Paying tribute
Julian Bond, five others receiving honorary degrees

A Nobel Prize winner in chemistry and a world-renowned sculptor are among the six people selected to receive honorary degrees during Washington University's 139th Commencement May 19. The University also will bestow academic degrees on some 2,500 students during the ceremony, which begins at 10 a.m. at the Brookings Quadrangle.

The others receiving honorary degrees, in addition to Nobel laureate Yuan T. Lee, the 1986 Nobel laureate from Washington University's School of Medicine, are: Ramona Conners, a distinguished scholar in American Indian studies; Julian Bond, chairman emeritus of the board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a revered St. Louis figure and president of Taiwan's highest court; Liberman, chairman emeritus of Laclede Gas Co. and a revered St. Louis community leader; Mary Miss, a world-renowned sculptor and installation artist; and Alvin J. Siteman, chairman and president of both Site Oil Co. of Missouri and a revered St. Louis figure.

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Construction on two parking lots east of Brookings Hall under way

By CHRISTINE FARNER

Work begins this week on two new university parking lots, one to the northeast and one to the southeast of Brookings Hall. The lots will help the University maintain its agreement with St. Louis County, which requires the Hilltop Campus to have at least 5,144 parking spaces.

A permanent parking lot will be built on the north side of a campus between Chaplin and Hoyt halls, next to Missouri 141 east of Brookings Hall. The lot will be accessible from Chaplin.

A larger temporary parking lot will be built on the north edge of campus bordered by Hoyt, Compton and Throop drives. It

Students to launch project with NASA

By TONY FITZPATRICK

Engineering students who work hard on projects all semester will gather with faculty members and other students to launch a project with NASA rocket launch this June.

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‘Small but growing’ American Indian group makes its presence felt

By DAVID MOREH


The American Indian Studies Program is now growing stronger. The program is the only one of its kind at Washington University and one of the nation's most respected centers for the academic advancement and study of American Indian issues related to social work.

In their tenth year, the center typically provides full scholarships to six to eight American Indians who intend to return to their native communities and practice social work. In addition to the recruitment efforts, Connors has turned her attention to retention issues. "When you're out recruiting," she said, "one of the first things an American Indian student will ask is, 'What is the Indian community like at Wash U? Is there an organization? Are there support services?' So I'm trying to establish those."
Mellon grant funds three new dissertation seminars

Washington University has received a $120,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in support of three interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences dissertation seminars, one to be held in the summer of 2000 and in the summer of 2001 according to Edward S. Macias, Ph.D., executive vice chancellor and dean of Arts & Sciences. This grant supports two others that funded earlier dissertation seminars.

These seminars are part of a program that The Mellon Foundation created at a select group of universities to address interpretive and professional issues that frequently arise at the dissertation phase in graduate education. These issues can affect the quality of dissertation research and timely progress toward degree completion. At Washington University the Mellon Dissertation Seminars have been offered under the auspices of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and strongly supported by Dean Rich Boland, Ph.D.

The theme for the 2000 Mellon seminar will be "Producing and Consuming Culture in the Early Modern World." Under the leadership of Associate Dean Richard Chiles and the Stanley Ellin Professor in the Humanities, Richard Izenberg, Ph.D., in English & Arts & Sciences, this seminar will explore the ways in which word referents, physical materials, plays for the private and courtly entertainments, and visual images were produced and consumed. The seminar also will examine the extent to which habits and modes of reading and showcasing art in various contexts in which books and images and ideas interwove. "We are pleased to be able again to support Washington students this excellent opportunity," Macias said. "The dissertation stage is one of the points at which graduate students can most benefit from interdisciplinary methodological and social sciences, which can greatly benefit from collaborative work. We expect this seminar will provide the opportunity for our faculty and students to come together in this important way."

The seminar will meet Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for six weeks, beginning May 30. Graduate students in the humanities and social sciences are invited to participate. Those attending the seminar will receive an $1,800 stipend. To obtain an application form, contact Marie Lay in the Department of English at 935-2216. Application deadline is April 30.

Scheduled for the summer of 2001 is a seminar in "The Confrontation of Gender and Social Identity in European Modernism" to be directed by Gerald E. Izenberg, Ph.D., former director of history and co-director, along with Zohra Syed, a specialist in Islamic literature and history & Arts & Sciences. Also scheduled for summer 2001 is a seminar in "The American Landscape and American Identity" directed by George Michener, Ph.D., the Lynee Cooper Hartogle Professor in English and director of the American Culture Studies Program in Arts & Sciences.

In summer 1996, Zwick directed Washington's first Mellon Dissertation Seminar, "Public History, Popular Culture and the Early Modern Period." In summer 1998, he directed a second, "Mail: The History and Context of Mass Production in the Early Modern Period." The seminars, in English, history, romance language, film and print media, are designed to provide students with a social and cultural history of their profession, philosophy and art history participated in both seminars.

Student groups organize dialogue about Palestinian-Israeli issues

"Humanizing the Conflict: Palestine and Israel" is the title of an anti-Palestinian dialogue designed to help dispel stereotypes about both sides in the long conflict. The event will be held at 8 p.m. Monday, April 17, in Holmes Lounge.

The Muslim Students' Association, Washington University Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), as well as editor of ALFIP's, weekly newsletter, Near East Reports and Jeffrey H. Kass, president of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), St. Louis District. Kazmian also will sign copies of her book.

This dialogue is free and open to the public. For more information about the event, see "Towards peace in the Middle East;"

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Six medical faculty receive grants totaling $8.4 million

Numerous School of Medicine faculty recently have received grants of $1 million or more to fund research on topics ranging from blood vessel formation to embryonic stem cells.

William A. Frazier III, Ph.D., professor and chair of molecular biophysics and of cell biology and physiology, has received a five-year $1.8 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to study microRNA and blood vessel formation.

Frazier’s group is studying the molecular switch that determines whether small vessels remain stable or become leaky and sprout new vessels. Once the switch is turned on, the consequences of its actions are better understood, it might be possible to take control of the switch to inhibit or promote blood vessel growth. Such manipulations might arrest the growth of tumors or stop tumors from becoming blood damaged.

Jia Wu, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of pediatrics and of molecular biology and pharmacology, has received a five-year $1.7 million grant from the National Institute of Aging. Wu is studying a learning-related cellular process called alternative splicing, which generates different forms of a protein from the same gene. Defects in alternative splicing can contribute to many diseases, including several nervous system disorders.

The Wu lab will focus on a particular disease called alcoholic liver disease. There are at least 25 million Americans whose livers are damaged by alcohol. Wu plans to study the details of the RNA splicing.

Kerry Kuehnelt, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of molecular biology and pharmacology, has received a five-year $1.2 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to study methods that alter the molecular signals that determine the fate of cells.

He is investigating signaling pathways in the nematode Caenorhabditis elegans that are also important in humans. These pathways control cell death, decisions during development, and faults in which their component proteins are common causes of human tumors. One part of the research will focus on signaling proteins called MAP kinases. He also wishes to determine how a MAP kinase called ERK (extracellular signal-regulated kinase) affects cell fate. A third set of experiments will focus on a protein called XIAP, which binds to DNA and regulates the activity of certain genes.

These studies should reveal how cells recognize and interact with proteins in signaling pathways, how the composition of these pathways influences cell fate, how certain transcription factors are regulated by MAP kinase pathways, and how these transcription factors regulate cell fate.

Scott Saunders, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of pediatrics and of molecular biology and pharmacology, has received a five-year $1.3 million grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. He studies a family of proteins called proteoglycans, which regulate a number of growth factors involved in fetal development. When the gene that produces one of these proteins is mutated, it causes a human disease called Simpson-Golabi-Behmel Syndrome. Humans who have this disease overgrow before and after birth. They also have kidney, heart and skeletal defects and a high incidence of certain kinds of tumors. Saunders is using a new mouse model of the disease to determine the mechanism that causes the birth defects.

Steven D. Shapiro, M.D., professor of pediatrics, of molecular biology and of physiology, has received a four-year $1.9 million grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Shapiro will study lung health in infants, a progressive, degenerative disease that is characterized by the retention of many air sacs with little lung function. Shapiro will determine whether retinoic acid, a chemical that plays important roles in development, can reverse airspace enlargement in cigarette-smoking lungs of mice. The study should help determine whether elastic fibers preserve the lung structures that initiate air sac repair in emphysema.

Philip D. Stahl, Ph.D., has received a five-year $1.3 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Stahl, the Edward Mallinckrodt Jr. Professor and head of the Department of Cell Biology and Physiology, will study the transport of pathogens and cell debris to sites inside cells where they can be degraded. Cells transport unwanted material that needs dismantling in structures called phagosomes. Stahl will determine whether the human pathogens Listeria and Francisella monocytophagia avoid being degraded and killed by disrupting the function of a cellular protein called Rab5a and escaping from phagosomes early in transport. Rab5a helps regulate the transport of membrane components in cells.

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Grants up to $25,000 are available for diabetes, endocrinology research

Faculty members who conduct research in the areas of diabetes and endocrinology may apply for funding through the Diabetes Research and Training Core (DRTC) at the School of Medicine.

Research projects involving Hilltop and Medical campuses are encouraged to apply for the two sets of grants, which close Dec. 1. They will range from $18,000 to $20,000, and come from basic science, epidemiological and behavioral science departments. The projects supported should be particularly encouraged.

The DRTC pilot and feasibility program fosters projects requiring development and preclinical data that could lead to independent research supported by the National Institutes of Health, which awards support to four projects at the medical school annually.

Those interested must submit letters of intent by the DRTC by June 14; proposals must be submitted by Aug. 1. Both should be sent to Vicky Nordike at Campus Box 8127. For more information, call 747-3979.
Hotchner winner 'gitanjali' probes complex relationships

By Leean Ottens

Abedin's new "Architecture's Design drama "gitanjali," which will happen when those roles are stretched by time, distance or heritage?

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of arts degree in English. Michael M. Karl, M.D., has practiced medicine in St. Louis for more than 50 years. He joined the faculty of the medical school in 1940 and was named a professor in 1972.

After undergraduate work at the University of Wisconsin and a medical degree from the University of Louisville, Karl came to St. Louis as an intern and residency at St. Louis University. In addition to his training, he also did a fellowship in cardiology at the medical school. He has been there in one capacity or another ever since, except for his years of military service in the South Pacific during World War II.

A professor of clinical medicine, Karl went into private practice and started the West End's Maryland Medical Group in 1946, continuing in that practice until 1987. Throughout those years, he maintained close ties to the medical school, Barnes Hospital and the Jewish Hospital of St. Louis.

Karl and his wife, Irene E. Karl, Ph.D., research professor of medicine, were the first married-and-wife team to have an endowed professorship established at their alma mater.

Karl will receive a doctor of science degree. Yuans T. Lee, Ph.D., the 1986 Nobel laureate in chemistry, began his academic career in his native Taiwan and continued there three decades as Academia Sinica, the highest government-sponsored academic research institution in Taiwan, Republic of China. Lee also has made a lasting impact on American higher education at various prestigious institutions, and he has made seminal, far-reaching advancements in chemical reaction dynamics.

Lee received a bachelor of science degree in chemistry in 1959 from the National Taiwan University and a master's degree in 1961 from National Tsinghua University in Taiwan. He pursued doctoral research at the University of California at Berkeley, where he received a doctorate in 1963 and began conducting reative microscopic reactions as a post-doctoral fellow.

In 1967, Lee joined a research group at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and constructed a universal crossed molecular beam apparatus. After being appointed assistant professor at the University of Chicago in 1968, he rapidly made his laboratory the North American center of crossed molecular beam study. He returned to Berkeley in 1974 as a professor and significantly expanded his research over the next 20 years.

Lee will receive a doctor of science degree.

Michael M. Liberman, chairman emeritus of Lackey Gas Co., is revered in St. Louis as a civic leader and a champion of community causes. He is a treasured member of the Washington University community as well — as a life trustee, as a former chairman and vice chairman of the Board of Trustees and, currently, as a student of a Ph.D. candidate in American literature and history at University College in Arts & Sciences and received a master of liberal arts degree, also from University College, in 1994.

Liberman started his career at Lackey as an engineer in 1945, after graduating from Yale University with a degree in chemical engineering and serving in the U.S. Army Air Corp.

Described by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch as a “corporate executive with a Boy Scout heart,” he served in countless ways to make a better St. Louis a better place. Indeed, in 1976, the St. Louis Board of the Boy Scouts of America conferred on him the Distinguished Eagle Award.

Since the University, Liberman has been a trustee since 1973 and has served on many board committees. As chairman of the Development Committee since 1983, he has given extraordinary leadership to the University’s fund-raising efforts. He is vice chair of the Mayo Clinic’s capital resource divisions of the current Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center.

Washington University. Liberman will receive a doctor of humanities degree.

Mary Miss is a world-renowned installation artist whose often grandiose projects combine cultural and historical insights with a sharp awareness of architectural and urban planning issues.

Since the mid-1940s, Miss has created decades of installations that seek to promote a dialogue between public and private spaces as well as between natural and urban landscapes. Acutely sensitive to the remarkable places that accompany any major environmental project, Miss actively seeks to create intimate relationships between planning while a work, and she advocates strategies that will allow the public to participate with the final result.

In 1997, Washington University in St. Louis and the St. Louis area, St. Louis Post-Dispatch is known and respected for his work in many capacities, including his keen interest in and support of the arts. He is a current trustee and chairman of the past president of the Saint Louis Arts Commission, and he is an advisory board member of the Sculpture Park, which he helped found.

For 30 years, he was chairman of the board of directors of the past president of the Saint Louis Art Museum and for ten years, he served on the executive board of the Sculpture Park, which he helped create.

The following incidents were reported to University Police from April 3-9. Readers with information that could assist in investigating these cases are urged to call 935-3000. This information is collected as part of a public service and is available at the Washington University Web site at secure.wustl.edu/wapc.wapc.

April 4
3:34 p.m. — A student reported theft of his mountain bike, valued at $500, from a rack on the west side of Hixman Residence Hall. The student secured the bike to the rack by a cable lock, which had been cut and left on the ground.

April 9
6:07 p.m. — A fire broke out in the Computer Vision and Microscopy Lab when an laptop computer caught fire. The lab was unoccupied, melted and fell on a pile of poster board and photographs. A postdoctoral student working in an adjacent lab heard the smoldering noise from the computer department and brought the blaze under control. A fire extinguisher was already on hand. Damage was chiefly limited to smoke and fire extinguisher residue.

University Police also responded to five additional reports of bike thefts, two auto accidents, one report of vandalism and a suspicious person/vehicle.
Jane Aiken is named Carnegie Scholar

J

ike Jenkins has been named new sports information director at Menlo Academy for the Scholarship of Morality, which focused on the professors can teach students to disciplines to share their ideas nationwide who will participate in teaching how experience and recognizing how the moments will enable students to examine their assumptions and ultimately the delivery of justice in the legal system. Aiken will teach law how professors should play in teaching their assumptions about the world and about the best outcomes for clients. Aiken plans to further develop and test this "transformation learning theory" through ongoing efforts to create collaborations between law and social work students in the JD/MSW joint-degree program and the law school's Civil Justice Clinic. "The clinic and joint-degree courses will provide a wonderful laboratory for me to come up with ideas to transform students' ways of thinking about law and social work," Aiken said. "Such moments will enable students to better understand how to achieve the best outcome for their clients."

Jenkins new sports information director

DAS

Seven graduate students earn research honors

Seven Washington University graduate students took home honors from the 2001 American Ph.D. Student Research Symposium held April 1 in Holmes Lounge.

First and second-prize winners received $150 apiece, and second-place winners received $50.

The winners, their departments, and the titles of their presentations are:

• First: Melanie L. Leitner, graduate student in psychology in Arts & Sciences, for "Opening the Mind: The Role of the GDNF Family in the Function of the Cortical Body?". Second: Crickette Sanz, graduate student in biostatistics, for "Differences in Cancer Fatality by Race and Religious Affiliation?"

Social sciences:

• First: Julia Hohberger and Tiffany Tibbs, doctoral students in sociology in Arts & Sciences, for "Differences in Cancer Fatality by Race and Religious Affiliation?"

• Second: Monica L. Wright, doctoral student in sociology in Arts & Sciences, for "The Narrative of Women in Clothing in the Romances of Christine de Troyes." The symposium is open to all graduate students here and gives participants the opportunity to present their research to other members of the University community. Thirty students made poster presentations.

"This class was different from any other design class in that I pulled everything I've learned together, from different sources," Benac said. "It gives you a sense of how things work in the real world. We started from scratch and did everything from research to decision-making, and we had a real deadline. In most design classes, the students get it right or wrong with the design, but in this class they had to present their results to the community, so you're more on your own in finding the right answers. I learned much more about engineering — including optics and mechanical engineering. It's been a great experience."
Projects bloom in Rose Brower's communications "think tank"

By TONY FITZPATRICK

The company also put Brower on the mad a lot. By the end of the 1980s, she was logging over 250,000 air miles annually. The job was becoming increasingly difficult to manage along with single-parenting her preschool-aged son. "We had severe problems," Brower said. "We thought about working for the FBI — I loved the study of forensics and psychology. I even thought of going back to school and getting an MBA," she said. "But then I decided that it was time to do something else."

Over the past 10 years, while Brower continued to build relationships with area businesses, she started to develop a clear message about the excitement of engineering communications in engineering. "We need to do what we do well and do it with passion," she said. "We need to communicate the excitement of engineering to the public." And she did it.

Since then, she has worked with the faculty on an elaborate presentation to the Board of Governors and with the staff to craft the school's marketing plan. "It was a big project, and it was a great opportunity," Brower said. "We had to think about how to present the school's story in a compelling way." And they did.

Rose Brower's time at AT&T was also marked by her efforts to develop the school's biomedical engineering department. In 1992, she led the effort to establish the department, which was housed in a new building on the Hilltop campus. "It was a lot of work," Brower said. "But it was worth it."

In another major project, Brower worked with the faculty and staff to create a multimedia presentation to the Whitaker Foundation. "It was a big project," she said. "But we did it together, and we did it well." And they did.

"Hiring Rose Brower in our school was clearly the right thing to do ... SEAS needed to develop a clear message about the excitement of engineering at Washington University," said Christopher Byrnes, dean of engineering. "And Rose delivered.

Brower's work at AT&T was not just about departmental goals, however. She was also an advocate for equal opportunity in the workplace. "There were a lot of challenges," she said. "But I think we made progress." And she did.

In 1998, Brower was named the school's associate dean for engineering communications. "It was a big job," she said. "But I was ready." And she was.

In her new role, Brower worked with the faculty to develop a new curriculum in engineering communications. "It was a lot of work," she said. "But we did it together, and we did it well." And they did.

"I have been blessed," Brower said. "I have had the opportunity to work with some of the best people in the world, and I have been able to share their passion for engineering. I am grateful for that opportunity, and I am proud of the work that we have done."