**Medical News: Tongue reconstruction benefits patients with mouth cancer**

By Tony Fitzpatrick

When plants are taken out of the wild and cultivated for the market, they lose much of their genetic diversity. Genetic variation provides the foundation for the evolution of species; in cultivated plants, it allows breeding of more resistant plants, important to the sustainability of agriculture.

Plant biologists at the University and the Missouri Botanical Garden are tracking changes in the amount of genetic diversity in a Central American crop, jocote (Malpighia emarginata), which is one of the most generous contributors to the campaign. I hope that we will once again be able to make the kind of contribution that represents our commitment to the importance of the arts in our region.

University raises more than $25,000 last year, has education programs across the region. I am encouraged by the arts, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton wrote in a letter to University employees. "Some sit in the audience and watch great performances while others perform or create their own works of art. Either way, we are a better community."

For 40 years, the Arts & Education Council has been helping St. Louisians enjoy and experience the arts and see the world in new, creative ways.

**Community Outreach: “Know Your Rights” workshops aim to educate**

By Samuel B. Grant Professor of Medicine and professor of molecular microbiology. But no one has known how to grow them in the lab.

**Washington People: Consuelo Wilkins is at the forefront of Alzheimer's research**

Dr. Wilkins helped identify a protein that triggers inflammation in the brain, which could help develop new treatments for Alzheimer’s and other diseases.

**University launches 40th annual A&E Council fund drive**

By Elizabeth O’Toole

The Arts & Education (A&E) Council of Greater St. Louis has raised more than $63 million to support hundreds of St. Louis-area arts, cultural and educational organizations. Last year alone, A&E raised more than $2 million for arts and arts education programs across the metro area.

University employees are again being asked to contribute to the A&E Council’s annual fund drive. “Every day, in schools and neighborhoods across our community, someone is being engaged by the arts,” Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton wrote in a letter to University employees. "Some sit in the audience and watch great performances while others perform or create their own works of art. Either way, we are a better community."

For 40 years, the Arts & Education Council has been helping St. Louisians enjoy and experience the arts and see the world in new, creative ways. Wrighton continued. "For all of those 40 years, the Washington University community has been one of the most generous contributors to the campaign. I hope that we will once again be able to make the kind of contribution that represents our commitment to the importance of the arts in our region."

Education Council has been helping St. Louisians enjoy and experience the arts and see the world in new, creative ways. Wrighton continued. "For all of those 40 years, the Washington University community has been one of the most generous contributors to the campaign. I hope that we will once again be able to make the kind of contribution that represents our commitment to the importance of the arts in our region."
Using money wisely
University tops charity list of consistently excellent organizations

BY BARBARA REA

Charity Navigator, a national organization devoted to ranking and evaluating the results of U.S. nonprofit organizations, has ranked Washington University first in its Top 10 List of consistently excellent, accountable-giving organizations. According to Charity Navigator's website, the evaluation is based on two consecutive years of fiscal-year data. From this information, it named the University the best nonprofit institution in the country for using its financial resources wisely.

The University is in good company as it tops the list. Completing the top 10 are New York University, Give Kids the World, YWCA of Seattle - King County/Soehlheim Community, Columbia University, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Gates for Community Self-Help, the University of Notre Dame, The 92nd Street Y and the Academy Foundation.

"It's wonderful to receive recognition by Charity Navigator for our excellence in fiscal responsibility," Chancellor James McKeel says. "Our team has worked hard and creatively to be both efficient and effective, and the resources developed have been vital to the advancement of our education, research and service mission."

People give to organizations they believe in and that will use their money wisely. This has always been a hallmark of Washington University and a defining element in all our donor opportunities." Charity Navigator is a 501(c)(3) organization created in 2001 to provide a guide to intelligent giving. It evaluates more than 1,700 organizations, judged on these criteria:

1. Tax Status: Only tax-exempt organizations with a 501(c)(3) status.
2. Financial Support: Only organizations that seek support from individuals.
3. Diversity: Only organizations that provide a variety of programs.
4. Geographic location: Organizations located throughout the United States.

"Our government is getting smaller; our societies more polarized and insular. For this country to stay great, we will be dependent on charities to provide the services we need. And those charities will be dependent on the individual giver, and the giver deserves to be treated like his dollar is valued and this marketplace is serious. When that is done, we all win." - Chairman William J. Proctor

Newman Center gala replaces traditional brunch

BY SUSAN KILLENBERG MCGINN

Feb. 10.

The annual brunch benefiting the Catholic Student Center at Washington University is being transformed into an evening gala to be held Feb. 22 at the Frattonian Hilton, 1335 S. Lindbergh Blvd., also offers instruction in Catholic theology and philosophy.

Students associated with the center-participate in many social service and learning activities, including discussions on current social justice issues, attending lecture series and volunteering through local, national and international organizations. Alumna Leora Backman and Sheona Buckman are co-chairs of the gala committee. Individual tickets to the gala are $95. For more information or to reserve, contact Linda Dommer, development director, at 935-2977 or via e-mail at dommer@washucsc.org.

The deadline to sign up is Feb. 10.

Special programs and events will be announced as the yearlong observance approaches.

"It's wonderful to receive financial support: It's wonderful to receive this wonderful support," said the Catholic Student Center's \"Doc\" Jane Yandle.

Washington University in St. Louis

Charitable giving workshops

BY JESSICA N. ROBERTS

Arts & Sciences senior Natalie Chalabi and third-year student Ebony Woods are helping educate the St. Louis community about its constitutional rights.

The "Know Your Rights Workshops" that they conduct aim to educate individuals on their rights and responsibilities when dealing with law enforcement.

The project is a joint effort between the American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri (ACLU-EM) and the American Friends Service Committee.

At a recent workshop for the Parent-Student-Teacher Committee at Jennings High School, Woods asked the audience to consider the importance of the Constitution and how these rights apply to interactions with the police.

Among the topics the University students presented were what constitutes a legal search of a person and a person's home; how to file a complaint against police; whether police can lie while interrogating a person; how long people can be detained by police; and how people should conduct themselves when pulled over by police.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for law students to learn more about the community and to help their fellow community members. When that is done, we all win."

- Chairman William J. Proctor

Washington University community news

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School of Medicine Update

New technique for tongue reconstruction developed

By Darrell E. Ward

School of Medicine surgeons have developed new techniques for reconstructing the tongue during surgery for tongue cancer.

The researchers found that the new method allows for a patient's own tongue to be replaced. They used the method to successfully reconstruct the tongue of a patient who had a tumor in the tongue. The surgery involved removing the cancer and replacing it with a new tongue.

"As surgeons, we are most concerned about removing all of the cancer, but we also want to preserve the patient's quality of life," said lead author Bruce H. Haughey, M.D., associate professor of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery. "This work strives to improve both.

Each year, about 30,000 Americans develop cancers of the lining of the mouth and the tongue. Most are caused by tobacco use and alcohol use, and the tongue is the site most often affected.

The tongue is a complex and specialized organ that performs many functions, including speech and swallowing.

Barnes-Jewish Hospital, School of Medicine and Barnes-Jewish Hospital are essential for speech and swallowing.

The tongue's most important function, however, is to protect the airway from swallowed food and liquids. Loss of the tongue can lead to aspiration of the food or liquid into the lungs, which can cause serious and sometimes fatal pneumonia.

Psychological support is essential for these patients, Haughey said.

"We try to describe before surgery how their life will change, but until people walk in these shoes, they don't realize how awful it is," he said.

Loss of tissue in the tongue can profoundly affect a person's life. The inability to enunciate words, swallow food or liquid, and other motor functions can seriously impair the quality of life.

"These things are our hearts and minds as we do these surgeries," Haughey said. "The study involved 43 patients, average age 59, who had half or more of their tongue removed and who received tongue reconstruction at the time of surgery.

The surgeons reconstructed the forward (anterior) portion of the tongue in 30 of the patients and the base of the tongue in 13 of them.

Replacement tongues were fashioned using techniques developed by Haughey and his team to provide the optimum shape, size and mobility for speech and swallowing.

In most cases, replacement tongues were fashioned from tissue taken from the forearm or thigh. Swallowing ability was assessed on a validated scale. Fifty-four percent of the 80 patients tested for swallowing ability were able to swallow with mild to moderate difficulty, enabling them to meet their nutritional requirements by mouth alone. In other studies using alternate tongue reconstruction methods, 39 to 62 percent of patients were able to eat regular or soft diets.

Patients received tongue-base replacement had an overall intelligibility score of 98 percent, while those receiving forward-tongue replacement had an overall intelligibility of 76 percent. Other studies report intelligibility at 78 and 40 to 50 percent, respectively.

"This study is just a step along the way," Haughey said. "But we hope it will help more patients recover the ability to swallow and speak.

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The way forward for kidney failure.

"In this particular patient who did not respond to standard therapy, immunosuppression seemed to have been successful," said Morey A. Blinder, M.D., professor of medicine and of pathology and of immunology. "These results are promising for others suffering from similarly resistant cases of TTP.

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**University Events**

**Assembly Series to spotlight poetry writers**

**By Barbara Rea**

*The University is home to the Princeton University Press, and the Assembly Series will feature three of them in their Witten Institute Feb. 11.*

The poetry of Mary Jo Bang and Carl Phillips, the poets of the 1990s, who will be joined by Richard A. Watson will be read at 11 a.m. in Graham Chapel.

Bang, assistant professor of English at the Georgia Institute of Technology, will present her poetry program on Feb. 11, 1997, in the Bielefeld Prize and the Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writers Award. Bang's work has been published in numerous journals, including The New Republic, The Paris Review, and the New American Quarterly and New American Writing. In addition, her books have been published in the Bread Loaf Anthology and Best American Poetry — a list of recent collections is included in the annual University-Georgia Press Contemporary Poetry Series. Bang is serving as the first director of the Creative Writing Program at the Princeton University.

Carl Phillips has received a Pulitzer Prize for Poetry and an award-winning poet. Her work, including her selection for inclusion in the 1995 National Book Award, is widely available in the New York Times, The New Yorker, The Atlantic Monthly, The Paris Review, and in 1995 she received a B.A. in fine arts from Columbia University. Phillips was a finalist for the National Book Award of the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Lambda Literary Award.

**Film**

*Film*  Saturday, Jan. 31

7 a.m. Berlin Abyneh, Habitus, Segret, dir. Presented by the Gallery of Art, 935-4620 or visit the Assembly Series web page, wupa.wustl.edu/assembly.

**Exhibitions**

*Contemporary Genres of Art: Recent Acquisitions* (ARTM 1090) (April 15) Gallery of Art, 935-4523.

Cuba Si: Fragments of Havana

Werner, Swiss Federal Inst. of Technology, Zurich, Switzerland, sponsored by the Center for the Study of Latin American and Caribbean Art, 935-4523.

**Lectures**

Friday, Jan. 31 9:15 a.m. Public Health Roundtables.

Tuesday, Feb. 4 3 p.m. Immunology Research Seminar.

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Basketball continues record-setting streaks

The No. 1-ranked men’s basketball team extended the best start in school history with a 26-game winning streak when it won at home wins Jan. 24 and 26. The Bears have won their 19th straight game and their 26th straight regular-season game. They are the first team in NCAA history to win their first 26 games.

The Bears won both games by double-digit margins, scoring 71-69 at Carnegie Mellon University on Sunday. The Bears held a 7-13 lead after 1:25 of the first half and were outscored 32-27 in the final 36 minutes.

Jeffries led the Bears with 18 points, while Boettger swept both backstroke events, winning the 200-meter backstroke (2:29.68) and the 500-yard backstroke (5:37.65).

The women’s team won 11 individual events and also captured three relay championships. A total of six freshmen who each won two events, led the Bears, Allie Boettger swept the 100-yard and 500-yard freestyle (2:55.20, 50.76). Taylor Fancher won the 200 individual medley (2:13.46) and the 100 butterfly (1:00.53) and improved her 50 freestyle (24.84). The weekend was capped off with its fifth straight victory over Carnegie Mellon University. The Bears scored the final 15 of their first 16 shots to reclaim the lead at 71-69 midway through the overtime.

Senior forward Chris Jeffries led the Bears in record action in the Field House.

Jeffries leads the No. 1-ranked Bears with 20.4 points per game and 36 steals on the season.

In the second half, the Bears exploded in the second half and scored the final 15 straight points to set the record in the final minute.

The yellowjackets then scored the final five points. The women’s team won 11 individual events and also captured three relay championships. A total of six freshmen who each won two events, led the Bears, Allie Boettger swept the 100-yard and 500-yard freestyle (2:55.20, 50.76). Taylor Fancher won the 200 individual medley (2:13.46) and the 100 butterfly (1:00.53) and improved her 50 freestyle (24.84). The weekend was capped off with its fifth straight victory over Carnegie Mellon University. The Bears scored the final 15 of their first 16 shots to reclaim the lead at 71-69 midway through the overtime.

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A shabby man caries a briefcase through the decaying streets of Old Havana. A young woman guards a booth of tourist tchotchkes, beaming in her pink and white Guayra. Shirtless children rub shoulders with a slim, young model waits coolly on an abandoned military barracks. "Havana is a very beautiful place. Full of beautiful and compulsively deteriorated," said Carol Safar, professor of architecture.

An accomplished photographer, Safar visited Havana in June for a conference sponsored by the American College of Architects (ACSA). The fruits of that trip can be seen in Cuba: St. Francis of Assisi, an exhibition of approximately two-dozen black-and-white photographs, running Jan. 31-Feb. 21 in Givens Hall. The show is free and open to the public and with a reception at 5 p.m. today. At 6:30 p.m. a slide show of images will be presented in William Lounge in Umrath Hall. The first 50 students to arrive will receive free tickets. For more information, call 935-7130.

Students won’t want to miss this opportunity,” JENNIFER KOZAK said.

Novelist Dellynn to Debut on Feb. 5

Dellynn Jane DeLynn will read from her work at 8 p.m. Feb. 4 for The Reading Series. The reading is free and open to the public and will be held in Hurst Lounge, located on the second floor of the Random Library. For more information, call 935-4523.

Novelist Jane DeLynn was commissioned to write a novel about three friends with a connection to the world of art who were simultaneously making careers of their own. The novel, "Get Your Career Path," and a collection of short stories, "Catch and Live Your Dream," will be published immediately after the reading. The capstone event will be a reading tour of the country.

ACSA conferences received.

"The professionals are excited to be able to discuss their careers, their choices, and their goals. The students won't want to miss this opportunity," Jezek said.

Other seminars are:

• Feb. 18: Beata Grant, Ph.D., scholar of medieval literature.

• Feb. 22: John Bowen, Ph.D., assistant professor of English in Arts & Sciences.

"We actually did most of this work in January, but it's very difficult to capture," Wiltenburg said. "Our situation, about the choices we make, is a rich and diverse menu."
Live from the Women’s Building Richard Chapman (left), senior lecturer in Film and Media Studies in Arts & Sciences, introduces former CNN producer Robert Wiener during a question-and-answer session with students and faculty Jan. 24 in the Women’s Building. Chapman and Wiener co-wrote the HBO original film Live From Baghdad, recently nominated for three Golden Globe Awards. The film stars Michael Keaton as Wiener and focuses on his experiences filing live reports — with fellow CNN producer Ingrid Fronfark, anchor Bernard Shaw and reporters Peter Arnett and John Holman — from the Iraqi capital even as the bombs were falling during the onset of the 1991 Gulf War.

A

At the Oct. 4, 2002, and Dec. 6, 2002, meetings of the Board of Trustees, the following faculty members were granted tenure or appointed with tenure, effective immediately unless otherwise noted.

Promoted with tenure: • Laura J. Bietre, M.D., to associate professor of psychiatry • Laura L. Duggan, M.D., to associate professor of neurology • Kerry Kornfeld, M.D., Ph.D., to associate professor of molecular biology and pharmacology • Daniel A. Low, Ph.D., to associate professor of radiation oncology • Jeffrey M. Hunter, Ph.D., to associate professor of medicine • James R. Skothe, Ph.D., to associate professor of genetics Appointed with tenure: • William C. Chapman, M.D., to professor of surgery • Robert H. Mach, Ph.D., professor of radiology • Jan A. Nohta, Ph.D., associate professor of medicine • Stuart A. Solin, Ph.D., the Charles M. Hofenberg Professor of Experimental Physics in Arts & Sciences, effective July 1, 2002. • L. Lewis Wall, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology • Denise E. Willey, Ph.D., associate professor of psychiatry • Luis H. Zapata, Ph.D., the Shanti K. Khandke Distinguished Professor of Social Work
An amazing connection

Consuelo Wilkins' lifelong passion for caring for older adults has been an inspiration to both her peers and patients.

BY KIMBERLY LAYING

Consuelo Wilkins, M.D.

Professional positions: Assistant professor of internal medicine; medical director of Barnes-Jewish Extended Care; clinical investigator in the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center.

Hobbies: Reading fiction, cooking, and playing tennis.

Favorite author: John Grisham.

Favorite recipes: Asian dishes.

Birthday: July 1, 1971.

Consuelo Wilkins (second from right) is joined by (from left) her aunt Alice Logan, cousin Tammi Logan and husband, Kenneth Wilkins II, at a local charity event.

Dr. Wilkins is patient, understanding, reassuring and sensitive to the concerns of older adults.... She speaks patients through the system. Nurse clinician Stacy Stiering, who has worked with Wilkins in the Memory and Aging Project for three years, says patients feel an instant comfort with Wilkins. "Consuelo is really down-to-earth; patients feel comfortable the minute they meet her." Stiering says. "But she doesn’t put a glossy coating on things. She is very open and honest, and patients really appreciate that." John C. Morris, M.D., the Carr says. "She has a wonderful approach to health care. She works closely with patients and makes them feel at ease. I don’t think there’s anything she can’t do." But clinical research offers the opportunity to combine both, "Just being around my patients and making them smile or seeing them get better is so fulfilling." Manners of the heart Nurses, physicians and patients agree that Wilkins', warm, comforting bedside manner stands out in a current medical climate that sometimes hurts patients through the system. Nurse clinician Stacy Stiering, who has worked with Wilkins in the Memory and Aging Project for three years, says patients feel an instant comfort with Wilkins. "Consuelo is really down-to-earth; patients feel comfortable the minute they meet her." Stiering says. "But she doesn’t put a glossy coating on things. She is very open and honest, and patients really appreciate that." John C. Morris, M.D., the Harvey A. and Dorisimaie Hacker Friedman Professor of Neurology and Immunology, admires the time and thoughtful Wilkins has with her patients. "Dr. Wilkins is patient, understanding, reassuring and sensitive to the concerns of older adults," Morris says. "Our current medical climate discourages doctors from spending more time with patients, but this is precisely what elderly persons most need and desire." She allows her patients ample time to discuss their problems and decisions. "When I talk to Wilkins, I don’t feel rushed. She has a considered approach to address their medical needs." Wilkins and Morris work closely together on the Memory and Aging Project, a program in which older adults, with and without memory difficulties, are followed to learn more about the causes of memory problems associated with aging. According to the Alzheimer’s Association, roughly 4 million Americans have Alzheimer’s — one in 10 people over age 65 and nearly half of people over age 85. Seventeen million Americans will have the disease by 2050 unless a cure or means of prevention is found. "The older population is growing exponentially, and there already aren’t enough geriatricians to take care of all the older adults," Wilkins says. "In the next 20 years, it will be critical that physicians incorporate geriatric principles into their care." One of her other research interests is to investigate the relationship between vitamin D and frailty. "Vitamin D is important in a number of issues such as bone and muscle health, and it may have more of an impact on mood and memory than we think," she says. Wilkins and her colleagues hope to soon receive funding to study how much vitamin D replacement therapy actually impacts people. "Consuelo is incredibly bright and stays very current on the latest literature," says David B. Carr, M.D., associate professor of medicine and administrative director of the Division of Geriatrics and Nutrition Science. "Yet she has that nice clinical judgment and at the same time utilizes new and important information from the literature." Morris adds that Wilkins embodies "the honesty and integrity of physicians who are sensitive and caring, but who also have mastered the new medical advances and techniques that allow them to provide state-of-the-art diagnoses and treatments.

Getting the word out

Wilkins wants to make that groundbreaking medical care accessible to minority populations. Morris says that Wilkins has been a tireless and active advocate for increasing the involvement of African Americans in University studies. Despite a high incidence rate and the importance of early detection, osteoporosis and Alzheimer’s disease are still under-diagnosed within the African-American community. In an effort to adjust that imbalance, Wilkins is involved with the St. Louis Chapter of the National Osteoporosis Foundation to ensure that research and diagnostic care opportunities are accessible and welcoming to local minority populations. Wilkins also serves on the Missouri Medical Political, a local group of minority physicians that treats everything from infant mortality to heart disease. Wilkins adds the cause by giving lectures at local churches and other gatherings to help increase awareness and education in the African-American community.

At the medical school, Wilkins serves on the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center’s African American Advisory Board. She also volunteers for the Saturday clinic at the medical school, where she supervises students as they treat patients. Although she enjoys treating and working with infants and young people with the Mound City Medical Forum and the Saturday clinics, Wilkins’ true passion lies with caring for older adults.

"In general, older adults are more accepting of life and of not being perfect," she explains. "Younger people tend to want their pain fixed quickly so they can get back to feeling perfect and get on with their lives. Older adults are often more accepting of the disease state and don’t have unrealistic expectations. They are also very appreciative and giving." Ever since she cared for her grandparents as a little girl in Mississippi, Wilkins’ lifelong passion for caring for older adults has been an inspiration to both her peers and patients. "Consuelo is extremely thoughtful, caring and, most importantly, she communicates well with her patients," Carr says. "She has a wonderful connection with her older adult patients and families."