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$4 million pledge
Anheuser-Busch funds to support scholarships, executive education

By Barbara Rei

The Anheuser-Busch Foundation has pledged $4 million to support minority students and faculty at Washington University in St. Louis, according to Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, who said half the gift will establish the Anheuser-Busch Scholars Program for undergraduate minority students and half will support the new executive education center for the John M. Olin School of Business.

"Both the executive education center and the minority scholarship fund are essential to the future success of Washington University and to strengthening its service to this region and to the nation," Wrighton said. "We are grateful for the extraordinary support that Anheuser-Busch has given and continues to give to our university. Our board of trustees and president have helped build this campus into a world-class center of education and research."

In announcing the pledge, August A. Busch III, chairman of the board and president of Anheuser-Busch Inc., emphasized the importance of making a commitment to education and investing in people. "People are at the heart of our business," Busch said. "We believe that diversity within the work force will be a must for every organization that intends to grow internationally or prosper domestically. In addition, we know that career-long education will be essential to our employees if they are to function productively in an environment of rapid and sometimes radical change in the 21st century."

The $2 million pledge for the business school will support the Charles S. Knight Executive Education Center, now under construction. Executive education programs continue to grow in importance, as an increasing number of middle- and upper-level managers acknowledge the need for lifelong learning. "This gift from the Anheuser-Busch Foundation represents a significant contribution to improving the business education base in our new facility," said Dean Stuart I. Greenbaum, Ph.D. "As a result of this new building, we will be able to attract additional first-rate faculty who will teach in state-of-the-art classrooms and provide high-quality education for executives in this region, thereby contributing to the vitality of the entire business community," James E. McLeod, vice president and dean, said.

Jeff Pike is new art dean

By Liam Otten

Jeff Pike, associate dean of the School of Art and associate professor of illustration in the Visual Communications Department, was named the school's dean July 1, according to Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. Pike succeeds Joe Deal, who left June 30 to become provost of the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence. In addition to overseeing the art school, Pike's responsibilities will include helping develop the University's Visual Arts and Design Center (VADC).

"I am delighted that Jeff has accepted this appointment as dean of the School of Art," Wrighton said. "His 16 years of experience as a faculty member and associate dean — including 10 years of close collaboration with Joe Deal — have prepared him admirably for this responsibility. I look forward to working with Jeff and to the continued strengthening of our School of Art."

Said Pike: "The School of Art has a history of distinction and strong leadership, and I am honored to be dean. I look forward to working with the school's faculty, staff and alumni and the University community to provide our students with the best education possible."

New lab building to be built

By Christine Farmar

Construction will begin within a month on the 129,300-square-foot Arts and Sciences Laboratory Science Building that will focus on undergraduate teaching in the chemical sciences.

The four-level building will be located between the Ana W. Olin Women's Building and McMillan Hall and will be constructed of reinforced concrete with a granite and limestone exterior.

The firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill Architects is finalizing plans for the building. BSB Constructors, the construction manager, is expected to complete the project in 27 months.

The Department of Chemistry provides nearly 10,000 credit hours of instruction yearly, primarily to undergraduate students in Arts and Sciences and to Preprofessional Students. Two new professorships have been created at the School of Medicine, in the departments of orthopaedic surgery and pathology. Charles F. and Joanne Knight have endowed the Charles F. Knight Distinguished Professorship in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, which will be filled by William Joseph F. Maloney III, M.D. Former faculty and others affiliated with the Department of Pathology who helped create the Paul E. Lacy Research Foundation new cancer treatment and melanoma facilities have named the new chair.

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton and William A. Peck, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, announced the new chair.

"We are grateful to the Knights for their generous commitment," Wrighton said. "Our John M. Olin School of Business, the Charles F. Knight Executive Education Center is under construction even now, and with this gift the Knights also are helping ensure success at our School of Medicine. Chuck and Joanne are great citizens of St. Louis, who have contributed immensely to the community. We are honored that their names will be associated with Washington University in perpetuity through this endowed professorship for one of our most outstanding faculty members."

Said Peck: "This distinguished professorship will forever recognize and honor two individuals who have meant a great deal to Washington University. Chuck and Joanne Knight have worked hard to make the University and the Medical Center what they are today. This would be a very different place — indeed the healthcare system in St. Louis would be very different — without their generosity and vision."

Ballard A. Schaaf, Ph.D., professor of biology in Arts and Sciences, and graduate student Kenneth M. Olsen examine a wild Mexican cassava plant in the University's Plant Growth Facility. Their research solves an old puzzle and reveals a wealth of genetic diversity in wild and domesticated cassava strains.

Research reveals staple crop's roots

Discovery holds promise of help for Third World

Solving an old puzzle and revealing a wealth of genetic diversity in wild and domesticated cassava strains, Illinois researchers have identified a 'gateway' molecule that helps the root system of this staple crop grow. The research provides insights into cassava's evolution and its potential to feed the world in the 21st century.

The team of biologists, including University of Illinois chemists Edward Saffitz and Jennifer Saffitz, identified a protein in wild cassava that helps the root system develop. The team's discovery holds promise of help for Third World countries that grow cassava, a staple crop grown primarily to meet the nutritional needs of the indigenous people of the Americas for millennia and much of Africa since the 17th century.

But now biologists at Washington University in St. Louis, who have contributed to the University in perpetuity through this endowed professorship for the School of Medicine, have identified a cassava subspecies, still present in the diminishing wilds of the Amazon basin, as the plant's progenitor.

The find provides important insights into cassava's evolution and its potential to feed the world in the 21st century.

The firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill Architects is finalizing plans for the building. BSB Constructors, the construction manager, is expected to complete the project in 27 months.

The Department of Chemistry provides nearly 10,000 credit hours of instruction yearly, primarily to undergraduate students in Arts and Sciences and to Preprofessional Students.
Head start
Prefreshmen get taste of research lab in Summer Scholars program

By REBECCA RIEHL

This is their last summer before college, but some prefreshmen continue looking for volunteers aged 18 to 65 to participate in the VADC study on shingles.

Volunteers should be in good general health and have not had shingles before. They will make one office visit to receive the vaccine, then report by phone monthly for the next three years. Anyone who gets shingles will receive free medical care for the outbreak. For more information, call 289-6752 or 888-374-5466.

Laurel Griggs, a prefresher from Florida, is geo-referencing radar and satellite maps for finer resolution to study changes in vegetation in the Missouri River floodplain since the 1993 flood. The experience will help her understand the impact on the environment and the economic cost of the flooding.

In addition to their lab work, the students also attend biweekly seminars on different areas of research. All but one who exempted were taking a chemistry prep course, taught by incoming senior Doug Ramsey. This course is designed to give the students a head start on General Chemistry I and II, a notorious stumbling block for many science majors.

In fact, two-thirds of the participants and the University present their projects to other students this year have some prior research experience. Biology Professor Daniel H. Koh, Ph.D., matches students and professors based on research interests.

The number of applications has increased significantly since the program began. This year, there were more than 400 applications for 18 spots. By the third year, the program received applications from 250 students who planned to stay for the future. "These kids know exactly what they want to do," Alexander observed. "They are really goal-oriented."

In two of the three subjects this year have some prior research exposure. Half are certain that they want to pursue medicine or research as a career; the others are undecided. Ten of the 18 are women; several are from minority ethnic groups.

Despite previous research experience, many of the students find they have misconceptions about the daily life of scientists. Some are surprised to learn how collaborative scientific research can be. Others have thought that it was done alone in their little lab. "Chad Sistering, a 1998 prefresher from Martinsville, Va., says, "The students live in a dormitory on campus. Their resident advisers, Ms. Molly Peck and Jamie Strickland, are both 1996 prefreshmen. After graduating this year, they want to teach high school science."

During the first week, along with an orientation to campus, the students receive training in basic mathematical techniques from Professor Shawn A. Cummings, laboratory director and chair of the Department of Biological Sciences. Then they head out to their respective research groups and the program ends with a daylong symposium in which the students present their projects on campus and the University community.

In addition to their lab work, the students also attend biweekly seminars on different areas of research. All but one who exempted were taking a chemistry prep course, taught by incoming senior Doug Ramsey. This course is designed to give the students a head start on General Chemistry I and II. It is a notorious stumbling block for many science majors.

The program offers a broad range of technical activities for the participants, such as a trip to the St. Louis Zoo or to the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis.

This was the mechanism engineering laboratory in 1905, pictured in an early incarnation of the Washington University Record.

Reprint requests to Rebecca Riehl, 2010 S. Euclid Ave., St. Louis, Mo. 63130.

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Pledge Funds for scholarships, executive education

from page 1

high-quality studio and academic opportunities possible.

Dean
Noted illustrator to head art school

from page 1

highest quality studio and academic opportunities possible.

White Pages. He currently is involved in a collaborative book effort," Wrighton added. "In play a key role in this important experience. Here, we believe all of our students benefit from learning to live and work with others of different backgrounds."

William H. Danforth, chancellor and president, since 1990, has been an artist in residence at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris. Pike earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from the Kansas City Art Institute in 1976 and a master of fine arts in visual communication from Syracuse University in 1978. He has taught at several institutions, including the Art Center College of Design, before joining the Washington University faculty in 1993. During his tenure here, he has directed the illustration program and has helped establish the School of Journalism and Communication's Graduate Faculty. Pike is a member of the American Society of插图ists, the Society of Illustrators, the University and College Designers Association.

Wrighton also announced his plans to retire, effective July 1, 2001.

"We are in the midst of continuing to refine our plans for the future, and the University will play a key role in this important effort," Wrighton said. "To discussing our plans, I am confident we can continue to build on the momentum developed under Dean Joe Deal."

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Campus quiz: High-tech for its day, this laboratory served what purpose?

Pike's work has been recognized in Print Directions, Creative Review, and Adweek magazines. He has won more than 30 awards for creative work in advertising, and his illustrations have appeared in such publications as the Chicago Society of Illustrators and the University and College Designers Association.

Pike is a contributing editor and educator, Pike has lectured at numerous art institutions and recently served on a professional advisory panel for the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. He also has been an artist in residence at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris.

Pike earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from the Kansas City Art Institute in 1976 and a master of fine arts in visual communication from Syracuse University in 1978. He has taught at several institutions, including the Art Center College of Design, before joining the Washington University faculty in 1993. During his tenure here, he has directed the illustration program and has helped establish the School of Journalism and Communication's Graduate Faculty. Pike is a member of the American Society of插图ists, the Society of Illustrators, the University and College Designers Association.

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Get cool in the pool
Summer heat getting you down? Take a refreshing — and healthful — swim in the Athletic Center's Millstone Pool! No fee available free to employees with University identification. The schedule (in effect through July 23):

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8 a.m.-4:30-6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Saturday: 7-8 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Employees may take spouses and children free of charge, as well as daily guests pay a $5 special guest fee. For additional information, call 289-7652 or consult the Daily Universe.
Study suggests need for better pain management in newborns

By DIANE DICK WILDEY

During nursing and medical procedures, newborns, premature infants respond to pain by increasing heart and breathing rates, and behaviors that indicate distress. School of Medicine researchers recently reported that they have discovered a new mechanism that allows newborns to react to pain and that their responses to nursing and medical procedures can be predicted. This enables a more accurate assessment of how much they respond. She also believes it's important to continue to research which type of pain management is more effective and determine the downwinds, if any.

"These findings underscore how sophisticated newborns are," said lead author Fran Lang Porter, Ph.D., associate professor of pediatric psychology and director of the Disability Resource Center. "The study shows that not managing their pain, as if their children don't feel pain, is a real mistake. We're beginning to understand that what we're doing is long-term effective." As part of their required course, students empower nurses in the hospital and elective procedures, such as circumcision. The doctors and nurses in the study babies were premature, that it feels much as pain adults.

The researchers give the perceptions between how adults behave in response to pain, how painful they seem, and how they react to their bodies react to the stimulus, and how they distinguish required medical procedures in the hospital and exposure of what they endure: amount of the procedure, amount of tissue damage and site of the pain.

As expected, the newborns' heart rates increased significantly over baseline in response to the preparation and the procedure itself but declined before and after recovery. The infants also slept less and became more agitated during preparation and the procedure, and they slept more during baseline and recovery. The babies were able to differentiate clearly between mildly, moderately and highly invasive procedures. The more invasive the procedure, the more their heart rates increased and their breathing increased.

The researchers also found that, during the first week of life, prematurity does not change much a baby responds. Babies born prematurely and at term responded similarly to painful procedures, as judged by heart rate, agitation and sleep.

"We also wanted to know whether premature babies become more sensitive to pain as they grow older. Porter and colleagues recruited 152 newborns, from 28 to 102 gestational age from less than 28 weeks through full term. The babies were divided into normal newborns, premature or intensive care nursery newborns at Washington University Medical Center. Of the original infants recruited, 135 were studied at term and qualified for the final report.

The researchers measured the newborns' heart rates and behaviors while they underwent a wide array of required or elective procedures ranging from physical exams to breast tube insertions to circumcision. They measured two behaviors— the time the babies spent fussing or crying and the time they spent sleeping. The babies were observed for four periods— baseline, preparatory, procedure and recovery — and the invasiveness of each procedure was rated according to the length of the procedure, amount of tissue damage and site of the procedure.

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University Events

Fiber Arts • Bone Grafting • Festival Orchestra • InsideOUT

Exhibitions

"Terra Incognita: Exhibitions and Cultural Encounters in Exploration Accounts of Exploration and Cultural Encounters in the New World: Special Collections, 1st floor, Gil Library. 367-2945.

Lectures

Wednesday, July 21
7:30 p.m. Orthopaedic surgery and sports medicine. "Bone Grafting" in team sports. Dr. John Schair, director of athletics. University Events.

Thursday, July 22
8:30 p.m. Holmes Jazz Series. "InsideOUT: The Holmes Jazz Series in Holmes Lounge." The group features, from left to right: David Taylor on drums, Sean Willette on bass, Ben Looker on piano and Jeff Laish on vibes.

Friday, July 23

Friday, July 26

Music

Sunday, July 18

Sunday, July 25

Sunday, July 29
7:30 p.m. Holmes Jazz Series. "Distinguished Lecture." Holmes Lounge, Ridgley Blvd. 569-4201.

Sunday, Aug. 1

Thursday, Aug. 5
8:30 p.m. Holmes Jazz Series. "InsideOUT: The Holmes Jazz Series in Holmes Lounge." 569-4201.

...And more

Saturday, July 17
8 a.m. Office of Continuing Medical Education. "Fletcher Grand Rounds. "Heart Failure, Pneumonia, Antibiotic Resistance and Hyperlipidemia." Program Coordinator: Dr. Janet L. Fett. 574-1115.

Thousands of youngsters hone sports skills at WU

With the addition of softball, the University boasts 18 intercollegiate athletics programs, including nine women's programs. The Bears will play a 50-game schedule that includes competition in the annual University Athletic Association (UAA) round robin tournament.

Women's softball added to spring 2000 lineup

By KEVIN BERQUIST

Washington University has announced the addition of women's softball to its intercollegiate athletics programs, to begin play during the spring of 2000. Designed by John Schair, director of athletics.

With the addition of softball, the University boasts 18 intercollegiate athletics teams, including nine women's programs. The Bears will play a 50-game schedule that includes competition in the annual University Athletic Association (UAA) round robin tournament.

"The addition of softball to Washington University will greatly add to the quality of student life on campus and assist in our efforts to provide a gender-equitable athletics program for all students," Schair said. "We look forward to joining our fellow UAA institutions in participating next spring in one of the most popular sports in the country."

The University becomes the sixth UAA institution to compete for the league softball championship. Joining Brandeis University (Waltham, Mass.), Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland), Emory University (Atlanta), New York University and the University of Rochester (N.Y.), softball is the first new sport here since women's soccer made its varsity debut in 1989. A new softball field is currently under construction in the southwest area of campus near the University's residence halls.

The women's athletics program at the University is enjoying a dynamic, record-breaking era. All nine of the Bears' NCAA Division III national championship teams (wrestling, softball) have been claimed by women's teams during the last decade. In 1998, three teams (volleyball, basketball, and soccer) advanced to the 1998 NCAA Division III championship game that past spring. The Bears' 15th NCAA Division III national championship, in wrestling, was claimed by the women's wrestling team last season.

While most camps are over, Joe Clarke, the men's soccer coach, offered the soccer camp until the end of July. Clarke leads these summer sessions for children between the ages of 6 and 18. Each session runs for about a week. For the latest information regarding soccer camp openings, call 362-6891.

The volleyball camp run for two weeks in late June and early July. Joe M. Worlund, assistant athletic director and associate director of the camp, said that the program promotes a positive role for volleyball in St. Louis, improves and volleyball skills of players and serves as a public relations tool for the University and live volleyball program.

The volleyball camp hosted about 400 campers, the majority from the greater St. Louis area. Worlund said the public relations accomplishments are one of the program's biggest successes.

"It introduces the players to the camps, campus, coaches, and facilities, and helps in recruiting," he explained. "In 1998, no fewer than five women on the University's volleyball team had attended the camp as youngsters."

Football coach Larry Kindhomme had similar success. In 1998, about a dozen of the players on the team's roster had attended the WU football camp during high school, including last year's starting quarterback Alan Barnette.

"The camp introduces the program to area coaches, it helps with recruiting and it teaches fundamentals," Kindhomme said. "It does not put emphasis on playing. This camp is all fundamentals."

With up to 30 young people on campus, it is hard to keep them entertained and active, according to Worlund — but he hopes that the kids who succeeded and the youths walked away with a better understanding of their sport.

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Graduate students mastering Internet possibilities in teaching

By Elinor Liberland

Graduate students mastering Internet possibilities in teaching

U College enrollment to open; fast track offered

By Christopher Farmer

University affirms value of racial, ethnic diversity

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, in the following statement to the University community, reaffirms the University's commitment to the goals of affirmative action — equal opportunity and a multi-racial, multi-ethnic community.

Washington University is committed to providing equal opportunity for all who come to work and study here. For more than 30 years, we have actively and energetically recruited minority students, faculty and staff, and we believe we are well on our way to creating a campus where many different ethnic groups come together to learn not only from our professors but from each other.

In recent history, programs created for minorities have been challenged in various legislative bodies and courts, and those arguing against them have stated that individuals should be judged solely on their own merits regardless of family, economic status, race, ethnic group, religion or gender. Indeed, Americans can support this sentiment. It is possible, however, to share the hope that affirmative action programs are just and necessary. During the course of this country's past, many people by virtue of their race have been excluded from many opportunities, including the opportunity to have the best educational experience possible. In recent years, our country has been engaged in righting some of these wrongs with a view to creating a successful multi-ethnic, multi-racial society that provides the same level of opportunities for all. In this effort, we as a country have made giant strides, but clearly we have not yet reached the goal.

As a private institution, Washington University has the advantage of being able to set its own goals. However, with this freedom comes the responsibility to formulate and pursue priorities that are in the best interest of our country as a whole. It is with this in mind that Washington University energetically reaffirms its affirmative action policies and gives high priority to attracting talented, academically gifted minority students, faculty members and administrators. As we look to the next century, Washington University is committed to continuing this vigorous effort toward providing equal opportunity, for just, multi-ethnic, multi-racial, and above all, a model of academic excellence that proves the future of our country and world lies in its educated citizens.
New laboratories the School of Engineering and Applied Science. An important and substantial part of that instruction involves hands-on laboratory experience.

Freshman and sophomore chemistry laboratory offerings serve nearly 1,000 students each year in laboratories and classrooms that were built decades ago. The new building will provide undergraduates with modern, safe, state-of-the-art teaching laboratories as well as three additional classrooms as well as a large lecture hall and a resource center. All chemistry laboratory instruction will be conducted in this new building.

In addition, extensive renovations of the synthetic chemistry laboratories on the fourth and fifth floors of Mcmillan Laboratory are under way. They should be completed this summer.

"In our labs now we have no graduate laboratory supervisor, said the teaching will allow each student to work in his or her own group, a piece of equipment that removes vapors and other protection from experimental mishaps. "In our labs now we have no graduate laboratory supervisor, the teaching will allow each student to work in his or her own group, a piece of equipment that removes vapors and other protection from experimental mishaps."

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The new and Arts and Sciences Laboratory Science Building will stand between the Ann W. Olin Women's Building and McMullan Hall.

Main Street Construction workers install red Missouri granite boulders, three to six feet in diameter, along a southwest opposite of the one 40x60 new domes, west of the Alumnae House parking lot. Numerous trees and shrubs will be planted around the boulders to make a rock garden lining the walkway leading to the Forsyth Boulevard undergird, EDAM landscape architects of Fort Collins, Colo., designed the slope and the walkway to resemble Main Street in Vail, Colo.

The slopewant to be turned into massive soybean fields. In the second incident at 10:25 a.m. an armed robbery occurred on campus last week. At 1:12 a.m. on June 6, a man approximately 5 feet, 10 inches tall, wearing a t shirt and blue jeans, walked into a business and robbed it. The suspect was described as a white male, 25 to 30 years old, 6 feet tall, wearing a black shirt and blue jeans. He was last seen walking north on the campus, heading towards the engineering building. The suspect was last seen walking north on the campus, heading towards the engineering building.

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Weidenbaum reappointed as director of the CSAB

Charles L. Weidenbaum, former director of the Center for Studies in American Business Administration (CSAB), has been reappointed to the post. He will begin his new term Aug. 1.

Dr. Weidenbaum, who has served as director of the CSAB since its establishment in 1961, was appointed under the direction of the President of the University of Southern California in 1961 as associate professor of education in Arts and Sciences.

Weidenbaum: Reappointed

Dr. Weidenbaum has contributed importantly to the study of American business, and, in particular, to the study of the economic aspects of business policy. He has been a leader in the field of economics and a prominent member of the American Economic Association. He has served as editor of the Journal of Political Economy and as a member of the Executive Committee of the American Economic Association.

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Notables

Linda D. Krall, associate professor of mechanical engineering

Linda D. Krall, Ph.D., associate professor of mechanical engineering, died suddenly in her home in St. Louis on June 19. She was 39.

Funeral services were June 29 in Lee's Summit, Mo. An campus memorial service is being planned for September.

“Linda’s contributions to the University of Arizona, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in Arizona are well known. She was a dedicated teacher and a respected member of the faculty. Her passing is a great loss to our community. We offer our sincere condolences to her family and loved ones,” said Dr. Peter J. Wiswesser, dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science.

Obituaries

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Stressing the importance of lifelong learning

Rebecca McAlister, M.D., works to help residents, students deal with explosion of medical data

By LINDA SAGE

Rebecca McAlister, M.D., talks with fourth-year student Daikon Echols about bacterial vaginosis and how it relates to pre-term labor.

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s the first and only obstetrician and gynecologist in a small Kentucky town, Rebecca McAlister has had to learn about isolation. There was no medical library, no grand Rounds and only one other doctor to refer her. She made every effort to learn about new advances, but she had no idea whether to apply them to her practice.

Working in Cynthiana, Ky., in the mid-1980s gave Rebecca P. McAlister, M.D., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, a mission. As director of the ob/gyn residency program at the School of Medicine, she wants to turn newly minted physicians into lifelong learners who can access and use information wisely no matter where they find employment.

"Although residents feel it's important to recite lists of facts, new information is coming out at ever faster speeds," said McAlister, who also is associate dean for graduate medical education. "So it's more important for physicians to decide what is useful, actually true and when and how to apply that information in their practice."

Residents and medical students keep McAlister in academe. "It is very challenging to introduce adult learning principles," she said. "We are still very much entrenched in the concept of stuffing as much information into students as possible. We need to allow more independent learning." McAlister developed her love of teaching by tutoring other high school students in Ashland, Ky. But, inspired by a family friend, she decided to become a physician instead of a history teacher. After studying zoology at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, she entered the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. By her third year, she had decided to become a general surgeon.

"Ob/gyn was my last rotation because it seemed the least likely thing I would go into," she recalled. "But it turned out to offer a better mesh of the things I wanted to do!" She completed her ob/gyn residency at Loyola University in Maywood, Ill.

She moved to St. Louis in 1987 because her husband, W. Howard McAlister, O.D., joined the faculty of the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where he now is an associate professor of optometry. Finding a job at a medical school fulfilled her need to be a teacher and to have resources close at hand. "Without having to reach for it, you can talk with other people who are experts in any area of obstetrics and gynecology," she explained. "However, it takes a lot more time to be an academian than to be in private practice. It's very difficult to make teaching, administration and patient care fit into a reasonable schedule."

As Chief of the Division of Gynecology, she focuses on didactic issues and practical details such as scheduling and the financial solvency of the division. As director of the IRC Gynecology Clinic, she scrubs with residents and tries to prepare them for private practice. "A patient may come in for a Pap smear but the physician needs to talk with them, tell them what is useful and actually true and when and how to utilize that information in their practice."

"Although residents feel it's important to recite lists of facts, new information is coming out at ever faster speeds. So it's more important for physicians to decide what is useful and actually true and when and how to utilize that information in their practice." McAlister tries to get residents to understand the importance of prevention. "Americans utilize health care poorly because they often go to a physician only when they are sick," she said. "They turn to nonmedical sources for prevention. For whatever reason, medicine has not been able to fill that need, so there are plenty of entrepreneurs who take advantage of vulnerable people." The ob/gyn residents have given McAlister three Excellence in Teaching awards in recent years. "She brings a lot of enthusiasm to her job and is very hands-on and accessible," said third year resident Stephanie H. Gordon, M.D. "She is interested in revolutionizing the old style, do-as-I-say teaching. She wants to make this a much more supportive and nurturing experience for residents and students."

McAlister also wants to bring change at the national level. Last February, she graduated from the first class of APGO (Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics) academic scholars, learning methodologies for research on medical education. Through this and other groups, she has linked up with educational researchers who have worked in other fields of medicine. She is tapping their expertise as she tries to maximize the success of adult learners in ob/gyn. She also is the Missouri regional member for a policy-making body called the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics.

In her limited private practice, McAlister focuses on urogynecology as the most common surgical procedure she performs for incontinence. She is interested in the etiology of menopause women. "This is not a tame crowd," she said. "These women are very involved with their health care, so you have to be very well-informed and empathetic." She doesn't believe her gender gives her any advantage in treating middle-aged women. "The idea that your ob/gyn has to be a woman your age is really hurting our specialty, by causing qualified male candidates are getting the impression that people don't want to hire them," she said. "You don't need to be able to play the piano to tell whether it's in tune. Women simply need physicians who listen, treat them as adults and are concerned with their concerns."

In practice empath, physicians need to maintain balanced lives, McAlister believes, rejecting the idea that more time spent at work makes you better at your job.

"A well-rounded physician has to be a well-rounded person," she stressed. "I'm very concerned that our residents develop the empathy to accept people for what they are so they can help educate them about how to take care of themselves. Sometimes the aspect of medical education gets lost in the shuffle."

To make sure such important concepts don't get lost, McAlister will stay involved with policy making. She also is planning to use outcomes studies of resident education. "I want to do everything I can," she said. "I hope that residents become good physicians.