Young named William G. Hamm Professor of Plastic Surgery

BY DAVID LINZER

Larry Young, M.D., a reconstructive and cosmetic surgeon, has been named the first William G. Hamm Professor of Plastic Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine. The chair was established by a bequest from Hamm, an alumnus and noted plastic surgeon who died in 1998. "We are honored and thankful that Dr. Hamm remembered us in his will," said Mark S. Wrighton, Ph.D., chancellor of Washington University. "His splendid career was a credit to the University and in creating an endowed chair he presented us with an asset of lasting value."

Hamm, a 1925 graduate of the School of Medicine, trained under Vilray P. Blair, M.D., professor of surgery and one of the founders of reconstructive plastic surgery. The two published a paper on the split thickness skin graft, which became a standard treatment for severe burns. Moving to Atlanta in the mid-1940s, Hamm became the first plastic and reconstructive surgeon in the Southeast.

During World War II, Hamm served as head of plastic surgery at St. Alben's Hospital in New York, where he treated wounded sailors and Marines. Returning to Atlanta after the war, he focused on adults with cancer of the face, mouth and jaws and children with congenital deformities. He also was professor emeritus of clinical surgery.

"He had a deep, abiding interest in the welfare of his patients and a great love for his work," which this commitment to Washington University was an investment in the future of the profession to which he dedicated his life," said Maurice J. Jurkiewicz, M.D., a colleague for many years. William A. Peck, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, said, "Dr. Hamm's generosity makes it possible for us to acknowledge and support an eminent faculty member. V. Larry Young has already had a long and distinguished career at the School of Medicine. We're confident he will make many more contributions in plastic surgery, as a clinician, researcher and teacher."

Young, who joined the faculty in 1980, is a leading expert on breast reconstruction and augmentation. He studies the properties of various breast implants to learn how they last and whether they have potentially harmful long-term effects. Other research areas include the health benefits of breast reduction and liposuction. In 1999, he was first author of a report on the safety and effectiveness of ultrasonic-assisted liposuction.

Young serves as chief of surgery at Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital. In addition to breast surgery and liposuction, his specialties include reconstruction of facial and reconstructive facial surgery and skin cancer treatment. He serves on the American Society of Plastic Surgeons board of directors and is committee chair for the Silicone Implant Research Committee of the Plastic Surgery Education Foundation. He also is an examiner for the American Board of Plastic Surgery.

He earned his bachelor's degree in 1966 and his medical degree in 1970 from the University of Kentucky at Lexington. After serving in the U.S. Army, he completed two residencies in general surgery and in plastic surgery at the University of Kentucky from 1977-79.

Supplier Diversity Initiative reports campus progress

BY JESSICA N. ROBERTS

Washington University's efforts to increase the participation of minority- and women-owned firms in University construction projects continue, according to a recently released report.

In fiscal year 2000, 25.3 percent of contract dollars paid out on capital projects was paid to minority- and women-owned firms — 9.6 percent to minority-owned firms and 15.7 percent to women-owned firms. This reflects a slight increase over the 25 percent reported during fiscal year 1999.

"If Washington University has been successful in increasing minority- and women-owned firms' participation in construction projects throughout campus," said Sandra Marks, director of supplier diversity programs at the University, "the biggest success we've seen in fiscal year 2000 is that minority- and women-owned firms are not only gaining subcontractor dollars as they did in fiscal year 1999, they are becoming the firms that are holding the main contracts for a project."

As a part of the construction supplier diversity initiative, Marks continued the "Business of Diversity" awareness program, which was taught at the John M. Olin School of Business from Oct. 1999 through Feb. 2000. Twenty-one people participated in the sessions, taught by University professors and leaders of St. Louis' Associated General Contractors. The course is designed to help local contractors compete in the construction industry.

Marks also introduced the Minority Youth in Construction Summer Program, in which 33 African-American students entering ninth grade participated during the summer and July 2000. The students participated in a wide range of activities including math enrichment courses and field trips to local construction sites. Minority female students are encouraged to participate. See Initiative, page 6

Inspirational alumus

Actor-director and Washington University alumnus Harold Ramis, who is also a member of the Board of Trustees, met with a film and media students from the Performing Arts Department in Arts & Sciences last week. Ramis was on campus to speak about his work in a talk at Graham Chapel and to host a screening for students of his latest film, the comedy "Bedazzled."

Wallace named first Barbara Murphy Bryant professor of Art History

BY NEIL SCHWENGEER

International travel, global exchange, communications and technology play a large role in today's fast-paced business world. In the future, leaders will need to be trained in the issues of diversity and a global economy.

"We are hoping to strengthen our International and Area Studies program to start in 2002 benefit committees for the art museum, Lampecker Sculpture Park and Washington University Park," said Donald Bryant, who has served on the Board of Trustees, the Board of Visitors and the Council and as a member of the Board of Visitors and the Council and as a member of the Board of Visitors and the Council and as a member of the Board of Visitors and the Council. In October 1991, he was recognized for his contributions to the Saint Louis Art Museum. See Wallace, page 2

International and Area Studies program to start in 2002

See Program, page 6
University-connected scientists find key gene in fruit flies

By Tony Fitzpatrick

Tangling the boys from the girls in the animal kingdom is usually pretty apparent. Striking colors and attractive displays in birds, fish and insects are meant to advertise sexual availability and to attract mates. But what is the secret behind the sexual dimorphism in the fruit fly?

The discovery, described in the Nov. 30, 2000 edition of the British scientific journal Nature, shows how the evolution of fruit flies is constricted by an abnormal yet heritable male-specific trait: bristle loss.

"Fundamentally, the difference between species is in their DNA," said Sean B. Carroll, a professor of biology at Washington University, where the research was carried out. "This discovery establishes that, for the female, the sex of a fruit fly is determined at a very early stage, much earlier than has been supposed before."

Drosophila melanogaster, one of the fruit flies characterized in the study, is body pigmentation: the rear end of males is heavily pigmented and the female's is not. "This difference has evolved only recently," Carroll said. "The female has dimorphic lengths, but also masculinized traits."

"The pigmentation has lost its significance to the female — it is last year's fashion — and males are probably forced to evolve new ones all the time," Carroll added.

Accumulated over time, it is the kind of difference that can lead to morphological, or body structure, differences between the species. "New species evolve from within," Carroll said. The situation could be that the genetic patterns may still serve a useful purpose in attracting mates, who have to be able to waste their time identifying species.

"Courtship, for a female fly, is a very expensive activity," Carroll said. "Drosophila females want to waste their time identifying species before approaching other males.""(For more information, see page 1)
Family members of prostate cancer patients are safe from radiation

T

here's good news for people whose prostate cancer is being treated with radioactive seed implants. School of Medicine researchers have determined that radiation exposure to family members is minimal. In fact, the exposure is far less than taking a round-trip flight to Europe or living in a major city such as Denver.

The study of the amount of radiation exposure from the radioactive seeds was presented Nov. 27 at the 86th Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting of the Radiological Society of North America. "We now can tell a woman the amount of radiation she will get from her husband in one year is less than if she were living in Denver for three or four months," said Jeff M. Michalski, M.D., associate professor of radiology. "It's reassuring for family members and patients who are considering radioactive seed implants." 

More than 180,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year. According to the American Cancer Society, it is the second leading cause of cancer death in men. One in four of the 144,000 patients whose cancer was not spread beyond the prostate opted to be treated with radioactive seed implants, which is called brachytherapy. Forty men participated in the study; 27 received iodine seeds and 13 received cesium seeds. The two most common seeds make up 90% of radioactive implants used. All the men wore badges that measured radiation exposure in millirem (mrem). They wore badges 24 hours a day, seven days a week for three weeks; other than when they bathed. Spouses, children, other relatives who lived in the house in most cases received essentially zero mrem.

Humans are continually exposed to radiation from the sun, in an airplane or from materials such as earthenware. "A person flying round-trip from New York to Tokyo would receive about 30 mrem," said Michalski. "Just from living in a big city for a year, a person would receive 50 to 85 mrem." The patient, he added, receives an average of 300 to 400 mrem, for which the patient pays $1,000 to $2,000. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Commission has determined the average person should avoid being exposed to more than 500 mrem a year from nonmedical or nonoccupational sources. The average per capita exposure in 1981 was about 820 mrem, but that number varies greatly depending on several factors, including where the person lives and what he or she does for work. "It's reassuring for family members and patients who are considering radioactive seed implants, Michalski said. Medical radiation sources, such as the seeds, offer far more benefit than risk to the patient, he said. Both iodine and palladium have relatively short half-lives of about three to ten years, respectively. After a year, there's very little radioactivity left in the implants, Michalski said. Brachytherapy, or internal radiation therapy, involves internally planting an average of about 100 radioactive seeds, smaller than grains of rice, in the prostate. Each seed is made of a radioactive substance encased in a sealed metal tube. They are implanted in a minor surgical procedure, through needles rather than an open incision, and patients generally return home the same afternoon. Studies show about 78 percent of men treated with the seeds are cured after 10 years, a rate similar to surgical therapy for many prostate cancers. There is less risk of impotence and incontinence with the seeds than with the surgery. Brachytherapy is more convenient than traditional external beam radiation therapy for many patients because they don't have to go to the hospital for treatments.

J. Taylor Harden to address minority involvement in medical research

by Gila Reckess

J. Taylor Harden, Ph.D., professor and chief of the director for special populations at the National Institute on Aging (NIA), will deliver a lecture at noon Jan. 16 in the East Pavilion of the School of Medicine. He will present the NIA's perspective on the importance of including minority populations in health-related research. The Washington University community is invited to attend.

Harden earned his Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Texas at Austin. Since then, he has worked to forward research and educational efforts for women of color and members of underserved, racial minority groups, disabled citizens, and social populations. He previously served as the chief executive administrator at the National Institute of Nursing Research and as acting director of the Public Health Service Office of the National Institute of Drug Abuse and the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research. Among her leader-

ship positions in a variety of programs and organizations, Harden has been a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. The talk is sponsored by the University's Alzheimer Disease Research Center (ADRC) and their newly-formed African American Alzheimer's Research Initiative, which is part of an initiative to increase representation of minority populations in Alzheimer's research and clinical trials. Alzheimer's disease affects an estimated one in 1000 people in the United States, with roughly 39,000 diagnosed cases in the St. Louis area. Although minorities believe the incidence rate is the same across all races, the majority of patients who participate in Alzheimer's research are Caucasian. This is why the ADRC has revitalized efforts to reach out to minority population in the St. Louis area, particularly to the African-American community, said Thomas M. Mesera, Ph.D., director of the education core at the ADRC and assistant professor of neurology.

It is important that advances in Alzheimer's disease come from studies that represent more than older adult population," explained John C. Morris, M.D., co- director of the ADRC, and the Friedman Professor of Neurol og y. "Similarly, benefits from research must be extended to all groups." Of the 28 Alzheimer's disease centers funded by the NIA, the ADRC has consistently been in the top third in recruiting African-Americans for research participation. This achievement is largely due to the Memory & Aging Project Satellite program in the City of St. Louis, under the direction of Dorothy E. Edwards, associate professor of neurology and research assistant professor of occupational therapy.

However, retention of these participants has been more of a challenge. Current efforts focus on reducing barriers to long- term participation while also reaching out to more African-American minority groups. "The NIA shares the ADRC's mission to reach out to minority groups that up to now have been underrepresented in clinical studies," Morris said. "We are delighted to report that Dr. Harden will join us in January to support efforts to accomplish this goal.

Faculty receive $5.6 million to study nerve cells

Four School of Medicine researchers have received a five-year, $5.6 million grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke to examine how connections form in the brain.

The investigators are Jodorus S. Sanes, Ph.D., the Alumni Endowed Professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology; Anne Marie Craig, Ph.D., associate professor of anatomy and neurobiology; Jeff Lichtman, M.D., Ph.D., professor of anatomy and neurobiology; and of biomedical engineering; and Rachel O. Wong, Ph.D., assistant professor of anatomy and neurobiology.

Brain cells communicate with each other across small gaps called synapses. "Synapses are where all information processing occurs — both thought and movement," Sanes explained. "Changes in synapses are the cellular basis of learning and memory." In addition, researchers believe many neurological and psychiatric disorders directly result from synaptic malfunction.

When forming synapses, cells must make the right connections. However, scientists do not yet understand how this process occurs. The new grant continues a tradition of combining expertise and technology among labs at the medical school to answer this critical question. "Our goal is to provide mice to study molecules believed to be involved in synapse formation," Lichtman said. They also could help regenerate cells that have been damaged in the long-term process of creating junctions between cells.

Neurovascular junctions are only a model of synapses between such as those found in the brain. "We are studying the process of forming synapses that connect neurons in the retina. By studying central synapses, Rachel can help us with our larger goal of exploring neuron-to-neuron synaptic formation. And we can provide her with methods she otherwise would not have access to," Sanes said.

The fourth component of this collaboration is Craig's cell culture research. She examines molecules that provide yet another perspective into the effects of the molecules. "Cell culture..."

Minimally invasive surgery center offers latest technology

This probably is the most advanced and best equipped surgical center in the United States," said Ralph J. Damiano Jr., M.D., director of the Washington University Minimally Invasive Surgery, at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the center Nov. 29.

More space and the latest technology for colleagues will make courses and demonstrations for larger audiences possible. There also are two new sterile operating rooms for patients, both with state-of-the-art technology. Addition to the institute is the lab of Ralph J. Damiano Jr., M.D., professor and chief of cardiovascular surgery. "We may be the only institution in the United States that offers cardiac in addition to general and urological minimally invasive surgery," said Soper, who also is a professor of surgery.

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Campus groups to hold Gathering for World Peace

BY NEIL SCHONHERR

A

midst the constant reports of conflict and strife throughout the world, a cry for peace can now be heard from Wash-

ington University on Dec. 13 as leaders from several different campus groups gather in Graham Chapel at 11 a.m. to speak out for an end to violence.

The second annual Gathering for World Peace is free and open to the public. Religious leaders here hope it will have a positive effect on ending conflict around the world and in our own backyard.

"The people of the world are starting to recognize that our planet has too much violence," said Leslie Limbaugh, Baptist campus minister.

"In each of our own faith traditions we recognize that violence is unacceptable," she said. "If we can do something to bring about peace in our own neighborhoods, we must make it our top priority."

The gathering will feature a short speech on peace and light by Jill E. Carrington, assistant vice chancellor for student activities and diversity of campus life. Following that, representatives from the several religious groups around campus will present sacred text readings on peace. Singing will follow the readings.

The groups that are scheduled to attend include many Christian faiths, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Taoism, Confucianism, Native American and the campus pagans.

"Washington University Interfaith Campus Ministers Association came up with the idea for a millennium peace gathering last year. That event was a very positive experience," according to Limbaugh, and the group decided to try it again this year.

Rabbi Hyim Shafman of the University's St. Louis Hillel said he thinks the peace gathering is a wonderful event. "It really fits the campus atmosphere of breaking down barriers and showing that we all have a common belief in peace," he said. He added that the campus ministers decided on the idea of a peace gathering to emphasize that different religions can accomplish as much as we can when we respect and support the religious involvement that is important to different groups.

John Kindschuh, an intern at the Catholic Student Center, said the gathering will provide a way we can all work toward cooperation among the faiths," he said.

"Breaking down barriers will take present time out to pray and focus on peace may be the best thing students can do during the stressful time of exams."

Music

Friday, Dec. 8

6 p.m. WU Opera. Excerpts from Mozart's "The Magic Flute" and "The Abduction from the Seraglio," 612 South Euclid Ave. 935-4841.

Saturday, Dec. 9

8 p.m. WU Ballet. "The Nutcracker," performed by the Missouri Ballet Theater at Touhill Performing Arts Center. 935-4533.

Sunday, Dec. 10

3 p.m. WU Jazz's "Messiah" sing-along. John Stewart, dir., music professor and organist. Robert Reed, tenor; Robert Reed, baritone. Graham Chapel. 935-4841.

Worship

Friday, Dec. 8

11:15 a.m. Feast of the Holy Innocents Confirmation Mass, Catholic Student Center, 6352 Forsyth Blvd. 935-9191. 5:15 p.m. Muslim Friday Prayer. Also, includes sermon and prayer service. University Islamic Center, 510 S. Kingshighway Blvd. 362-2725.

Saturday, Dec. 9

6 p.m. Men's Basketball v Johns Hopkins. McDonnell Douglas Arch. 935-3221.

Sunday, Dec. 10

10 a.m. Megachurch's "Messiah" sing-along. John Stewart, dir., music professor and organist. Robert Reed, tenor; Robert Reed, baritone. Graham Chapel. 935-4841.

On Stage

Friday, Dec. 8

9:30 p.m. WU Dance Theatre. "Messiah." same time, and Dec. 10, 2 p.m. GWB Library, Main Campus. 935-1303.
Class reveals design secrets to all students

By LAM OTTEN

Creativity, despite some popular misconceptions, is in many ways a teachable skill, no different in that sense from math, music or volleyball. Sure, innate ability plays a role, but to do as much as possible, hard work and informed decision making. As professionals can attest, the right tools and an open environment, real accomplishment takes far more than the occasional "Eureka" moment.

This fall, an innovative course at the School of Architecture helped awaken students from an educational comfort zone to a previously untapped creative potential. Launched as a pilot program in 2007 as "209: The Design Process," the course was developed by Clifford W. Murphy Professor of Civil Engineering, who also serves as dean of the School of Architecture and Engineering. That's not easy — frankly, Lorberbaum explained. "They are very good students, very bright students — I mean, they image what they think about in a very precise way."

"It's not easy to teach them a completely different way of thinking," Lorberbaum continued. "By the end of the course, students should be able to integrate seven major concepts: meaning, site, program, technical, material, climate, light and water. If they can do that, it's really, really, really hard."

The course was first proposed by Tom Harmon, Ph.D., the Clifford W. Murphy Professor of Civil Engineering, who approached Lorberbaum, dean of the School of Architecture, and Kevin Truman, Ph.D., chair of the School of Architecture, back in 2006. "We wanted to put a course on a sophmore design course that would be able to integrate seven major concepts, which are very important," Lorberbaum said.

In 2007, "209: The Design Process" was developed and implemented in collaboration with the Department of Civil Engineering and originally limited to civil engineering and architecture students. "It's a really difficult course for students to take," Lorberbaum said. "It's a really difficult subject for students to be able to integrate seven major concepts, with meaning, site, program and technical, material, climate, light and water."

"It's really hard for students to learn this way," Lorberbaum said. "They think about things in very precise and very specific ways, but it's really hard to learn in this way."

Over the course of the 11-week fall semester, the course focused on one particular concept: "Soft," which students were shown in the beginning of the semester to be the word that "cracked" them. "It's a really difficult course, but it is very important to teach," Lorberbaum said.

"It's really hard for students to learn this way," Lorberbaum said. "They think about things in very precise and very specific ways, but it's really hard to learn in this way."

The classroom for the course was chosen because it was a very open space, in which students could "crack their heads," Lorberbaum said. "It's a really difficult course, but it is very important to teach."
Double winner Washington University won two top awards during the St. Louis Minority Business Council’s annual awards ceremony on Sunday evening, Dec. 3, at Powell Symphony Hall. Council President Dr. G. Davis, left, and Julia A. Holmes, chairperson of the selection committee and president of Concepts Marketing and Advertising, present the Institution of the Year award to Richard A. Pollock, executive vice chancellor of the University, who accepted that award, as well as one for most innovative supplier-diversity program. Criteria for the former included total dollars involving minority business enterprises (MBEs); financial, educational and technical assistance to MBEs; and overall quality and innovation of the institution’s MBE program. An 18-member committee representing 360 certified MBEs belonging to the Council determined the awards. The University’s supplier-diversity program began just three years ago, and Davis said: “For such a young program to achieve these awards illustrates the University’s significant commitment, from the chancellor on down, to minority business enterprises.”

**Program**

Courses offer new option for students — from page 1

course tracks. Initially, those area studies courses will be East Asian, European and international studies. We want to form an interdisciplinary link between students and faculty by supporting various scholarly activities within the program.

The primary goal of the program is to develop a stronger and better-coordinated interdisciplinary curriculum for students with interests in the study of particular areas, as well as those with more international and global interests.

The program was established in the belief that an understanding of the world outside the borders of the United States is an integral part of an Arts & Sciences undergraduate education. Macias said the executive planning committee is already working on goals and specific course work for the program, which will most likely become a minor.

Pricilla Stone, director of international studies in Arts & Sciences, said she is excited about this new program. “We currently have a number of students who come to Washington University with interests in pursuing an international course of study. We want to make sure that we are adequately meeting that need,” she said.

Students who enter this program would be prepared to work in any number of fields after graduation, including government, business, education, law, or other emerging markets, Stone said.

“The goal really is to create a well-rounded interdisciplinary program which includes courses from both the humanities and the social sciences.”

**Initiative**

Report details diversity in enterprise and labor — from page 1

hours represented 18.1 percent of the labor on capital projects in program during fiscal year 2000. Of this percentage, 15.5 percent were minority employees and 2.6 percent were female employees. This percentage reflects a 2.9 percent decrease from fiscal year 1999. “A substantial portion of the work performed by our capital projects last year fell in categories where minorities are under-represented,” minority managed, electrical, and plumbing contractors with union affiliation are hard to find in the St. Louis area. This impacts our enterprise and labor utilization numbers when you realize the range of suppliers we do in this area,” said Marks.

“Our University’s Youth in Construction Program” is responding to this demand for a new training initiative. The “Business of Construction” course is responding to the need for more firms. The University must continue to work with our majority firms (generals and subcontractors) to ensure our policy of minority inclusion in all categories of work. However, we must also offset the lack of capacity in these categories with a more formal program in our maintenance departments where small minority contractors can perform.”

For fiscal year 2000, the supplier diversity initiative moved beyond reporting on construction suppliers. The report also included information about non-construction suppliers and future reports are expected to include concrete numbers in this category.

Six minority-owned firms were awarded preferred supplier contracts in areas ranging from discount frame products to copy services. Like their construction counterparts, the non-construction suppliers participated in a “Supplier Fair” on both the Hilltop and Medical School campuses. Over 400 University representatives visited with 30 exhibitors during the fair.

Marks noted that although the University and more visibility of a local leader and innovator in supplier diversity, it is still considered work to be done.” The University has to continue to be aggressive in this area,” Marks said. “Although we have been successful, we can’t let up on our efforts.”

**Employment**

Stiffman receives Career Development Award from NIH

By Ann Nicholson

A late R. Stiffman, Ph.D., professor at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, has received a $567,000 Career Development Award from the National Institutes of Health. The five-year grant, which is part of the Independent Scientist Award program, is designed to “foster the development of outstanding scientists and enable them to expand their potential to make significant contributions to their field of research.”

Stiffman plans to further her research into adolescents’ knowledge of and access to mental-health services. Her work includes studies of two related research topics—mental-health care problems addressed by non-specialty mental-health care providers and the use of mental-health and drug- and alcohol-addiction services among Native American youth.

While many at-risk groups turn to child welfare, schools, juvenile justice, and primary health care providers to address various immediate problems, mental-health needs are often undetected or untreated in these settings. At the same time, adolescents rarely seek mental-health treatment on their own from a psychiatrist or other speciality in a mental-health services field, Stiffman said.

Her ongoing research will track youths’ entry into pathways through mental-health services provided by both specialty and non-speciality services. Stiffman will examine barriers to mental-health care including lack of diagnosis, reimbursement, and insufficient funding. She also will look at additional hurdles faced by Native Americans, who have special provisions for health care through the federal Indian Health Service.

A member of the social work school’s faculty since 1988, Stiffman is director of the Comorbidity and Addictions, Prevention, Intervention and Treatment Center and associate director of the Center for Mental Health Services Research. She earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Cincinnati and both a master’s degree and doctorate in social work from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work.

Board of Governors also presented its report.

New trustee Patient earned his bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering at the University in 1957, and began his career at American Oil Company. In 1962 he joined Borg-Warner Chemicals, where he remained until 1989, serving in two vice presidencies and as president of Borg-Warner Chemicals Europe.

In 1989 Patient became senior vice president of BF Goodrich Company and president of its BFG Vinyl division. Four years later BFGoodrich spun off the Geo division as a separate public company with Patient as chairman, president and chief executive officer of what had become the world’s largest producer of vinyl compounds. He was also responsible for research, equipment, appliance parts, and many other business applications. Geo had nearly 3,000 employees and 23 manufacturing plants worldwide when it merged in 1999 with the M. A. Hanna Company, and is now known as PolyOne Corporation.

Committed to Community service, Patient has served on the Board of Trustees of Cleveland State University for seven years and for the past two years as its chairman. He also served on the boards of Cleveland Tomorrow, National City Bank, Playhouse Square Foundation, Greater Cleveland Roundtable, University Hospitals Health System, and The Musical Arts Association—all in the Cleveland area.

Patient was honored in 1995 with the Alumnus of the Year award for his South American research. His body of knowledge was published in a book in 1952, well before an English language medicinal herb vocabulary was published. A number of plant species was published in 1957. For centuries, there were only two copies of de la Cruz’s book, and their whereabouts were unknown. In the 1920s, the original was found in a Vatican library. Since then, many facsimiles have been produced, and one is in the Missouri Botanical Garden collection.

Committee members concluded that medicinal plant uses, their knowledge and documentation could be lost forever as well. Recording this knowledge and documenting it thus becomes as crucial an activity of the Washington University team as discovering new medicinal plant species. The University collaborates formally with the native Aguaruna people of Peru through the International Cooperative Biodiversity Program-Persa, or ICBP-Persa, whose primary goals are to identify new pharmaceutical possibilities from medicinal plants and to promote cultural and economic support to the native Indians.

Lewis wins Martin de la Cruz medal

By Tom Fitzpatrick

Walter H. Lewis, Ph.D., professor of biology in Arts & Sciences, was awarded the Martin de la Cruz medal by the Mexican Academy of Traditional Medicine, Nov. 13, at a ceremony in Xochimilco, Mexico, near Mexico City. Lewis received the award for his South American research among the Jivaro Indigenous tribes in Peru.

Lewis was attending the International Congress of Traditional and Alternative Medicine, sponsored by the University of Autonoma Metropolitana. Approximately 400 researchers attended the conference, which was held in Toluca. On Nov. 14, Lewis presented the conference keynote address, “Searching for new pharmaceuticals in partnership with the Aguaruna People of Peru.”

The medal is presented in honor of Maria de la Cruz, who, as an Aztec healer, was the first indigenous person in the New World to provide data about medicinal plants. His body of knowledge was published in a book in 1532, well before an English language medicinal herb vocabulary was published. A number of plant species was published in 1557. For centuries, there were only two copies of de la Cruz’s book, and their whereabouts were unknown. In the 1920s, the original was found in a Vatican library. Since then, many facsimiles have been produced, and one is in the Missouri Botanical Garden collection.

Lewis, an internationally known ethnobotanist, and his wife, Memory P. Elvin-Lewis, Ph.D., a professor of microbiology and ethnomedicine in Arts & Sciences, have made numerous trips to the Peruvian rainforests since the early 1980s to learn about the medicinal plants used by the native tribes.

The Aguaruna, a tribe of the river Indians of the Upper Amazon basin, still rely largely on memorization and the oral passing down of knowledge of their medicinal plants to survive. However, as increasing numbers of younger Aguaruna are exposed to the outside world, many lose interest in learning the practice of herbal medicine. Thus, with fewer numbers of Aguaruna willing to learn all of the medicinal wonders and knowledge of their elders, medicinal plant knowledge could be lost forever as well. Recording this knowledge and documenting it thus becomes as crucial an activity of the Washington University team as discovering new medicinal plant species. The University collaborates formally with the native Aguaruna people of Peru through the International Cooperative Biodiversity Program-Persa, or ICBP-Persa, whose primary goals are to identify new pharmaceutical possibilities from medicinal plants and to promote cultural and economic support to the native Indians.

Board of Trustees announce appointments, promotions

The Board of Trustees approved the promotion with tenure of the following Washington University faculty members on Dec. 1.

School of Medicine

Promotion with tenure: Y-R. Tsai, to associate professor of neurobiology; Yvette T. Sheline, to associate professor of psychiatry (effective Jan. 1, 2001).
Scott J. Hultgren, Ph.D., continues to work toward breaking down the destructive power of bacteria

By David Linke

more than half of American women at some point in their lives, as well as some men. E. coli, like many other bacteria, are covered with hairlike projections called pili, which are tipped with proteins that allow them to attach to human cells. To stop them, the immune system sends in slingshot-like proteins called chaperones to escort the subunits into place, ensuring that they fit together like a perfect couple.

In work he began at Umeå in northern Sweden, Hultgren and his collaborators discovered that a protein called pilE is required for pilus assembly. They found that the intact pilE is essential for pilus formation, but when the protein is missing, the bacteria cannot assemble the pilus correctly.

In fact, Hultgren and his wife, Linda, found the winter's not as cold as the ones they had in Chicago. They enjoyed short, though, with the sun glowing faintly through the overcast for only a couple of hours. "The first day in May when the sun broke through, everybody ran out in the streets to collect," Hultgren recalled. Even more joyous for the couple was the day Linda gave birth to a boy. Deciding that a Swedish custom back to his family made the trip often to Sweden where his wife is from Wrigley Field. His love music and is teaching himself to play piano. To stay in shape, he swims a mile a day. He finds that he has some of his best ideas while doing laps.

Hultgren has spent the last two summers working at Stockholm's Karolinska Institute. Reveling in the chance to return to Sweden, he stayed at an apartment overlooking the Baltic Sea and cycled around the bike-friendly city.

Hultgren has even brought a Swedish custom back to his lab. Whenever one of the researchers publishes a paper, a "fika," or small celebration, is held. Surveying the line of empty champagne bottles in his office, Hultgren said, "For me, the most rewarding thing is to see my students and post-docs enjoy their work and score their successes."

Scott J. Hultgren, Ph.D., and Beleaguered Bladders."