Brick-and-mortar projects abundant

By Beth Riggs

Why would a university plan to spend nearly $800 million in previous resources on new construction in a single decade? Why would that money not go toward faculty salaries, or spend nearly $800 million in precious resources on new construction in a single decade? Why would that money not go toward faculty salaries, or upgrades in technology, facilities and student financial support? The answer at Washington University is that precious resources are indeed committed to new professorships, faculty salaries and student financial support. The University has already created a number of new endowed chairs and earmarked funds for many more; it has expanded financial aid and added a variety of new fellowships and scholarships; and it continues to add new interdisciplinary programs to meet changing needs and student interests.

The second part of the answer is that state-of-the-art facilities are critical to attracting the best faculty and the brightest students. "If we're going to compete to accelerate our ascent through the ranks of the world's great institutions, we must recruit top scholars and top students," said Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, speaking to a group of neighbors last fall. "So do we, it must offer the latest in technology, facilities conducive to groundbreaking research and attractive spaces for living and working." So there is a much larger context around the flocking of

Washington People: Letha Ann Chadha, Ph.D., strives to empower women caregivers

By Jim Dryden

"In assembling the sequence, it is key to map the pieces back to their proper places in the genome," said Robert H. Waterston, M.D., Ph.D., the James and McDivitt Professor of Genetics, professor of anatomy and neurobiology, head of the Department of Genetics and director of the Genome Sequencing Center at the School of Medicine, the center that organized the physical mapping effort. "In assembling the sequence, it is key to map the pieces back to their proper places in the genome," said Robert H. Waterston, M.D., Ph.D., the James and McDivitt Professor of Genetics, professor of anatomy and neurobiology, head of the Department of Genetics and director of the Genome Sequencing Center at the School of Medicine, the center that organized the physical mapping effort. The public effort to sequence the human genome has relied on a map-based approach. The map was a key component in the construction of the working draft of the human genome sequence. Base pairs of DNA, these pieces could be simplified that large puzzle by dividing it up into many small puzzles, each containing one piece, then putting all the pieces of the small puzzles together, and in turn putting all the small puzzles together to make the whole puzzle. That way, you can build one tree at a time, and then integrate them into the whole picture.

The physical map was a critical component in the construction of the working draft of the human genome sequence. Base pairs of DNA, these pieces could be put together to determine where particular pieces fit with other pieces on a chromosome.

"If you have a large, complicated puzzle piece, of say, a forest scene, a number of trees may look alike," said John D. McPherson, Ph.D., associate professor of genetics in the School of Medicine, co-director of the Genome Sequencing Center and corresponding author of the paper. "Making this map was like simplifying that large puzzle by dividing it up into many small puzzles, each containing one tree, then putting all the pieces of the small puzzles together, and in turn putting all the small puzzles together to make the whole forest. That way, you can build one tree at a time, and then integrate them into the whole picture."

Earthquake program centered at WU

Letha Ann Chadha, Ph.D., research assistant professor in genetics, Richard K. Wilson, Ph.D., associate professor of genetics, and William A. Peck, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, celebrate the publishing of the nearly complete map and sequence of the human genome.

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Earthquake program centered at WU

The centerpiece for each experiment is a portable, computer-controlled, bench-scale shake table, constructed to meet a set of specifications developed by the earthquake center investigators. The experiments will focus on the use of "hands-on" seismic simulation experiments which will offer students opportunities to operate the shake table, excite scaled models of various civil engineering structures such as buildings, bridges, towers and dams, with typical earthquake loads, learn basic concepts in structural dynamics, and use sensors to measure responses of the structures.

"One of the most important challenges facing civil engineers of today is minimizing the severe and tragic consequences of earthquakes," Dyke said. "Future civil engineers must have an understanding of the dynamic response of structures such as buildings, bridges, towers and dams to ground motion. Currently few civil engineering students are exposed to structural dynamics at

Human genome map published by consortium

By Tony Fitzpatrick

In the order of the recent Indian earthquake for civil engineers to realize that earthquake-engineering studies need to be intensified. University civil engineers are engaged in an effort to indentify young earthquake engineers with hands-on research early in their undergraduate careers. To achieve this effect, University faculty and students have joined forces with engineering educators at 22 other national institutions to form a unique consortium that is considered to be a model for future nationwide educational efforts. The University Consortium on Instructional Shake Tables (UCIST), funded by the National Science Foundation's Division of Undergraduate Education, is headquartered at Washington University. Shirley L. Dyke, Ph.D., assistant professor of civil engineering, is the director of the consortium.

According to Dyke, the overall goal of the UCIST project is to develop a series of earthquake engineering experiments for integration into a civil engineer- ing undergraduate curriculum. The centerpiece for each experiment is a portable, computer-controlled, bench-scale shake table, constructed to meet a set of specifications developed by the earthquake center investigators. The experiments will focus on the use of "hands-on" seismic simulation experiments which will offer students opportunities to operate the shake table, excite scaled models of various civil engineering structures such as buildings, bridges, towers and dams, with typical earthquake loads, learn basic concepts in structural dynamics, and use sensors to measure responses of the structures.
Earthquake
National consortium headquartered at WU

The undergraduate level. This program seeks to integrate an important topic into the undergraduate curriculum by introducing a series of hands-on experiments.

For the participating universities, this program has several advantages. It is designed and developed at least one experiment to be distributed to other universities. Each university will subsequently integrate these three experiments into their undergraduate curriculum.

The consortium that we have established will result in widespread adoption of these three experimental workshops among institutions.

The workshop is a joint effort among a number of universities. The consortium that the Hilltop and Medical campuses participated in the National Earthquake Center’s Peer Laboratory Research Program (PERR), Mid America Earthquake Center (MAECC), and the Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineer Research (MCEER).

The students are expected to develop an understanding and an appreciation for the dynamic nature of structures. These concepts are reinforced through the use of “hands-on” laboratory experiments, and students have access to modern engineering tools including computers, actuators, and data acquisition/equipment software.

Efforts are also under way to expose engineering students to the potential consequences of earthquakes and the dynamic behavior of civil engineering structures. Students are learning about emerging technologies such as structural control techniques and improving their technical communication abilities.

The equipment is also used extensively for research projects. A handful of students at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels have used the equipment for research projects. In some cases, the equipment requires experience and motivation for researchers, encouraging them to pursue graduate degrees. "We told students, 'You're using the experimental facilities to complete individual research projects that contribute to the overall goals of ongoing research programs.'

For instance, Dyke is working with civil engineering junior Tyler Raat on the implementation of the Transfer Function Iteration Algorithm on the instructional shake table in the Dyke Research Laboratory. This work focuses on the development of a technique to simulate an earthquake accurately on the instructional shake table. His project will be made available on the Web site to allow institutions across the country to use his program.

As a participant in last summer’s NSF-sponsored Research Experiences for Future Structural Engineers, Raat worked at the University with Ken M. Gould, Ph.D., Harold D. Jolley Professor of Civil Engineering, on the probability and modeling of liquefaction on locks near the New Orleans Crescent. Gould considered the potential impact of an earthquake affecting this critical structure, including both structural damage and nationwide economic loss.

In addition to the Hilltop undergraduate research paper contest sponsored by the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI), He received competitive support by EERI to travel to Montreal, Canada, to attend the EERI annual meeting and present the paper.

“We’re very proud of Tyler, and believe his kind of research experience will provide him with a broader perspective about their field,” Raat said. “These are the types of experiences engineering students of the future will need.”

Experiments are developed for undergraduate students at all levels and for non-engineering students, and for advanced graduate students and geoscientists, who will benefit from such exposure. Designs of each experiment will develop a laboratory equipment test plan and test plans for the test, specimens, relevant theory, experimental setup, and required procedures. For example, a computer program designed for the experimental facility will produce a set of code and data to read the resulting software for comparison.

The program seeks to integrate this experience into various experiments via video-taped sequences that are available on the Internet or via video clips. Kevin M. Kiley and Gordon were instrumental in forming the consortium, and we plan to develop plans and make a presentation on the consortium at the June 2000 ASCE Annual Meeting in St. Louis.

Additional activities include plans for developing two nationwide competitions in earthquake-related design, one for undergraduate and one for elementary education. Additional activities involving undergraduate students also use the instructional earthquake facilities that have been established at the St. Louis Science Center during Earthquake Awareness Week and immediately after the first weekend of February.

Washington University community news

Professor Kyriakos C. Dyke, Ph.D., department head of civil and architectural engineering, has been appointed to the position of director for the new National Earthquake Center during Earthquake Awareness Week and immediately after the first weekend of February.

Family members’ mental health problems addressed

Ann Richardson

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Family caregivers of persons living with mental health problems is the focus of a community workshop sponsored by Washington University and a national family support group.

The program is co-sponsored by the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, School of Medicine, the St. Louis branch of the American Foundation for Mental Illness (NAMI St. Louis) and the Missouri Institute of Mental Health at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine.

“Even though family and friends often have primary responsibility for the care of loved ones with mental illness, it is often other family and friends who can best relate to loved ones and family and friends can cope with their responsibilities as caregivers.

By Ann Richardson

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Support for family caregivers of persons living with mental health problems is the focus of a community workshop sponsored by Washington University and a national family support group. The event will be from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on Feb. 24 at the Holiday Inn Select St. Peters St. Charles, 4211 South Outer Road, St. Peters.

The program is co-sponsored by the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, School of Medicine, the St. Louis branch of the American Foundation for Mental Illness (NAMI St. Louis) and the Missouri Institute of Mental Health at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine.

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“Even though family and friends often have primary responsibility for the care of loved ones with mental illness, it is often other family and friends who can best relate to loved ones and family and friends can cope with their responsibilities as caregivers.
A joint award was given to Kathleen Wang, Ph.D.; M.D./Ph.D. student McGann, M.D., assistant professor of anesthesiology and of anatomy and neurobiology, and Min Zhuo, Ph.D., associate professor of anesthesiology and of anatomy and neurobiology, and their colleagues determined that a protein that allows nerve cells to communicate may enhance perceptions of chronic and persistent pain.

NR2B is one of the mix-and-match building blocks of important cellular structures. NMDA receptors, like radio接收器的特异性, are tuned in to messages from neighboring cells and carried by the chemical neurotransmitter glutamate. More importantly, their function only when the number and intensity of neurotransmitter receptors reach a prescribed threshold level. Because NMDA receptors only become activated at these threshold levels, they tend to be the primary neuronal receptors involved in important brain functions such as learning and memory and in injuries to brain tissue, such as strokes. NMDA receptors are also involved in cell death and drug abuse. They also are the primary receptors involved in histamine release.

The researchers studied a strain of genetically altered mice created by Joe Tsien, Ph.D., and his colleagues at Princeton University. They make extra NR2B in forebrain areas. The Washington University group — which reported in Nature that NR2B mutations affect pain in people who experience pain in the absence of an injury — wanted to learn if strengthened NR2B receptor activity contributes to persistent pain.

"In three experiments, we wanted to learn if strengthened connections in forebrain areas affect animals' responses to pain," Zhuo said. When a mouse or human encounters a painful event, the brain reacts to pain receptors in muscle or internal organs trigger an emotional response that travels along a nerve fiber to the dorsal horn of the spinal cord. Then, the fiber connects with the nerve fiber that relays the pain signal up the spinal cord to the brain.

"Our study has provided a target for the development of drugs that would be highly selective for persistent pain. They would allow people to ignore chronic pain while leaving the rest of the pain system intact," Min Zhuo

By studying genetically altered mice, Zhou-Feng Chen (left), Ph.D., assistant professor of anesthesiology, and Min Zhuo, Ph.D., associate professor of anesthesiology and of anatomy and neurobiology, and their colleagues determined that a protein that allows nerve cells to communicate may enhance perceptions of chronic and persistent pain. McGann and Sharkey are also members of the women's health team.
Peter Ho Davies to read for writing program

By LIAM OTTEN

Short-story writer Peter Ho Davies will read for the University’s Writing Program Reading Series at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, in Olin Hall, Room 201. A book signing will follow his reading, which is sponsored by the Writing Program Arts in Action and is free and open to the public.

Davies currently teaches at the University of Michigan and is the author of the collections “The Ugliest House in the World” (1997) and “Equal Love” (1999). His work has appeared in such publications as The Atlantic, Harper’s, Granta, The Paris Review and The New York Times. Davies has been included in the anthologies “Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards” and “Best American Short Stories.”

“Because his exposure keeps rising, and because his fiction is never quite like anything else you’ve read, I think Peter is pretty quickly becoming one of the more talked-about, assistant professor of English Arts in Science.”

“And you never get just one story with Peter; a narrative centered on an initial allusion also happens to be about UTOs, or a Western in which John Wayne and Gary Cooper have their roles is set among Communist insurgents in Raskol Luyperi. He makes great fiction out of strange bedfellows, and he always surprises you.”

As an example of the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, among other awards includes the John Louis Khyya and the PEN/Macmillan prizes in the United Kingdom and the H.L. Davis Book Award in the United States.

Davies: Reading at Huston Lounge


4 p.m. Islam Day: Disegnate of Donaldville. Doc. by Fred and Arafa. (Also Feb. 26, same time.) Cost: $25. Edison Theatre. 935-6543.


Saturday, Feb. 24

7:30 p.m. Women in basketball: vs. Emory U., 81-78, Sunday. Rochester, 81-78, Sunday. Rochester, 81-78, Sunday.

Sunday, Feb. 18

8 p.m. OVATIONS! Series. Two Headlines. Tunes on the Side.” Thomas J. Mariani, assoc. prof. of music. (Also Feb. 26, same time.) Cost: $25. Edison Theatre. 935-6543.

Friday, Feb. 16


Saturday, Feb. 17


Thursday, Feb. 8


Wednesday, Feb. 14

1:10 p.m. Muslim Friday prayers. Hurst Lounge, Room 201 Duncker Center. 935-3543.

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Friday, Feb. 16


Wednesday, Feb. 28


Thursday, Feb. 15


Friday, Feb. 16


Wednesday, Feb. 28


Thursday, Feb. 15


Friday, Feb. 16


In order to ensure a high level of accuracy in the final map, researchers tried to make sure that no overlapping clones cover to the entire genome roughly 20 times. Researchers also distributed to the various sequencing centers, which determined the order of base pairs of the genome. A Residency Map will provide much-needed parts that if you work only with general services.

Facilities for executives from the John M. Olin School of Executive Education Center at Washington University will provide an integrated and increasingly popular undergraduate major. Actual construction will begin this spring.

• Planetary Sciences in A&S, on North Campus.

Cromes don’t skylines at the Medical Campus, where many construction projects are under way or are scheduled to begin soon. The bricks-and-mortar do add

• A new Visual Arts and Design Center for schools of Art and Architecture, the Gallery of Art, and the Art, Architecture Library and the Office of Art History and Archaeology in A&S, north of Bishy and Steinheil halls.

• A new residential house to replace Ellet Residence and to join Nemove House in a new residential college.

• Three additional buildings for the engineering school, creating a new engineering campus of Millbrook and Skinker boulevards and freeing existing engineering buildings for the use of A&S departments.

• New parking facilities at the east end of campus.

• At the medical school, a new Lebanon Student Center at the corner of Scott and Racine avenues, expected to be under construction within a year.

These investments, together with tightening of the University’s treasured historic buildings and their improvements on campus and in surrounding communities, have a powerful ripple effect in the region, according to Executive Vice Chancellor Richard A. Rofol.

They spark additional neighborhood improvements and rising property values, Rofol said; they provide hundreds of construction jobs through targeted University efforts, they expand opportunities for minority- and women-owned firms; and they enhance the St. Louis community overall.

James E. McLeod, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and vice chancellor for student affairs, agrees. Speaking to a group of residents, McLeod called the University’s plans “not about being better, but being better. We want to be a great university for this region. No sustainable growth and prosperity over time without centers of learning. I believe we’ve been good for other departments.”

Genome

Nationally completed physical map published

from Page 1

genome sequence that was announced in 2000. Mapping was important because more than 50 percent of the genome is repetitive. Some regions of DNA have sequences that are identical to one another even though they are physically located millions of base pairs apart or even on different chromosomes.

“The that we could have bad problems without a map-based approach,” McPherson said. “So many parts of the genome look exactly like other parts that if you work only with small pieces, it’s tempting to try to stick similar pieces from different parts of the physical map allows us to work with large pieces of DNA, where the little ones are supposed to go.”

In the new physical map, the researchers used bacterial artificial chromosomes (BACs) — large segments of DNA (about 175,000 base pairs long) that have been cloned into bacteria. Once human DNA is cloned into bacteria, it can be copied and analyzed. Analysis of these bacterial artificial chromosomes is placed in an overlapping series that covers most of the genome containing portions of the 3.2 billion base pairs of the genome. Early in the design effort, each of the centers in the genome consortium worked on maps for particular chromosome sets. But it soon became clear

that making a fingerprint map of the entire genome would be greatly beneficial to the international effort, so the mapmakers joined together their data from around the world to create one accepted map, accessible to all.

During the last two years, mappers at the University and collaborators from other genome centers have processed up to 100,000 BAC clones each month — more than 350,000 in all — using the pattern each clone made when cut with different types of "restriction enzymes," each type of restriction enzyme has the job of cutting a short, specific sequence of base pairs and then the DNA strands at that spot. Those patterns, call fingerprint," differentiated DNA fragments from each other, revealing which clones contained identical stretches of DNA that could be overlapped.

To make the map, the researchers used bacterial artificial chromosomes (BACs) — large segments of DNA (about 175,000 base pairs long) that have been cloned into bacteria. Once human DNA is cloned into bacteria, it can be copied and analyzed. Analysis of these bacterial artificial chromosomes is placed in an overlapping series that covers most of the genome containing portions of the 3.2 billion base pairs of the genome. Early in the design effort, each of the centers in the genome consortium worked on maps for particular chromosome sets. But it soon became clear that making a fingerprint map of the entire genome would be greatly beneficial to the international effort, so the mapmakers joined together their data from around the world to create one accepted map, accessible to all.

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Introducing new faculty members

The following are among the new faculty members on the Hilltop Campus. Others will be introduced periodically in this space.

Lester K. Spence joins the Department of Political Science in Arts & Sciences as assistant professor. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in 1991, from where he also expects to receive his Ph.D. in political science. His research interests include race politics and political participation.

Andrew Brown, Ph.D., joins the Department of Romance Languages & Literatures in Arts & Sciences as assistant professor of Spanish. He earned a bachelor's degree in history and Spanish from the University of Oklahoma, where he graduated in 1994 with special distinction in the Phi Beta Kappa. Brown earned his Ph.D. in modern literature from the University of Virginia in May 2000, where he also worked as an instructor of language and of upper-level literature and cinema courses during 1999-2000. His work focuses on narrative writers of the southern cone, and the relationship between modern/postmodern scientific theory and literary discourse. He has published articles and given papers on a considerable range of topics.

Notables

The vision of a democratic moral authority that would lessen the cultural influence of anti-obscenity activists and derail efforts to expand the regulatory apparatus for commercial culture emerged in fits and starts. Early in the century women's rights activists in New York decided their right not to see plays and movies that criticized male supremacy and women's exploitation. Just a few years later the staff of the National Board of Censorship of Motion Pictures coupled their own claims to represent public opinion with a campaign clubwomen away from advocating government film regulation, trying to persuade them that female empowerment and effective child protection were to be found along a different path. In the intervening years anticommercialism and anticommercialism coalition made the state the guardian of a commercial culture embodying democratic standards and procedures. These efforts.

Of note

John O. Holladay, M.D., professor of medicine, chief of the Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology and director of the Section of Applied Physiology in the School of Medicine, has been chosen as the recipient of the 2001 Irving Wright Award of Distinction of the American Federation for Aging Research. The award honors individuals who have made exceptional contributions to basic or clinical research in the field of aging. The award will be presented to Holladay at the AGFA/AARP Annual Meeting in Madison, Wis. The award carries a cash prize of $1,000 and also covers all travel expenses to the meeting. Holladay has received numerous honors, most recently The International Olympic Committee (IOC) Medical Commission-2001 Olympic Prize in Sports Sciences. Holladay is a 1957 graduate of the School of Medicine and joined the faculty in 1965.

Panos Kouvelis, Ph.D., director of The Boeing Center for Technology, Information, and Manufacturing, and the Center for Disruptive Innovation and Disruptive Professor of Operations and Manufacturing Management for the Olm School of Business, received the Best Paper Award 2001 from Transactions, a leading research journal on operations management and industrial engineering. The award was for "Modelling the Design Quality Competition for Durable Products," which he co-authored with Suman Mukhopadhyay, Ph.D., associate professor, School of Business, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The award will be presented at the annual Industrial Engineering Research Conference in Dallas on May 20-22.

The Washington University Board of Trustees recently gave its approval for the name of the School of Engineering and Applied Science graduate school to be changed from the Henry Edwin Sever Institute of Technology and Applied Science to the Henry Edwin Sever Graduate School of Engineering and Applied Science.

Gernis-Catalina Roman, Ph.D., professor and chair of computer science, received unrestricted grant of $25,000 from the Ford Motor Company for his research on "Ad-hoc Peer-to-Peer networking."

Jason E. Fritts, Ph.D., assistant professor of computer science, received the best paper award for his "Evaluation of Static and Dynamic Scheduling for Media Processors," given at the Second Workshop on Media Processors and DSPs, December 2000, in Monterey, Calif. The conference was held in conjunction with MICRO-XI.

Gerald L. Early, Ph.D., the Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters and professor of English and African-American studies in Arts & Sciences, recently received a Grammy nomination for his album notes in "Yes I Can! The Sammy Davis Jr. Story."

Jonathan D. Gillin, M.D., professor of pediatrics in the School of Medicine, has received a five-year, $1,529,944 grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences for a research project titled "Patient Responsiveness in Surgical Critical Care."

Correction

Feb. 2, issue, Page 1: A story provided incorrect dates for the laying of the cornerstone of two University buildings. The cornerstone of Cupples I Hall was laid in 1901; Ridgley Hall's was laid in 1902.

Campus Authors

Andrea Friedman, assistant professor of history and women's studies in Arts & Sciences

"Prurient Interests: Gender, Democracy, and Obscenity in New York City, 1909-1945"

(Columbia University Press, New York)

The vision of a democratic moral authority that would lessen the cultural influence of anti-obscenity activists and derail efforts to expand the regulatory apparatus for commercial culture emerged in fits and starts. Early in the century women's rights activists in New York decided their right not to see plays and movies that criticized male supremacy and women's exploitation. Just a few years later the staff of the National Board of Censorship of Motion Pictures coupled their own claims to represent public opinion with a campaign clubwomen away from advocating government film regulation, trying to persuade them that female empowerment and effective child protection were to be found along a different path. In the intervening years anticommercialism and anticommercialism coalition made the state the guardian of a commercial culture embodying democratic standards and procedures. These efforts.

Distinguished visitors Jorge Arrate, Chile's ambassador to Argentina, spoke on "Human Rights and the Chilean Transition" Feb. 7 in Anheuser-Busch Hall. Arrate, a prolific author of both fiction and nonfiction, served in the cabinet of Salvador Allende in the early 1970s as adviser to the president and then as minister of mines, remaining in the government until the Pinochet coup. Recently, Arrate has served as Chile's minister of education, minister of labor and social security, and minister-secretary general of the government. This speech was presented by the Institute for Global Legal Studies of the Washington University School of Law in collaboration with the International Studies program in Arts & Sciences.
The daughter of sharecroppers in Alabama who went on to become an associate professor at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work and a nationally renowned expert on family caregiving for the elderly, Letha Ann Chadiha, Ph.D., knows full well the value of self-empowerment and the inspirational gifts of mentors.

As a John A. Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholar and coordinator of the gerontology concentration in the master of social work (M.S.W.) program, Chadiha's groundbreaking work among caregivers of older African-Americans, eminent scholarship on family relations and dedication to teaching have made her a mentor inspiring positive change.

One of 11 children growing up in poverty in the segregated South, Chadiha recalls her half-sister Magnolia, who was an elementary school teacher, insisting that Chadiha attend school instead of helping her family toil in the fields.

"I was very rebellious and knew that did not want to spend my life working in the fields," Chadiha said. "I was essentially determined to escape poverty, and did so through education."

Magnolia was a motivational influence in her life. She took her to school beginning at the age of 5, encouraged me in my studies and later helped fund my undergraduate education.

After the death of her father when she was 10, Chadiha points to an extended network of family and friends who helped raise her and encouraged her to achieve her dreams. Having earned a bachelor's degree, two master's degrees and a doctorate, Chadiha cites a lineage of mentors who helped shape her career. "They have been my inspiration," she said.

Although she began her post-secondary studies in sociology and anthropology, Chadiha is a social worker at heart.

"I have always identified more with the have-nots than with the have-haves," she said. "Although I loved anthropology, it was too much based on theory and not enough on action."

Since joining the social work faculty in 1990, Chadiha has focused her work on family relations within an emphasis on marriage, caregiving to older African-Americans and the overall field of aging. Much of her research, which has particular importance to the African-American community with broader implications to the fields of family relations and aging, is focused on the life experiences and mental health of African-American caregivers.

In a previous project in conjunction with the St. Louis Alzheimer's Association, Chadiha and Morrow-Howell developed an ethnic-sensitive awareness program on the disease for African-American clergy and laypersons in the St. Louis region. The program helped African-Americans caring for people with dementia receive vital needed support both through the association and the church.

Chadiha is also the principal investigator of a three-year study on the mental health, social functioning and service use of African-American women caregivers living in rural or southern Missouri counties. Morrow-Howell and Enola Proctor, Ph.D., the Frank J. Bruno Professor of Social Work Research, are helping conduct the study, which will involve interviewing 600 caregivers in their homes. According to Chadiha, "most caregiving research has focused on urban caregivers and emphasized stress and coping aspects. Innovative components of our project include studying both rural and urban caregivers and examining how their prior life experiences affect their well-being and service use as caregivers."

Although a prolific researcher, Chadiha said she finds working with students her passion. "I was trained as a researcher and do it well, but teaching and advising have become my calling," she said.

Last year, she received Western Illinois University's "Most Inspirational Teacher" award in recognition of "excellence in teaching, preparing the next generation for academic achievement and leadership."

Chadiha teaches M.S.W. courses in human diversity, analysis of social work practice, and social welfare policies and services. An adjunct professor of anthropology, she has also taught a course in cultural diversity and assimilation in the Social Thought and Analysis Program in Arts & Sciences.

Social work school alumna Cathy McDougall, a research postdoctoral specialist at the AARP Public Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., said Chadiha was instrumental in helping her form a student Gerontological Society of America organization, taught her valuable lessons in research and ultimately helped her chart her career.

"Dr. Chadiha was my academic adviser and instantly became a mentor to me," McDougall said. "Throughout the M.S.W. program, she offered me long-term guidance and encouraged my leadership. She also raised my awareness of the research skills I needed to be successful. As a result of her support and teaching, I've been able to start a career in conducting policy research on a topic that I am passionate about — the health care concerns and policies that impact older adults."

Chadiha's overall message to her students is one that has ensured her own success.

"I would like them to know they have a potential to be," she said. "They should listen to their instructors and mentors, but it is important that they achieve what they themselves have set out to accomplish."

Letha Ann Chadiha, Ph.D.
Born: Emelle, Ala.
Education: Bachelor of science in sociology, Tuskegee Institute; master of anthropology, Washington, D.C.; master of social work, University of Michigan; master of social work, University of Michigan; doctorate in social work and policy, University of Michigan.

Motivation: Leaving a legacy for her three sons — Evan, Jeff, a staff writer for Sports Illustrated, and Jon, a human resources professional; and Kiza, a senior at Stanford University.

"Letha is making unique and important contributions to gerontological research nationally, particularly with her current focus on women caregivers of older African-Americans," said Nancy Morrow-Howell, Ph.D., associate professor of social work, who has conducted several research projects with Chadiha.

"She also has been a tremendous asset to the school's gerontology concentration — both helping to attract more students and increasing their financial support through various fellowship and stipend opportunities," added Morrow-Howell, an expert on aging and chair of the doctoral program in social work.

In 1999, the John A. Hartford Foundation's New York named Chadiha among 10 of the nation's "future mid-career social work faculty." As a foundation scholar, Chadiha is conducting a research project titled "Beyond Coping: An Empowerment Intervention with African-American Women Caregivers of Dependent Low Income Elders."

The ongoing project, which will involve about 60 African-American women from the St. Louis region, is designed to help caregivers deal with increased stress and empower them to improve their situations. While a number of research projects have focused on the role of empower-ment, very few have looked at it as a tool for helping caregivers, particularly African-American caregivers, Chadiha said.

"The goals are to help the women develop a sense of identity and shared fate, to teach them problem-solving skills so they can move beyond coping and take charge of their lives, and to test the effectiveness of the interven-tion," Chadiha said.

The intervention project's problem-solving and empowerment approach already had having positive results, with the women reporting receiving much-needed support and feeling a greater sense of control over their predicaments.

"I learned I could be sad, mad, hurt and not help one partici-pant to do," she said. "I do not have to do it by myself. I am important too. I have to have time for me so I can be a good caregiver."

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