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Infant lung disease gene identified by researchers

A multi-center team of researchers has discovered a possible genetic cause of infant lung disease. This discovery brings us one step closer to identifying another type of genetic lung disease, but we still have a long way to go.

Hamvas: Study collaborator

Mertz honored via naming of Mallinckrodt dance studio

By Eliam Ottew

Amelise Mertz, professor emerita in the University's Performing Arts Department (PAD) in Arts & Sciences, has long been a force on the St. Louis dance scene — as a teacher, as a performer and choreographer, and as a tireless champion for the arts.

The University will honor Mertz's distinguished career with the dedication of the Annelise Mertz Dance Studio. The Mallinckrodt Center studio is the University's primary dance rehearsal/performance space.

"Professor Mertz is one of the most dynamic and inspiring teachers ever to grace the Hilltop Campus," said Henry I. Schvey, Ph.D., chair of the PAD. "Her vitality and passion are unquestionable. The fire has never gone out and never will. She believes in the fundamental importance of dance — and, by extension, of the arts as a whole. For Amelise, dance education is not about teaching technique or dancing; it is about the drama and passion of life itself."

Said Edward S. Macias, Ph.D., executive vice chancellor and dean of Arts & Sciences: "Amelise Mertz has been a great advocate for the performing arts, both on campus and in the St. Louis community. Her energy and dedication have brought many fine dance concerts to Washington University over the years, and I look forward to seeing that tradition continue in the Amelise Mertz Dance Studios."
Fifteen student groups were accepted into the University’s newest living community, Small Group Housing, at Millbrook and Big Bend boulevards.

The program’s goal is to blend academic and residential life. "It’s good to see the program taking off, and we look forward to even more groups applying next year," Davis said.
Alzheimer's disease begins before symptoms appear

BY GILA RECKESS

Four researchers elected AAAS fellows for scientific endeavors

BY BRENDA WATSON

Internal medicine review course offered

Virginia Valian to deliver Science and Society lecture Thursday

March 2, 2001

Washingon University in St. Louis

Medical School Update

Alzheimer's disease begins before symptoms appear

Post-mortem examinations revealed that five of those who had no cognitive impairment had plaques and brain deterioration typical of Alzheimer's. Their psychometric assessment results were the same as those who had Alzheimer's disease neuropathology, and their cognitive performance had not declined over the years. In contrast, patients who were diagnosed with very mild dementia before death had performed reproducibly worse on the annual psychometric evaluations. These findings suggest that a person beginning to develop Alzheimer's disease might not have any cognitive signs of the disease, said Morris, who led the study. William J. Goldberg, M.D., a former neurology fellow now at the University of California at San Francisco, was first author of the paper.

The authors call the incubation period a preclinical phase and recommend that the current view of Alzheimer's disease development and progression be revised. Morris believes the study, taken in the context of previous findings, fails to support the notion that everyone who lives long enough becomes senile. "Our work suggests that aging itself is an entity distinct from Alzheimer's disease," he said. "The data imply that cognitive abilities in normal aging by and large remain intact as long as AD and other interfering illnesses are absent."

A distinguished faculty will deliver the latest information on diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions into a broad spectrum of diseases falling into the territory of internal medicine. Sessions during the five-day course will address everything from coronary artery disease, diabetes and renal failure to cancer and allergies. Optional evening sessions will expand on blood smears, chest X-rays and other topics.

Full brochure and registration materials are available at http://cme.wustl.edu. For more information, call 362-6891.

Virginia Valian to deliver Science and Society lecture Thursday

St. Louis native Virginia Valian, Ph.D., will deliver the last Science and Society lecture for the 2000-2001 series at 4 p.m. Thursday in the School of Medicine's Moore Auditorium.

Valian, professor of psychology and linguistics at Hunter College in New York, is a cognitive scientist whose research focuses on language acquisition in 2-year-olds, second language acquisition and sex differences in cognition.

She also is author of the book, "Why So Slow? The Advancement of Women," a meta-analysis of research on the status of women in business, law, medicine and academia.

Valian's work has been featured in "The New York Times," Nature, Scientific American and various other journals and magazines. She also has been interviewed by the BBC and National Public Radio and has lectured internationally. The goal of the Science and Society series is to enhance awareness of policy and ethical issues facing scientific and medical professionals.

Valian's lecture is sponsored by the Academic Women's Networking Group, the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences, the Program for Women in Science and Engineering at Washington University chapter of the Academy of Science of St. Louis and the St. Louis Association of Women in Science.

For more information, call Debbie Sink at 362-5364.

Kudos William A. Peck (right), M.D., executive vice chairman for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine at Washington University, congratulates Larry Johnson, a health physics technologist in the radiation safety department, for 30 years of service to the medical school. More than 60 employees were honored at a Central Administration Recognition Luncheon Feb. 21 at the Eric P. Newman Education Center.
**Advocate/expert Jamison to speak**

Mental health expert Kay Redfield Jamison, Ph.D., will deliver a lecture, "An Unquiet Mind: Personal and Professional Reflections on Mental Illness," on Wednesday, May 16, in Graham Chapel as part of the Assembly Series. Jamison is professor of psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University and author of several books about mood disorders, suicide, psychotherapy and lithium. Her memoir, "An Unquiet Mind: A Memoir of Manic-Depressive Illness," was selected by Time magazine in 1994 as a "Hero of Science." Jamison conducted her undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, where she was a National Science Foundation Research Fellow. Professor of English and John F. Kennedy Scholar, she is a former Public Health Service Pre-doctoral Fellow and UCLA Graduate-Woman of the Year. She also studies zoology and neurophysiology at the University of St. Andrew in Scotland.

**Imperial Manliness • Zebras in the New Millennium • Land of Ozo**

**Friday, May 11**


6:30 p.m. Men’s softball vs. St. Louis College of Pharmacy. Softball field. 935-5220.

7:30 p.m. Women’s softball vs. Southwestern College, Kansas City, Mo. Softball field. 935-5220.


**Saturday, May 12**

8:30 a.m. Medicine Grand Rounds. "Pulmonary Hypertension: A Puzzling Disease in Many Chronic Lung Diseases," with W. Joshua Travis, professor of medicine and chief of the critical care medicine dept. Room 801 Orthopaedic Surgery. 362-2763.

8:30 a.m. Assembly Series. "From Cells to Molecules: An Introduction to the Modern Biology," with William Provine, Ph.D., professor of ecology, evolution and organellar genome at Cornell University, and director of the National Science Foundation’s Molecular Evolution Program. The Gallery of Art. For reservations, call 935-5610.


9:30 a.m. Cori lecture. "Goodbye to Robert Koch." Donald Ganem, professor, of biological sciences in the department of ecology and evolutionary biology. His current research interests include a history of the theories and concepts of biology, a history of genomics’ attitudes toward human race differences and race crossing, implications of modern biology for free will, moral responsibility and the foundations of ethics; and a history of ideas about species from 1963 to the present.

Both lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, call 935-5285 or visit the Assembly Series Web page (http://wusa.wustl.edu/assembly).
Nero's Bohemian Hill designs earn honors, more funding

BY LIAM OTTEN

In recent years, a coalition of faculty, alumni from the University of Missouri School of Architecture and community activists to breathe new life into St. Louis' Bohemian Hill neighborhood, a blighted, five-square-block area located between the city's south and east of Lafayette Square. Last month, these opening of three new single-family homes designed by Noer's Bohemian Hill Designs, the first in a five-square-block area located between 31st and 13th streets, are the first in a larger development that ultimately aims to construct 67 new buildings and rehabilitate 45 existing homes and apartments.

More...
Nanoparticles
WU's Axelbaum develops technology

— from Page 1

near the chamber walls. The high temperature inside the reactor, over 1,000 degrees Celsius, also helps to push the product closer to the off-utilizable impurities.

Axelbaum detailed the importance of this in his presentation. "Synthesis of stable metal and nonmetal ceramic nanoparticles in sodium/halide flames," published in the December 2000 issue of Powder Metallurgy (Vol. 43, No. 4). The technology has been developed with support from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and AP Materials Inc.

Numerous practical uses
In the materials world, order is better. For example, surface area is very important to catalyst functions. In the past, produced particles for catalysts in the micrometer size range, which is 1,000 times larger than nanoparticles. By going by the nanometer size range, the surface area of a catalyst can be hundreds of thousands of times larger.

Similarly, every time the space shuttle launches, it uses 400,000 pounds of aluminum powder. Axelbaum's laboratory can make aluminum powder in the nanometer size. Such powder in that environment will burn much more and completely, and thus enhance the function of the shuttle launch.

In cell phones and computers, a standard electronic component is the capacitor. Much smaller capacitors can be made with Axelbaum's technology. This increases the capacities that can be made per unit mass, which results in smaller, less expensive electronics.

There are a host of applications for nanoparticles and nanomaterials that can be used for a variety of industrial uses, most notably in the military, aerospace, defense, medical and sports and recreation, and electronics industries. For example, Axelbaum can make titanium nanoparticles for golf clubs and tennis rackets. The titanium makes these items strong and resistant. However, the smaller particles make for a stronger, stiffer racket and improved strength and fracture resistance.

Axelbaum is producing large amounts of pure aluminum nitride powders, key material for ceramics and computing industries.

"Our immediate goal is to produce nanoparticles for industry to improve existing technologies," Axelbaum said.

"But our plans are to develop new materials like transparent ceramics that we hope will create new markets. We feel that our technology can produce the next generation of nanomaterials."

Lung
— from Page 1

protein C, or SPC, DNA analysis revealed that both had a mutation in the gene for this protein. The gene was not mutated in DNA samples from 50 healthy newborns.

The findings suggest that SPC C is important for normal lung function after birth and that mutations in this gene may be associated with interstitial lung disease.

This discovery may provide for more accurate classification of the many conditions within this disease category. It also may lead to the development of new techniques—such as a blood test, rather than invasive procedures like lung biopsy—at an early stage of treatments, such as gene therapy.

In 1995, researchers at the medical school discovered a lethal genetic lung disease in newborns characterized by a lack of another component of surfactant, SP-B. Newborns with this disease now survive with the help of a lung transplant.

"The identification of the SP-B deficiency opened a new area of investigation for newborn lung disease that develops in the first or older children.

DNA analysis of the mother and father pair also revealed that the genetic mutation is a dominant trait, found on only one gene. This means a child may have symptoms even if only one of the parents had the mutation. Most other lung diseases, however, have autosomal-recessive deficiency, result from recessive traits, where patients must inherit a mutation from both parents in order for the disease to appear.

Campus Watch

The following incidents were reported to University Police Feb. 21-27:

Feb. 23
5:05 a.m.—A Span employee reported a person, who appeared to be homeless, down Hill. The subject was arrested for trespassing and for being in the area without a valid warrant from St. Louis City. The subject was transported to St. Louis City prison processing.

Feb. 24
8:22 a.m.—A student reported that between 9:30 p.m. Feb. 20 and 8:17 a.m. Feb. 24, an unknown person entered his locked 1987 Buick LeSabre by punching out the passenger-side windows, took compact disc player and golf clubs. In addition, the wiper to the vehicle's alarm system were cut and the steering column damaged. This TPPU did not process the scene due to contamination from the running party. The total loss is valued at $1,245.

Feb. 27
7:13 p.m.—The reporting party stated someone entered a computer lab in Rubellmann Residence Hall, cut a security cable and removed the processes associated with a computer from a CPU. An investigation is continuing.

University Police also responded to five additional reports of theft, one report of vandalism and one report of an automobile accident.

Interim parking lot to begin

A part of the changing face of the east end of the Hilltop Campus, the southwest corner of the intersection of Averill and Benton and Forest Park will become an interim parking facility.

The Metropolitan St. Louis sewer District sewer project is now complete, and construction will begin on a permanently designed interim surface parking lot that could hold approximately 400 vehicles.

Scheduled to be complete prior to Commencement, the surface lot will be fully land.

Mertz
— from Page 1

Born in Berlin, Mertz trained in ballet, modern dance, Laban based movement and Wigman technique, pursuing graduate work with choreographer Kurt Jooss at Germany's renowned Folkwangschule. She danced professionally throughout Europe with several distinguished companies, including the Kurt Jooss Dance Theatre, the Dance Company of the State Opera, Berlin, and the Municipal Opera of Darmstadt and Düsseldorf.

Mertz immigrated to the United States in 1955, teaching at the University of Illinois-Chicago before coming to Washington University in 1957. She quickly made her mark on campus, founding the noted artistic director of the Dance Theatre of Washington University and, in the mid-1960s, spearheading the creation both of the Dance Major Program which she directed for some 31 years, and of the PAD itself. She also founded the Washington University Summer Dance Institute and established several off-campus programs in creative dance both for high school and college students. Additionally, Mertz has held dance master classes in England, Germany, Holland, Japan and across the United States.

In 1966, Mertz founded and served as the first president of the Dance Louis (originally called the Dance Society), a not-for-profit organization focusing on modern dance — an American art form then virtually unknown in St. Louis — continuing to this day to sponsor performances by both amateur and professional companies. In 1978, she founded the St. Louis Ragtime Ensemble (later the Mertz Ragtime Ensemble) and, which over the next decade would jeopardize millions of dollars in federal research funding would jeopardize millions of dollars in federal research funding for the entire University.

Taking a stand T.J. Hill, president of OUTLAW, the School of Law's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered student alliance, participated in the Student Government Association and, in the mid-1990s, would sponsor student-sponsored musical events. In recent years, Hill has coordinated a number of musical events including the annual summer concert series and the annual holiday concert series.

"Taking a stand" was organized by the Arts and Entertainment Committee, which, in association with the Arts and Entertainment Committee, has allocated funding for the event.

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Robert W. Sussman honored as AAAS fellow

Robert W. Sussman, Ph.D., professor of anthropology in Arts & Sciences, has been named AAAS fellow, a distinction given to individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of science or its applications. Sussman is serving as editor in chief of the American Anthropological Association's flagship journal, the flagship journal of the American Anthropological Association. He has prepared the journal's historic 100th anniversary issue, which focused on race and ethnicity. He believes that anthropologists, as cross-cultural experts in human behavior and evolution, can play a major role in addressing current racial divisions.

Suffice it to say, a moment, a 50-year-old, without art. What are the arts in our region?" Wrighton said in a letter to University employees. "In St. Louis, the Arts & Education Council of the University community to the support of the University, local arts organizations, needs provides funding for numerous educational-outreach programs designed to bring first-class performance and entertainment to children and senior citizens who otherwise might not be served. Rather, the organization solicits funds or government grants. Rather, the organization solicits funds or government grants. Rather, the organization solicits funds or government grants. Rather, the organization solicits funds or government grants. Rather, the organization solicits funds or government grants. Rather, the organization solicits funds or government grants.

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Don Strom (right), director of Campus Police, works with Richard Chiles, police dispatcher, at the Washington University Police Department headquarters.

Treasuring people with fairness, compassion

By Jessica N. Roberts

Don Strom seeks to increase his department's function within the University

Don Strom

Born: Chicago
Education: B.A., Southern Illinois University-Carbondale; Southern Police Institute at the University of Louisville; FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va.
University position: Director of Campus Police
Family: Wife, Chris; four children, Maren, Shae, Shane and Cole

and the department's accreditation officer.

Carbondale offered an unusual experience for Strom: It gave him a chance to work with a major campus community. "It was a transient community - nearly 75 percent of the residences were not owner-occupied," Strom said. "We had a very progressive community, though, and I had a great opportunity to interact and work with people who were forward-thinking in terms of social services and community service.

With the help of his police force, Strom established numerous programs that helped bring the police closer to the community, especially in the local schools.

In Carbondale, Strom also met his wife, Chris, a juvenile officer for the city. Like Strom, Chris also had the same goal in increasing communication between the police and the community. She worked on many initiatives in the schools.

"I remember being in the grocery store and noticed a little kid leaning in to tell his mom that I was Officer Strom's husband," Don Strom said. "She had an identity with the young people in the community." After serving as chief of the Carbondale Police Department for nearly eight years, Strom decided to focus on working further for the community by running for the 115th District State representative seat with a campaign centered around three issues: education, economic development and crime prevention.

Although his campaign was unsuccessful, Strom said the election was a valuable experience and a great opportunity to meet people throughout Southern Illinois.

"We want to reach out to the members of our community and build partnerships with them, helping them identify what issues are of biggest concern to them and together develop solutions," Strom said. "In addition, we want to be very proactive in trying to educate our community in ways that reduce the opportunity for crime to occur."

Crime prevention is the main goal of the WUPD.

"We're making a real emphasis right now to train our officers in crime prevention techniques," Strom said. "We're implementing new philosophies such as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, which focuses on building design and landscaping as part of a crime prevention program."

Life at WU

As director of Campus Police at the University for the last year, Strom has pulled together both his law enforcement and community service experience to help continue building the police department. By maintaining a "professional, well-trained force that treats people fairly and compassionately," Strom aims to increase the department’s function within the University.

"It seems Strom was destined to be a part of the University. Moving to St. Louis was a homecoming for Strom's family, and Chris grew up near St. Louis and Strom's daughter Maren is a University freshman."

"This was an easy transition for us," Strom said.

Prior to joining the University, Strom's year on the campaign trail and commuting between Springfield, Ill., Carbondale and Chicago with his work as inspector general kept him away from his family for extended periods of time. The move to St. Louis has allowed the Stroms to spend more time together.

"I'm really a family person," Strom said.

Outside of his work with the WUPD, Strom enjoys sports and various activities with his children. Along with Maren, Strom has 4-year-old twins - Shae and Shane - and a 10-year-old, Cole.

Strom also counts golf as one of his hobbies, though he admits his game is not in top shape. He hopes to make a little more time for the game over the next few years on the golf course that backs up to his family's new home.

Strom is happy to have found his place at the University.

"I've worked in law enforcement for 23 years, and in much of my work I've had an opportunity to interact with students, but never to the level of the caliber of faculty, staff and students at this school," Strom said. "I'm proud to come to work every day."