Urban housing focus of lecture series

BY LIAM OTTEN

Beginning Monday, the University’s School of Architecture will host a series of lectures exploring the future of urban housing and its impact on the St. Louis region.

The series will feature presentations by six nationally recognized architectural firms, all of which areshort-listed for a major architectural firm.

The lectures will be held at the Steinberg Hall Auditorium and is free and open to the public.

How do you create architecture that is forward-looking and respects the history of a city as old as St. Louis? said Cynthia Weese, FAIA, dean of the School of Architecture. “These lectures will provide a rare and exciting opportunity for the community to become directly involved in the architect selection process.”

In recent years, St. Louis has made some terrific gains in redeveloping the historic downtown core, said Jim Holtzman, director of real estate development for Grand Center. “However, if we are to continue that momentum, it is important that the city also develop new market-rate housing projects that are both urban in style and architecturally significant.”

Weese and Eric Sandness, associate professor of architecture and director of Research for the Missouri Historical Society, both served on the architect selection committee for the Grand Center project.

Other panelists include Emily Rauls Pulitzer, art collector and board member of Grand Center; David Lee, FAIA, of the Boston-based architectural firm Stull and Lee Inc.; St. Louis developer Steve Trampe; and Kara McCarty.

“These lectures will provide a rare and exciting opportunity for the community to become directly involved in the architect selection process.”

CYNTHIA WEESE

Harris Community Award to benefit Black Rep

BY BARBARA REA

Whitney and the late Jane Harris, a husband and wife who have given generously to the St. Louis community over the years, devised a way to give an enduring gift to the community. Their approach to philanthropy was the establishment in 1999 of the Gerdine Family Foundation, a husband-wife couple in the St. Louis region, in accordance with their wish to leave a lasting gift to the community.

The Gerdines, in turn, donated the $25,000 prize to the Jane and Whitney Harris Saint Louis Community Service Award. The award is then designated by the winning couple’s choice.

On Feb. 16, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton presented the Harris Community Award to Alice and Leigh Gerdine. The Gerdines, in turn, donated the $25,000 prize to one of their favorite organizations, the St. Louis Black Repertory Company.

On behalf of the late Jane Harris, and Whitney, I am pleased to announce that the Harris Community Award is now available to support the St. Louis Black Repertory Company. The Gerdines donated the cash prize to the Black Rep. Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton (right) presented the award.

Parts of the award money will be used to fund new productions and to support educational and community programming.
Professional and chaired the department of music at Washington University. For the next 20 years he served as president of Webster University and now holds the title of president emeritus. Under his leadership, Webster University built the Loretto-Hilton Center and helped establish the Opera Theatre of St. Louis, which performs there. Because of his initiatives to support the arts at Webster, the university's College of Fine Arts was named in his honor.

After other leigths has helped are the Sheldon Arts Foundation, the Missouri Arts Council and Americans for the Performing Arts. He also headed the revitalization of its concert hall and ballroom; and the Saint Louis Symphony, as a former manager and as a force in acquiring what is now Powell Symphony Hall. In addition, he serves on the boards in many organizations, including the Arts and Education Council, Rankin Technical College and the St. Louis Community Foundation.

Alice Gerdine shares her husband's interest in music and wellness. She was a member of the Saint Louis Symphony, as a founding manager and as a force in creating a healthy-cooking seminar. "I hope it raises the awareness of "the radiance of Latin-American culture,"" said Anna Fishbein, "because it seems to be unknown to many." The week's events will include a panel discussion about body image and eating disorders at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Grawemeyer, a student group Reflections is sponsoring Eating Disorders Awareness Week. "It is important to educate people about the dangers of eating disorders," said Jessica N. Roberts, shepherda@msnotes.wustl.edu

Nomination and Announcements

For more information, contact

The athletic choreography and the Edison Theatre Box Office 2-3 and at 2 p.m. March 4. Tickets are $5. For more information, visit the Washington University Web site at http://wustl.edu.

Record

Student Senate's (GSS) second annual Outstanding Faculty Mentor Awards are due March 2. A GSS committee will select winners, which will be announced soon. Nominations are due March 2. A GSS committee will select winners, which will be announced soon.

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Infertile women could benefit from new treatment

By Gila Reckess

"We don't want to see dangerous situations in women who are otherwise very healthy," said Valerie S. Ratts, M.D., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the medical school. "It would be nice to have an alternative way to treat these women safely and effectively."}

The researchers addressed the general question of how microbes and human co-exist using mice as a model system. After raising mice in a germ-free environment, they inoculated the animals with samples of feces from people who had type 2 diabetes. Then they looked at the bacteria normally found in healthy human and mouse intestines. Using two relatively new technologies — DNA microarrays and mass spectrometry — they examined the bacteria's effect on intestinal functions.

"These organisms have co-evolved with the intestinal barrier that lines the intestine and separates us from dangerous organisms and ingested substances," said Gordon. "Other genes affected by the bacterium regulate how potentially toxic compounds that are derived from undigested foods are formed and how the gut matures during the postnatal period." Gordon's group wanted to understand which intestinal cells were responsible for these results. They used laser capture microdissection, originally developed to help cancer researchers define the molecular details of tumor formation. This method allows researchers to capture a part of a gene from tissue samples and to measure gene expression.

Exploring health careers at the Feb. 13 Health Professions Fair, Lisa Cracchiolo, clinical instructor of respiratory care at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, uses a simulator to show Duy Bui, a student at Soltan International Studies High School, how to open the airway of an unconscious person. The annual Health Professions Fair for high school students is sponsored by the School of Medicine's Office of Diversity Programs and the Community Based Resource Office of the St. Louis Public Schools.

Robyn Roth receives third annual Dean's Distinguished Service Award

By Diane Duke Williams

Roth, senior electron microscopic technician at the laboratory of Heuser, says, "I love what I do. It's not easy, but I've never looked back."}

Roth, winner of the third annual Dean's Distinguished Service Award, produces electron micrographs of deep-etched cells and molecules. "Our goal is to become the 'eyes' of the cell biology community," she says.

"The images are recordings of the cell," Roth said. "They record how the cell is put together, how it functions, and what is happening inside the cell." Roth was recognized with an award for exceeding her job responsibilities, enhancing the reputation of the medical school, and creating a positive working environment and improving the community. "Robyn is a most deserving recipient of this award," said Roth, who has worked at the Medical School for 21 years. "She has the unique ability to make everyone else feel valued, especially her student volunteers."

Electron micrograph

William A. Peck, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the medical school, "In addition to her technical expertise, she has an enormous capacity for hard work. She has a strong commitment to the excellence of our school."}

Roth has worked in Heuser's laboratory for 21 years. After learning the deep-etch electron microscopic technique that she pioneered, she has become the lab's sole producer of electron micrographs. Roth helps scientists throughout the world plan their experiments and then prepares their samples for use with electron microscopy. Using highly sophisticated machines, she manipulates the quick-frozen samples by remote control, carefully cutting out their delicate frozen surfaces and then gently freeze-drying and coating them with ultra-pure platinum.

"Roth is well known throughout the cell biology community, and she is recognized as a national and interna-
Religious scholar Martin Marty will deliver the keynote address for Spirituality Week at 11 a.m. March 2 in Graham Chapel, as part of the Assembly Series.

In addition, Marty will deliver the homily for the eucharistic Ash Wednesday service, also in Graham Chapel, that will follow immediately after the lecture. The service is an annual event offered for the University and, like the lecture, is free and open to the public. Sponsoring organizations include Catholic Student Center, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Episcopal Campus Ministry, Wesley Fellowship and Baptist Student Union.

Marty has been ordained into the ministry in 1952 and served for a dozen years as a parish minister in Chicago. In 1963, he joined the faculty at University of Chicago, where he directs the Center for the Study of Religion. Congregational Service Professor Emeritus. Also, the Martin Marty Center has been founded at the university to promote "public religion" endeavors.

He is the George B. Caldwell Senior Scholar-in-Residence at the Park Ridge Center for the Study of Health, Faith, and Ethics, where he also serves as editor of the journal of that name.

For four decades, Marty has contributed to religious teaching and writing. He is the author of more than a dozen books, including the three-volume "Public Religion in America." Other recent publications include "The One and the Many: America's Search for the Common Good," a new edition of "A Cry of Absence," and with photographer Michael Maca, "Places Along the Screen."
prof. of microbiology and medicine, U. of Calif., San Francisco. Cost: $495. Monday, Sept. 16-20. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Neon. Orthodontic research seminar, "Maxillary and Mandibular Growth and its Impact," Joseph Barlow, Jr., adj. prof. of orthodontic surgery. Children's Hospital, Pediatric Outpatient Pavilion, Davies-Jewett Hosp. 8th fl., fourth floor, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

4 a.m. Biochemistry and molecular cell biology seminar, "Following Dna Repair," Carlos Varela, prof. of physiology, U. of Calif., San Francisco. Cost: $495. Monday, Sept. 16-20. 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Music
Friday, Feb. 23


Saturday, March 3

Sunday, March 4
3 p.m. Music dept. faculty recital. An "Afternoon of Chamber Music." Rick Ware, violinist; Elizabeth Macdonald, cellist; Hugh Macdonald, pianoist. Proceeding Hall Aud. 935-5581.

On stage
Friday, Feb. 23
8 p.m. OUTGIVING Series. "Wake Up and Send the CFO." Bob Bogle, actor and writer. (Also Feb. 24, same time.) Cost: $25.

Saturday, March 3

Wednesday, March 7

Thursday, March 8
9 a.m. Writing Program Reading Festival. Past Events: The Essex Farm Centennial celebration and a poetry reading from his work, Harlow Restaurant, 1018 Overton Road. 935-5943.

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Worship
Friday, Feb. 23
11:15 a.m. Catholic Mass. Catholic Student Center, 1000 Second Street. 935-1011.
11:30 a.m. Muslim Friday prayer. Includes sermon and prayer service. Lambert Lounge, Mallinckrodt Student Center. Cost: $25.

Wednesday, Feb. 28
11:30 a.m. Midday prayer, "Wednesday Interfaith Service." Satellite of the Campus-wide Midday Interfaith Service. Interfaith Campus Student Center. 935-5943.
now of recordings and transcripts, and it’s going to be publicly available in a data repository for other researchers to use,” Brent said.

To determine which words infants learned, throughout the course of the study, Brent periodically surveyed the mothers about which words their children knew. Findings based on these surveys were confirmed using the words each child spoke during the recording sessions.

“What is thought-provoking about our findings is that it had been shown in laboratory situations that infants are able to recognize words by segmenting connected speech,” Brent said. “So, the assumption has been that children rely on speech segmentation to build their vocabularies from the very beginning. What we’ve found is that, while infants can segment speech, it seems to be relatively rare for young infants to learn words that are not spoken in isolation. We’ve saying, ‘Wait a minute, they can segment, but is this ability actually called upon for early word learning?’ We think that speech segmentation is important later on, when kids are learning words really fast, but it may not be relied upon at the beginning, when they’re learning slowly.”

Brent’s current study was motivated by a computational model of speech segmentation that he developed in the late 1990s. The model predicts certain patterns of segmentation. For example, hearing “ball” in isolation should make it easier to segment “red” out of the phrase “red ball.” Brent and his collaborators tested the theory on adults, and the findings supported the model. But when they tested it on 1-year-old infants, they found little evidence for the predicted segmentation patterns. This meant that 1-year-olds either learned language through a different segmentation process than adults. Or, Brent wondered, do they even use segmentation at all?

“I realized then that we knew infants could pull repeated words out of long sentences, so we asked them to do simulations on learning the sounds of those words, but we didn’t know whether they actually learned the meanings of their first words that way,” Brent said.

The current study shows that the first words children tend to learn are words their mothers speak in isolation, suggesting that such isolated words may form a foundation for early vocabulary learning.

The notion that mothers’ isolated words help young infants learn is part of Brent’s larger theory about how our distinctive style of speech to children helps them learn language.

“Short utterances lay bare the structure of language,” he said. “For example, on a long sentence like ‘I know the famous scientist you’re discussing,’ it may be difficult for a child to figure out what the phrase ‘you’re discussing’ relates to. Does it modify ‘scientist,’ or is it the speaker knowing? ‘I’m short utterance like ‘I know Elmo,' it’s obvious that ‘Elmo’ is the direct object of know.”

Artificial ‘linguist’ Brent has found that short sentences may be a cost-effective way to teach simple concepts and simulate learning the grammatical roles of words.

Brent’s specialties are artificial intelligence, natural language processing and computational biology. His work in language acquisition is related to a special interest in artificial intelligence whereby a computer would somehow be able to infer the grammatical structure of a language from sample sentences of that language.

Therefore, he is working on how a computer might figure out the word-domain rules for a language. For example, the English suffix “-ly” is a suffix that goes on adjectives and turns them into adverbs. In French, the suffix “ment” plays the same role.

Brent uses Bayesian models to train a computer how to recognize patterns. Bayesian models allow the computer to combine prior knowledge about the commonalities of all languages—such as the fact that suffixes are very common across languages—with evidence about a particular language gleaned from example sentences—such as the fact that “-ly” is an English suffix. Both the prior knowledge and the evidence gleaned from experience are represented as probabilities.

Lectures

St. Louis urban housing examined — from Page 1

curator of decorative arts and design at Saint Louis Art Museum.

Speakers will be introduced by Holliott and Peter McKeith, assistant director of the School of Architecture. They are:

• Richard Glucksman, principal of the New York-based Skidmore Owings and Merrill

Richmond, Virginia, where Barton added custom homes, hotels, stores and commercial projects in the Los Angeles area.

• April 19 — Craig Barton and Maurice Cox, principals of RBLC Architects. Both also serve as associate professors of architecture at the University of Virginia, where Barton usually directs the Urban Studies Program.

• April 17 — Bradley Burke, partner of Studio E Architects, based in Washington, D.C. The firm has worked on a wide variety of projects in the Richmond area.

• April 9 — Danielle Guthrie and Tom Bursex, of Guthrie/Buresch Architects. The firm has worked on a wide variety of projects in the Richmond area.

For more information, call 935-6200.
Introducing new faculty members

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

Robert Goldstein, Ph.D., joins the Olin School of Business as assistant professor of finance. He earned a bachelor of science degree and a master of science in physics from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 1985 and 1992, a master of science degree from Simon Fraser University in 1987, and a doctorate in finance from the University of California at Berkeley in 1994. His research focuses on financial market microstructure, modeling, general equilibrium, and capital structure theory. Prior to joining the Olin School, Goldstein taught at Ohio State University for four years.

Matthew Liao-Troth, Ph.D., joins the Olin School of Business as visiting assistant professor of organizational behavior. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1989, a master of business administration degree from San Diego State University in 1995, and a master of science degree and doctorate from the University of Arizona in 1995 and 1999. Liao-Troth specializes in the study of psychological contracts, change management, electronically mediated and virtual organizations, nonprofit organizations and human resource practices. He was an assistant professor in the public services graduate program at DePaul University and also taught in the business schools at San Diego State University and the University of Arizona.

Todd Milbourne, Ph.D., joins the Olin School of Business as assistant professor of finance. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Augustana College in 1991 and a doctorate from Indiana University in 1995. His specialization is in managerial remuneration, financial economics and the economics of asymmetric information. He has received a number of awards for teaching, including the MBA Teaching Excellence Award from the Indiana University School of Business in 1995.

Tasha Lennon Olsen, Ph.D., joins the Olin School of Business as associate professor of operations and manufacturing management. She earned a bachelor of science degree with honors from the University of Virginia in 1989, and a master of science degree and doctorate from Stanford University in 1992 and 1994. Olsen is interested in supply chain management, e-commerce, manufacturing systems analysis and the control of wireless communication networks with queuing theory. Prior to joining Olsen, she was assistant professor at the University of Michigan. Olsen is associate editor of the journal Management Science.

Isserman nominations sought; due March 2

Nominations are now being sought for the Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman Prize, which recognizes a student at the University who has made a significant contribution in leadership and service to campus and interfaith activities on campus.

This award was established to honor the life of the late Isserman, the distinguished rabbi and author who was actively involved in social and interfaith issues locally, nationally and internationally. Nominations must be full-time undergraduate, junior, senior or graduate students at the University.

Nominations for the award must include the nominee’s name and, if known, a statement of qualifications for the award and any person or organization that may be able to provide information about the nominee. Any individual or group associated with the University may submit a nomination.

A committee will review the nominations and select a student who will receive the $500 award during a reception.

Nominations form may be obtained by contacting Sam Fleish, Assistant Dean, Olin School of Business at 938-4230. Send nominations to Campus Box 1064, January Hall Room 100 no later than March 2.

Obituaries

William H. Masters, M.D.

William H. Masters, M.D., who was a research collaborator and former wife of Virginia Johnson Masters received a medical degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine in New York, where he became interested in studying human sexuality. After Masters’ mentor alerted him that taking the secrets of human sexuality would be controversial, he spent years researching human biology and the economics of asymmetric information. He has received a number of awards for teaching, including the MBA Teaching Excellence Award from the Indiana University School of Business in 1995.

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Missouri Court of Appeals to hold special session at School of Law

The Missouri Court of Appeals for the Eastern District will hold a special session in the School of Law’s Bryan Cave Courthouse from 9:15-11:45 a.m. Monday.

The public is invited to hear oral arguments in five cases ranging from a convicted murderer seeking a new trial to a driver involved in a car accident while attending to her child.

The court periodically holds sessions in law schools as part of an educational program.

To limit the amount of disturbance to the proceedings, visitors are asked to enter and exit the courtroom only during the breaks between each attorney’s oral argument. After the oral arguments, the judges will answer questions from the audience regarding judicial practice and procedure.

In addition to having two of the law school’s alumni on the bench — the Honorable William H. Crandall Jr. (J.D. ’63) and the Honorable Richard B. Teitelman (J.D. ’73) — several alumni will represent the parties to the cases.

Mood and health study seeks participants

The Department of Psychology in Arts & Sciences is seeking volunteers to participate in a study looking at the effects of depression on the immune system. To qualify for the study, volunteers should currently be experiencing feelings of sadness or depression, loss of interest in enjoyable activities, and have noticed changes in their eating, sleeping or concentration.

If eligible, after a telephone screening, volunteers will make one or two visits to the laboratory, each lasting approximately 2 to 3 hours. Each volunteer will undergo an interview about mood and behavior, complete questionnaires, provide blood and urine samples, and be measured for blood pressure, height, weight, waist and hips.

Anyone currently taking antidepressants is not eligible for the study.

Compensation up to $150 is possible for participation.

For more information, call the Psychobiology of Health Lab at 857-8788. All inquiries are confidential.

Correction

Feb. 16 issue, Page 5: A headline provided incorrect results of a sports event. The University’s men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams both finished fourth in their respective events, third in the Missouri Valley Conference. Both final events were held in fourth place at the University Athletic Association Championships.

Cultural celebration

Hemanez Tofangdar (left), graduate student in Asian and Near Eastern languages, teaches a Persian dance to juniors Angela Corles and Kari Chan. The demonstration was part of Cultural Celebration Week, Feb. 11-17. The event was sponsored by Campus Y, Student Union and YWCA of Metro St. Louis.

Notables

M.G. Bridwell, IV

Milo Gorman Bridwell, IV, son of Keith H. Bridwell, M.D., the Asa C. and Dorothy C. Crandall Foundation Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, died Jan. 25, 2001, of cancer. He was 46. Mrs. Bridwell earned a medical degree from Washington University’s School of Medicine to pursue his goals of making the field legitimate science.

Masters did internships and residencies at the School of Medicine and what is now Barnes-Jewish Hospital. He joined the medical school faculty and in 1955 began published his human sexuality research. He later became a professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology at the School of Medicine. He also served as director of the medical school’s Division of Reproductive Biology.


Masters is survived by his wife, Geraldine B. Masters of Tucson, Ariz.; a daughter, Sarah Masters Paul of Westwood, Conn.; a son, Howie Masters of New York City; a brother, Francis Masters of Kansas City, Mo.; and two granddaughters.

Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of the donor’s choice.

H. Autenrieth, 101

H. Autenrieth, former director of the Brooklyn Center for 23 years, retiring at 83.

While she was responding to the emergency situation with her family and children, a driver involved in a car accident while attending to her child was seriously injured. The first case hinges on whether the St. Louis City Board of Police Commissioners violated the Sunshine Act, or open meetings law. The third centers on a contract dispute over the purchase of a $148,500 wrecker truck. The murder conviction case revolves around whether the defendant, whose acts were captured on video tape, has the right to a new trial due to a witness who committed perjury. The final case involves a dispute over sign ordinance violations at bus shelters in Ballwin and Sunset Hills.

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Growing up

Paletta is from Westchester County, N.Y. His was a divided family. His dad lived there, but while George was a fan of the Yankees and the Giants, his younger brother rooted for the Mets and the Jets. Even though Paletta once spent time as a team associate team physician for the Mets, his heart was with the Yankees during last fall's subsystem.

"That's the team I grew up rooting for," Paletta explained. "My grandfather used to take me to games when I was 6 or 7 years old. I figure if it can't be the Cardinals, it might as well be the Yankees."

Paletta is the oldest of four children, and he can't remember a time when he wasn't participating in organized sports. Pop Warner football, around the fall, something else in winter, baseball in the spring and swimming during summer. But the sport that changed his life was skiing. As an eighth-grader, Paletta broke his leg on a ski slope.

He always had been interested in becoming a physician, but as with so many of us who become doctors, it was personal experience that solidified things for me," he said. "When I broke my leg, I had my first real experience with physicians, other than going in for routine check-ups as a kid. And that really convinced me I wanted to be a doctor."

Everyone else in his family was involved in continuing, construction or engineering. But just as he was passionate about sports, he was always had been interested in science and biology. The broken leg took him off the rest of the game, and he has had his Fair Lane High School, he had a pretty good idea about what he wanted to do with his life.

The ties that bind

In 1984, Paletta earned a degree in chemistry from College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., and in 1988 he finished a medical degree from The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. From there, he did an internship in general surgery at Northwestern University's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. That's where he met his future wife, Jackie.

"I was an intern, and she was a nurse on the floor that was assigned to basically was smitten with her from the get-go," Paletta said. "It took a little while longer for her to notice me." They married in 1990 and have four children.

But even through his studies, training and caring, that old leg injury wasn't finished influencing his life. The orthopedic surgeon who had treated Paletta was Russell Warren, M.D., a friend of a friend of the family. Warren was also the team physician for the New York Giants and one of the orthopedic surgeons at Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) in New York. When he became the chairman of orthopaedic surgery at HSS and the Weill Medical College of Cornell University, Warren also became a mentor to Paletta.

"He was really instrumental in my becoming a resident at Hospital for Special Surgery, and when he became chairman, he helped me attain the fellowships, and other past graduate training that I pursued," Paletta said. "Plus, he's the one who really sparked my interest in team care."

Originally, he had wanted to be a pediatrician. Surgery became a new focus during one of his rotations in medical school. Later, he decided on orthopedic surgery, but he hoped to become a pediatric orthopedist. It was during residency with Warren that Paletta decided on sports medicine.

"He did a great job during his residency and later when he returned to Hospital for Special Surgery as a young attending physician," Warren said. "Dr. Paletta was just getting started at the time, but he was very much a person who both worked hard and had excellent skills. I knew I had introduced him to the field of team care, and I'm not at all surprised that he has gone on to be very successful in the field of sports medicine."

But even when an injury doesn't go the way he'd hoped, it can take a life of its own. Paletta got his biggest medical thrill, and it had nothing to do with sports. "It didn't matter to Dr. Warren who the patient was. If you were on service as a medical student, you helped with the case," Paletta said.

"So one night while jumping around the old rock musician sprained his ankle and later was seen by the then-medical student, George Paletta. He ordered X-rays, told the athlete to rest, ice and elevate the ankle. Then Paletta turned "The Boss" over to his boss. Because function in the world of professional athletes is much, that's a normal environment. It also lived up to its name," Paletta said. "I was up and sprained his ankle. I used to work at the New York Giants, and we'd go hunting for a horse to the vet, and it was a relief. I thought it was a little bit of a novelty because he is one of those gifted rock stars, and he really has the ability to entertain people."

That's important when a big part of the job is working with injured professional athletes — they all want to recover as soon as possible, and the faster they can, the sooner they can return to their teams.

"When an injury involves a star like McGwire, there is always humor. The future hall-of-famer's patellar tendinitis was big news last season. Thousands of unsolicited calls, e-mails, cards and letters advised Paletta and Weinberg of what to do. A woman who raised horses went to the vet, claiming that her horse — named "Big Mac" — had tendinitis. The very next day, a man who had grown up paging through a 1936 version of the comic strip "Little Orphan Annie" when he decided that the problem was McGwire's diet. "I got a call on speakerphone in the training room," Paletta said. "Apparently the manual mentioned a regulation between diet and tendon problems. He was absolutely convinced the injury was caused by nutrition."

Paletta and Weinberg have collected some of the most "helpful" suggestions and remedies, and they may compile them into an anecdotal report on suggested treatments for patellar tendinitis. In the meantime, they are migrating south for spring training, one of the pleasanter parts of working with a big city baseball team. "It's not the best part," Paletta said.

"The advantage of being a professional team physician is you really have the opportunity to practice sports medicine at the level that other professionals don't, which is at the highest level without any formal or professional constraints," Paletta said. "The beauty of treating a guy like Mark McGwire is that I can do an operation, and he can spend three or four hours a day doing rehab work — with every resource at his disposal to give him the best shot at recovery in the shortest possible time. If I were in private practice, it's sometimes difficult to do all of that in the regular practice setting."