Swi tch determines if chemotherapy kills healthy cells

BY DARRELL W. WARD

S
chool of Medicine investigators have discovered a mechanism that helps explain why healthy cells are not killed by DNA-damaging cancer chemotherapy drugs. The findings are published in the Oct. 4 issue of the journal Cell. DNA-damaging agents are the most common kind of drugs used to treat cancer. Like most chemotherapy drugs, these are carried in the blood and travel throughout the body. They work by irreparably gumming up DNA in rapidly dividing tumor cells. That damage then triggers the cells to self-destruct through a natural process known as apoptosis, or active cell death. The drugs also can harm normal, rapidly dividing healthy cells, such as those in the hair follicles, but most healthy cells are unaffected. It is not known why these drugs do not trigger apoptosis in healthy cells.

"The standard answer is that tumor cells are dividing and normal cells are not," said Steve J. Weintraub, M.D., assistant professor of surgery, division of urologic surgery and of cell biology and physiology. "But that explanation is not an explanation.

The study led by Weintraub found that healthy, nondividing cells have a biochemical switch that, when triggered, allows apoptosis. The switch is found in a protein that blocks apoptosis known as Bcl-xL. Weintraub found that healthy, nondividing cells are unaffected. It is not known why these drugs do not trigger apoptosis in healthy cells.

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\[ \text{Weintraub} \]

Student medics provide invaluable service

BY NEIL SCHNEIDER

H
earing cuts, splitting broken bones, responding to major traumas. Sounds like a tough job, but it's all in a day's work for a dedicated group of University students.

The Emergency Support Team (EST), a student-run volunteer organization under the auspices of the Student Health and Counseling Services, has existed on the Hilltop Campus for nearly 25 years. The group always has had one goal: help those in need.

"We respond to every medical emergency on campus, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, whenever school is in session," said senior Mike Schwartzwald, the current EMT. "We do this without compensation, simply for the pleasure of helping our peers and doing all we can to help the community in which we live.

"It's not always an easy job. When members are on call, they must respond — even when studying or sleeping. Injuries the team responds to range from sports injuries to cardiac arrest.

"We provide a response time on average of three to four minutes of the onset of emergency medical care within three to four minutes of the onset of their illness or injury. This immediate attention can make a large difference in the outcome — the patient seeing a doctor within three to four minutes of the onset of their illness or injury. This immediate attention can make a large difference in the outcome.

"Also, in less serious cases, our medics can triage patients and help them find the best course of action to take for their illness or injury. Many students that call us have minor injuries that do not require medical attention.

See Medics, Page 6

One-hour repair

Hardware adds features much faster

BY TONY FITZPATRICK

A team of graduate students led by John Lockwood, Ph.D., assistant professor of computer science, has developed computer hardware applicable to the Internet that enables remote deployment of new hardware to computer networking hardware.

The hardware component, called a Field Programmable Port Extender (FPX), can be reconfigured to perform new functions in less than an hour, compared with the six months it used to take for chip modifications.

Such hardware is called "dynamically reconfigurable" because it changes over time.

"New features can be added to hardware with little service time," Lockwood said.

The device also can be reprogrammed to scan data, encrypt and decrypt data and perform image-processing in real time.

The component fits onto existing very-high-speed networking switches. The port extender platform plugs into the backplane of a conventional network switch to add applications.

The device is a plug-in card with two components, called field-programmable gate arrays (FPGAs). These can be programmed either by a user at a Web site or by computer.

\[ \text{See Computers, Page 7} \]

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\[ \text{See Computers, Page 7} \]
Ceramics major Susannah Biondo (center), winner of the West End Arts Council’s first Community Arts Project commission, leads a workshop for residents in the Skinker/DeBaliviere neighborhood. Biondo’s piece, a ceramic, plaster- and ceramic-pottered sculpture located in the McPherson Community Garden — will be fired on site during a public ceremony Oct. 19, along with smaller vessels by workshop participants. Pictured around the table (from left) are Chris Willis, 11; Joshua Miller, 9; Matt Dahl, 12; and Cole Mayfield, 6.

Memoriam of the University community are invited to attend the dedication ceremony held at dusk Oct. 19 at the McPherson Community Garden, located in the 5900 block of McPherson Avenue. The piece, which Biondo will begin installing this weekend, stands roughly 6 feet tall by 4.5 feet wide and features five shallow ceramic bowls (used for planting) built around a central steel armature. The bowls are hand-wrought and organic in tone, and they grow progressively smaller as they move upward, giving the work a kind of pyramidal, Christmas-tree-like shape.

The structure’s lifespan is estimated at about five years. (A $21,200 artist’s stipend and $800 construction/materials budget are underwritten by Feinberg Real Estate, the Kingsbury Animal Shelter and the University’s Tyson Research Center and the Watershed Center for Ceramic Art in Maine.) "Public art can be difficult because it requires so many people to work together — artists, residents, funders — but everything has gone very well. We've all been willing to compromise a little to get this done. It's been a very good experience,” Susannah Biondo

Trustees meet, hear report from Wrighton

The Board of Trustees met Wednesday to hear about planning for the future of biomedical research and to receive reports from Chairmen Mark S. Wrighton and from the school’s committees.

The trustee meeting opened with a memorial resolution on the late Thomas H. Jacobsen, a former trustee and chairman of the board’s standing committees.

Wrighton noted many achievements and accomplishments for which the University has been recognized in recent months, including the following:

• The freshman class that entered this fall is the strongest in the University's history in terms of undergraduate applications. There are more than 11,000 students to choose from to fill the seats of National Merit Scholars, with an average of 8,700 from an applicant pool of 1,900.

• The top overlap in applications to Washington University this year exceeded expectations by 1,000.

• The University selected 1,500 freshmen from an applicant pool of 1,000.

• The University has seen a significant increase in the number of students applying to Washington University.

• The University continues to rank among the nation's top universities in terms of national academic honors.

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A brain injury can be devastating—both for the injured person and for family and friends. But most people do get better.

In fact, of the 1.5 million Americans who suffer brain injuries annually, only about 100,000 are disabled to the point that they cannot return to their former jobs. The question facing the other 1.4 million: When are they sufficiently recovered to go back to work?

Now, researchers in the School of Medicine are studying that question in a rehabilitation laboratory called the Occupational Performance Center. The project is a cooperative effort between the medical school’s program in occupational therapy and national rehab-care provider HealthSouth.

The center, housed at the Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis, is coordinated by Leonard N. Matheson, Ph.D., associate professor of occupational therapy and of neurology. After a person suffers a brain injury from a stroke or from trauma, doctors can do a great deal to limit the amount of damage during the first few hours after that injury,” Matheson said. "In addition, our advanced rehabilitation techniques can help restore lost function. But we don’t do very much to get those people ready to return to a workable life."

After all, Matheson reasons, being able to feed yourself or bathe without assistance doesn’t mean that per- son is ready to go back to work as a bookkeeper.

"We believe most people can be produc- tive and can continue their rehabilitation while they’re working,” Matheson said. "In the meantime, those with brain injuries can re-establish their lifestyle and pay their bills. They also can lower the risk of depression, a common prob- lem for recovering brain injury patients."

The Occupational Perform- ance Center includes an area designed to mimic an office environment, complete with furniture and tasks typically performed by office workers.

Another area is designated to prepare craftpeople, who work with power tools, to return to work. Still another suite is being developed to train customer serv- ice representatives. In all, Matheson hopes to have nine workplace suites operating when the center is fully functional.

"That work simulation allows us to find out what kind of prob- lems a person is going to have while on the job," Matheson said. "That way, we can help them work around problems and solve them. If we can’t solve all of the problems, at least we have an opportunity to teach the person and the condition for the employer to help them modify a job so that a person can return and be successful.

Immunology, neuroscience receive high marks for research paper impact

By Kimberley Letteig

Unlike David Letterman, this is a Top 10 list that scientists are proud to make.

Every four years, Science Watch presents its "Top 10 Research Roundup," a survey that details the citation impact of published research papers by scientists at the top 100 federally funded U.S. universities by the number of citations-per-paper (or citations at a rate notably high- ally funded U.S. universities.

Science Watch ranks the universities on the number of research papers that attracted citations at a rate notably high- er than the world average in nine major fields of biological science.

In the field of immunology, the University ranked fourth nationally. According to the survey, over the past five years University immunologists published 596 papers, which were cited at 87 percent above the national average.

University neuroscientists published 1,258 papers, reports Science Watch, which were cited 105 percent above the national average, placing them third in the national poll. The University also scored in the top 15 in the fields of clinical medicine and biology and biochemistry. Science Watch, a publication that analyzes scientific journal literature and tracks research trends, calculated the citations-per-paper for each univer- sity based on papers published and cited between 1997 and 2001.

The resulting number was then compared to a world baseline figure, which rep- resent the impact for the field during the same time frame. Detailed results appear in the September/October issue of Science Watch, which is published by the Institute for Science Information.

Cells

Study focuses on a family of key proteins – From Page 1

DNA-damaging chemotherapy will kill even healthy cells, said Weintraub, who is a researcher with the Cellular Proliferation Research Program at the Alvin J. Slaterman Cancer Center at the School of Medicine and Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

The researchers focused on a family of proteins known as Bcl-2, which plays a central role in both promoting and inhibiting apoptosis. The investigators first exposed cancer cells from bone, ovarian and other tumors to the anticancer drug cisplatin.

When they looked at the Bcl-2 proteins from the cells that died by apoptosis, they found that in each case one member of the Bcl-2 family, the protein Bcl-xL, had been modi- fied by deamidation. Deamidation makes slight changes in two amino acids in the Bcl-xL protein. As a result, one had turned a switch, those changes alter the shape of Bcl-xL and thereby inactivate it. In its active state, Bcl-xL is tightly joined with another Bcl-2 protein that, when free, trig- gers apoptosis. When Bcl-xL is switched off through deamidation, it releases the second pro-tein, and apoptosis can proceed.

The researchers also exposed a line of healthy, nondividing human fibroblasts and several lines of mouse fibroblasts to cisplatin. In some of the cells, the investigators had artificially inactivated the Bcl-xL protein.

They found that cells with normal Bcl-xL were not affected by the drug, while those with the inactive Bcl-xL protein died by apoptosis, indicating they were now susceptible to cis- platin.

"Our findings show that normally Bcl-xL "squelches" the signal that triggers the switch and avoid self-destruct- ing," Weintraub said. They also suggest that tumor cells that sup- press the same signal also might be resistant to chemotherapy.

Weintraub is now studying the mechanism and regulation of the sig- nal that targets Bcl-xL.

For a good cause

(From left) Volunteer for Health program coordinator Shea Roesel, recruit- ment coordinator Amy Heas and administrator Sally Anderson explain to Barb Wiley how she can participate in the School of Medicine program, which matches volunteers with current clinical tri- als. The Sept. 27 open house at the center celebrated the group’s 10,000th volunteer and announced that investigators now can register studies for free. For more information, call 362-1000 or go online to vfh.wustl.edu.

National asthma study needs local volunteers

Do you take daily prescription asthma medication but still don’t have the control you would like? Does asthma awaken you at night? What about breakthrough wheezing? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may be eligi- ble to participate in a national study, led by School of Medicine allergy specialist Mario Castro, M.D., that aims to discover better ways to control asthma symptoms. Participants will continue tak- ing their current medication, but a second one will be added. They will receive free lung-function tests, peak-flow meters and study medication at five locations across St. Louis. Participants also will be compensated for their time and travel.

Candidates should be 15 or older and have mild-to-moderate-ly severe asthma. For additional details, call Mary Ellen Scheipeter at 362-8892.
Protein Trafficking • Heart Rhythm Disorders • Smoking Cessation

Research Seminar Series.
"Scopolamine-induced Brain Injury in Developing Rodents." Michael C. Sanders, assoc. prof. of neurology. McKnight Hall, Rm. 149. 935-4960.


Swimmers sweep at Saint Louis Univ. The swimming and diving team began the 2002-03 season with a undefeated showing at the University Oct. 5. The men's team defeated SIU 195-146, while the women won 153-147. Freshman Drae Trahe won three events as he captured the 100 and 200 breaststroke and the 200 individual medley. On the women's side, freshman Crystal Fisher broke the 14-year-old school record in the 100 butterfly with a time of 1:50.50.

Other updates
For the second time in three days, WUSTL's men's and women's crosscountry teams completed the Missouri Valley Conference Grand Cross Country Meet on Friday, Oct. 11,2002. teammate senior John Robinson posted his first career victory with a 1-0 win over Creighton in the 93rd minute. Robinson's goal came off a pass from junior Steve Bujalski in the 72nd minute as the Bears evened their record at 4-4-1. Freshman Colin Robinson posted his first career assist. Paul Wenzlau scored a goal in the second half.

The women's soccer team extended its unbeaten streak to seven games and kept pace in the Missouri Valley Conference. The Bears scored the winning goal on a second-half header from senior Emily Dunner on WUSTL's Field at the University Oct. 5. The game was scoreless until the second half when Dunner scored the game-winner in the 72nd minute with a pass from senior Emily Dunner. The Bears went on to win the game 1-0.

Several individuals on the men's tennis team scored well at the Small College Regional Championships Oct. 5-6 in Springfield, Ohio. The doubles duo of Becky Resler and Amy Giess expanded their winning streak to 11 matches in the tournament. The duo advanced to the semifinals and were scheduled to play the finalists in the tournament.

The men's tennis team held its only match of the 2002 fall season and came away with a 7-0 sweep against the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The Bears swept doubles play and senior Ari Rothstein posted a 9-8 win over Shukla Yachuck in No. 1 singles. The duo of singles players, Kenner, Schlatter, Hurley, and Rothstein, scored. Wood/Robinson posted a 6-2 on No. 2 and Lee and Tim Fisher scored doubles in No. 3. In singles play, Kenner, Schlatter, Hurley, and Rothstein scored well at the Small College Regional Championships.

On the Web
For complete sports schedules and results, go to sports.wustl.edu.
**GWU lecture series continues Oct. 17**

_The George Warren Brown School of Social Work’s lecture series addresses a broad spectrum of social issues from while nationalism to the future of social work._

_The series kicked off Oct. 10 with a lecture by Greg Freeman, a columnist with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, on “St. Louis: My City and Welcome To It,” in the Brown Hall Lecture Hall._

_All lectures will be held in Brown Hall at 11:10 a.m. Other lectures in the series, which is free and open to the public, include:_

**Oct. 21 — Carol Swartzwald, Ph.D., professor of political science and law at Vanderbilt University, on “The New White Nationalism in America: Its Challenge to American Unity.”**

**Oct. 31 — Betty Sims, Missouri state senator for District 24, on “Aging in Misouri: Is Getting Older Getting Better?”**

**Nov. 14 — Elizabeth Clark, Ph.D., president of the National Association of Social Workers, on “The Future of Social Work.”**

_**Nov. 21 — Adriano Dolgoff, member of the Latino Social Workers Organization, on “La Familia Perspective: Opportunities for Providing Quality Services to the Latino Community.”**_ For more information, call 935-4909.

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**Trustees**

Holt meeting Oct. 4, hear chancellor’s report — from Page 2

_With no action ceremonies of Foster’s gondola at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. in the autumn of 1979, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, on “St. Louis: My City and Welcome To It,” in the Brown Hall Lecture Hall._

_The series continues with lectures at 11:10 a.m. in Brown Hall and is free and open to the public._

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_The trustees were:_

W. Michael Hoffman, chairman; William A. Peck, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine; Thomas E. F. Blom, chairman of the Department of Molecular Biology and Pharmacology; Robert S. Polasky, M.D., the Adolphus Busch Professor of Science and chairman of the Department of Medicine.

_The presenters were:_

Kathryn A. Reitman, executive vice chancellor for health affairs and president of the University; the Rev. Robert J. Glaser Distinguished University Professor, president of the University, executive vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine; and Richard J. Reif, chancellor of the University.

_The program is free and open to the public._

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**Japan**

_Undergraduates travel, perform research — from Page 1_

_University. Abe agreed to host the event and served as local liaison, pairing American students and Japanese advisers with similar research interests._

_More to the point, Japan — where earthquakes can be almost a daily occurrence, and where monitoring the structural soundness of buildings, bridges and highways is a task far beyond the traditional methods of human inspection — is a world leader in structural control, structural health monitoring and advanced materials._

_Dyke and Allahbek hope that the students’ exposure to cutting-edge Japanese "passive and active control systems" — devices that can either act as structural shock absorbers or apply counter-forces to oppose a perceived motion — might one day influence their work on U.S. infrastructure._

_Applicants to REUJAT were nominated by faculty members at their institutions. Of the eight selected students were granted room and board, full travel expenses and a stipend, and in May at Washington University in St. Louis, for a weekend-long orientation._

_The group arrived in Japan, met its collaborators — usually university professors or industrial engineers — and began conducting experiments._

_"Work ranged from testing pieces of actual buildings, either on-site or in the "earthquake tables" or by physically loading structures — to creating computer models designed to assess weaknesses in existing structures."

_The group, mostly based at Tokyo University, participants described visiting places during evenings and visiting historically significant places on weekends."

_The group also visited construction sites, companies in industry and even managed a stop at the U.S. Embassy, where they met Ambassador Howard Baker Jr., who serves as medical director of the Health and Counseling Service, and received portions of a presentation on "Aging in Misouri: Is Getting Older Getting Better?" from Dr. Betty Sims, Missouri state senator for District 24._

_For more information about REUJAT, go to wusc.edu/ouest or call Schwartzwald at 935-5298._

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**Medics**

_Student service formed in fall 1979 — from Page 1_

_Necessarily require the attention of a doctor, but still need to be treated by a knowledgeable professional. By providing our service, we can help defer the cost and time commitment this student would have to endure to receive treatment elsewhere."

_For Schwartzwald and the rest of the EST members, it’s a very rewarding job."

_"I am currently a member of a volunteer fire department back home in New York," said Schwartzwald, who hails from Chappaga. "When I came to the University, I was looking for a way to continue doing something along those lines. I heard about EST, went in my application and went through the team’s interview process. It’s been hard work at times, but I love it."

_EST was formed in the fall of 1979 due to concerns over the response time of emergency medical services from the St. Louis metropolitan region._

_The student-run volunteer medical service was named SHOUT (Student Helping OUT) and consists of 20 student and staff members with varying amounts of emergency medical training. They were dispatched via University Police and responded in a gulf cart equipped with trauma kits, oxygen tanks and ice packs._

_Over the years, EST has continued to evolve and prosper."

_Emergency Support Team members (from left) Mike Schwartzwald, Vince Lai and Adam Felsenstein attend to "patient" and fellow team member Vani Sundaram during a recent training event._

_Emergency Support Team members (from left) Mike Schwartzwald, Vince Lai and Adam Felsenstein attend to "patient" and fellow team member Vani Sundaram during a recent training event._

Emergency Support Team members (from left) Mike Schwartzwald, Vince Lai and Adam Felsenstein attend to “patient” and fellow team member Vani Sundaram during a recent training event.

_"The emergency support team is a fantastic organization. It is wonderful that so many talented students want to volunteer so much time and energy for our community."

_It is such a privilege to be able to work with this organization and see these students learn and grow over their time here and beyond."

_Laurie Reitman_
**Introducing new faculty members**

The following are among the new faculty members at the University. Others will be introduced periodically in this space.

**Song Ho Kim** joins the School of Architecture as assistant professor of computing and design. Kim earned a master’s degree in architecture studies from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1998; an architectural association diploma in London (with the Royal Institute of British Architects, Part I and D) in 1996; and bachelor’s degrees in fine arts and architecture, both from the Rhode Island School of Design, in 1993 and 1994. Prior to coming to the University, Kim taught and practiced in Boston. His research focuses on finding new ways to engage emerging technology in the design process.

**Peter Kastor, Ph.D.,** joins the Department of History in Arts & Sciences as assistant professor. Kastor’s appointment as assistant director of American Culture Studies also includes Kastor’s appointment as assistant director of American Culture Studies also in Arts & Sciences. He earned a doctorate from the University of Virginia in 1999, and since 1998 he has served as associate director of the program in American Culture Studies. His research concerns the new Republic, the frontier and Lewis and Clark, about whom he has lectured extensively as well as provided information for museum catalogues. Previously, he served as instructional technology consultant at the University of Virginia and presently serves in a similar capacity in Arts & Sciences.

**Robert Vinson, Ph.D.,** joins the Department of History in Arts & Sciences as assistant professor. He also holds a joint appointment in African & African-American Studies of the history of the black Atlantic. He earned a doctorate from Howard University in 2001 and his research concerns African assis tant professor at the University of Virginia. Since 1999, he has been engaged in a documentary and multimedia project at Howard funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Connections with South Africa 1960-1965. He has written several articles and essays on African-American southern Africa and on the black Atlantic, and has lectured on colonialism in southern Africa to the U.S. state department. He also served as an intern in 1995 at the U.S. Embassy in Botswana.

**Zhengxin Zhang, Ph.D.,** joins the Department of Mathematics in Arts & Sciences as assistant professor. Zhang earned a bachelor’s degree in computational mathematics from Yanan University (China) in 1986, a master’s degree in computational mathematics from Academica Sinica (China) in 1993, and a doctorate in management engineering from Beijing University of Aeronautics & Astronautics (China) in 1996, and a doctorate in statistics from the University of North Carolina in 2002. His research interests include applications of statistics to finance, insurance, and environmental science. Some of his recent work has concerned numerical approximation of curve fitting, multi- variable extremes and max-stable processes.

**Of note**

The School of Law’s Career Services Office received a Community Service Award from Legal Services of Eastern Missouri (LSEM) in recognition of the school’s longstanding commitment to public service work, as well as its increased focus in recent years to public service work, as well as its increased focus in recent years.

**Gregory E. Miller, Ph.D.,** assistant professor of psychology in Arts & Sciences, has received a two-year, $160,000 grant from the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression for research titled “Depression and Inflammation in Coronary Artery Disease.”

**Christina N. Lessov, Ph.D.,** received a two-year, $250,000 grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse for research titled “Initial Subjective Reactions to Nicotine in Young Adults.”

**Stephen M. Hightstein, M.D.,** professor of otolaryngology, has received a one-year, $295,902 grant from the National Center for Research Resources for research titled “Neurokinetics Multiaxes Vestibular Test System.”

**Garrett A. Duncan, Ph.D.,** assistant professor of education in Arts & Sciences, has received a two-year, $250,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for a project titled “Aging and the Bilingual Brain.”


**Ravindra Upadhyay, M.D.,** assistant professor of ophthalmology, has received a five-year, $625,000 grant from the National Eye Institute for research titled “JN-γamma Induced Angiogenesis in Acute Retinal Edema.”

**Campus Watch**

**Newman, 22; first-year law student**

By JESSICA N. ROBERTS

First-year law student Debra S. Newman died Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2002, from injuries sustained Sept. 24 when she was hit by an automobile on Forsyth Boulevard. She was 22.

Newman, of Winters, N.Y., graduated from Ethical Culture School in Riverdale, Hastings-on-Hudson High School and Cornell University’s School of Industrial Relations.

During her time in the School of Law, Newman participated in the Jewish Legal Society, the Public Service Advisory Board and American Civil Liberties Union student organizations. "Debra will always be a part of our school," said Josef Seligman, J.D., law dean and the Ethel K. Shepard University Professor. "Her gift for friendship, her vitality, her enthusiasm will be with us always." A gathering in remembrance of Newman was held Oct. 2 at the law school. Students, faculty and staff paid tribute to her memory by a memory book that was presented to her parents.

Her father, Albert, received a scholarship from his alma mater to be a part of the Debra Newman Memorial Fund, created by Ethel K. Shepard and her husband, Stephen M. Newman, of Lockwood and his collaborators have developed a program that runs in one of the FPGAs to manage the swappable modules. This permits the parts to add and delete features in response to changing traffic flows without reliance on an external control plane processor. University researchers over the past two years have brought in researchers from other universities and commercial firms to design and build a new distributed control plane that can be used for multi traffic systems that can be used for new and innovative Internet routers and firewalls. Lockwood and his group have been awarded over $350,000, and approximately 30 have been distributed to seven collaboration universities.

**Notables**

**Mainland**

**Computers**

**New functions performed in less than an hour** — From Page 1

**Obituary**

**Rusted root**

The white oak tree that stood outside of Danforth House fell Oct. 4, no one was injured. The tree, estimated to be between 100-120 years old and standing approximately 80 feet tall, had rotted roots not readily visible. According to Paul Norman, head of grounds and maintenance manager in facilities, the leg of the tree will live on. He said Residential Life will take a slice of the trunk and hang it on a wall in Danforth House. "We will also be doing some landscaping in that area," Norman said. "After we come up with a design we will start working on it, and have it hopefully completed by the start of the fall 2003 semester."
Advocating for American Indians

Eddie F. Brown, D.S.W., educates leaders for, and brings new resources to, tribal communities

by B. J. Roberts

W I L M I N T O N  U N I V E R S I T Y  I N  S T. L O U I S

Oct. 11, 2002

Eddie Brown and his wife, Barbara.

Eddie F. Brown, D.S.W.

Family: Wife Barbara; sons Aaron, Jared, Gabriel and Eddie; daughters Amber, Rachel.

Education: B.S. from Brigham Young University; masters and doctorate in social work from the University of Utah.

Browned joined the faculty at Arizona State University as associate professor. He knew that in addition to his research work on social service programs serving American Indians, he was most interested in training new leaders for the Indian nations. "Through education, American Indians increase the opportunities they have to build and support their communities," he said.

Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt recruited Brown away from ASU to fill a newly created position focused on improving the welfare relationships between tribes, counties and cities in the state.

He left Arizona a few years later to serve as the chief of the Division of Social Services for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C., but eventually returned to Arizona to direct the Arizona Department of Economic Security, a position he held under two governors.

"It was a whirlwind, constantly on the move," Brown said. "I wanted to do more than just teach and do research. I wanted to do something else. I wanted to make a difference in the world and to help people who needed help."

In 1996, Brown finally made his way back to his first love — education — when he accepted the offer of the Buder Center directorship from Shanti. K. Khinduka, Ph.D., GWB dean and the George Warren Brown Distinguished University Professor. "I was interested in your career; you realize that time is not without limits, and it is important to get to those things that have priority," Brown said. "For me, that was getting back to teaching and education, in a formal sense, and pursuing the American Indian Child Welfare Act from my earlier years of work and research on American Indian social welfare policies."

In 1996, Brown joined the faculty at George Warren Brown School of Social Work in St. Louis, a city with a large American Indian community.

"When I came to St. Louis, I quickly found out that there was a lack of credible research on American Indian communities and that there was a need for more research on American Indian issues," Brown said. "I quickly realized that there was a lack of research on American Indian communities, and that there was a need for more research on American Indian issues."

"Our research is not research for research's sake," Brown said. "We are interested in the current issues that are of importance to the communities we are studying."

Brown and faculty members with the Buder Center work with other centers at GWB on various research projects and studies. In addition, the center actively works with national Indian organizations, including the National Congress of American Indians, intertribal councils and the Administration on Children and Families.

Members of the center also testify before Congress on major Indian issues related to health and human services. "He is a whirlwind, constantly on the go, but a master at seeming to do it all at once," said Arlene Silverman, Ph.D., the Barbara A. Bulley Professor of Social Work.

The Buder Center's other major function is to recruit and educate American Indian students as they have gone back to their Indian communities.

"Our research gets us involved in policy-oriented conferences," Brown said. "We currently have 16 students as they have gone back to their Indian communities."

In addition to all of his work, Brown has made great strides in improving access and availability of health and human services resources and higher education for American Indians. He has been locally and nationally recognized for his knowledge and skills in working with tribal governments and community programs.

Outside of his work at GWB, Brown enjoys exploring St. Louis with his high-school sweetheart and wife of 35 years, Barbara. "St. Louis is a great town," Brown said. "It has a very stable and family-oriented atmosphere."

He also enjoys visiting his six children and five grandchildren.

Eddie Brown is truly dedicated to making a difference in the lives of American Indians, and I am proud to have him as a member of our team," said Shanti K. Khinduka, Ph.D., GWB dean and the George Warren Brown Distinguished University Professor. "Eddie Brown is truly dedicated to making a difference in the lives of American Indians, and I am proud to have him as a member of our team," said Shanti K. Khinduka, Ph.D., GWB dean and the George Warren Brown Distinguished University Professor.

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Eddie F. Brown, D.S.W., director of the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies and associate dean for American Indian education at Washington University in St. Louis, works to train new leaders for tribal communities by working closely with people such as Monique Giago (left), a master of social work student and Buder scholar.