Whatever you might need to calculate — from refinancing your mortgage to performing calculations will last during retirement — it will likely help you to find a decent personality. For example, of his Roth IRA lunch, are spinoffs of yet other creations.

The Wealth Calculator uses formulas and discussion of our 150th anniversary, Wrighton said. "She has made many important contributions to our nation and the world, and, especially at this time of political unrest around the world, I know that our graduates and their families will appreciate the opportunity to hear from such a distinguished world leader."

"She is a perfect example of a person who has used her education and her intellect to make our world a better place, and there is no more important message that we can give our graduates," President Bill Clinton nominated Albright as secretary of state in December 1996. After being unanimously confirmed by the Senate, she was sworn in as the 64th secretary of state on Jan. 23, 1997, becoming the first woman and the highest-ranking woman in the history of the United States. As secretary, Albright reinforced America's alliances and advocated democracy and human rights. She also promoted American trade and business, advocated democracy and human rights. She also promoted American trade and business,

To advance the status and opportunities for females in the workplace, males need to participate.

That's the premise that drove the Ms. Foundation for Women to change its 10-year-old annual initiative — previously called Take Our Daughters to Work Day — to Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day, scheduled for April 24.

Participants will be chosen on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline to request a registration packet was recently extended to April 24. For more information about the apparel, call the store at 935-5606. For more information about the 150th anniversary, go online to 150.wustl.edu.

By surveying patients who were screened for colorectal cancer-related deaths because patients are reluctant to be screened," said co-investigator Elizabeth G. McFarland, M.D., associate professor of radiology. •

Although about 90 percent of colorectal cancers and deaths are thought to be preventable, colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States among both men and women. It is more deadly than either prostate cancer or breast cancer and ranks only behind lung cancer in mortality. Screening tests can identify the disease in its earliest stages when small growths called polyps can be found and removed before they become cancers.

While desk and hand-held calculators certainly have their place, the Web site of Hugh Chou, system and network administrator at the University, has 45 different calculators designed to compute figures from estate taxes to how much money a person would save by quitting smoking, even sell my own mutual funds!"

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Commitment to equal employment reaffirmed

In this memo to the Washington University community, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton reaffirms the University's commitment to equal opportunity and cultural diversity.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Washington University is committed to the principles and practices of equal employment opportunity and affirmative action. It is our policy to recruit, hire, train, and promote persons in all jobs without regard to race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, veteran status or disability.

We will base decisions on employment so as to further the principle of equal employment opportunity, and we will ensure that promotion decisions are in accord with the principles of equal employment opportunity by imposing only valid requirements for the specific opportunities involved.

We will ensure that all personnel actions such as employment, training, advancement, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, benefits, demotions, reassignments, recruitment, advertising, terminations, transfers, layoffs, returns to work, layoff, selection for university-sponsored training, education, tuition assistance, and social and informational programs will be administered without regard to race, color, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, veteran status or disability.

Affirmative Action

Washington University welcomes applications for employment from women, minorities, veterans, and the disabled at all job classifications. Washington University encourages the hiring and promotion of persons with disabilities. As a government contractor, Washington University is required to establish affirmative action programs for the employment and advancement of women and minorities. Vietnam-era and special disabled veterans, and the disabled.

A government contract is required to establish affirmative action programs for the employment of women and minorities. Approximately 3% of the workforce must be women and minorities.

Responsibility and Implementation

It is the responsibility of each director that jobs must be open to all qualified persons, and that the University has a record of such separation.

Washington University has a record of such separation.

2. Selection of candidates for positions shall be open to all qualified persons. The principle of equal employment opportunity.

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Web site

Performs myriad calculations for users

- Item Page 1

does that monthly compound on a fixed rate and also factors in transportation, and adapting to housing, and the changes along the way. People will point out that some aspect or another is not quite right, and so I’ll tweak them here and there.

He estimates that he gets three or four suggestions a week, and he might actually do one or two of them. He gets roughly a half-dozen messages weekly from Internet fans thanking him for his service. He tries to answer every e-mail but sometimes it’s too much.

Chou takes donations for his work. He has been fairly successful in soliciting donations in cyberspace. He then uses those donations to fund the magazine, including Habitat for Humanity, Ronald McDonald House and the Christian Children’s Fund.

Environmental ethicist Rolston to present annual Witherspoon Lecture: "Genes, Genesis and God"

BY NEIL SCHONHERR

Halones Rolston III, widely recognized as the father of environmental ethics as a modern academic discipline, will speak on "Genes, Genesis and God" as he presents the third annual Witherspoon Lecture in Religion and Science at 4 p.m. on March 25 in the Arts & Sciences building. The lecture will be held in the Philosophy building, Room 500.

The next day, Rolston will join Ursula G. Goodenough, Ph.D., professor of biology in Arts & Sciences, and John D. Barrow, Distinguished Professor of Physics at University College London, in a roundtable discussion on "Genes, Genesis and God." The roundtable is co-sponsored by the Department of Religion and Science at 4 p.m. on March 25 in the Arts & Sciences building. The roundtable discussion is free and open to the public. The lecture is sponsored by the Religious Studies Program in Arts & Sciences; the roundtable is co-sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies.

For more information, contact Iris Wright at 935-7752 or go to on-line at arts.wustl.edu/~witherspoon.

Rolston, the University Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Colorado State University, has devoted his career to the development of a philosophical interpretation of the natural world. He is regarded as one of the world’s leading scholars on the philosophical, scientific and religious conceptions of nature.

Rolston’s body of work and his role as a founder of the influential academic journal Environmental Ethics have been instrumental in establishing, shaping and defining the modern discipline of environmental philosophy. Rolston has published widely in this field, including three key books: Philosophy Gene Wild (1986), Environmental Ethics (1986) and Conserving Natural Value (1940).

Rolston has also written in philosophy of science and religion more generally, including his 1987 book Science and Religion: A Critical Survey. He is associate editor of the journal Environmental Ethics and serves on the editorial boards of a number of other journals, including Environmental Values.

The Witherspoon Lecture Series was made possible by a grant in 2000 from William Witherspoon, a retired investment banker and a past student and teacher at University College London in Arts & Sciences. His gift was motivated by a deep interest in both science and religion.

Rolston’s lecture and the roundtable discussion are free and open to the public. The lecture is sponsored by the Religious Studies Program in Arts & Sciences; the roundtable is co-sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies.

In his 14-year career, Cardinals shortstop and WUSTL alumnus Dal Maxvill managed to hit just .217. But he was known more for his slick fielding than his potent bat. He won the 1968 National League Gold Glove Award with a .969 fielding percentage, which was slightly lower than his .974 career average. He was an integral part of the Cardinals’ success in the 1960s, reaching three World Series with the Redbirds. After his St. Louis career, Maxvill headed west to Oakland, where he played in two more postseasons, including the 1972 World Series. Maxvill is one of just two Bears baseball players to reach The Show. The other, Henry Schmuck, appeared in one game as a pinch-hitter and scored an run for the 1946 St. Louis Browns. Through March 18, this year’s Bears baseball team stands at 9-3.

Washington University will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2003-04. Special programs and events will be announced as the yearlong observance approaches.
**Intestinal health may depend on novel molecule**

**By GILA Z. RECKES**

New data suggests that a novel molecule appears to be involved in the intestine’s response to infection. The study, which appeared in the March 13 issue of the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, has sparked collaboration between researchers in the School of Medicine and The Institute of Cancer Research in Paris.

“This is the first identified function for this molecule,” said co-author Susan Gillifan, Ph.D., research instructor in immunology. “Our findings suggest that this molecule may play a fundamental role in gut immunology. When a virus enters the body, the body proteins called antigens appear on the surface of cells and alert the immune system to infection. A molecule called MR1, which was discovered eight years ago, appears to be very similar to the main category of molecules that deliver antigens to the cell surface, called major histocompatibility complex class I (MHC Class I). However, its function is not yet understood.

To learn more about MR1, Gillifan and colleagues developed a strain of mice lacking the MR1 gene. The next step was to develop a small population of immune cells known as mucosal-associated invariant T cells (MALT cells).

MALT cells were just recently discovered by the study’s other co-author, Olivier Lanzl, Ph.D., at The Institute of Cancer Research. The current study presents the first extensive characterization of these cells.

“Some facts help us begin to understand the function of MR1 and the role of MALT cells in immunology,” Gillifan said. “Both are found not only in mice but also in humans and other animals, such as cows, which implies that they probably are very important.” The team also discovered that MALT cells appear to be primarily located in the mucous membrane of the intestine or gut. Moreover, mice lacking bacteria normally found in the gut do not have MALT cells.

From these results, Gillifan and her colleagues concluded that MALT cells rely on both MR1 and intestinal bacteria. In addition, the results imply that MR1 and MALT cells play a critical role in the intestine’s response to infection.

The team plans to continue investigating these interactions and also to explore whether MR1 and MALT are involved in fighting infections in other organs lined with mucous-producing cells, including the lungs.

“It’s possible that MR1 and MALT cells are involved in a variety of diseases of the gut, particularly those relating to microbiome researchers interested in the intestine or gut,” Gillifan said. “We also expect this line of research will be of particular interest for general medical immunology and may prove useful in studying other organ systems as well.”

**Career development**

(From left) Jennifer S. Stith, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology and of physical therapy, discusses with Parkway West juniors Monica Datzeva and Kailey Steuber how physical therapists evaluate spinal cord alignment at the annual Health Professions Fair for high-school students last month in Olin Residence Hall. The event is sponsored by the School of Medicine’s Office of Diversity Affairs and the Community-Based Resource Office of the St. Louis Public Schools.

**Cholesterol reduction is focus of research grant**

**By MICHELLE LEAVITT**

A four-year, $1 million grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute may lead to new tools to prevent cardiovascular disease, a cholestrol-related condition.

A study is being led by Daniel Ory, M.D., professor of medicine.

While accumulation of dietary cholesterol can be deleterious, cholesterol is an essential component of all cells in the body.

"Cells need cholesterol for normal maintenance of membrance integrity," Ory said. "Without it, our cells would die."

The natural mechanisms of the cell work to keep internal levels of cholesterol balanced. If there is too little cholesterol coming into the cell from a person’s diet, it will stimulate cholesterol production.

The reverse also is true: If too much is coming in, the cell will activate mechanisms that pump out cholesterol. Then high density lipoprotein particles, also called “good” cholesterol, pick up excess cholesterol and carry it out of the body.

"The cell has two competing needs," Ory said. "It wants to make sure it has enough cholesterol, but if it has too much it will initiate the expression of genes involved in getting rid of it."

With this grant, Ory’s team will continue examining the role of two proteins, Niemann-Pick type CI (NPC1) and Niemann-Pick type CI (NPC2), in this delicate balance of cholesterol metabolism.

The proteins are named for their role in NPCI C disease, a condition in which cholesterol proportionately accumulates with in the cell. In 95 percent of these cases, the gene responsible for making NPC1 is deficient; a failure in the gene for NPC2 accounts for the other 5 percent.

Based on the team’s previous research, Ory’s team thinks these two proteins are part of the internal machinery that manages excess cholesterol.

"Given that heart disease is the No. 1 cause of death among Americans, there is a need for additional drugs to be developed to deal with excess cholesterol within the cell," Ory said. "We hope that by understanding these pathways better, we can begin to develop new agents to shift the balance toward excetration of cholesterol as opposed to accumulation."

**Biological psychiatry is topic of lecture**

**By KIMBERLY LYTING**

Robert H. Belknap, M.D., the rosser-Vickers Professor of Psychiatry at the University of the Negev in Beersheva, Israel, will present "Human Equality and Diversity: Religious Roots and New Molecular Genetic Insights" at the second annual Peggy Sansone Molecular Genetic Insights Lecture at 9:15 a.m. April 1 in Cleopatra Auditorium.

As an international leader of biological psychiatry, Belknap is known for his findings on the causes and treatments of mood disorders. His recent work has focused on the genetic contributions to differences in personality traits, mood disorders and substance dependence.

The Peggy Sansone Memorial Lecture — which features topics associated with the prevention and treatment of depression and the role of spirituality in personality development — was established in April 2002 by a gift from the Peggy Sansone Special Angel Foundation, which was founded in honor of Peggy Sansone, the late wife of Anthony F. Sansone Jr.

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Mr. Hayashi, et al. / The Institute of Cancer Research/Paris

**Colonoctoscopy**

58 percent of patients would prefer CT colonography — from Page 3

inserted into the colon through the rectum, and physicians can both visualize and remove any growths. Patients are sedated because of the invasive nature of the test. During virtual colonoscopy, on the other hand, patients remain awake and are asked to hold their breath for 10-20 seconds while computed tomography (CT) images of the colon are taken.

Although the test does not require the insertion of a camera, it does require that air be pumped into the rectum to inflate the colon. Some patients reported that this experience was unpleasant.

Because CT colonography is less invasive than traditional procedures and requires no sedation, McFarland has been leading an effort to compare its accuracy with standard colonoscopy, the current "gold standard" in colorectal screening.

"It is proven to be as accurate at detecting polyps, its less-invasive nature might encourage more people to get screened."

The study included 120 patients who underwent a CT colonography followed by a traditional colonoscopy on the same day. Patients completed surveys about the screening tests at three times: prior to the CT colonography, between the CT test and the colonoscopy and again two to three days after the procedure.

"We asked what they expected in terms of pain, embarrassment and difficulty," McFarland said. "Before the procedures, patients expected more pain with colonoscopy than with CT, but afterward many reported actually was less pain and embarrassment for colonoscopy because they had been sedated and given pain medications during that procedure."

The results did find, however, that almost 58 percent of patients said they would prefer CT colonography in the future.

Seventeen percent said they were just as comfortable with either procedure, and most people agreed that the advance bowel preparation required for both procedures was unpleasant.

"Of all of the issues surrounding these tests to influence patients, cost seems to be the greatest barrier to compliance for colorectal screening," McFarland said. "This is because patients can’t eat what they normally eat and, theoretically, they will lose electrolytes and become weak from the colon cleaning."

Presently, however, the preparation is essential for both tests. "There are certain techniques in development that may change that in the future," McFarland said. "But for now, we have to be concerned about the colonoscopy. There is a leading cause of cancer-related death because of non-screening."

That’s what makes it so tragic because if you defer the disease early, you can prevent it. And right away, regardless of the cause, the fact is that many patients are reluctant to get screened.**
University Events

**PDAD celebrates 40th anniversary of All's Well That Ends Well**

*By Liam O'Nan*

C

comingly, according to the old adage, all's well that ends well, the performance of William Shakespeare's "problem play"

*Taking marriage as a mere

starting point, ends the
tale, but it isn't
typical romantic conven-
tions on her.

Bertram consents to the wed-
ding but, shortly thereafter, flees

from his finger and

with his child. Yet

the man for whom she loves
determined to meet these

impossible conditions.

"It's a bit of a
tale, but it isn't

What Whitaker said.

fled the courtroom,

appears to be

a check-

readably and

in the United States of America.

Although some scholars ascribe

this to the play's aggressive heroine

and un-sentimental (or even
cynical) take on love, Whitaker

said, "I think it has more to do

with the convoluted dramaturgy,

the twisting plot, the various,

the audience has to

keep track of. It's almost

jump-cuts as if Shakespeare

had thrown unity of time and place out.

And so, "with great trepid-

ation," Whitaker told the

play by a few lines, remarking

the cryptic text that doesn't drive the

plot, that seems unfathomable or

material that would leave

audiences speechless.

Fortunately, Whitaker has been able to rely on feedback from

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"We are holding a clinic for first-

participants must be regis-

362-7393.

9 a.m. Obstetrics & Gynecology Grand

Rounds. "Weese x 3: WWW Work." Ben

Kochergin, obsc. of pediatrics.

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362-7393.
Baxter reads for Writing Program Reading Series

By LAM I OTTER

 Fiction writer Charles Baxter will read from his work at a 7 p.m. Writing Program Reading Series.

 The reading is free and open to the public and takes place in Harst Lounge in Duncker Hall.

 Baxter is the author of three novels, most recently The Feast of Love (2000), and four collections of short fiction, including A Relative Stranger (1991) and Friends and Lovers (1997).

 He has published a book of fiction, Down the River (1997), as well as three collections of poetry. He has also edited three anthologies of fiction and of essays.

 Baxter’s work has earned wide critical praise, with the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim Foundation, and Wallace Bandy’s Chopin Fund. His work has appeared in The Best American Short Stories five times.

 Since 1989, he has taught English and creative writing at the University of Michigan, where they might rather live without.

 “Baxter writes fiction filled with incisive observations that capture the beauty and brutality we find in lives and rendered in lapidary prose,” said a recent notice after you reach the last word.

 Copies of Baxter’s works will be available for purchase, and a book-signing will follow.

 For more information, call 935-7130.
Lending a hand to those who lend a hand
Volunteer graphic designers from the School of Art chapter of the American Institute of Graphic Arts recently created a series of posters for campus and community service organizations.

Clients ranged from Wash U Building, the campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity, to Kids & Chemistry, a public outreach program of the American Chemical Society. Pictured is a design by junior Melanie Mikecz for STONE Soup (a.k.a. Students Together Offering Nourishment and Enthusiasm), a group providing food, clothing and first aid to the homeless.

presenting a diverse mix of activities that are enlightening and entertaining, and this year will be no different.

“We have devised a schedule of programs that should suit every interest,”

Lorandi Goffe-Bush

“Children

“Children

From page 1

Education, senior angelic and Latin America.

Accomplishments during her tenure include the expansion and modernization of the University's School of Foreign Service, the reduction of nuclear dangers in Europe.

She also served as a senior fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and as a resident fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

She has held a full professorship at the University’s School of Foreign Service.

She was named the first Michael and Virginia Mortara Endowed Professor of International Relations at the University of Pennsylvania.

She holds the first Michael and Virginia Mortara Endowed Professorship of International Relations at the University of Pennsylvania.

Following her graduation, she worked for the Department of State.

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Robert Brookes Smith, emeritus treasurer of the Board of Trustees since 1963, died in his sleep Monday, Dec. 30, 2002, at his home in Ladue, Mo. He was 99.

Smith was a highly respected St. Louis banker and civic leader. During his dedicated tenure on the board, he served as vice chairman from 1966-1971 and was a valuable member of the Executive Committee. Smith received a $60,000 grant from the American Cancer Society in 1998, a two-year, $125,000 grant from Envisiweaking L.L.C. for a project involving the development of a new three-dimensional ultrasound system for prostate imaging and radiation treatment planning. Smith has also received a donation of components and equipment from Xillix. Valued at $256,000, Xillix's donation supports research as well as education.

William D. Richard, Ph.D., associate professor of computer science and engineering, has received a five-year, $575,729 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for research titled "Hypoglycemia in the Developing Diabetic Brain.

Michael Young, graduate research assistant, has received a two-year, $42,000 pedagogical fellowship from the Heartland Affiliate Research Committee of the American Heart Association for research titled "Inflation and Characterization of Atrio Patches of Sinuatrial Node."
Buildings fall, books are lost, cultures and peoples forgotten. Nothing made is permanent, yet the process of making, the transmission of one material into something else, is constant and ongoing.

Ron Fondaw, professor and head of ceramics in the School of Art, has earned a national reputation for creating adobe structures that absorb, rather than resist, nature's blows. Built from sand, sticks, unfired clay, pigmented plaster and locally found objects (including, in one case, a living Bradford pear tree), these large, roughly handsome sculptures weather and change with the grace, quiet dignity of ancient ruins.

“Our culture is obsessed with the new and the perfect and the newness as the source of beauty, shyness,” Fondaw mused from the School of Art’s studio in Florence, Italy, where he’s been teaching for part of the semester. “Other parts of the world have learned to treasure disheveled qualities. In Japan, there’s an aesthetic philosophy: wabi-sabi, that describes the phenomena of material falling apart, decaying, being imperfect.”

“I’m surrounded by that here in Florence,” he added. “Water stains, crumbling facades, remnants of Tuscan villages — it’s all beautiful.”

Yet Fondaw’s adobe sculptures are just one facet of an artist who practice that ranges from traditional studio work to large-scale public commissions.

Since coming to the University in 1978, Fondaw has exhibited at more than a dozen museums and galleries across the United States and abroad; installed works at the Saint Louis Art Museum (SLAM) and the Cedarturpe Sculpture Park in Mt. Vernon, Ill.; cast aluminum bus shelters for the Forest Park MetroLink station; and completed a mural of neon light and handmade ceramic tile for the city of Columbia, Mo.

“Ron has amazing energy and diligence,” says Albert Pifaré, lecturer in ceramics, who has worked with Fondaw on several projects. “He has the ability to make art work through whatever arises, which really is half the battle.”

“I just am an artist,” Fondaw explains good-humoredly. “That gives me a lot more freedom than saying I’m a ceramic artist or I’m a painter. I get much more freedom to move between genres and materials, to look at a specific site or situation or audience and ask, ‘What is appropriate here?’”

Early years and college

Born in Paducah, Ky., Fondaw grew up in Cape Girardeau, Mo., where his parents owned a small grocery store. He developed an early mechanical facility thanks to his father, a skilled woodworker who also refurbished old cars as hot rods.

“He’d pay $30 as an hour to wine brake frames, replace wheel bearings, take transmissions apart,” Fondaw recalled. “There’s a lot of confidence-building in that.” As a young artist, Fondaw was mostly interested in drawing and painting. He held his first one-person show in a Paducah gas station at the age of 11 and sold several oils of ducks-hunting scenes.

At the Memphis College of Art, he planned to major in graphic design until a work-study job mixing clay prompted a sophomore-year epiphany.

“Constructing a kiln, for example, ‘You had to know about gas, about putting pipes together, about how to build burners.”

Fondaw’s initial experiences with large-scale ceramics came a few years later while in graduate school at the University of Illinois. As summer internship with the Moravian Pottery & Tile Works in Doylestown, Penn., provided a crash-course in Western architectonic embellishment, while an African art history class (taught by the exquisitely named Anita Klar) introduced him to new motifs and materials.

For his final project, Fondaw constructed his first adobe work, based on the architecture of Mali’s Dogon people.

“I found an abandoned clay pit in southern Illinois and spent a week in the woods,” building the piece, Fondaw recounts. “The experience proved so intellectually and artistically satisfying that I've haven't stopped yet.”

Miami’s energy

After graduation in 1978, Fondaw taught at Ohio University in Athens and the following year moved to the University of Miami. As luck would have it, the young Midwesterner arrived just months ahead of the first Mariel Boatlift. Overnight, the city was transformed from the wild, wild West Fondaw recalls. Equally striking were the experiences of wealth and poverty. “You literally had bodies washing up on South Beach.”

Miami’s energy — the fluctuation of ocean, wind and sun, the vibrant Cuban culture — made a deep impression, and Fondaw’s work grew bolder in both form and color. One set of Divide (1983), a suite of 10 paintings for Jackson Memorial Hospital, he purposefully set out to use the gaudiest palette he could devise.

“Here in Miami, you just can’t make an ugly color combination,” Fondaw quips. “1bervers and lime greens against reds, pinks and oranges, everything works.”

Meanwhile, the sharp, contrast-inducing Southern sun brought a new architectonic quality to his adobe structures, from the blocky, fortress-like Mygon (1984), with its dramatic tapering buttress, to the shambling geometries of rammed-earth works like Tymon (1983) and Tymon (1985). And he began experimenting with Egyptian paste, an ancient yet finicky material, its histrionic surface and rich, wet-looking colors echoed the sunken ships he frequently observed while scuba diving.

“Once it was desired for small figurines, Fondaw was able to make large, well-built works by slathering the paste over welded steel armatures. (A section of Susan Petersen’s manual The Craft and Art of Clay focuses on Fondaw’s techniques.)

Perhaps no project better captured Fondaw’s sense of the Florida landscape than It Comes Ashore (1995), a public plaza for the state’s Department of Natural Resources.

Located on Marathon Key, just a stone’s throw from the Gulf of Mexico, the piece took five months to construct and features some 2,480 hand-cast ceramic tiles shaped like fish scales. Painted blue and green and installed in concentric, serpentine bands, the tiles metaphorically transformed what would have been a desolate concrete expanse into gently rippling waves.

Recent projects

Since returning to Missouri, Fondaw increasingly has focused on issues of site, process and experience. The Giving Tree, a three-walled adobe structure installed on SLAM’s south lawn in 1998, was designed to break down over a period of about six months, gradually dramatizing the power of the natural elements. Similarly, Cedarturpe’s Whispering Walls (1998) on a large mesa dome that, as it decays, will gradually reveal an oak desk and chair.

“When we first conceptualized something, we see it in our mind’s eye and it is perfect,” Fondaw explains. “It’s just the right size, it’s just the right color, devoid of light and gravity. Perfect. So the next step is to give it relativity to the real world.

“One of the reasons I started working large, and which led me into public art, is that the studio itself felt too safe,” he added. “I’d look at my musician friends, who had to go on stage and make art whether they felt like it or not and it sort of want- ed kind of intensity. I drew out things that you never could have imagined.”

Later this spring, Fondaw will install a group of several 33-foot-tall Fiberglas “aerial poles” along the walkway to The Pageant nightclub at the eastern end of the University City Loop.

“Typically titled The Vertical Loop, the piece is dedicated to the neighborhod’s rich mix of ethnic and cultural communities and includes an array of oversized puppets, soccer balls, tree stumps and other objects — several of which feature translucent exteriors and built-in lighting elements.”

Also currently under way is Basile Bridge, a life-size recreation of Vincent Van Gogh’s The Langlois Bridge at Arles (1888), for a public plaza at the University of Miami’s Henry Flagler Museum; and the permanent installation of an early Pop sculpture, Sunset on South Beach, in the U.S. Department of Interior’s atrium in Washington, D.C.

“Before a building is built, it is just the building itself; and it is self-contained,” Fondaw concludes. “You need to have a designer, a constructor and a craftsman all at the same time.”

Ron Fondaw and student Susannah Biancio inspect elements of Biancio’s Earth Forms #1 and 2, a pair of ceramic relief murals based on traditional African, Mexican, Middle Eastern and Eastern European pottery, installed at the Grace Hill South Health Center in South St. Louis. 

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