University selected to host presidential debate Oct. 17

BY CHRISTINE FARMER

“Excitement is sweeping the campus and the city of St. Louis as Washington University selected to host presidential debate Oct. 17,” said Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. “This year we will have about 20 news conferences in the Field House announcing that a fall presidential debate will be held here. Others talking with reporters were (from left) Stephen Lambright, group vice president and general counsel of Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc.; Andrew C. Taylor, University trustee and president of both Civic Progress and Enterprise Rent-a-Car Co.; Stephen K. Lambright, group vice president and general counsel to Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc.; John F. McDonnell, chairman of the University’s Board of Trustees and Dick Fleming, president and CEO of the St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association.

“This year will have about nine months to do it and hopefully have more educational opportunities in the process,” McDonnell said. “Washington U. does plan, as in ’92, to have activities for alumni and parents. In ’92 a number of prominent faculty members commented on the debate.”

Ben Cannon, ’99, is Rhodes Scholar

‘The Brits are very lucky,’ University mentor says

BY DAVID MOESSNER

This was not your standard Trivial Pursuit game. No walking along Tides on the sports and entertainment questions and then eking out a couple of trivia answers in the movie categories. As Ben Cannon set in a Macalester College lounge in Minnesota last month, he was surrounded by a group of three sharp competitors, each with eyes on an infinitely more prized goal: a coveted Rhodes Scholarship to the University of Oxford in England.

“Trivial Pursuit!” recalled Cannon with a laugh. As he and his partner built an insurmountable lead, the May 1999 Washington University graduate said he was thinking, “I’m not going to win this scholarship, but I am going to be able to go back home and tell people I beat a Rhodes Scholar in Trivial Pursuit!”

As it turned out, it was a two-for-two weekend for Cannon. The history honors student said former Student Life editor-in-chief was one of 33 Americans chosen from among 337 applicants who had been endorsed by 337 colleges and universities nationwide. Cannon will join an international group of 95 who will receive two to three years of study at Oxford University, including all university fees and a stipend, totaling a value of about $25,000 per year.

He is the University’s 20th Rhodes Scholar.

Cannon said in a news conference in the Field House announcing that a fall presidential debate will be held here. Others talking with reporters were (from left) Stephen Lambright, group vice president and general counsel of Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc.; Andrew C. Taylor, University trustee and president of both Civic Progress and Enterprise Rent-a-Car Co.; Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton; and Dick Fleming, president and CEO of the St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association.

“Tremendous honors!” Cannon said the award will give him a chance to further consider career options in journalism, law or high school teaching. “I want to make a difference in my community, and one of the most important ways you can do that is teaching,” he said.

I had a tremendously supportive academic experience at Washington University,” he added. “What I’m beginning to appreciate most about the University is the degree to which administrators — Sharon Stahl and Jim McLeod in particular in the School of Medicine — managed our medical care positively.”

Pennington, a mother of four, recovered quickly and was discharged Dec. 19. She continued to return to the hospital daily for monitoring and pulmonary rehab until mid-January.

See Lung, page 3

Lung transplant is 500th performed in program here

BY DAVID MOESSNER

While everyone else was New Year’s Eve worrying about a flaring of the political millenium, Mary Pennington was catching her breath. Pennington, 61, of Olds, Ill., underwent a bilateral lung transplant — the hospital’s 500th lung transplant — Dec. 7 at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

The Washington University School of Medicine lung transplant program at Barnes-Jewish is believed to be the first program to reach this transplant milestone. With more than 200 additional pediatric lung transplants at St. Louis Children’s Hospital, the University’s program is the most prolific in the world.

Alex Patterson, M.D., the Joseph C. Bancroft Professor of surgery at the medical school, performed the milestone six-hour operation. Ebert, T. Troedel III, M.D., the Rosemary and I.J. Pennington Professor in Pulmonary Medicine, is managing the University’s medical care postoperatively.

Pennington, a mother of four, recovered quickly and was discharged Dec. 19. She continued to return to the hospital daily for monitoring and pulmonary rehab until mid-January.

See Lung, page 3

John R. Bowen, Ph.D., professor of anthropology and director of the program in Social Thought and Analysis, has been named the Dunbar Van Cleve Professor in the School of Arts & Sciences. A formal installation ceremony will be held in the spring.

“John Bowen’s creative contributions to the life of Washington University as a teacher, researcher and all-around University citizen make him an ideal recipient of such a distinguished professorship,” said Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. “He is the perfect person for a chair made possible through the support and generosity of two of the University’s most well-respected alumni.”

Edward S. Macias, executive vice chancellor and dean of Arts & Sciences, “Professor Bowen exemplifies the qualities” of the new Dunbar Van Cleve Professor in the School of Arts & Sciences.

Inside: University’s Gallery of Art opens three new exhibitions

Washington People: Joseph L. Price, D. Phil., probes brain’s intricacies

John F. McDonnell, chairman of the University’s Board of Trustees, addresses the media at a Jan. 6 news conference in the Field House announcing that a fall presidential debate will be held here. Others talking with reporters were (from left) Stephen Lambright, group vice president and general counsel of Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc.; Andrew C. Taylor, University trustee and president of both Civic Progress and Enterprise Rent-a-Car Co.; Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton; and Dick Fleming, president and CEO of the St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association.

December Commencement with a little help from her friends, psychology major Sunny Hong (third from left) celebrated her upcoming graduation at a Dec. 12 reception in Holmes Lounge. Marking the occasion with her are (from the left) seniors Caryn Ten, Jenny Wang and Amy Songko. Senior Gina Farag captures the moment on film. Hong was one of about 600 candidates for the annual December Commencement, which included graduates from all eight schools at the University.

Bowen named to new chair

Washington University in St. Louis

Medical News: Timothy J. Ley named to new Wollf professorship
Architecture clinics give unique hands-on learning experience

**BY ANN NICHOLSON**

Students involved in a 3,000-acre site southeast of Los Angeles are considering the design proposals of Washington University students, who are in the company’s efforts to create a viable urban community there. The overall challenge is to retain a former military site in Orange County and bring it alive through a variety of mixed uses. The graduate-level studio taught by Tim Franke and Eric Mumford, Ph.D., assistant professors of architecture — involved analysis of issues from the microscopic to the teleoscopic.

“The level of sophistication of the design is very impressive,” noted studio design critic Kenan Smith, an architect and president of Coachman Ticker the Irvine Co., which is seeking to promote redevelopment of the site. “The students’ work demonstrates a good grasp of the issues involved. It offers us some fresh perspectives and strategies that we will consider as we implement the site’s future development.”

In the course’s most recent phase, the site raises a number of design challenges, including reframing from a military roadway to addressing environmental concerns, transportation access. Additionally, Nicholson notes that requirements for the site’s remains preclude any developmen

**Architectural clinics help reclaim base**

Graduate student Virginia Price discusses her design proposal for a multi-modal transit station during a recent studio review. The project focused on Chapel, Obia, Faira (Baren ’45), founding partner and co-chair of Hebbert, Obia & Kassabman Inc., St. Louis; architecture and urban designer Keenan Smith; and architecture professors Ian Fraser and Thomas Thomson.

*Instructor bri*Grocery*nt is inviting nominations for persons of notable achievement to receive distinguished faculty and alumni awards at the 2000 Founders Day in October.

“Tremendous rigor in students’ work**

Graduate architecture students working on cutting-edge theories and designs based on the new Donald Danforth Plant Science Center building on campus have demonstrated an impressive energy and professional expertise of the faculty and the actual project architect.

Funded jointly by Washington University and five other institutions, the center will be one of the largest and most advanced plant research facilities in the world. The facility poses a number of interesting architectural and logistical challenges, noted Paul Donnelly, the Rebecca Whalley, the School of Architecture’s Ruth and Norman Morse Visiting Professor, prodded the students to blend design and technological issues into a working environment, energy-efficient facility.”

“I have been impressed by the quality of the work under taken by Paul’s students in the building course studies,” said Whalley. “There is tremendous vigor in their work and not just in the depth of their research but in the breadth and quality of their presentation, which reflects a greater technical understanding of the design and construction process.”

Comments from renowned plant biologist John W. Thomson, whose designs featured photovoltaics to harvest energy naturally, said Donnelly’s own expertise in emerging building technologies, combined with Whalley’s insights, was invaluable. “It helps us to stimulate the studio critic people who are working on similar projects in the real world,” he said. “It really pushed me to fine-tune my ideas and think more critically about my designs.”
Lung
500th transplant performed

Mary Pennington, shown here with her husband, Bob, underwent a bilateral lung transplant – Barnes-Jewish Hospital’s 500th lung transplant — Dec. 7. Alec Patterson, M.D., the Joseph C. Bancroft Professor of Surgery at the School of Medicine, performed the six-hour operation.

School of Medicine, BJC to expand access to clinical trials

To enhance access to potential advances in medicine, Washington University School of Medicine and BJC Health System are teaming up to develop clinical trial programs at BJC member hospitals and health centers. These programs will offer prospective patients the opportunity to participate in medicines, such as an experimental drug or device, that support continued advances in medical care.

The University’s Center for Clinical Excellence (CCE) was established in 1996 to help support the more than 250 new corporate-sponsored clinical studies at the University each year. The CCE provides ongoing administrative and database support to all physicians participating in clinical trials, oversees screening and enrollments of study participants and arranges for necessary services such as laboratory and radiology tests as needed. A “clinical trial in the scientific evaluation of an experimental drug or device,” said Daniel P. Schuster, M.D., associate dean for clinical integration, said: “Washington University and BJC’s executive vice president of medical affairs and system integration, said: “Washington University and BJC have a very innovative and broad network of physicians and institutions to support clinical research.”

For more information about clinical trials, call 747-1761 or go to http://ccts.wustl.edu/index.htm.

Free videos about Campus Integration Project available

The Office of Medical Public Affairs has a video explaining the $320 million multi-year Campus Integration Project at the Medical Center. The project includes construction of the new Ambulatory Care Center and renovation of the Widmer Sports Center.

For a free copy of the video, call 286-0120.

School of Medicine update

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Exhibitions

Friday, Jan. 21


Tuesday, Jan. 25

"Purchase: The Mixed Media Purchase Award" by Rockport Publishers. The juried library series is dedicated to contemporary works for young people and adults, and planning from the University of Cincinnati and Universitat de Cervera, Spain.

"Zen Masters • Memory • Membrane Signalling • Dance Theatre"

"Iceman" visits Edison World premiere here Jan. 21, 22

By LISA OTTO

In 1991, hikers in the Alps discovered the frozen remains of a man who proved to be more than 5,300 years old. Scientists and anthropologists have since learned much about the "Iceman," his age, that he was a herdsman, that he had tattoos, and that buried with him were tools, weapons, and even some of the contents of his last meal.

But for playwright Nicholas Krysh, resident artist for St. Louis' Metro Theater Company (MTC), the most fascinating questions are those we can't answer. Who was this man? Where was he going? Who did he leave behind? These questions and more will be answered when the MTC premieres Krysh's new play "Iceman" at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Jan. 21 and 22, on the Edison Theatre stage. This is an open public event, full of humor, mystery and original score by Kim Crawford, director of MTC's newest installment in the MTC's long tradition of creating intelligent, innovative, and accessible works for young people and adults.


Tickets $25; $12 for students.

"Iceman" Where Edison Theater

When 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Jan. 21 and 22

Tickets $25; $12 for students.

Adrian Luchini giving lecture

Awards-winning architect Adrian Luchini, associate professor of architecture and director of architectural design at Seedruff Fundamentals, will discuss his designs in a lecture titled "Gentlemen, Words, Buildings" at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 24, in Weidt Hall Auditorium. The lecture, which is part of the School of Architecture's 2000 Monday Night Lecture Series, is free and open to the public.


Phillips' many awards include the James Tate Black Memorial Prize and fellowships from the Guggenheim and MacArthur Foundations. He was born in 1958 in St. Kitts. Phillips grew up in Leeds, England. He received a bachelor's degree from Oxford University and a master's from the University of Cincinnati. Phillips has taught literature and writing at universities in Canada, England, Ghana, India, Poland and Sweden and in the United States at Amherst College and New York University. He is currently the Henry R. Luce Professor of Migration and Social Order and professor of English at Barnard College, Columbia University, New York. Phillips is an essayist, poet, playwright and critic. He has been a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and has been named a "rising star" by theCritics Choice Review.

"Iceman" is the latest installation in the MTC's long tradition of creating intelligent, innovative, and accessible works for young people and adults.

Tickets $25; $12 for students.

Saturday, Jan. 22

Adrian Luchini will offer the original score by Kansas City composer James Mobberly performed by the Nuclear Percussion Ensemble. This is an open public event, full of humor, mystery and original score by Kim Crawford, director of MTC's newest installment in the MTC's long tradition of creating intelligent, innovative, and accessible works for young people and adults.


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"Iceman" Where Edison Theater

When 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Jan. 21 and 22

Tickets $25; $12 for students.
**Leon Lhermitte**'s "La Moisson (The Harvest)," 1883, oil on canvas, is part of the exhibition "Beginnings: A Third Exhibit, "Zen Painting and Art of the Far East," opening at the Gallery of Art Jan. 21.

In addition to "Beginnings," two other exhibitions will open that evening. "Island Press: The Graphic Art of the Chicago School" opens at the City Art Museum in March. The exhibit is marked by a shift in emphasis from contemporary art to a fascination with idealized depictions of the past, most notably in portraits by William Leech. Another exhibit opening that evening is "The American Vision," a celebration of American painting and sculpture.

"World's Fair era and the early 1920s" of the late 16th to the early 20th centuries is a period during which the collection's focus toward fine art. The period was to a close when the school's educational functions were moved to the University's Hilltop Campus, in what is now the School of Art, and the collection went on loan to the City Art Museum.

**A Temporary Refuge** (1910-1937) looks at the tenure of Edmund H. W. Weisepel and the period during which the collection was housed at the City Art Museum, predecessor to the current Saint Louis Art Museum. In general, the period is marked by a shift in emphasis from contemporary art to a fascination with idealized depictions of the past, most notably in portraits by William Höecht, Joachim Ritter and Thomas Eakins.

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**By LIAM OTTEN**

Look through your wardrobe and what do you find—new purchases you're proud of, older things of dubious price and even older favorites you still wear with pride? In this way, the idea of this column is to consider the way in which we decide to keep or discard items, and the personal values that we might place on them.

**Beginnings** examines the college school's history of acquiring and dividing it into three sections, each of which is focused on a different student and his or her life. In keeping with the school's history of the 1880s and 19th century, the exhibit is focused on implied and industrial arts but also included some exceptional American painting.

The Gallery of Art is kicking off the new millennium with a look deep into its past—specifically, with an examination of how its mission has been shaped, from the beginning, by the tastes of its curators and benefactors and by shifts in societal values.

**Beginnings** opens on Friday, Jan. 21, and remains on view through March 19. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 1 to 5 p.m. weekend.

The Gallery of Art was established in 1881 as part of the school's educational functions, initially located downtown, at what is now the School of Art, and the collection went on loan to the City Art Museum.

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Bowen

Appointed to new professorship – from page 6

that we look for in our Arts & Sciences faculty. He has brought energy and vision to our program in mathematics and the liberal arts and sciences, The Direction of Analysis, the Department of Arts and Sciences, and he is a distinguished scholar in his field. At the Graduate Commission on the Undergraduate Curriculum, he has led the most significant change in Arts & Sciences in two decades, making the department a rising star with many great years of growth from him.

Bowen earned a bachelor’s degree in 1973 from Stanford University and a law degree and doctoral degrees from the University of Chicago in 1977 and 1984 respectively. After serving as a lecturer at the State Islamic Institute in Acib, Indonesia, senior research assistant at the Institute for International Development and as an assistant professor at Wellesley College, Mass., he joined the faculty here in July 1985 as a professor of anthropology. He has looked outward from a long-term research post in the psychology of language to the broader transformations taking place in the Islamic world and the worldwide Muslim community.

He has written six books with another one forthcoming and refereed articles and chapters with four forthcoming. He is a member of the editorial boards of several journals. Bowen is concerned primarily with the role of cultural forms (religious practice, social action, legal discourse) in processes of social change. He has worked on the anthropology of the Tamil language, which has looked outward from a long-term research project in the psychology of language to the broader transformations taking place in the Islamic world and the worldwide Muslim community.

Bowen led the Commission on the Undergraduate Curriculum (1997-99) and was appointed in 1997 and charged with “reinventing the undergraduate curriculum,” which had undergone small changes in the arts and sciences, but comprehensive review for almost 20 years. After a year and a half of meeting with the arts and sciences faculty and alumni, the commission issued its report, which was approved last spring by the Council of Students of Arts & Sciences in Arts & Sciences faculty.

The DuBoue-Van Cleve Professorship was established in 1999 by the Van Cleve family (Jan ‘JD’ 53) and Georgia Dunbar Van Cleve (AB 51). The professorship is designated for a distinguished faculty member in history, philosophy, classical studies, anthropology, mathematics, sociology, economics, political science, arts history and archaeology, or genetics.

Ben Cannon

Going to Oxford as Rhodes Scholar – from page 1

The election process in various regions of the campus, and we expect that the same thing will happen again this year. In addition, through the cable network and the campuswide network system, students on campus will be wired into the debate and all the activities associated with it.

Adelescher-Busch will be the sole moderator of the debate here and, for the first time, a national network will be used. Along with our friends at Wake Forest University and Utah State, for the third time we’ve been involved as the sole local sponsor of the debate, which in 1999 was hosted by Wake Forest. Last year, we hosted the debate and they’ve been just as exciting and informative to both.”

Bolton said hosting the final debate has special significance this year because the vice-presidential candidates will appear together prior to the election. There are three presidential debates planned, the vice-presidential debate will be at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston and the final debate scheduled for Oct. 5 at Centre College in Danville, Ky. The second presidential debate will take place at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., on Oct. 11.

Three writing workshops offered

Writers can develop their skills in a supportive group setting by enrolling in one of three writing workshops offered through the Arts & Sciences Department.

They can choose from poetry, fiction or playwriting and need not be experienced writers, but serious about improving their work and in joining constructive discussions about writing techniques and processes. The nine-week workshops, running from Jan. 32 to March 18, meet from 4 to 6:30 p.m. each Monday.

Students are urged to bring manuscripts of works in progress to the first meeting of each workshop.

Instructors for the workshops are:

• Poetry – Jonathan Smith, a published writer with a master’s degree in creative writing in support of his Ph.D. candidate in English in Arts & Sciences;

• Fiction – Charles Sweetman, a senior lecturer in English with an emphasis on creative writing;

• Playwriting – Peter Leach, who earned a master's degree in playwriting from Yale University Drama School and has taught playwriting at Washington College of Louisville and Webster University.

Fleming agreed: “Here’s another example of the profound benefit that this institution [provided] our community. The eyes of the world will be on St. Louis, in this case, because another satisfied customer is coming back. The fact that the debate will take place here in 92 — clearly with a great deal of hard work by the people on campus — is a good sign for this opportunity here in 2000. It’s bad news not only for Washington U. but for the entire metropolitan St. Louis area.”

Fleming’s optimism was echoed by J. Rainey, vice chancellor for Student and University Operations, who said the debate will be just as exciting and informative to the public.

The final debate will have special significance this year because the presidential candidates will appear together prior to the election. There are three presidential debates planned, the vice-presidential debate will be on Oct. 5 at Centre College in Danville, Ky. The second presidential debate will take place at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., on Oct. 11.
Jones, a graduate of Illinois State University of Medicine and a former member of the Illinois Medical Society, was appointed as the district medical examiner in 1974. He served for 30 years until his retirement in 2004. Jones was a dedicated professional who was known for his compassionate and thorough approach to forensic medicine.


david dietzler, 64, former pathologist

David Dietzler, Ph.D., a former associate professor of pathology at the School of Medicine, died of a heart attack Saturday, Dec. 25, 1999, at St. Mary’s Hospital in St. Louis. He was 64.

Tragedy struck when Dietzler suffered a heart attack while preparing meals in his kitchen. Despite efforts to resuscitate him, the medical community was devastated by this sudden loss.

Among the numerous awards he received from the University, the most significant were the prestigious Fellowship in Pathology and the Achievement Award in Pathology. Dietzler also served as a consultant to the National Institutes of Health, contributing to groundbreaking research in the field of immunology.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the United Way of St. Louis or the American Heart Association.

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Probing intricacies of the brain

Joel Price, D.Phil., devotes decades to investigating mysteries of brain anatomy

By LINDA SAGE

Small and intimate forms appeal to Joel Price, judging by the bonsai trees that brighten his office. This bent could explain his fascination with small regions of the brain and their interconnections. When he began this work, 40 years ago, he was confident it would have no practical significance. But for the past decade, he has studied the anatomical signs of Alzheimer’s disease and mood disorders, work with broad practical implications.

Joseph L. Price, D.Phil., is a professor of anatomy and neurobiology at the School of Medicine, where he has worked since 1969. The previous year, the anatomy department had hired a new chair, W. Maxwell Cowen, D.Phil., whom Price had known in England. Cowen revitalized the department with a group of young anatomists and neurobiologists. “I have stayed here because the medical school is an incredible place to be,” Price said. “There is a lot of interdepartmental interaction and a very good mix between teaching and research — neither is undervalued.”

Growing up in Meridian, Miss., Price decided to become a doctor like his father. So he obtained a bachelor’s degree in the most rigorous subject he could find — chemistry — from the University of the South, a private college on a mountaintop west of Chattanooga, Tenn. Although he completed the degree in only three years, he graduated Phi Beta Kappa and was valedictorian of his class. These achievements earned him a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford.

Because medicine is an undergraduate degree in England, Price obtained a second bachelor’s degree, this time in physiology. But instead of studying for the subsequent bachelor of medicine exam, he entered the research lab of one of his tutors, T.F.S. Powell, M.D. For his doctoral research, Price studied the anatomy of the olfactory bulb of the rat brain, an important relay center for an animal that relies on its sense of smell.

By the end of his six years in England, Price had recovered from the shock of a foreign culture and had added to his Southern drawl a British accent. He also had found a Danish wife, the sister of one of his medical school classmates. By the time they moved to St. Louis, the couple had a baby girl, Anna Elise.

**Working on cadavers**

In his first year at Washington University, Price was one of three people teaching gross anatomy at the medical school. He spent the next 10 years interacting with students over cadavers — a pleasurable experience, he claims. At the end of that time, he switched from teaching anatomy to teaching neuroscience.

“Joel has made invaluable contributions during the three decades that he has been associated with the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology,” said David C. Van Essen, Ph.D., departmental chair and the Edwin Professor of Neurobiology. “His colleagues in the department especially appreciate his commitment to the teaching of graduate and medical students. He has an enormous breadth of knowledge about the brain, especially on matters anatomical, and he is always generous in sharing this wisdom with students and faculty alike.”

By 1975, Price’s research on the olfactory bulb had led him to an almond-shaped structure called the amygdala, which receives direct olfactory input but also is involved in emotion. Over the next 20 years, he and several graduate students traced connections between the olfactory system, amygdala and related parts of the brain, especially the medial frontal cortex, on the midline, and the orbital, or lateral, cortex.

Using various stains, Price and his students differentiated these regions into smaller areas and determined how the small areas interconnected. This work, which was supported by a Javits Neuroscience Investigator Award from the U.S. Congress, led to the concept of two major networks in that part of the cerebral cortex.

The orbital network appears to be the gourmet center of the brain — it savors the smell, taste, texture and appearance of food. It connects with the medial network, which in turn is linked to centers that control the gut, lungs and heart. “When we smell an apple pie, our gut responds,” Price said. “The system in the cortex could partly explain how hormonal stimuli can influence visceral functions.”

Because the two networks listen to the amygdala and hippocampus, which are involved in emotion and memory, past events also can have their say. “If you smell apple pie, you may associate it with your mother’s cooking, which could make the smell pleasurable or traumatic, depending on your childhood memories,” Price said.

Price discovered an anatomical abnormality within this system that is associated with mood disorders. In the early 1990s, Wayne Drevets, M.D., then in the Department of Psychiatry, used functional imaging to identify differences in brain activity between clinically depressed people and subjects who were not depressed.

Assisting in the analysis, Price showed that the affected areas lay in the amygdala and medial/orbital cortex. Focusing on one small area in the orbital area, he and a student found that people with a personal and family history of depression had fewer glial cells — the supporting cells that maintain the environment in which neurons function. The group now is conducting a similar study with the amygdala.

Price ventured into Alzheimer research in the mid-1990s through contact with Leonard Berg, M.D., founder of the Washington University Alzheimer Disease Research Center (ADRC) and now professor emeritus of neurology. At that time, Alzheimer researchers were focusing on cells in the basal forebrain that Price had studied at Oxford. “Alzheimer’s disease is one of the few neurological diseases that has clear anatomical markers — tangles and plaques,” Price said.

**Important discovery**

In March 1999, he and John C. Morris, M.D., the Harvey A. and Dominant Hackett-Brendler Professor of Neurology and ADRC co-director, reported that tangle and plaque formation begins before people develop Alzheimer symptoms. “Joel’s detailed study of Alzheimer pathology in nondemented elderly individuals led directly to the concept that there is a presymptomatic phase of Alzheimer’s disease,” Morris said. “That was very important because it suggests that interventions could be developed to arrest this stage and thus prevent progression to clinical dementia.”

Morris said Price has contributed enormously to the ADRC’s work. “Joel is a rare scientist,” he said. “At the same time, he’s the type of person who is friendly and helpful, both in the laboratory and around a dinner table, where he readily shares his considerable knowledge of good food and good wine.”

When Price isn’t in the lab, he’s tending to his bonsai trees, throwing pots that will become more bonsai trees or photographing bonsai trees for his family and friends. At age 58, he’d like to have more time for these hobbies, but he doesn’t want to retire at any time soon. “There’s enormous potential now for understanding and treating Alzheimer’s,” he said. “When that comes to pass, I’d like to be around.”

The Prices — (back row) Virginia (left), Anna Elise; (front row) Poul (left), Elisabeth and Joel.

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**Joseph L. Price, D.Phil.**

Born Mobile, Ala.

Education University of the South, B.A.; University of Oxford, B.A., D. Phil.

University position Professor of anatomy and neurobiology

Family Wife, Elisabeth Price, Ph.D., chaplain at Saint Louis University; son Paul, 21; photographer junior at Washington University.

**Joel L. Price, D. Phil.**

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**Washington People**

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**Joseph L. Price, D. Phil., professor of anatomy and neurobiology, examines a human brain. At his side is one of his prized collections of bonsai trees.**

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**“Joel ... has an enormous breadth of knowledge about the brain, especially on matters anatomical, and he is always generous in sharing this wisdom with students and faculty alike.”**

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**“When that comes to pass, I’d like to be around.”**