Bears win! Advance to Final Four for third year in a row

BY KEITH JENKINS

Washington University's top-ranked women's basketball team got all it could handle from Baldwin-Wallace College in its NCAA Tournament sectional championship matchup Saturday night. March 10's field court was the Bears on hold for an 86-71 win that propelled them into the Final Four for the third straight year.

The win over third-ranked Baldwin-Wallace came one night after the Bears downs. No. 5seeded University of WisconsinEau Claire in one of the best sectional victories in Division III history. WU will play the University of Scranton (Pa.), a 72-59 winner over St. Lawrence University, in the national semifinals Friday, March 17, in Danbury, Conn. The national championship game is set for Saturday, March 19, in New Orleans, La., and there was a lot of pride, talent and heart out there," said Bears head coach Nancy Fakes. "Both teams kept going after each other, and it was just a lot of fun to be a part of. You could see the genuine enthusiasm on both sides.'

"The Bears looked strong early, opening a 10-3 lead just four minutes into the game. The Bear' s extended the lead to 11, 28-17, with 9:21 to play in the first half. Baldwin-Wallace came storming back. The Yellow Jackets hit seven of the eight free throws over the final 4:19 of the first half, highlighted by Kim Luthman's three-pointer with one second left, to cut the lead to 11, 37-26, heading into the locker room.

Baldwin-Wallace dealt 52 percent in the first half and turned the ball over just five times. WU was a step better, hitting 56 percent from the floor. Junior Tasha Rodgers and senior All-America Alia Fischer each scored 18 points to lead the team. Fischer added six rebounds and four blocks, and Rodgers collected three steals.

Baldwin-Wallace finally broke through in the second half, taking their own lead of the game, 44-43, with 17:17 left to play. The Bears, trailing for the first time all year, responded by taking the lead for good on two Rodgers free throws just 22 seconds later. Washington University led back to 11, 58-47, but back came the Yellow Jackets. They cut the lead to three, 58-55, but Rodgers proved to be too much down the stretch. She scored 10 of the Bears' next 17 points, including an 8-of-9 barrage.

Senior center Alia Fischer helps cut down the net in celebration of the women's basketball team's 86-71 victory over Baldwin-Wallace College Saturday, March 11. The win propels the two-time defending national champion Bears to this weekend's NCAA Division III final.

BY GERRY EVERDING

As one of the nation's leading research institutions, it's not surprising that Washington University is at the forefront of efforts to make university-produced technologies available to the public through patents and licensing agreements. But the campus community might be surprised to learn that the University has granted 20 licenses to state agencies since last June, helping agencies to track participant progress. Data entered into individual client accounts can be used to create an array of reports, including detailed breakdowns on client demographics.

"The software has proven to be very popular both with the agencies using it and with the foundations and other outside organizations providing support for the IDA pilot programs," said Lona Johnson, lead developer of the MIS IDA program and coordinator of the IDA study. "It

BY TONY FITZPATRICK

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated Washington University as the lead institution for the new St. Louis Midwest Supersite, which will monitor fine particulate matter air pollution in the metropolitan area.

The comprehensive, collaborative program is designed to measure pollutants at one core site and three different satellite sites within metropolitan St. Louis. Allied studies with separate funding will investigate relationships between different pollutants and human health problems ranging from cardiovascular disease to pulmonary illnesses. The project officially began in January 2000. It runs through December 2003 and will be funded at about $3.5 million. For a full listing, visit the project's Web site. The research will be featured in the Annual Environmental Progress Report due in April.

"The study is designed to support a range of data needs," Turner said. "For example, the scientific community will benefit from such a detailed study of air pollutant levels, personal exposure and health ramifications. This will help EPA set appropriate air quality standards. There also are immense benefits for the Midwest in general and the St. Louis region in particular, as we will have a better grasp of the particular air matter air pollution burdens and their impacts on human health."

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supersite
University is study's lead institution — from page 1
Midwestern Supersite include exposure assessment method development, particle chemistry and physics, field studies, data processing, data analysis, source apportionment, exposure assessment, and health assurance. Working with Turner will be the other Washington University colleagues, all veteran air pollution researchers: Edward S. Miguel, Ph.D., an atmospheric chemist; executive vice chancellor of Arts & Sciences; and Schlechtdorf, Ph.D., research associate at the Center for Urban Affairs for Pollution Impact and Trends Analysis (CAPTA); and Warren White, Ph.D., research associate in chemistry in Arts & Sciences and a CAPTA researcher.
Air pollution measurements — the focus of the St. Louis Midwest Supersite as funded by EPA — will be used with two large health effects programs: the EPA/Harvard Center for Ambient Particle Health Effects, the NIEHS/Harvard Program Project on Ambients for Cardiac Vulnerability and the EPA Platform for Exposure Assessment Program.
Turner's studies will correlate the air pollution data gathered by the St. Louis-Midwest Supersite and will: investigate relationships between exposure metrics and outdoor concentrations, and examine the health effects of chronic exposures; identify the biological mechanisms responsible for particle health effects; identify susceptible populations; and determine the relative toxicity of the different particle types. A sophisticated array of sampling instruments will allow researchers to detect and monitor numerous particle properties including their size, mass, and composition. The instrumentation will enable researchers to establish which pollutants were emitted in the area and ideally link the emissions to human population illnesses. Measurements will be conducted throughout a full year at the core site, located in a St. Louis north city residential neighborhood. This site will provide a context for pollution epideposited as well as a time component to relate pollutants to illness rates.
A mobile instrument platform will rotate between three understudied satellite sites in the greater St. Louis region and collect about three weeks of successive days' measurements at all sites during each season. Researchers will use the satellite sites to examine the impact of local pollutant sources and to investigate the ways that pollutants disperse.
"The particles that we'll capture will contain a wealth of information regarding their size and origin, but the information is often a very complex and difficult to interpret," Turner said. "We have very sophisticated equipment to sort the information out. In conjunction with similar programs to be implemented in New York City, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Houston, Los Angeles and Phoenix, Calif., we hope to arm the scientific community with an enhanced understanding of particulate matter air pollution sources, transport and effects."

For tortoises ...
Pick up your heels for the kick-off of WU Walks, the University-wide walkathon club for students, staff and faculty. The group's inaugural group walk — with Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton leading the pack — starts at noon March 29 outside of Graham Chapel.
To enroll, call 935-7836 or send full name, university ID number, email address and the University Walks neck lanyard. A race-day entry fee is $10 for pre-registration, sponsored by the Washington University Alumni Association. Prizes again will be featured. T-shirts, trophies and door prizes again will be featured by calling Thurstone vice president Eric Spiers at 935-2111. Entries should be postmarked by March 18.
The next test for the race will benefit Our Little Haven, a residential therapeutic treatment center for babies and children.
Tarang 2000
Asha for Education-St. Louis, a student group at the University is organizing "Tarang 2000," a two-day fund-raising event in Ballwin, Mo., April 1 and 2. Tarang will feature ping-pong, chess and carnoum tournaments, Indian snacks and a performance of popular Indian music by the Indian music group Shrutakshara — all to benefit education projects for underprivileged children in India.
"Tarang," which means "joy," will be held at the Mahindra Gandhi Center on Weidman Road in Ballwin. More information can be found on the Asha for Education Web site (www.ashatrans.com). All donations to Asha for Education are tax-deductible and go directly to projects being supported in India. For more information, call or e-mail Garima Bhardwaj, 935-6282 or (727-7950) me@ashanet.org.

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Researchers home in on probable prostate cancer gene

By Barbara Rodriguez

R

esearchers who have spent 10 years studying brothers who share the same genes but not on the trail of a gene that might account for the elevated risk of prostate cancer in many families have identified the gene responsible for a major role in prostate cancer's development in many men. They have identified the genetic marker for one of five gene regions statistically linked to prostate cancer in a study of 500 men.

The strongest candidate region for that hallmark of a gene that might explain why some men are at higher risk for prostate cancer than others is a stretch of chromosome 16 that the researchers believe may be a region associated with prostate cancer caused by faulty genes that normally prevent cancerous tumors from forming and growing. When growth suppressor genes are faulty, tumors form. When growth suppressor genes are normal, tumors don't form.

The finding, which researchers say is the first to home in on a specific area of chromosome 16 that affects prostate cancer susceptibility, was detailed in a March 10 paper in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"It is very likely that a tumor-suppressor gene on chromosome 16 plays a major role in susceptibility to prostate cancer when it fails to function," said William I. Catalona, M.D., professor of urologic surgery at the School of Medicine. 

Catalona's group led the research project, which also determined the genetic region in a strong association with the long arm of chromosome 16 and other chromosome 16 regions in other men with prostate cancer whose fathers also had a history of breast cancer.

This finding will guide efforts to pinpoint prostate cancer-related genes on chromosome 16 and other chromosome areas in additional men with a strong link to chromosome 1.

The strongest finding resulted from a second analysis of those prostate cancer patients whose fathers also had a history of breast cancer.

The findings on chromosome 16 are critical because they indicate that a tumor-suppressor gene on chromosome 16 is a major region associated with a condition that strengthens researchers' suspicions about the tumor-suppressor gene region containing a tumor-suppressor gene — a gene that inhibits tumor development.

"That finding suggests that the gene might prevent cancerous cells from dividing. When growth suppressor genes are normal, tumors don't form. When growth suppressor genes are faulty, tumors form," Catalona said.

"Such drugs should inhibit the deposition of amyloid-beta, prevent fibril formation and promote amyloid removal — which would be beneficial in slowing down or even preventing Alzheimer's disease."
University Events

University Opera staging Britten's comic masterpiece "Albertherring"

BY ELIOT OTTEN

T

here's nothing fully about "Albertherring," Benjamin Britten's masterful yet

toically woven masterwork. The Washington University Opera will present a new

production of the 20th-century classic in the Schoonover Center's Mischer Theatre on

Saturday, March 17, and at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 19.

Prior to the opera, the small English
town of Lichfield, "Albertherring" tells the story of

young Albert, the upstanding son of an overbearing widow. When two young virtuous women can be found to play the Queen of May in the town's annual May Day celebration, Albert is chosen 'King of May' instead. Though

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Lenihan Quartet performs 'Jazz at Holmes' concert

By Liam Ottes

Composer, jazz musician, classical recitalist and noted educator—William Lenihan is one of those rare musicians who can do it all. These days Lenihan, who has taught at Washington University since 1969, is giving his time between St. Louis, Los Angeles—where he performs and records—and touring a schedule that takes him around the country. This week, however, the Hillsboro Campus will be treated to a rare local concert when The William Lenihan Quartet and special guest Kim Finlay perform for the Jazz at Holmes Series.

The group performs at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 16, in Holmes Lounge. Lenihan is a noted jazz player and author of four books currently working on a fifth volume and a pair of jazz CDs, both of which are due out this fall.

Jazz at Holmes

Lenihan's extensive film credits include feature works, television programs and documentaries, particularly the Discovery Channel and the Public Broadcasting Service.

Among other projects, he has composed for the Disney Channel and HBO as well as for George Lucas. "The Making of Willow" and for the theatrical previews to the James Bond film License to Kill. For more information, call 935-6841.

Harmony

The Mosaic Whispers, a co-ed a cappella group made up of 16 students, will present its annual "Epistle of Color" concert at 7 p.m. March 24 and 25 at Graham Chapel. The concert will also mark the release of the Whispers' fourth album, "Title Your Presence of Eminence At."
Software
IDA program is huge technology transfer success — from page 3

It allows agencies to administer the program on a low budget without a sophisticated computer expertise, and it helps the foundations are very clearly where their money is going and what impact it's having. Margaret Clancy, a CSD project manager, and clients she has trained to use the software often are awed at how easy the program is to use and how much valuable information it puts at their fingertips. 

"Some users are more sophisticated, but for many of the small agencies, their training on MIS IDA may be their first experience with a powerful computer database," Clancy said. "A few of them have said they with similar software was available to help them manage other social service programs that agency offers."

Jennifer Techer, who uses MIS IDA to manage an IDA program sponsored by Shorebank Corp. in Chicago, agrees that the software has made program management both easier and more efficient. Having one central place to store demographic and source data is a real timesaver," she said. Tracy Lehto, who manages an IDA program for an agency known as Human Solutions in Portland, Ore., turned to MIS IDA after struggling to develop a similar database on her own. "I can't imagine keeping up with savings accounts and participant demographics without MIS IDA," Lehto said.

"This software does a wonderful job of tracking everything for an IDA program, including different funding sources," Johnson and Clancy, both of whom are monthly symposium, noted Jacqueline Tatman, assistant professor of architecture and director of the Metropolitan Research and Design Center. "The practice of urban design and planning appears integral to the transformation of cities. It is not clear if and how these truly successful tools and techniques can be applied to the plural and often contentious nature of different urban constituencies," said Tatman, who is co-organizing the conference with Minus, Jacoby and Tatman, assistant professor of architecture. "But at least the idea of a plan can be in American urbanism, as well who plans, and whose plan represents."

Conference events, which are open to the general public, are free to the campus community, include: 
- "A Plan for Whom?" 7 to 9 p.m. March 23, Greeniv House, 6 p.m. March 24, Givens Hall. Gwendolyn Wright, professor of Architecture and Urban Design and director of the Master of Architecture and Urban Design program; and Tim Franke and Gia Daskalakis, assistant professors of architecture, will serve as discussants of the Missouri Historical Society.

Coordinating Council, St. Louis Metropolitan Development Agency and St. Louis Planning Commission will offer a development and planning introduction to the St. Louis region. In spring 2001, the architecture school plans to publish the proceedings of all three symposia. For more information, contact Shannon Platt at 935-6293, or visit the Web site (http://www.arch.wustl.edu).

Campus Watch

The following incidents were reported to University Police from March 6-10. Students with information that could assist in investigating these incidents are urged to call 905-6955. The University of St. Louis seeks to promote personal and community safety and is available on the University Police Web site of rescomp.wustl.edu/awd.

March 10

10:26 a.m. — An employee reported that he was robbed at gunpoint while unlocking his off-campus apartment door in the block of Eastgate Ave., University City. The suspect, a black man in his early 20s, wearing a white shirt and black pants, carrying a medium, was wearing a black hat and dark clothing. The victim gave the man $84 from his pocket when the suspect demanded more money, the victim stated that he had no more but offered his wrist watch. The suspect fled on foot without taking the watch. 7:16 p.m. — The driver's side window of a student's vehicle, parked on the lower east side of the South 40 Parking Garage, was smashed and the entire dashboard torn out.

March 11

2:51 p.m. — A student in a sport utility vehicle was seen driving down the common recreation field at the corner of Big Bend and Forsyth boulevards. The entiredashboard torn out.
Notables

Of note
F. Sessions Cole, M.D., the Park J. White, M.D., Professor of Pulp and Crown Biology and physiology, recently received the Livestock Award from the St. Louis effort for AIDS. Cole was recognized for his research in the education and treatment of children with AIDS.

On assignment
Edith F. Brown, DSW, associate dean for community affairs of the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work has been elected to the board of directors for the National Kidney Foundation. He will serve through 2000. The foundation is the nation's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to the prevention and treatment of kidney and urinary tract diseases. The foundation strives to improve the health and well-being of individuals and families affected by these diseases, as well as to increase the availability of all organs for transplantation. ... Sandy Goldman, Ph.D., associate professor of computer science and assistant chair of the department, has been named program committee co-chair for the 13th annual Conference on Computational Learning Theory and as program committee member for the 22nd annual Symposium on the Theory of Computing. In addition, Goldberg has been named an outstanding teacher by Emerson Electric.

Elyane Dezon-Jones receives literary award from the French government
Franz U. Steinberg, professor emeritus in medicine
Elyane Dezon-Jones, Fiction writer from France, is the winner of the 2000 Elyane Dezon-Jones literary award, which is given annually to a French writer who has made a significant contribution to the French literary landscape. The award recognizes her work as a novelist and a mysterious literary figure, written to those who have admired and admired themselves in the realm of literature and by their contribution to the diffusion of French culture throughout the world.

Franz U. Steinberg, M.D., a pioneer in rehabilitation and Alzheimer's disease research, passed away Monday, Feb. 7, 2000, of a heart attack at his home in Clayton. He was 88.

Steinberg, professor emeritus of clinical medicine and rehabilitation at the School of Medicine, served the St. Louis medical community for more than 60 years. In 1995, he received the Distinguished Clinician Award from the American Academy of Physical Medicine for his professional commitment. He was recognized for his contributions to the medical community by many local groups, including the St. Louis University Medical Society, the Metropolitan Hospital Association of Greater St. Louis and the St. Louis Chapter of the American Heart Association.

Born in Breda, Germany, Steinberg completed his medical education in 1934 at the University of Breda. In 1938, he earned a medical degree from the University of Bern in Switzerland. That same year, he came to the United States and broke into the field of medicine at Jewish Hospital. He also served as a visiting professor at Jewish Hospital in 1941. After completing a residency in medicine at Robert Koch Hospital in St. Louis and another at St. Louis City Hospital, he was appointed a faculty member at the School of Medicine in 1944. The following year, he joined the staff at Jewish Hospital, where he later directed the resident training program in rehabilitation medicine. He directed the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine for 26 years at the hospital before retiring in 1985. Steinberg is survived by his wife, Lot Reinemund Steinberg; two sons, Thomas Steinberg of Elmhurst, Ill., and Andrew J. Steinberg of St. Louis; a brother, Michael Steinberg of Edina, Minn.; and two granddaughters.

University setting impressive records, trustees told March 3
The Board of Trustees met March 3 and received reports that the admissions and development campaign efforts have achieved record successes. Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton announced that a record number of applications have been received for the fall 2000 freshman class, with the total now topping 18,600, an increase of 1,722 from the fall 1999 class of 17,878 — one of the highest rates of applications in recent years. He noted that the applicants are the strongest in the University's history.

Trustee Sam Fox, chairman of the board of the Washington University and chairman and chief executive officer of Harbour Group Ltd., reported that the University had reached $1.6 billion in unrestricted endowment, the highest in the campaign's billion-dollar goal. The campaign was announced publicly only 18 months ago. The report also noted the launching of the first of 26 planned regional campaign offices, beginning with San Diego. Several more regions will be launched in the next few months. At the same meeting, the School of Business National Council was presented by Charles J. Knight, chairman, and chief executive of Emerson Electric Co., followed by a School of Law National Council report by Daniel Gallop, chairman of Gallop, Johnson & Neumann. Both serve as chairs of their respective councils. These reports reflected the success of the two schools, but also suggested future goals and prospects for further development.

Emeritus M. Ludmerer, M.D., professor of internal medicine, gave a special lecture on current problems in medical education and practice from his acclaimed new book "Time to Heal: American Medical Education from the Turn of the Century to the Era of Managed Care." Ludmerer is considered one of the nation's leading experts on the history of medical education. He holds appointments in both the School of Medicine and Arts & Sciences. In his report to the board, Wrighton noted that the late Stanley L. Lopata and his wife, Lucy, were the first recipients of the Jane and Whitney Harris St. Louis Community Service Award, which the University administers in memory of Jane Harris Lopata. Lopata died shortly following the granting of the award, and the Trustees unanimously passed a memorial resolution in his honor. Wrighton went on to note that the University would be holding the fifth annual meeting of the International Advisory Council for Asia (IACA) in Singapore. The IACA, composed of representatives from all major Asian nations, provides valuable advice and counsel to the University. Trustee Shinschiro Watan of Hong Kong is now IACA chair, succeeding Shi Hua Yang. Yang was dean of all eight schools at the University as well as several trustees and the chancellor, will be attending the meeting. Nobel Laureate Douglas C. North will be a featured speaker, as will three distinguished faculty from the medical school.

In a facilities update, Wrighton said that the McDunnell Pediatric Research Building is nearing completion, with the second through sixth floors to be ready in April and the other five by January 2001. He also noted that the Ambulatory Care Center, which serves patients for the Alvin J. Sievert Cancer Center, is scheduled for completion in November next year.

On the Hilltop campus, the Charles B. Knight Executive Education Center is scheduled for completion in spring 2001. Wrighton said small group housing for students will begin construction this spring and the Arts & Sciences Laboratory Science Building will begin site preparation soon.

On a high note, Wrighton reported that the women's basketball team broke the NCAA women's basketball record of 60 consecutive wins. Subsequently, the team has increased its winning streak to 66. The win streak is second only to an 88-game string by the UCLA men.

In other action, the board heard reports from the following standing committees: Audit; Development, Educational Policy; Finance, Financial Medicine, Investments, Student Affairs, Research-Graduate Affairs and the Alumni Board of Governors. The next meeting is set for May 5.
Larry E. Fields, M.D., presides over a meeting at the city health department discussing successes and failures in the prevention of communicable diseases.

Larry Eugene Fields, M.D., came to St. Louis to run the city's health department and the region's health-care system for uninsured and underserved patients. But it's somehow fitting that the assistant professor of medicine who got his MD from Harvard has ended up as the chief health office for the City of St. Louis and as interim chief executive officer of ConnectCare.

Andy Eugene Fields, M.D., applies business skills to stabilize city's health care services

By JIM DRYDEN

Aspiring doctor

Larry, as a child, and his 11 brothers and sisters used the free clinics and public health facilities of Atlanta for their medical and dental care. Now, he's making sure those same kinds of services are available to St. Louis children who need them.

"Securing state funding for ConnectCare has been an enormous and complex challenge," said James P. Caine, M.D., associate vice chancellor for clinical affairs and the School of Medicine's representative on the ConnectCare board of directors. "Both in health department operation and at ConnectCare, Dr. Fields has provided key leadership and made significant progress toward ensuring the future of both organizations."

Although lobbying legislators and giving press conferences isn't what he had in mind when he decided on a career in medicine, Fields has become one of the most prominent people on the local health-care landscape since accepting an interim position at the health department in 1997.

Aspiring doctor

Originally, he wanted to help people who were suffering. There were no doctors in the family, but he became interested in medicine very early, according to his oldest brother, Curtis Anderson.

"He was extremely bright in school, and he worked very hard," said Anderson, now an assistant U.S. attorney in Atlanta. "He was always in such a hurry. He was always working so hard to accomplish things."

Fields knew his parents, with 12 children to support, didn't have enough money to send him to medical school. He understood that financial help might be available if his grades were good enough. So he worked hard in elementary school and got that financial help long before he took his medical school entrance exam.

In the 1950s and 60s, the civil rights movement was opening the eyes of the world to institutional racism in the South, and some of the private schools in that region began to integrate their student bodies. With his good grades and help from the Stouffer Foundation of North Carolina, Fields was able to attend St. Stephen's Episcopal School, a private high school in Texas.

"My life really began to change when I got word from a counselor in the eighth grade that some people were testing students to see if they could qualify for private secondary schools," Fields said. "The Stouffer Foundation convinced me that medicine not only was something I wanted to do, but it was actually something I could do."

He earned a degree in biochemistry and stayed to attend medical school at Harvard. bathtub through school, he got married. Over the next several years, he did an internship and residency in internal medicine, a fellowship in cardiovascular diseases and a fellowship in molecular biology at the School of Medicine here.

Eventually, he had his own laboratory and academic practice - teaching, doing research and helping run the stress-testing lab.

"For many, that would be the end of the story, but Fields had other ideas."

"I distinctly recall meetings where consultants would say things that medical people didn't understand. And I thought that some of us should get to know the business terminology better," Larry Fields explained. "The head of cardiology and the head of medicine provided a lot of support and acknowledged that there was a need for doctors who understood the management principles that were being introduced into health care."

So in the fall of 1995, Fields went back to school, this time for a master's degree in business administration at the John M. Olin School of Business. When he finished in May 1997, Fields was headed back to his lab, his teaching and his patients. He also was ready to help design clinical service lines, negotiate reimbursement rates and manage change and revenue streams. But things don't always go according to plan.

Problems at the city's health department had rocked St. Louis government. Senior people had resigned, financial irregularities had surfaced, and the mayor needed someone to stabilize things. With his new business training, Fields got the call.

"Believe me, I was not on the radar screen when Dr. Peck called me to consider moving to the health department," Fields said. "I had been going into community churches doing public health work in wellness ministries, so I wasn't completely intimidated by the concept. But when it came to my knowledge of public health, I had a bit of catching up to do in those early days."

He had been a specialist, an academician who worked with heart patients. With his new MBA, he not only was an administrator, but he also suddenly found himself in the business of testing paint for lead, ensuring that the hospital got the right shots and telling restaurant workers to wash their hands to help prevent the spread of disease.

Somewhere, he made the transition.

Collegiate style

"Larry's formal business training undoubtedly enhances his leadership skills, but equally important is the ability to work effectively and collegially with others," Caine said. "Larry brings both of those key attributes to ConnectCare and the health department."

In Fields' view, it's even simpler than that. Although he inherited some complex problems at both the health department and at ConnectCare, he knows that solutions have to be hammered out one step at a time. It's not that he doesn't have an eye on the big picture, but he's learned that little things often make the biggest difference.

"I'm incredibly humbled by the enormous importance of a few simple things," he said. "Since 1980, we've gained about 30 years in life expectancy. About 25 of those years came from public health initiatives and from the highly specialized medicine where I spent most of my career. I think both are important, but excellent specialized care services mean very little if you don't have a good public health system in place."

Larry Eugene Fields

Raised in Atlanta.


University position: Assistant professor of medicine and of pathology.

Other positions: Chief health officer, director, health commissioner; St. Louis City Health Department; interim president and chief executive officer, St. Louis ConnectCare.

Family: Wife, Linda; son, Lawrence; daughter, Lauren.

Hobbies: Keyboards and singing, basketball and computer graphics.