Four benefit plans receive enhancements

By ANDY CLENDENNEN

Effective July 1, the University is enhancing four benefit plans that will impact faculty and nonunion staff members. Enhancements are being made in the areas of employee undergraduate tuition; dependent-child undergraduate tuition; long-term disability insurance; and the University health contribution. "The enhancements are the result of the University's periodic review of the philosophy and competitiveness of the benefit program and to respond to specific employee requests," said Tom Lauman, director of benefits in human resources. "Our benefit plans are very comprehensive. Still, we know that they will not meet the needs of all of our faculty and staff members, so it is important for us to take into consideration their requests as we compute our benefits to other employers."

One of the enhancements will be in employee undergraduate tuition. Full-time faculty and staff who take undergraduate evening or day courses will be reimbursed for 100 percent of tuition charges. Currently, the reimbursement is 50 percent. The change will be effective coincident with the first semester after July 1, and up to seven hours per semester may be reimbursed. For those with full-time faculty and staff who take graduate courses, the tuition remission benefit remains at 50 percent.

Another area getting a new look is the dependent-child undergraduate tuition plan. Currently just available to full-time faculty and staff members, this benefit will now be extended to graduate students. See Benefits, Page 6.

E

Experience, stat!

Program gets undergrads into the ER

By ANDY CLENDENNEN

As a part of an innovative partnership between the University and Barnes-Jewish Hospital, a select group of undergraduate students getting a first-hand look at life in an emergency room. Thirte Arts & Sciences students who plan on pursuing a medical career are participating in the Emergency Medicine, Scholastic Training and Research (EM-STAR) program. Steven Lorber, M.D., a second-year resident in emergency medicine, started the groundbreaking new program.

"As a relatively new specialty, emergency medicine offers students the opportunity to participate in research that will advance the practice in areas as yet unexplored," Lorber said. "By allowing undergraduates interested in careers in medicine to pursue research activities within an active department, they see what patient care is all about."

Currently, students are participating in the Geriatric Abdominal Pain Project (GAPP) study, headed by Lawrence M. Lewis, M.D., associate professor of medicine in the School of Medicine and chief of the Division of Emergency Medicine at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

"We are very excited about getting the undergraduate students involved," Lewis said. "Students have exposure to academic medicine in a very practical setting, and their contribution to our research is greatly appreciated."

As a multicenter project, the GAPP study was initiated because abdominal pain is a common, and often confusing, complaint in elderly patients reporting to the emergency department. Research for this study is organized around developing a more enlightened approach to diagnosis and treating this particular population.

Given the level of patient interaction, everyone involved in the ER is personally grateful for the many contributions Ann and Lee Liberman have made to Washington University and to the greater St. Louis community. The award Libermans are renowned civic leaders and as champions of great causes.

At the ceremony, Wrighton presented the gift to Forest Park Forever on behalf of the Libermans. On hand to help celebrate the Libermans lifelong commitment to community service were Whitney Harris and his wife, Alma, as well as his son and daughter-in-law Eugene and Debbie Harris.

In addition to this community service award, Whitney Harris' generosity to the University spans decades and has supported a range of schools, departments, resources and scholarships, most notably for the School of Law and the libraries.

In 1981, Harris donated his collection of books and documents. See Harris, Page 6.

Questions and answers

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton responds to a question at the "Chat With the Chancellor" April 3 in the Women's Building Formal Lounge. Wrighton addressed several topics raised by the University-community audience during the question-and-answer forum hosted by the Office of Human Resources.

More inside

The Office of Human Resources will hold employee informational meetings during the week of April 22 to help faculty and staff better understand these important benefit-plan enhancements and the upcoming health-benefit changes. For a full schedule of meetings, see Page 6.

Third annual Harris community service award given to Libermans

Designated to "benefit Forest Park Forever"

By BARBARA REA

A unique tradition of community giving continued recently at the third annual presentation of the annual Whitney Harris Saint Louis Community Service Award. This year's recipients of the award are Ann and Lee Liberman. The award, administered by the University and presented by Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton at a ceremony at Harbison House, is the gift of the late Jane Harrs Harris and Whitney Harris.

They established the award in 1999 to be given to a husband and wife who are dedicated to improving the St. Louis region. A $25,000 cash prize is then designated to the nonprofit organization of the couple's choice. The Libermans' chosen charity is Forest Park Forever, an organization dedicated to the preservation and continued enhancement of the park as a historic treasure and as a recreational and cultural center.

"Like the Harrises, the Libermans are renowned throughout the St. Louis community for their remarkable generosity, compassion and dedication," Wrighton said. "They exemplify the best qualities of service to their fellow citizens."

"During their life together, Jane and Whitney were shining examples of generosity to those in need in our community. Jane's legacy lives on in its tangible ways through this award," Wrighton added. "I am personally grateful for the many contributions Ann and Lee Liberman have made to Washing- ton University and to the greater St. Louis community."

The award is open to all husband-and-wife couples in the metropolitan area, in accordance with Jane Harr's' bequest.

William H. Danforth, chancellor emeritus, vice chairman of the Board of Trustees and outgoing chair of the selection committee, said: "Lee and Ann exemplify the very best of the community boosters we have in St. Louis. They are revered as civic leaders and as champions of great causes."

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At the recent ceremony and presentation of the Jane and Whitney Harris Saint Louis Community Service Award are (from left) Whitney Harris and Anna Harris; Joseph C. White, vice chairman of the board of Forest Park Forever; Ann and Lee Liberman; and James F. Mann, president and executive director of Forest Park Forever.
Extraterrestrial life focus of McDonnell Lecture April 19

Receiving Outstanding Faculty Mentor Awards April 5 are (from left) David Lawton, Ph.D.; Ingrid Liitzeler (wife of award-winner Paul Michel Liitzeler, Ph.D., who was out of the country at the time); Patty Jo Watson, Ph.D.; and Marcus C. Berliant, Ph.D.

Washington University in St. Louis

BY ANDY CLENDENEN

There is more to teaching than just teaching.

Recognizing this, the Graduate Student Senate of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences has awarded four Outstanding Faculty Mentor Awards for this year. Additionally, 37 faculty mentors received certificates of recognition.

Receiving the Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award were Marcus C. Berliant, Ph.D., professor of political science; David Lawton, Ph.D., professor ofEnglish literature; and Paul Michael Liitzeler, Ph.D., professor of Germanic languages and literatures, the Rosa May Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities and the director of the Max Kade Center for Contemporary German Literature; and Patty Jo Watson, Ph.D., professor of anthropology and ofarchaeology and the Edward Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor.

The awards are co-sponsored by the Graduate Student Senate and the Graduate School in Arts & Sciences.

Berliant is a fellow at the Washington University Center in Political Economy. His teaching and research fields include mathematical economics, public finance, location theory, urban economics, microeconomics, and econometrics. Berliant has supervised more than 20 student theses in his academic career, including five completed since he arrived at the University in 1994.

He recently was named visiting associate in economics at the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences at the California Institute of Technology. This is the second time in the three years of the faculty mentor award that Berliant has honored.

Lawton came to the University in 1998 and became chair of the English department in January. He has published five books and many articles in English literature and cultural studies and is an expert in medieval studies. He will become executive director of the New Chaucer Society when it moves to Washington University in July.

He has served as main adviser on more than 20 doctoral dissertations and helped steer several toward publication. Some of his former students hold tenure or tenurable academic positions in Australia, Japan, Great Britain, and the United States.

Liitzeler is the founding director of the Max Kade Center for Contemporary German Literature at the University. The center promotes teaching and research of modern German literature and supports intellectual exchanges between American scholars and students and German, Austrian and Swiss writers, critics, students and scholars in the field. Founded in 1984, it is the only center of its kind in the United States.

Liitzeler has directed 33 dissertation committees and has received Fulbright, Woodrow Wilson and Guggenheim fellowships. He also has published nine books.

Watson’s areas of interest include prehistoric subsistence, technology, economy, environment, and postprocessual archaeology and history, as well as the variety of postprocessualist challenges currently being voiced. Her courses range from introductory archaeology to advanced work in Near Eastern archeology and in Eastern Woodlands and Southwestern U.S. history.

Watson is especially interested in archaeological theory and field methods. She is especially well known for her work with artifacts left by prehistoric people who explored and mined portions of the world’s largest cave — Kentucky’s Mammoth Cave system.

The recent discovery of planets orbiting other stars opens up the possibility that Earth-like planets and life will be widespread throughout our galaxy. As well as being a question of interest, the issue of life elsewhere gives special interest to our communities.

There are strong connections between science and society, especially between exploration and society, and, said Jakosky, these are all too often ignored by the science community.

In particular, I will discuss the philosophical significant of our searching for extraterrestrial life, and what we could mean to it — or to search and not find it,” he said.

The McDonnell Center for the Space Sciences is a consortium of Washington University faculty, research staff and students from the department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Physics and Chemistry, in Arts & Sciences, and also the electrical engineering department. The center exists to encourage collaborative research efforts among scientists working on space science problems and projects that span traditional scientific disciplines through the sponsorship of cooperative research and formal activities such as the McDonnell Lectures.

For more information about the McDonnell Lectures, call 935-3332.

U.S. News
School of Medicine ranked 3rd

According to the latest rankings released recently by U.S. News and World Report, Washington University School of Medicine has climbed two spots to 3rd in the nation, as compared with a tie for 4th in 2001.

U.S. News ranked 18 of Washington University’s graduate and professional programs in the nation’s top-10, according to Chancellor, Mark S. Wrighton.

“The fact that our graduate and professional level programs are now ranked in the nation’s top 10 by U.S. News is gratifying evidence of our strengths in many academic disciplines,” said William A. Peck, M.D., executive vice chair for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine.

“We are proud and honored that the School of Medicine continues to be ranked among the very best institutions,” Peck said. “This is the top-10 program in the 15 years that U.S. News and World Report magazine has been conducting these rankings.”

“This national recognition represents a second sustained achievement, and goes to the heart of what we do in every area of our institution,” Peck said.

Other improvements in the School of Medicine include an increase for the AIDS program to a tie for 10th in the nation from a tie for 12th last year. Cell biology was ranked for the first time in the nation, tying for 10th, as was molecular biology.

The drug and alcohol abuse program rose from a tie for 10th to 8th, and internal medicine from a tie for 7th to 4th. Pediatrics rose from 7th to 6th.

Another dramatic improvement includes a rise from a ranking of 14th to 6th for the clinical training program in the School of Law. Overall, the law school rose one spot to tie for 26th in the nation to a tie for 25th.

Record

Extraterrestrial life focus of McDonnell Lecture April 19

E x tra terrestri al Life? So What?" is the inaugural presentation of the McDonnell Lectures, a new series featuring distinguished lecturers sponsored by the McDonnell Center for the Space Sciences in Arts & Sciences.

Bruce Jakosky, Ph.D., professor of geology and director of the University of Colorado Center for Astrobiology, will speak at 8:30 p.m. April 19 in Brown Hall, Room 100. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Jakosky will explore the connections — scientific and cultural — between space exploration and our daily lives.

“Twenty years ago, we thought that there was exactly one planet in our solar system on which life could exist: the Earth,” Jakosky said. “Since then, revolutions in our understanding of life on Earth and of the nature of the planets and satellites in our solar system have changed this view. Today, we believe that life might have originated, or might exist, on up to a half-dozen planets or satellites in our solar system, and we are actively exploring Mars and Europa to look for life.”

Above, at the April 8 awards ceremony for the University School of Medicine’s Steedman Fellowship.

Steedman honors

A bove, at the April 8 awards ceremony for the School of Architecture’s Steedman Fellowship.

BY TONY FREEDBERG

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Nerbonne and Ornitz named alumni endowed professors

By GILA Z. RECKESS

Jeanne M. Nerbonne, Ph.D., and David M. Ornitz, M.D., Ph.D., each have been named a Chief in the Division of Molecular Biology and Pharmacology at Washington University in St. Louis. Alumni professorships continue to provide endowed gifts from medical alumni and former house staff with gifts from friends of the School of Medicine.

"The Washington University Medical Alumni Association and our alumni endowed professors have provided significant contributions to the field," said William A. Peck, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. "Nerbonne and Ornitz already have made significant contributions to the field. We are delighted to honor them with these positions.

Nerbonne's research focuses on defining the molecular mechanisms that control electrical activity in the heart and the changes that occur in human disease. Most of her work centers on one class of molecules—voltage-gated potassium (K⁺)-selective ion channels. These channels mediate K⁺ movement across the membranes of individual muscle cells, thereby maintaining the normal electrical rhythm of the heart. Indeed, some congenital and acquired cardiac conditions, such as myocardial disease states, can be traced to altered expression of the K⁺-channel subunits. Her team has pioneered investigation of the molecular basis of K⁺ channels in the central and peripheral nervous systems.

"Nerbonne has received several honors and awards for her work, including an Established Investigator Award from the American Heart Association. She also is a Founding Fellow of the Basic Cardiovascular Sciences of the American Heart Association.

While Nerbonne studies electrical communication between cells in the heart and the nervous system, Ornitz's work examines a different form of communication between developing cells throughout the body. He is known for his research on fibroblast growth factors (FGFs)—a family of proteins that regulate cell development—and FGF receptors—proteins on the surface of cells onto which FGFs bind.

Early in his career, Ornitz identified a molecule that could trigger FGFs to stimulate cell division. He also began examining and cataloguing the differences between the 23 known FGFs, a group that has grown considerably since that time.

While identifying the sequence of each FGF, Ornitz has identified several critical developmental functions. For example, a mutation in FGF receptor 3 appears to cause the more severe forms of human dwarfism, achondroplasia. This was the first growth factor mutation found to decrease growth. The receptor also seems to be involved in bone development.

Ornitz's team also discovered that FGF is linked to both normal and gender differentiation. Two other molecules, FGF2 and FGF14, appear to be involved in the development of the central nervous system. Male mice that lack FGF2 are anatomically normal but have a behavior problem particiarly in the coordination and use of the paws. His most recent work identified FGF18 as a regulator of embryonic bone growth. "I plan to continue this research into the role of FGFs in development," Ornitz said. "This research is critical for understanding the cause of a wide array of developmental disorders, including those that affect the central nervous system, the lungs, the heart and the cardiovascular system."

Ornitz has received the American Heart Association Established Investigator Award, the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Young Investigator Award and the Lucile Markey Award for his work.

Patient-safety effort includes School of Medicine, BJC

By DARRELL E. WARD

The School of Medicine and BJC HealthCare are participating in an initiative to reduce medical errors and improve patient safety.

The $50 million initiative by the Heart Association and United Health Services is funding 94 projects throughout the country, including the effort at the University and BJC.

The one-year grants were provided by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to fund the first phase of a multi-year effort. "This grant will enable us to explore the next frontier of patient safety," said Victoria Fraser, M.D., associate professor of medicine at the medical school and director of infection control at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, received $1.9 million to develop a system for identifying and reporting errors and communicating the findings to patients. Brenda Fosnot, M.D., the Richard and Elizabeth Smith-Courtney Chair in Occupational and Environmental Medicine and assistant professor of medicine, was awarded $1.4 million to study factors such as fatigue, stress and organizational culture that can lead to medical errors.

"There is great potential for the development of new methods and tools to improve the quality of care," said Fraser. "We will be using innovative patient-safety ideas with other centers across the country to acquire our access to new information." The fundamental problem, according to Fraser, is that health care delivery involves a complex interaction of many people who rely on written and verbal communication.

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"We plan to develop a system that relies on some very simple principles and complex delivery system that reduces the risk of human error," Fraser said. "This is a real application of technology to reduce human error." Fraser's study will explore how health-care workers communicate about errors and improve care settings for patients. "We hope to make the system safer," Fraser said. Evanoff will lead a team of researchers examining how working conditions within a system or organisation increase the possibility of errors and affect quality of care. He believes factors such as inadequate staffing or working while in pain, for example; and lifting a patient, contribute to poor-quality care.

"Rather than blame, we will recognize that health-care professionals are educated, highly skilled people working to provide expert, compassionate care for patients," Evanoff said. "We want to learn what it is about their working environment that increases the possibility of error." Evanoff's grant is a component of a broader initiative to reduce medical errors and make health-care systems in the world even safer. "We hope to translate our findings into systems that can be adopted by others," Fraser said.

Fraser's grant is one of 94 projects awarded to improve patient safety. These projects are funded by the Heart Association and United Health Services.

To learn more about the initiative, visit the program Web site at heart.org.

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Wiring the Cell: The End of Catarrhats Great Choruses

Film

Wednesday, April 17

7:30 p.m. Screening of "We’re No Angels"

Exhibitions


Lectures

Friday, April 12

11:15 a.m. Pediatric Grand Rounds

Monday, April 15

2:30 p.m. Chemical Engineering Seminar Series

Tuesday, April 16

3:40 p.m. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Seminar Series

Wednesday, April 17

19:15 p.m. Pediatric Grand Rounds

Thursday, April 18

8:15 a.m. Call Member Presentation

Music

Sunday, April 14


Tuesday, April 16

8 p.m. Student recital. Graham Chapel. 935-6541.

Wednesday, April 17

8 p.m. "We’re No Angels." Campus, 935-6541.

Thursday, April 18

8 p.m. Student recital. Graham Chapel. 935-6541.

Friday, April 19


Monday, April 22

8 p.m. "We’re No Angels." Campus, 935-6541.

Tuesday, April 23

8 p.m. "We’re No Angels." Campus, 935-6541.

Wednesday, April 24

8 p.m. "We’re No Angels." Campus, 935-6541.

Thursday, April 25

8 p.m. "We’re No Angels." Campus, 935-6541.

Friday, April 26

8 p.m. "We’re No Angels." Campus, 935-6541.

Saturday, April 27

8 p.m. "We’re No Angels." Campus, 935-6541.

Sunday, April 28

8 p.m. "We’re No Angels." Campus, 935-6541.
Women's tennis off to school-record start

The No. 14 women's tennis team went 6-0 this past weekend, improving its record to 16-1. On April 1, the Bears fell behind 5-0 early against Maryville University and then went on to win 6-1 before rallying for an 8-6 win. WU then swept the double-header by breezing to an 11-1 win in the nightcap. Connor Kennedy surrendered only three games in the No. 4 doubles match.

On Stage

Friday, April 12

Sarah Soderman (right) throws the dice and hopes for the best start in school history. WU did it overranging: defeating Mcmichael College, 8-1, on April 3 and sweeping Nebraska Wesleyan, Westminster (Mo.) and Principia by identical 9-0 scores. On April 5, Jenny Stein and Laura Greenberg were both 4-0 in singles, with Greenberg winning just one game; Shilpa Genovese went 3-6 after winning three doubles wins and adding a pair of singles victories. Knapp continued her strong freshman season, picking up her fifth win at No. 2 singles and teaming with Teddy for the 3-1 mark at doubles.

Other updates

The baseball team extended its best start in school history by pushing its winning streak to seven and in overall record to 23-4 with a 6-3 win last week. After taking a 5-0 lead early against Maryville University on April 6, the Bears closed out the week with an 8-6 victory over Knox College. The No. 14 men's tennis team extended its winning streak to five matches and improved to 9-1 with its fifth win in four wins last week. The Bears posted a 7-0 home win against Mcmichael College and Whitworth College April 6. Brian Alvo pushed his record to 16-4 in singles while David Genovese improved to 14-7.

The softball team extended its record to 14-14 after posting a 15-5 record. For the second, the Bears began the week by dropping a doubleheader to Blackburn on April 2. In Game 1, the Bears held on to a 1-0 lead heading into the bottom of the sixth inning but a key error allowed two runners to score as Blackburn won 2-1.

Juhani Pallasmaa, one of Finland's most distinguished architects and philosophers, will speak on "The Architecture of the Forest" at 7 p.m. April 15 in Steinberg Auditorium in Steinberg Hall. The talk, part of the School of Architecture's popular Monday Night Lecture Series, is free and open to the public. A reception will be held prior to the presentation at 6:30 p.m. in Givens Hall. Pallasmaa, the Raymond and E. Margot Epstein Professor of Architectural Education, first came to campus in 1999 and has been engaged in a long-term collaboration with the School of Architecture and in the Center for the Study of the Designed Environment.

Architect Juhani Pallasmaa to speak April 15

In the paper "A New Century. A New Architect," Pallasmaa explores the challenges that architects face in the 21st century, especially in the context of Finland's rapid urbanization.

Washington University in St. Louis

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Washington University in St. Louis
Benefits

University enhances four plans effective July 1

The University, which has more than 163,000 members, has developed a system of benefits to help employees achieve a better work-life balance.

Forsyth Harris

ATTENDANCE Benefits

Employee Informational Meetings

Hilltop Campus

April 22
• All Faculty & Staff Meeting, 3:30-5 p.m.
• Simon Hall, Room 110, 3:30 p.m.
• Simon Hall, Room 100, 10:30 a.m.

April 25
• Simon Hall, Room 102, 8:30-9:30 a.m.
• Simon Hall, Room 104, 8:30 a.m.

Medical Campus

April 22
• Cori Auditorium, 12:30-2 p.m.

April 24
• Cori Auditorium, 8-9:30 a.m.
• West Auditorium, 4:30-5 p.m.

April 25
• Cori Auditorium, 10-10:30 a.m.
• West Pavilion Auditorium, 10-10:30 a.m.

April 26
• Cori Auditorium, 2-3:30 p.m.

West Campus

April 24
• Library Conference Room A/B, 10:10-11:30 a.m.
• Library Conference Room B, 10:30-12:30 p.m.
NASA's Ames astrobiology academy admits sophomore

By Tony Fitzpatrick

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS
April 12, 2002    7

The following incidents were reported to University Police April 1-8. Faxes with information that is identical to what appeared in Campus Watch are provided in a public service to promote safety awareness and is available on the University Police web site at police.wustl.edu.

April 1
12:02 p.m. — A student reported that an unknown person took his bike from the north side of Anheuser-Busch Hall between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Total loss is estimated at $300.
3:37 p.m. — A student reported that an unknown person entered a server room in 80 South Brookings Hall, stole a CD player, and then fled. Total loss is estimated at $400.

April 4
10:05 a.m. — A Bell Electric employee reported that an unknown person took electrical equipment from an unsecured location in the Olin Business Administration building. Total loss is estimated at $450.

April 5
9:10 a.m. — A person reported that his backpack and CD player were left unattended on the north side of Bascom Center Residence Hall. Total loss is estimated at $230.

April 6
2:48 a.m. — A student reported that an unknown person entered his office in Cupples 1 Hall through a window that would not lock between noon April 5 and 2:30 p.m. April 6. No damage was done to the room, and nothing was taken. Damage was done to the drain pipe where the roomer apparently climbed to a ledge outside the student’s window. Total loss is estimated at $400.

7:52 p.m. — A visitor to a track meet climbed his duffel bag unattended on Francis Field between 7:30-7:40 p.m. An unknown person took the bag, which contained a CD player, wallet and personal phone. Total loss is estimated at $500.

Additionally, University Police responded to six reports of suspicious persons or activity, three auto accidents, two reports of property damage and one report each of an alarm burglary and trespassing.

International Festival to be held by GWB

From traditional foods to lively entertainment, International Festival at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work will offer a taste of different cultures. This year’s theme is “The Small World After All.” The entertainment will begin at 5 p.m. in Room 100.

For more information, e-mail gogwssi@brown.wustl.edu.

Hardly a taxing time

Vinay Kumar Madivada, a graduate student in chemistry at Arts & Sciences, gets some assistance from Traci Faschingbauer (left), project coordinator in the Career Center at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work. Madivada is attending a recent session in Each Hall to help international students file their nonresident tax returns.

Olin to present alumni awards, Dean’s Medals

By Robert Battison

The Olin School of Business will honor four alumni and two families at its 16th annual Distinguished Alumni Dinner April 16 at the Ritz-Carlton.

Dean Stuart I. Greenbaum, Ph.D., announced that the honorees are Joseph Israel, Michael Brimmer, Harvey M. Brown and Raymond W. Harmon. The event is hosted by the Olin School’s National Council.

Dr. United States

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Searching for a common ground

Lisa Baldez’s research suggests that women’s movements throughout the world share a common motive

By GERRY EVENING

One of Lisa Baldez’s favorite parts of campus is Thinker on Rock, just outside the entrance of Mallinckrodt Student Center. “People have a fascination with the Thinker,” said Baldez. “It provides a focal point for campus and it has generated a lot of discussion.”

Lisa Baldez enjoys the cold treats of Ted Drewes with some Joe, B, and Sam, B.

During the 1920s, a half-million American-born women left their homes to work in Europe while Protessville Glass Works asserted their gender rights by joining the Women’s Ku Klux Klan (WKKK), hijacking the platform of a racist male hate group to push a feminist agenda. In this new transitional government – an invitation spurred in part by a vocal women’s rights movement in America.

Why, when faced with such situations, do some women remain quietly in the shadows, while others step forward, join hands and commit their entire being to an issue, a cause, a movement?

It is questions such as these that motivate the work of Lisa Baldez, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science and the Earle H. and Suzanne S. Harbison Faculty Fellow in Arts & Sciences.

On faculty here since 1997, Baldez has focused both her research and teaching on exploring the cultural, religious and political motivations behind wars, rebellions and social movements, especially those involving women in Latin America.

Her recent research has compared women’s movements in Chile, Brazil, Poland and East Germany. Her courses on gender, politics and policy explore issues ranging from “gender gaps” in American presidential campaigns to the role of women in the Cuban revolution and the Islamic Jihad.

“Women’s movements have diverse interests and agendas. But my research suggests that many of them share a common goal,” Baldez said. “Women tend to organize along gender lines when they feel their views are no longer getting serious consideration within traditional male-dominated political circles. Women’s movements may seem to gain momentum whenever the coalitions that dominate conventional politics go through periods of upheaval and realignment.”

Her recently completed book manuscript, Why Women Protest: Women’s Movements in Chile, Will be published by Cambridge University Press in 2002. Based on her doctoral dissertation, the book examines two quite different women’s movements in the right-wing political environment that worked to overthrow the Allende government and the subsequent Pinochet regime.

The students here are amazing and engaged, Baldez recalled. “It was an interesting time to be there because the new government had been in place for only a couple years and trials of officials from the previous military government were under way. Lots of things were going on.”

“Lisa is a first-rate scholar and an excellent teacher. . . . Lisa has demonstrated a rare ability to engage students. Whether it is in a large lecture hall or a small seminar setting, she has created a stimulating environment for learning.”

Baldez has excelled in academics, but she admits that a passion for Latin American literature, experiencing the revolution through tales of courage in the face of impossible oppression. In 1985, as part of a study-abroad program, she spent a summer in Buenos Aires, Argentina, oddly enough, living in the home of a family that had supported the military dictatorship while conducting research on ultra-nationalist human rights organizations.

“My host family did not support my research, but to get to that credit, they never shed away from discussing sensitive issues,” Baldez said. “It was an interesting time to be there because the new government had been in place for only a couple years and trials of officials from the previous military government were under way. Lots of things were going on.”

Her senior thesis, based on interviews with the "Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo" was completed about the same time. A 1986 issue of Time magazine ran a cover story on the women’s group and its role in the reform movement. Baldez’s timing could not have been better, she said, but she had no intention of continuing her graduate school work. After graduating from Princeton in 1986 with a bachelor’s in political science and Latin American studies, she shifted gears and took a job with a business-consulting firm in Washington, D.C. There, while doing volunteer work in a southeast city neighborhood, she met the man who would become her husband. John Carey, a 1986 graduate of Harvard University, was working on Capitol Hill. He was getting serious consideration for a "truly important contribution to the understanding of the ways that change in Latin American politics is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to in Latin America is destined to