman in Egypt during one of some 30 visits he’s made there in the last 10 years.

Traveling to exotic locations and studying tropical disease are part of the daily routine for Gary J. Weil, M.D., professor of medicine and associate professor of molecular microbiology at the School of Medicine. Weil’s work has taken him to many areas of the world, though his field studies have been concentrated in Egypt, India, and Nigeria, where large numbers of people suffer from roundworm parasites that cause the deforming and disabling diseases known as lymphatic filariasis, or elephantiasis, and onchocerciasis, commonly known as river blindness. More than 140 million people are affected by these insect-borne parasites in tropical and subtropical countries around the world.

Weil, who joined the School of Medicine faculty in 1982, has conducted research on filariasis for more than 20 years. He was attracted to parasitology research as a medical student in the mid-1970s. At that time, tropical parasitic diseases were among the most formidable unconquered infectious diseases. And the battle continues today.

He also was drawn to the idea of applying recent advances in biology and immunology to these “great neglected diseases,” with the hope of developing improved methods for diagnosis, treatment and prevention. “The past 20 years have brought significant progress on the research side, and it is critically important that these efforts continue because there is so much more to learn,” Weil said.

“But there is a strong trend now to step back from the laboratory and to consider how to apply the new knowledge to control or eliminate tropical diseases.”

Weil’s research career began during his undergraduate years at Harvard College when he conducted anthropological research for three summers in the Canadian subarctic. He credits two key mentors from that time, an archaeology graduate student and a medical anthropologist, for “infecting” him with the research bug. After receiving a medical degree from Harvard in 1975, he completed a residency in internal medicine at Yale, research training at the National Institutes of Health and a fellowship in infectious diseases at Washington University.

Here, Weil’s early research on filariasis focused on the development and testing of improved diagnostic tests. His first independent project in St. Louis was the development of improved methods for diagnosing dog filariasis, and heartworms, based on detection of parasite excretion products in the blood of infected dogs. The work led to an important patent and to tests that veterinarians now use to diagnose heartworm infections.

Using methods developed during that project, he later created similar diagnostic tests for human filariasis and onchocerciasis.

Detecting ‘worm antigens’

Weil takes particular pride in the antigen test for human filariasis. Previous tests relied on detecting microscopic worms in blood collected from people at night, when they were resting and the parasites become concentrated in small blood vessels near the skin. After identifying a soluble worm product in infected people’s blood, Weil developed a diagnostic test based on detection of “worm antigens” in human blood. His test is both more practical and more sensitive than the older tests. It recently was commercialized by an Australian company, AMRAD-ICT, as an innovative kit, similar in appearance to a home pregnancy test. A portion of the kit’s sales is being donated to a special World Health Organization (WHO) fund for filariasis eliminations.

The test is an important advance, said Thomas B. Nutman, M.D., head of the Helminth Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases at the National Institutes of Health. “It has enabled detailed parasitological and epidemiological assessment of filarial-endemic populations,” he said. “Moreover, the application of this assay has altered the approach to therapy and control of lymphatic filariasis.”

The test fits in well with a new WHO strategy for global elimination of filariasis, Weil said. “Instead of programs based on mass testing for diagnosis of infections and selective treatment of only those with positive tests, the new strategy is based on selective diagnosis and mass treatment.”

Enough testing is done to establish whether filariasis is present in an area, and those infected are offered repeated annual mass treatments with new two-drug combinations that sterilize the worms for at least one year. Several years of repeated annual treatments should interrupt transmission to the point that residual infections die out and the disease is eliminated.

Weil’s laboratory recently opened an insectary for maintaining filarial parasites in mosquitoes. It provides the researchers access to the infecting stage of the parasite, beloved to both pharmaceutical companies and the World Health Organization. “This is one of the key targets of protective immune responses in animals and humans,” said Daniel E. Goldberg, M.D., professor of medicine, noted that although Weil’s primary activity is research, he is an excellent clinician as well.

Weil, who shares clinical duties with others in the Infectious Diseases Division, would like to see the medical school more involved in global health issues and is working toward improving international education opportunities for medical students.

Humility and realism

Weil’s family, consisting of cartoony characters of elephants, is one of the most unusual hobbies of his wife. Weil lives with his wife, Janice, in Creve Coeur. They enjoy traveling and hiking. She is a veteran school librarian who now volunteers as a teacher at the Butterfly House at Faust Park. They have two college-aged children: Madeleine, majoring in American studies and environmental policy, and Andrew, who is studying anthropology.

Attracted to a career in medical research by youthful idealism and a desire to make a difference, Weil said that after years of toil in the tropical disease trenches he most had traded naive optimism for reality and realism. In the fight against filariasis, it is unusual for basic research findings to translate directly into a groundbreaking application such as the filariasis test. He is extremely gratified that some of his research projects have worked out this way. Proud of his group’s work, he presses on with his research efforts, taking comfort, he said, in knowing that “today’s basic research observations contribute pieces that one day will be assembled as solutions to complex puzzles.”

Gary J. Weil, M.D.

Education Harvard College, B.A.; Harvard University Medical School, M.D.

University positions Professor of medicine, associate professor of molecular microbiology.

Family Wife, Janice; daughter, Madeleine; son, Andrew.

Avocations Traveling and hiking.