Washington University Record, January 17, 2003

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**Medical News: Device helps reduce deaths from heart disease**

**3 University researchers**

Three University faculty members have been elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Earning this recognition are Timothy L. Ley, the Alan A. and Edith L. Wolff Professor in Medicine and professor of genetics; Steven E. Petersen, Ph.D., the James S. McDonnell Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience; and principal investigator of the Division of Neuro-psychology in Neurology in the School of Medicine; and Ralph S. Quatrano, Ph.D., the Spencer T. Olin Professor and chair of the biology department in Arts & Sciences.

Individuals are elected as AAAS fellows in recognition of their efforts toward advancing science or fostering applications that are deemed verifiably or scientifically unachieved.

**Ley**

Ley was chosen as a fellow for his studies of the mechanisms used by cytotoxic lymphocytes to kill their targets, and for advances in understanding the biology and genetics of acute leukemias. He has spent his career studying and developing new genetic strategies for fighting leukemia and acquired blood diseases.

"We are very pleased that Tim has received this recognition for his outstanding contributions to our understanding and treatment of leukemia," said Timothy L. Eberhard, M.D., the Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Distinguished Professor and director of the Alvin J. and Susan S. Lurie Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and the School of Medicine. "His work is unquestionably helping patients with this malignancy, and this honor is well-deserved."

**Petersen**

Ley was named Teacher of the Year in the Department of Medicine at Jewish Hospital in 1994. He has also received the Alumni Faculty Award in 1996 from the Washington University Medical Center Alumni Association, as well as many other awards and honors. He is a past president of the prestigious American Society of Clinical Investigation.

**Quatrano**

Ley was named the first Wolff professor in 1999.

He earned a medical degree from the University in 1978. After completing a residency in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, Petersen went on to complete a fellowship in medical oncology at the University. In 1992, he was named the first Alan A. and Edith L. Wolff Professor in Medicine and professor of genetics.

**Biomedical engineering's new home**

Frank C.P. Yin, M.D., Ph.D., chair and the Stephen T. and Mary Jo Quatrano, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, stands in the lobby of the Genome Sequencing Center (GSC), which he and his faculty and staff are moving into.

"We are in the applied-post-genomics age. But Richard Wilson, Ph.D., director of the Genome Sequencing Center (GSC), at the University. "The investment in mapping the human genome is already giving new insights into human diseases and their treatments, but the best is yet to come as we apply what we're learning to medical problems."

"And the GSC is doing that. Although its major activity remains large-scale genome sequencing, the center is applying genomics to medicine and improving sequencing technology as a diagnostic tool."

"We want the GSC to continue growing in coming years with more services and more collaborations," Wilson said. "I have big plans for the future."

The GSC's large-scale work includes sequencing the chicken and other animal genomes. Mapping these and other animal genomes will reveal more about the human genome and help guide medical research. Other projects include a three-year, $1.5 million study led by Wilson comparing important genes from disease-causing bacteria with identical genes from the harmless bacteria. The study could improve the diagnosis and treatment of diseases caused by salmonella and other harmful bacteria.

"The GSC is also mapping the genomes for the human parasitic fungus Histoplasma capsulatum and the fruit fly Drosophila melanogaster, an important research animal.

"We are always interested in developing new collaborations," Wilson said. "We had a great year in 2002 and plan to have an even better year in 2003."

Wilson was named to the National Academy of Sciences in 1996, the American Philosophical Society in 2003, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2003. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

**Senior Roberts wins 'academic Heisman'**

Displaying his 2002 HealthSouth Draddy Award trophy, Brandon Roberts is joined by Richard Scrushy, chairman of HealthSouth, at the College Hall of Fame's 49th Annual Awards Dinner Jan. 17, 2003 at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City. For being named the top scholar-athlete in college football, Roberts took home a 5,000-foot high, 24-pound trophy and a $25,000 postgraduate scholarship.

Roberts was named the winner of the 2002 HealthSouth Draddy Award as the top scholar-athlete in college football.

"It's one of the top honors in college football. The winner receives not only a two-foot-high, 24-pound trophy, but also a $25,000 postgraduate scholarship," said Richard C. McPherson, president and chief executive officer of HealthSouth,ponsors.

"We are proud to partner with HealthSouth to support the Draddy Award and recognize the contributions of student-athletes across the nation," said Brian W. King, HealthSouth chairman and chief executive officer.

"The 2002 HealthSouth Draddy Award winners are worthy successors to the legends of the past. The GSC has a new home and is moving into the 114,800-square-foot facility, and classes are under way. The state-of-the-art facility on the northeast end of the Hilltop Campus was built by McCarthy Construction Co.

"We are very happy to have this new facility and are looking forward to the future," said Timothy J. Ley, M.D., the Alan A. and Edith L. Wolff Professor in Medicine and professor of genetics; Steven E. Petersen, Ph.D., the James S. McDonnell Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience; and principal investigator of the Division of Neuro-psychology in Neurology in the School of Medicine; and Ralph S. Quatrano, Ph.D., the Spencer T. Olin Professor and chair of the biology department in Arts & Sciences.

"We are always interested in developing new collaborations," Wilson said. "We had a great year in 2002 and plan to have an even better year in 2003."

Wilson was named to the National Academy of Sciences in 1996, the American Philosophical Society in 2003, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2003. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).
Law's public interest speakers docket set

By Jessica N. Roberts

A former legislative counsel who assisted in drafting the Americans With Disabilities Act and another former member of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice are among speakers who will discuss how diversity contributes to social justice.

The series will kick off Jan. 23 with a lecture by Jennifer Hamer, Kahn, partner at Blackwell, Peper, Martin LLP, and Marianne Wesson, professor of law and aWolf-Nichol Fellow at the University of Denver, presenting "Where Have You Gone, Perry Mason?"

At 11 a.m. Feb. 12 — Chai R. Feldblum, professor and director of the Federal Legislation Clinic at the Georgetown University Law Center, presenting "Filling the Tilt: Equal Rights Lessons From Religion, Justice, Cultural Orientation and Transgender." Feldblum is a former legislative counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington, D.C., and a member of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

At 11 a.m. Feb. 19 — Therese Henderson, senior judge for the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of California, lecturing on "Social Change, Judicial Activism and the Public Interest Lawyer." Henderson is a former attorney for the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department.

At 2 p.m. March 14 — Deborah L. Rhode, the Ernest W. McFarland Professor of Law and director of the Rock Center on Legal Ethics and the Legal Profession at Stanford University, speaking on "Access to Justice: Ethics, Accountability and Professional Realities." Rhode is a former law professor at Loyola and a practicing lawyer.

The annual award was named for White, who retired in 1997 as vice chancellor for human resources after 30 years with the University. While exceptional effort and contribution can be described in many ways, those making nominations for the award are asked to consider actions that strengthen the University's ability to promote learning: help create a positive working and learning environment; enhance the University's reputation; and contribute to the community and the University's competitiveness.

Nominations must be submitted in writing to Gloria White Distinguished Service Award, c/o Office of Human Resources, 1 Brookings Drive, Box 1059, Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. 63130-1059.

For more information, call 935-3000.

The Office of Human Resources is seeking nominations for the Gloria W. White Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes a staff member for exceptional effort and contributions that result in the enhancement of the University.

Nominations must be submitted in writing to Gloria White Distinguished Service Award, c/o Office of Human Resources, 1 Brookings Drive, Box 1059, Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. 63130-1059.

GWB spring lecture series to get under way Jan. 23

By Jessica N. Roberts

The George Warren Brown School of Social Work's spring lecture series will address a broad spectrum of social issues, ranging from the working poor to welfare reform.

The series will kick off Jan. 23 with a lecture by Jennifer Hamer, Kahn, partner at Blackwell, Peper, Martin LLP, and Marianne Wesson, professor of law and a Wolf-Nichol Fellow at the University of Denver, presenting "Where Have You Gone, Perry Mason?"

Other lectures in the series, which is free and open to the public, include:

Jan. 30 — Jacqueline Jones, Ph.D., the Truman Professor of American Civilization at Brandeis University, will speak on "Working Poor: A View From History."

Feb. 13 — Elizabeth Clark, Ph.D., executive director of the National Association of Social Workers, will discuss "The Future of Social Work."

Feb. 20 — Francis Slay, mayor of St. Louis, will address "Serving Our Cities: The Need for Public-Private Partnership."

Mar. 7 — Martrim Abramovitz, Ph.D., professor of social work and social welfare policy at Hunter College School of Social Work, will examine "Welfare Reform 2002."

More information is available online at www.gwb.wustl.edu. For more information, call 935-6661.
Klein, Semenkovich appointed directors

BY JIM DRYDEN

Samuel Klein, M.D., and Clay E. Semenkovich, M.D., have been appointed division directors in the Department of Medicine, WashU officials announced.

Klein will direct the Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology, and Semenkovich will direct the newly named Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Lipid Research, a combination of two former divisions.

Klein and Semenkovich will replace longtime administrators Philip E. Cryer, M.D., John O. Hollosy, M.D., and Jeanne Schonfeld, M.D., who are retiring.

"I am delighted Dr. Cryer, Dr. Hollosy and Dr. Schonfeld will remain active in research in our department, and we will continue to benefit from their expertise," said Kenneth S. Polonsky, M.D., the Adolphus Busch Professor and head of the Department of Medicine. "It is through their efforts and the programs that they established that we have been able to attract individuals of the stature of Drs. Sam Klein and Clay Hollosy to these positions. I congratulate them on their new responsibilities and express our department's gratitude to Drs. Cryer, Hollosy and Schonfeld." Klein

Klein

is the Bessie and Maynard June Center Professor of Medicine and Nutritional Sciences, also in the Department of Medicine. He is the medical director of the University's General Clinical Research Center and the decision director of the Washington University Transplantation Nutrition Support Service.

Semenkovich, who is also the head of the Division of Atherosclerosis, Nutrition and Lipid Research since 1994, Klein has developed several new clinical trials which programs aimed at prevention and therapy for nutrition-related diseases. In 1998, he established the University Weight Management Center, which provides long-term medical and surgical therapy for obesity. His research activities are focused on studying the relationship between obesity and the cardiovascular system.

Semenkovich, a professor of medicine and of cell biology and physiology, has served as associate director of the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Lipid Research and assistant program director of the University's General Clinical Research Center. He is also the founding program director of the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health.

Semenkovich's research is focused on connections between diabetes and heart disease. He has studied genes in muscle to look for clues about what happens during exercise, hoping to mimic those processes in individuals who are at risk for heart disease.

He has also been able to use genetic technologies to create a strain of mice that doesn't exercise and can eat a high-fat diet without gaining weight or developing insulin resistance. The pre-disposed to diabetes. Recent observations also suggest they don't develop clogged arteries, Cryer, the Irene E. and Michael K. Karl Professor of Endocrinology and Metabolism, has served as director of the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Lipid Research since 1985 and as program director for the School of Medicine's Clinical Research Center since 1978. He has made important contributions to understanding how the body protects itself against hyperglycemia (low blood sugar) and how those protective mechanisms fail in patients with insulin-dependent diabetes.

Semenkovich is known for his expertise in functional capacity, a field that has traditionally been considered an inevitable part of aging.

"Semenkovich is the most comprehensive, broad-minded, and best scientist in his field," said F. Faddis, M.D., assistant professor of medicine. "He is one of the most important therapies developed in the last decade for treatment of severe heart failure." Faddis and Joseph G. Rogers, M.D., associate professor of medicine, led the University team in the St. Louis study, in collaboration with Barnes Jewish Hospital, which had one of the largest enrollments in the trial. The trial, called COMPANION (Comparison of Medical Therapy, Pacing and Defibrillation in Chronic Heart Failure), was sponsored by Guidant Corp. Roughly 3,500 children suffer from congestive heart failure, in which the heart cannot sufficiently supply the body with blood. In about one-third of those individuals, the heart's electric signal fails to reach the right and left lower chambers of the heart. As a result, the children do not contract at the same time. Blood therefore sloughs back and forth, rather than being forced outward by a two-sided, synchronized effort.

Patients with this form of congestive heart failure do not benefit from traditional implantable pacemakers, which send electric signals only to the right side of the heart. Moreover, about half of all deaths from heart failure are sudden, which impedes the unexpected heart rhythm abnormality known as tachycardia. The COMPANION trial evaluated the ability of a two-compartment device to prevent life-threatening heart rhythm abnormalities. A biventricular pacemaker, which has two leads that lower chambers and thereby re- coordinates contractions, and a defibrillator, which can jolt the heart back to life if it suddenly stops beating properly.

Researchers planned to recruit 2,100 people to enroll in the study at more than 100 institutions around the country. However, after enrolling more than 1,300 patients it became clear that the combination device was about 40 percent more effective in reducing mortality than traditional therapy, and the trial was terminated.

"This treatment has the potential to drastically improve the quality of life for about 30 percent of all patients who are severely limited by heart failure," Faddis said. "It's been particularly gratifying for me to participate in this trial because of the improvements most of my patients have experienced.

Device helps reduce death from heart disease

BY GILA Z. REICHER

A new implantable device has been found to reduce the risk of death from congestive heart failure by 40 percent, triggering the early halt of a national trial of the device.

"This trial was the largest in history to test an implanted pacemaker or defibrillator, and it represents a landmark study for the treatment of congestive heart failure," said Mitchell N. Faddis, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine. "I think this is one of the most important therapies developed in the last decade for treatment of severe heart failure." Faddis and Joseph G. Rogers, M.D., associate professor of medicine, led the University team in the St. Louis study, in collaboration with Barnes Jewish Hospital, which had one of the largest enrollments in the trial. The trial, called COMPANION (Comparison of Medical Therapy, Pacing and Defibrillation in Chronic Heart Failure), was sponsored by Guidant Corp. Roughly 3,500 children suffer from congestive heart failure, in which the heart cannot sufficiently supply the body with blood. In about one-third of those individuals, the heart's electric signal fails to reach the right and left lower chambers of the heart. As a result, the children do not contract at the same time. Blood therefore sloughs back and forth, rather than being forced outward by a two-sided, synchronized effort.

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Study aims to find best treatment for kids with mild asthma

BY DAME DUKIE WILLIAMS

The School of Medicine is participating in a national study to determine which medication should be used first to treat children with mild asthma.

The Pediatric Asthma Control Trial (PACT) will evaluate three popular medications to find out which one is most effective in treating children with mild asthma. The medications are: Singular (Anexa Pharmaceuticals), the Flornisal (Flornisal) regular- ly or using only as needed to combat their symptoms.

To eliminate the possibility of disturbing the results, children, parents and researchers will not know which is being used by the children. All children in the study will receive study medication one week before the study, which will be continued throughout the 12-month treatment period.

Asthma, the most common chronic childhood disease, is caused by inflammation and swelling of the small airways in the lungs. During an attack the airways become swollen and constricted with mucus and muscle tension, causing the airway to narrow the normal flow of air. This causes patients to cough and wheeze and feel a sense of tightness in their chest.

"We really want to control the disease long-term so that children have the fewest symptoms and the least chance of being able to play and go to school," Strunk said.

In general, patients can continue using albuterol. Each child's program will be monitored for one year through seven or eight visits that will include physical examinations, blood tests, breathing tests and allergy skin tests. They also will receive three follow-up phone calls.

Medical care received in the study and asthma medications are free. Patients will receive $50 for each visit and $15 for each phone call.

The study will determine the percentage of days without asthma symptoms for each drug during the 12-month treatment period.

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Cowboy Envy, Isle of Klezbos at Edison Jan. 18

The women of Cowboy Envy—(from left) "Buffalo K" (Kathleen Hahn), "Cowboy Girl" (Jennifer Galbreath) and "Frenchy" (Berne Poliakoff) with "Repin" Rodger French.

at festivals, universities and concert halls around the United States and has released two critically acclaimed CDs, "Cowboy Girl" (1999) and "Wagons Rollin'" (2000). Also in 2001 performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., can be viewed online at www.cowboyeny.com.

The New York-based Isle of Klezbos has been called, "not only the best nonconformist, eastern European Jewish party music band on the planet, but also one of the best" (Trifecta Shows, New York City).

Since 1998, the group has infused traditional Yiddish folk tunes with irreverent humor, dance, fill-you-up food and influences ranging from folk, rock and jazz to Bluegrass, R&B,福音和Middle Eastern. Isle of Klezbos has been featured on CNN's WorldBeat and PBS in "The Fiji and has performed at such distinguished venues as the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, the Jessuppalooza Festival in New York, BAMafest at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbey Center in Amherst, Mass.

Their most recent studio recording, its debut CD (recorded with "sister group" Metropolitan Klezmer), has been heard on more than 100 radio stations worldwide and was named top 10 klezmer recording of 2000 by klezmerbash.com. In addition to their weeklong tour together, each woman in this klezmer "supergroup" enjoys a distinguished solo career. Trumpet/flugelhorn artist Pam Poff is featured on "Ivrit," featuring Natalie Merchant, the Indigo Girls, girls, Cath Coffey, Bruce Springsteen, Robert Palmer, Queen Latifah and Sarah McLachlan.

Accomplished Rebecca Fischer, known for her "Cleveland Klezmer" sound (the Jewish Cultural Heritage Center in Brooklyn, N.Y.) and the National Yiddish Book Festival in New York, BAMcafe at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbey Center in Amherst, Mass.

The performance is made possible with support from the Missouri Arts Council state agency; and the Regional Arts Commissions, St. Louis. For more information, call 935-6543.

Pulling Out All the Stops • Understanding LASIK • THWAK

Lectures

Friday, Jan. 17

9:15 a.m. Pediatric Grand Rounds. "Update on the Genetics of Autism and Developmental Disabilities." Robert A. Swanson, M.D., FAAP, Rapha Children's Hospital, 935-4500.

Monday, Jan. 20

1:30 p.m. Diabetes and Endocrinology Seminar. "Understanding the Role of the Endocrine System in Metabolism," Lauren L. Ellerby, M.D., FAAP, Children's Hospital, 935-5115.

Tuesday, Jan. 21

3:30 p.m. Psychiatry and Neurology Seminar. "Understanding LDS and ASD," Andrea L. Marks, M.D., PhD, Washington University School of Medicine, 935-7555.

Wednesday, Jan. 22


Thursday, Jan. 23


Concert

Who: Cowboy Envy and Isle of Klezbos
Where: Edison Theatre
When: 8 p.m. Jan. 18
Tickets: $27.50 for University faculty and staff and for non-University students; $13 for University students — and — are available through the Edison Theatre Box Office, 935-6543, and atOMET Outlets.

Clarinet/alto saxophonist Debra Kestenroth performs, composes and records with Latin jazz group Los Mas Vallen- tes. Bassist Catherine Pepper has recorded a wide variety of jazz, rock, blues, classical and world records and tours with the ac- country combo Hem.

Tickets for the University performance are $27 — $22 for University faculty and staff and for non-University students — $13 for University students — and are available through the Edison Theatre Box Office and through all MET Outlets.

The performance is made possible with support from the Missouri Arts Council state agency; and the Regional Arts Commissions, St. Louis. For more information, call 935-6543.

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Contemporary German exhibit opens today at Gallery of Art

By ELAM OTTEN

Over the last several years, the Gallery of Art at Washington University has been developing a strong, significant collection of contemporary German art. The gallery's focus on German artists and the larger contemporary art scene is a testament to the university's commitment to presenting the most vibrant and socially relevant art of today.

The gallery is currently presenting a significant exhibition of work by contemporary German artists, including a wide range of mediums and styles that reflect the diverse expression of artists working in the present day. The exhibition features works by well-known artists such as Gerhard Richter, Sigmar Polke, and Anselm Kiefer, who have made significant contributions to the field of contemporary art.

The exhibition is open to the public and is an opportunity for visitors to experience the dynamic and evolving world of contemporary German art. It is a must-see for anyone interested in the arts, especially those with a particular interest in German art and culture.

**Contemporary German Art: Recent Acquisitions and the Collection**

The exhibition is part of a larger initiative by the gallery to expand its collection of contemporary art, particularly in the field of German art. The gallery has been actively acquiring works by contemporary German artists, and the exhibition is a celebration of these acquisitions.

The exhibition includes works by a diverse range of artists, from well-established figures to emerging talents. It offers a comprehensive overview of the contemporary art scene in Germany, with a focus on the themes and techniques that are most relevant to the present day.

The gallery has also organized a series of events and programs in conjunction with the exhibition, including lectures, workshops, and discussions with artists and experts in the field. These events provide opportunities for visitors to engage with the art and to learn more about the contemporary art scene in Germany.

**Concluding Thoughts**

The exhibition at the Gallery of Art is a testament to the university's commitment to presenting the most vibrant and socially relevant art of today. It is a must-see for anyone interested in the arts, especially those with a particular interest in German art and culture. The exhibition offers a comprehensive overview of the contemporary art scene in Germany, with a focus on the themes and techniques that are most relevant to the present day. The gallery has also organized a series of events and programs in conjunction with the exhibition, including lectures, workshops, and discussions with artists and experts in the field. These events provide opportunities for visitors to engage with the art and to learn more about the contemporary art scene in Germany.
Hospital, Ley spent three years at the University before returning to the University as a professor of internal medicine. He joined the School of Medicine in 1986 and currently serves as director of the Division of Oncology's stem cell biology section, as well as director of the Stem Cell Cancer Center for basic research.

Peterson also is professor of anatomy and neurobiology and of radiology, and associate professor of neurological surgery in the School of Medicine. He additionally serves as professor of bioengineering at the School of Engineering & Applied Science and professor of psychology in Arts & Sciences.

Peterson is known for his research on how the brain processes information and functions during daily life. A pioneer in brain imaging, he has developed modern techniques, including positron emission tomography (PET), which allow scientists to image the brain in unprecedented detail. He is known for his work on the brain networks that underlie language, memory, and attention. He also investigates the effects of brain disorders such as Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, and Parkinson's disease. His research has contributed to our understanding of the neural mechanisms underlying these conditions.
Arquette, assistant professor of oncology

Matthew Arquette, M.D., associate professor of oncology in the Siteman Cancer Center died suddenly at his Valparaiso, Ind., home Dec. 5, 2002. He was 41.

As a member of the Arvin L. Stitman Cancer Center at the School of Medicine and Barnes-Jewish Hospital, he was known for his rapport with patients. He received Barnes-Jewish Hospital’s "caring spirit" award several times.

"He was spectacular with his patients and always available to his colleagues," said Paula Facasso, M.D., associate professor of medicine and program leader of developmental therapeutics in the Siteman Cancer Center.

Arquette was also active in the development of new cancer treatments for cancer of the head and neck, lung, esophagus, soft tissue and brain.

After graduating from Northern Illinois University, Arquette earned a medical degree from the School of Medicine in 1989. He completed his residency in 1992 and then a fellowship in Medical Oncology at the University of Illinois in 1995.

Arquette was active in the development of new cancer treatments for the cancer of the head and neck, lung, esophagus, soft tissue and brain.

Arquette enjoyed reading Shakespeare with his grandmother at his grandmother’s house in Lincoln Park, Illinois. He was survived by his mother, Evelyn Barten, and his brother, Kepfer, in Lincoln Park, Illinois.

Arquette and his family have also been noted for their support of the arts, particularly in the field of Shakespearean studies. He was known for his passion for the plays of William Shakespeare, and his research in the area of Shakespearean literature and performance. He was an active member of the Shakespeare Society of America, and served as the editor of the society’s journal, Shakespeare Studies. He was also a frequent contributor to the journal, with several articles published in the past 10 years.
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS
Jan. 17, 2003
WASHINGTON People

While wireless access to the Internet is almost commonplace because many laptops and PDAs include wireless networking capabilities, peer-to-peer communication among portable hosts and devices is used only to a very limited degree today.

Bringing such mobile computing — from the wireless classroom to smart cars and robots on the factory floor to intelligence operations, to name just a few applications — into widespread usage is part of the mission of the University's Mobile Computing Laboratory (MobiLab) established by Gruia-Catalin Roman, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

Roman has been concerned with the impact of mobility on software development practices for nearly a decade. He sees software engineers faced with unprecedented technical challenges, increasing financial pressures aimed at reducing delivery times, and growing public expectations for high levels of usability and dependability.

In his view, rapid development of mobile applications demands a new way of thinking and aggressive experimentation if a new set of best design practices is to emerge soon.

"We want to reach the point where we feel comfortable spreading software updates from vehicle to vehicle across high ways, collecting environmental data across an entire fleet of vehicles, and having cars negotiate passage through interactions without traffic lights, stop signs or sensors embedded in the road," Roman said.

MobiLab receives support from the National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research and Ford Motor Co. The latter has led to including car-to-car interactions in the repertoire of best-bed applications.

Roman's research in mobile computing spans software foundations, algorithm design and systems development. His group, known for its close-knit atmosphere and high expectations, often attracts visitors from Europe in addition to undergraduates looking for exciting research.

Some 30 years ago, Roman left his native Romania courtesy of an unexpected Fulbright Fellowship. He started as a freshman with advanced credits at the University of Pennsylvania, where he was part of that university's first computer science undergraduate class. When he had two years of college in Romania prior to arriving at Penn, all of his studies were basic math and engineering. He had never even seen a computer.

In his first semester at Penn, he enrolled in five computer science courses, ranging from sophomores to doctoral level.

"Despite getting good grades, I only later on really understood the material that taught that semester," he recalled.

By sophomore year, Roman passed the doctoral qualifying exams. A department that showed unprecedented flexibility made it possible to learn within the span of only five years — a bachelor's degree, cum laude, in computer science and a doctorate in computer science and engineering (1974) and a doctorate in computer and information sciences (1976).

At 25, often younger than many of his students, Roman began his Washington University career in 1975.

The Department of Computer Science had been established just the year before and had a faculty of only five. Accordingly, much of his energy then was focused on curriculum development.

Two of his first classes developed at the University — "Software Engineering Workshop" (CS456) and "Programming Systems and Languages" (CS455) — became part of the local folklore, with alumni still talking about the profound influence these classes had on their careers to this day.

"No other classes I taught since then thrilled more with success than these," Roman said nostalgically.

CS456 was also one of the first software engineering courses in the country, and it evolved rapidly due to Roman's successful consulting practice.

"I made the class emulate a company setting with students working in teams and developing large software systems, only with enhanced techniques and more rigorous designs," Roman said.

Classroom material was rigorously taught and tested in industry and fed back into the classroom instruction. His impact continues as his research reputation within the software engineering community

helped him steer to St. Louis (for the first time in the Midwest) the 2003 International Conference on Software Engineering, for which he will serve as general chair.

Among his hobbies, Roman's interest in art is more visible in his Ivvan Hall office, which features his own bonsai trees and paintings. He may explain, in part, his promoting close ties with the schools of Art and Architecture and his efforts to recruit the facilities that made it possible to establish the Media and Machine Lab.

"In flair for art goes beyond art. It is also reflected in the passion for art, painting, sculpture and some of the research thrusts. For example, during the first decade of this century, we have seen a revolution in art for mobile computing," Roman said.

"Catalin Roman was my first faculty recruit, and he set a standard that I found tough to sustain. Since becoming chair, Catalin has dedicated himself tirelessly to the department's welfare and, as a result, he has seen it grow and prosper." JEROME R. COX JR.

Setting high standards

Computer science and engineering
Chair Gruia-Catalin Roman promotes innovative research and teaching excellence

By TONY FITZPATRICK

For Catalin Roman, Ph.D., professor and chair of computer science and engineering, and his family in their University City home: wife Diane, daughter Ophelia and son Nathaniel.

Gracia-Catalin Roman, Ph.D., professor and chair of computer science and engineering, and his family in their University City home: wife Diane, daughter Ophelia and son Nathaniel.

Camaraderie is high in the Mobile Computing Laboratory (MobiLab), directed by Gruia-Catalin Roman, Ph.D., professor and chair of computer science and engineering. Roman (standing) visits with some of the MobiLab graduate students: (from left) Radu Handorean, Christine Julien, Jamie Payton and Rohan Sen.

Roman had two years of college and opportunities to shape minds.

"I am doing my best to continue the same level of excellence that he's taught to me," Roman said. "He is an exceptional teacher, and I am doing my best to continue the same level of excellence that he's taught to me."