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Human Genome Project completed

By JIM DRYDEN

University researchers and other members of the International Human Genome Consortium announced the successful completion of the Human Genome Project more than two years ahead of schedule at an April 14 news conference in Washington, D.C.

By completing the Human Genome Project, researchers believe they are launching a new age of discovery that will transform human health. Knowing the order of the genetic building blocks — commonly abbreviated A, T, C and G (adenine, thymine, cytosine and guanine) — should allow scientists to learn more about human development and disorders such as heart disease, psychiatric illness and cancer. Already the genome sequencing efforts have helped spur discoveries about breast cancer, colon cancer, prostate cancer, cystic fibrosis, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease and sickle cell disease.

The project, completed 50 years after James Watson and Francis Crick discovered the structure of DNA, succeeded in sequencing all of the DNA in human chromosomes. The sequence of more than 3 billion genetic "letters" carries the instructions for making and operating the human body and the errors or variations in the genome that contribute to most types of disease.

In the future, many believe patients will receive prescribed medical treatment based on their genes rather than on their age or weight. In addition to such individualized treatment, researchers hope genome-based research will enable medical science to develop highly effective diagnostic tools and a better understanding of how a person's individual genetic makeup influences health or susceptibility to disease.

"The completed genome sequence is an extremely powerful database for the study of human biology," said Richard K. Wilson, Ph.D., professor of genetics and of molecular microbiology and pharmacology and a director of the Genome Sequencing Center. "Because of limitations in technology, there

By ANSY CLEMENSEN

Thomas L. Friedman, a three-time individual Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for The New York Times, will both open and close the University's sesquicentennial year.

On Sept. 17, Friedman will give the inaugural Assembly Series sesquicentennial lecture as part of Arts & Sciences' "Conversations" series. The lecture will be from 11 a.m.-noon in the Athletic Complex Field House.

The Conversations series will feature discussions intended to provide a forum for reflection on issues that will affect the future of the University, the community and the world.

Approximately eight months later, Friedman will deliver the Commencement address for the Class of 2004. The University's 143rd Commencement will begin at 8:30 a.m. May 14, 2004, in Washington University's Bro somore's Field House.

As the ceremony's keynote speaker, Friedman will also receive an honorary doctor of humanities degree.

"Thomas Friedman is a respected and thoughtful journalist who has done much to increase our understanding and knowledge about the world and its condition," Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said. "In such times as these, I can think of no better person to kick off our sesquicentennial year celebration, for even as we pause to celebrate, we must continue to seek knowledge and insight into the world around us."

From May 1981-April 1982, Friedman worked as a general assignment financial reporter at the Times and specialized in news related to oil and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. In April 1982, he was assigned to the paper's Beirut bureau chief, a post he began six weeks before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

In June 1984, Friedman was transferred from Beirut to Jerusalem, where he served as the Times' Israeli bureau chief until February 1988, when he was awarded a Guggen heim Foundation Fellowship to write a book about his reflections on the Middle East.

In June 1989, he published From Beirut to Jerusalem, which was on the Times' best-seller list for 12 months and won the 1989 National Book Award for nonfiction and the 1989 Overseas Press Club Award for the Best Book on Foreign Policy.

From Beirut to Jerusalem has been published in 10 other languages, including Japanese and Chinese, and is now viewed as the basic textbook on the Middle East in many high schools and universities.

In January 1995, Friedman was awarded the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy for his political and policy activism.

In June 1996, he published The Lexus and the Olive Tree, which spent 11 weeks at the top of the New York Times' best-seller chart.

In October 1997, Friedman published The Fifth Side, which spent 12 consecutive weeks at the top of the New York Times' best-seller list.

In June 1999, Friedman published From Kyoto to Jerusalem, which was on the Times' best-seller list for 12 weeks and won the 1999 National Book Award for nonfiction and the 1999 Overseas Press Club Award for the Best Book on Foreign Policy.

In May 2001, Friedman published The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century.

A forum for reflection on "the impact of Nietzsche, the outlines of the 21st century, the meaning of the 150th anniversary of the university, the political climate in the US and the world, and the limitations in technology, there

By GERRY EVERDING AND GILA Z.

Rebecca L. Copeland Washington University in St. Louis

Faculty achievement awards go to Epstein, Johnson

By GERRY EVERDING AND GILA Z. RECKESS

Lee Epstein, whose research and teaching on the role of key contributors to both Arts & Sciences and the School of Law, and Eugene M. Johnson Jr., whose work has had an enormous impact on the international neuroscience community, will receive the University's annual faculty achievement awards.

Epstein, Ph.D., the Edward Mallinkrodt Distinguished University Professor of Political Science in Arts & Sciences and professor of law in the School of Law, is the winner of the Arthur Holly Compton Faculty Achievement Award.

Johnson, Ph.D., the Norman J. Stapp Professor of Neurology and professor of molecular biology and pharmacology and co-director of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center in the School of Medicine, is the winner of the Carl and Gerty Cori Faculty Achievement Award.

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton announced the announcement at the Chancellor's Gala April 12 at the Charles F. Knight Executive Education Center. Wrighton announced the pair as the winner at the gala.

From left) Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton visits with faculty achievement award-winners Eugene M. Johnson Jr. and Lee Epstein at the Chancellor's Gala April 12 at the Charles F. Knight Executive Education Center. Wrighton announced the pair as the winner at the gala.
**Women's Society hands out scholarship, leadership awards**

**BY ANDY CLENDENEN**

The Washington University Women's Society held its 6th annual meeting April 9 in the Women's Building Formal Lounge and awarded the Elizabeth Gray Danforth Scholarship and two Leadership Awards.

The winner of the Danforth scholarship is Thomas William Schmidt, who is studying at St. Louis Community College at Meramec and carries a 3.96 grade-point average in addition to his work and volunteer activities. Laurel Grigg and Jessica Long are winners of the Women's Leadership Award, given to graduating women who have contributed significantly to the University community during their undergraduate years.

In 1976, the Women's Society established a full-tuition scholarship program, awarding an annual competitive two-year scholarship to an outstanding community college transfer student.

In 1995, the society named the endowment in honor of Danforth as an expression of gratitude and admiration for 24 years — 1973-1995 — during which he was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, volunteered for numerous activities, and was active on the Student Senate. He was also named Dean's List, Meramec's Dean's List and the National Scholar Honor Society. He has been admitted to both the Engineering & Applied Science, where he plans to pursue a dual degree in biochemical engineering and mathematics in Arts & Sciences.

"Not even in a million years did I think attending Washington University to be a possibility," Schmidt said. "It is truly amazing."

Ron Goetz, associate professor of mathematics at Meramec, recommended Schmidt enthusiastically and without reservation.

"He has demonstrated an exceptional blend of academic talent and exemplary classroom participation," Goetz said. "In addition, he played a leadership role in both formal and informal study groups and has tremendous potential to excel in any scientific field."

Grigg and Long have displayed efficiency in service to others, demonstrated exceptional potential for future leadership as well as academic achievement, extracurricular activities and work or work-study employment.

They each will receive a $500 award and a silver clock inscribed with a quote from English writer Virginia Woolf: "I should remind you how much depends upon you and what an influence you can exert upon the future."

Grigg is a double major in systems science and mathematics in the School of Engineering & Applied Science and in Environmental Studies in Arts & Sciences. She is also slated to earn a master's degree in May in earth and planetary sciences in Arts & Sciences.

Grigg has written a thesis on fluctuations of the soil using fieldwork in Hawaii. Her academic concentration stems from her formative years in the wetlands of central Florida and from the pre-scholarship is Thomas William Schmidt, 1995. Schmidt said: "It is truly amazing."
Artificial disc replacement investigated by physicians

**Orthopaedic surgeon K. Daniel Riew, M.D.** (left), and an assistant perform an anterior cervical fusion.

They are not eligible if there is disc disease at more than one level in the cervical spine or if they have a great deal of arthritis in the neck.

"That excludes the vast majority of patients," Riew said. "I do several hundred cervical spine operations in the United States each year, but of those several hundred patients, only about 25 (less than 10 percent) actually qualify for this study."

These patients who qualify are randomly chosen to receive either artificial disc replacement or the standard discectomy and fusion surgery. A computer will decide which procedure a patient receives. Both groups of patients will be followed for at least two years to compare the two procedures.

Riew emphasized that this is an investigational procedure and that patients who are not among the few who are selected to receive the disc replacement will not be at risk.

"Although the patients that randomly are assigned to the fusion procedure tend to be disappointed, we must remember that fusion still remains the gold standard operation for cervical disc disease," he said.

Riew said patients who think they are candidates should discuss the idea of artificial disc replacement with their physicians.

For more information, visit [neckpain.neurology.wustl.edu/index.asp?PageName=neck_pain](http://www.neckpain.neurology.wustl.edu/index.asp?PageName=neck_pain) or call Barb Metz at 747-2575.

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**Genome**

**Sequence offers powerful biological database**

—from Page 1

are still small gaps in the sequence, but if you compare it to a 5,000-page book, it's as if a few words are missing on a couple of pages. Those missing words, however, are not at critical points in the story, so this "finished sequence should tell us the story we need to know," Wilson says.

Wilson and his colleagues at the University said the next steps will involve closely scrutinizing the more than 3 billion pieces of information in the human genome for clues about human disease and comparing genetic information about humans with information gathered from mapping and sequencing the genomes of other species.

"The human genome was mapped and sequenced. The Genome Sequencing Center is working on the chimpanzee and chicken sequences. In addition, the bacterium Salmonella typhimurium and the plant Arabidopsis thaliana have also been mapped and sequenced. By sequencing all of these genomes, we will identify genes that do certain jobs in particular animals by looking at similar DNA patterns among various species. We will also identify the crucial genes that play key roles in human disease and in keeping us healthy," Wilson said.

The project's information has been freely and publicly available on the Internet since the Human Genome Project was launched by its researchers in 1988.
MetroLink construction to start May 4

BY ANDY CLENDENEN

Time to pull out the maps and mark those alternate routes. The MetroLink expansion is about to begin.

The official groundbreaking for the Forest Park to Shrewsbury MetroLink project was held April 9, but the public will now see more visible work as roads will soon start to close for construction.

The first phase of construction will begin westbound on Forest Park. Parkway between Big Bend Boulevard and Ritz-Carlton Drive May 4; this section of the parkway will be completely closed to traffic. Work on the parkway between Ritz-Carlton Drive and Brentwood Boulevard will start in December; and construction along the abandoned railroad right-of-way between the parkway and Clayton Road is scheduled to begin in June 2004.

Also beginning May 4, traffic on Forsyth Boulevard at Forest Park Parkway will be completely closed to traffic. Construction begins on the Clayton Road and a temporary roadway will provide eastbound access only from Big Bend to Throop Drive and westway traffic between Throop and Clayton.

The Clayton Police Department has designated Forsyth and Wydown Boulevard as "no-tolerance speed zones," as safety of non-vehicular traffic on these roads is paramount. Joggers, bicyclists, walkers and children often use the sidewalks and designated bicycle lanes on these roads.

A no-tolerance zone means Clayton police will ticket drivers who go above the posted speed limit of 30 mph. The goal is to reduce the average speed of all vehicular traffic.

After studying the effective- ness of the program, the no-tol- erance speed zones might be extended to Big Bend Boulevard and residential streets in the Davis Place subdivision that might see increases in traffic when parts of Forest Park Parkway are closed.

Updates online

Regular updates on street- closings, progress of work and alternate route suggestions are available online at wupa.wustl.edu/metrolink. Regular updates on street- closings, progress of work and alternate route suggestions are available online at wupa.wustl.edu/metrolink.

The Performing Arts Department in Arts & Sciences will present Big Love, a passion play adaptation of Aeschylus' The Suppliant Maidens that The New York Times describes as "an MGM musical in Technicolor, a circus and, believe it, a Greek tragedy.

Presented by the Performing Arts Department in Arts & Sciences, performances will begin at 8 p.m. April 24, at 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. April 26; and at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. April 27 in the A.B. Hetcher Studio Theatre in Mallinckrodt Student Center.

Written in approximately 490 B.C., The Suppliant Maidens is one of the oldest surviving dra- mas in Western literature. Men, a former historian and magazine editor, uses the basic storyline — 50 sisters flee arranged marriages to function as a chorus, are here rendered as three distinct voices: the militant Thoas (sophomore Aundriel Potier), the romantic Olympia (senior Nicole Blicher) and the conflicted Lyda (senior Jea Hyun Rhyu). By Andy Clendenen

The Performing Arts Department in Arts & Sciences will present

Charlies Mee's Big Love in the A.E. Hetcher Studio Theatre April 24 and 26-27. Pictured above are (from left) sophomore Aundriel Potier, senior Jea Hyun Rhyu and senior Nicole Blicher.

The sisters, who originally functioned as a chorus, are here rendered as three distinct voices: the militant Thoas (sophomore Aundriel Potier), the romantic Olympia (senior Nicole Blicher) and the conflicted Lyda (senior Jea Hyun Rhyu). By Andy Clendenen

Road and ramp closures

Forest Park Parkway closings:
Westbound Big Bend to Ritz-Carlton May 4, 2003
Eastbound Central to Big Bend May 4, 2003
Big Bend to Skinker June 2003
Westbound Ritz-Carlton to Central Sept. 2003
Eastbound Brentwood to Central May 2004
Westbound Central to Brentwood May 2004
Westbound Beechnut on-ramp May 2004
Westbound Ritz-Carlton on-ramp Sept. 2003
Eastbound Central off-ramp May 2004
Westbound Meramec on-ramp May 2004

Shaw Park Drive closings:
Haleys to Central Dec. 2003

These dates are tentative and are subject to change. Specific road closure information will be posted on road signs prior to actual closure.

For more information, call 935-6543.
Deep Brain Stimulation • Marriage Markets

University Expositions

Contemporary Games Art Award 2003
April 19, 2003
University of Missouri-St. Louis
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Exhibitions

University Expositions

Contemporary Games Art Award 2003
April 19, 2003
University of Missouri-St. Louis
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Film

Friday, April 18
5:30 p.m. "My Not So Easy Being Green.
Denny Gym, 4th floor
5:30 p.m.

Lectures

Friday, April 18
12:30 p.m. Brown Bag Seminar Series.
"Impulse Control and Addiction.
Brown Bag Seminar Series.
12:30 p.m.

Monday, April 21
11:45 a.m. Noon Seminar Series.
"Do We Still Need the Human
Denny Gym, 3rd floor
12:00 p.m.

Monday, April 21
4:00 p.m. Biology Colloquium.
"The Ecology of
University of Missouri-St. Louis
4:00 p.m.

Goate to speak at STARS program April 22

By Tony Fitzpatrick
The seventh session of the 2002-03 Students as Teachers Research (STARS) Academy Program will be focused on proper nutrition. The 21st Century C Millennium Center on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus will host the session April 22.

Allison M. Goate, D.Phil., professor of genetics in the School of Medicine, is known for the discovery of the genetic basis of Alzheimer’s disease. She will discuss recent research on Alzheimer’s disease and its implications for treatment.

STARS scholars, teachers, friends, parents and guidance counselors are welcome. Parking is available on the top level of the Millennium Garage on the east side of the Campus Center.

A reception will follow the presentation.

STARS is sponsored by Solutia Inc, the National Science Foundation, the City of St. Louis Academy of Science, E. Reichen and Reichen Family Trust, Central Commerce Bank and Eric F. Tremayne Trust, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Washington University and UM-St. Louis.

For more information, call 314-577-4626 or e-mail blackman@admissions.wustl.edu.
Awards

Epstein, Johnson are outstanding choices — from Page 1

"Professors Epstein and Johnson are outstanding choices for this year's faculty achievement awards," Whitson said. Each has been recognized for their scholarly achievements by their colleagues and peers, and their career contributions thus far are truly exceptional.

The selection committee for the awards includes three members from Arts & Sciences, and the medical school and one member from each of the University's professional schools. Criteria for selection are:

• Outstanding achievements in research and scholarship;
• Significant contributions to the community;
• Service and dedication to the betterment of the University; and
• Respected accomplishment in teaching.

The awards include a $5,000 honorarium.

Epstein joined the political science department in 1991 and soon after became a full professor. From 1995-99, she served as department chair, and in 1998 was named the Decade of the Brain. In 2000, she received a dual appointment as associate dean of the law school.

In 1996, Epstein joined the National Science Foundation to serve as director of the National Center for Science and Engineering Education. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Epstein serves as a member of the American Physical Society and is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
School of Law presents employee benefits practice area

The Florida Commission on the Status of Women and the Florida Bar Association has recognized Kooyi, or K. Thyra E. Fasick Ho, an adjunct professor in the St. Louis School of Law.

Kooyi is a national and regional legal pioneer. She was the first woman president of the College of Law at the University of Illinois. She is also a member of the law school's faculty and a distinguished faculty emeritus. She has served on the executive committee and has served on the law school's national council and serves on the Law Capital Resources Committee. She chaired the law school's association in 1962-63.

In addition, Kooyi has been recognized for her contributions to legal education. At the Frank M. Bainbridge Professor of Law at the University of Alabama, Bucy teaches in the areas of white-collar crime, criminal law and criminal procedure. Four times selected for an outstanding teacher award, her students have also honored her with three Thomas Jefferson Awards, which are given to faculty who make "a lasting contribution to legal education." A prolific author, Bucy is nearing completion of her seventh book on the subject of white-collar crime. Her numerous articles have been published in law reviews and bar journals.

Kropp's legacy at the University reached beyond the classroom. He led the business school's Total Quality Schools Program, helping public school principals apply sound principles of management to improve their schools, and he worked with countless companies in the United States, Asia and Europe. He died Friday, April 11, 2003, at Barnes-Jewish Hospital after a three-year battle with leukemia. He was 57.

Before coming to the University, Kropp taught at the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University and at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College.

Kropp won the coveted Teacher of the Year award an unprecedented 13 times in voting by Washington University master of business administration students.

Olin School Dean Stuart G. McClurken, Ph.D., said that Kropp was an exceptional member of the business school faculty and a distinguished teacher.

For Dean Kropp, teaching was more than a profession; it was his calling, his passion, his chosen identity," Greenbaum said. "He was not deprived of contact with his students, for they sustained him, defined him and dignified him. Our profession needs to redouble its efforts to halt this ever greater zealot, and his legacy is secure.

Kropp earned a bachelor's degree in engineering and masters and doctoral degrees in industrial engineering from Stanford University.

Kropp received a bone marrow transplant from an anonymous donor found on an international marrow registry.

The family would like to express their gratitude for the care provided to Kropp and his family by the University physicians, the staff of the Alvin J. Siemian Cancer Center at the School of Medicine and Barnes-Jewish Hospital, and the caring health professionals of the leukemias and stem cell transplant unit at Barnes-Jewish.

A memorial service will be at 4 p.m. April 21 in Graham Chapel.

Among the survivors are his wife,2 Kristine Kropp, children Debbie, Cathy and Chandler Kropp; sister Nancy Green, of Pittsburgh; and many close friends, including his hiking group. Memorial contributions may be made to the School of Business in support of the Total Quality Schools Program.
Unconventional exploration

Rebecca L. Copeland’s research on ‘bad girls’ of Japanese literature has reshaped many academic opinions.

BY GERRY EVERDING

Born in Japan as the fourth daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries, Rebecca L. Copeland, Ph.D., associate professor of Japanese language and literature in The Arts & Sciences, has spent much of her career studying the “bad girls” of Japanese literature. “I’ve always been interested in women who do things their culture or society does not want them to do,” Copeland said. “I’m intrigued by women who write despite serious social pressure to do otherwise, women who use their writing to raise important questions about society even as society tries to exclude them from the discussion.”

In her dissertation research, Copeland focused on Uno Chieko, a flamboyant Japanese woman writer who became a national sensation in the 1920s by writing scandalous, tell-all books about her sexual exploits with prominent Japanese men. Copeland’s research has reshaped academic opinion and established Uno as an important literary figure.

In recent research, Copeland delves into the historical context behind her own family’s experiences in Japan, examining Japanese women writers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries influenced by the peculiar notions of foreign missionaries—women who offered examples of strong will and independence in sharp contrast to the gender norms of their time.

Her book on these and other issues, Lost Leaves: Women Writers of Postwar Japan, was named as a Choice Magazine Outstanding Academic Title for 2002.

A faculty member at the University since 1991, Copeland is the author of several books, including two on Uno. She has edited anthologies, essays and other publications in the field and is an accomplished scholar, an essential skill for Japanese scholars because the language makes it difficult to read. She is a retired professor of Japanese literature at the University of California, Irvine, describes Copeland as a highly respected scholar whose contributions have benefited the field of gender and women’s studies in Japanese literature. She has translated a “complex and daunting” essay by Mieko Ayagai, an influential early critic in postwar Japan.

“Rebecca did a superb job, hunting down obscure references, untangling theory elliptical sentences and giving us a highly readable translation of a work that brings women’s literature into the center of modern Japanese literary activity in its early stages,” Fujii says, “a time that up until very recently was seen as being an exclusively male writer- and reader-dominated realm.”

Copeland often returns to Japan to conduct research, including trips sponsored by the Japan Foundation, the Asia Pacific Student Fulbrights and the Japan-U.S. Student Fulbrights. She has presented at universities across the United States and in Canada, Germany, the Netherlands and even Taiwan. This summer, she will attend conferences in London, England, and Warsaw, Poland.

In her recent work, Copeland explores how contemporary Japanese women writers are using the popular genre of detective fiction as a chance to raise questions about Japanese society. In a forthcoming piece, she contends that detective fiction writer Kirino Nobuko uses pornography to unsettle readers and force a discussion about the oppression limitations placed on women.

“Kirino reads through the dark and dangerous world of the pornography industry where women are exploited as objects of desire,” Copeland writes. “But at a deeper level, Kirino questions the temporariness of sex in Japan, interrogating the agency and authenticity of female desire. Unraveling the marriage system alongside the pornography industry, Kirino undermines the sacrosanct position of the Japanese family and nation.”

Japan has long been a part of the Copeland family institution. Her parents moved there as missionaries after World War II. In 1956, after Copeland was born, the family moved to Wake Forest N.C., where her father began teaching at a seminary school. Copeland grew up fairly indifferent to Japanese culture, but that changed in college.

She was pursuing a creative writing degree at St. Andrews College in North Carolina when her father became chancellor of a Baptist-founded college in Japan. Her parents urged her to join them. “I was torn,” Copeland says. “I had already taught my senior composition class and couldn’t pass up the opportunity.”

She now sees the experience as the most important year of her life.

“[I] became enthralled with Japanese poetry and writing,” she says. “Encountering another culture transformed me, and I wanted to expose others to the experience. It really solidified for me what I was interested in and what I wanted to do with my life.”

In 1979, Copeland entered the University of Iowa, earning graduate work at Columbia University. In a field dominated by male scholars, she capitalized on her “otherness” by becoming the first at Columbia to research modern Japanese women writers.

Her decision to focus on Uno was influenced by a landmark 1924 essay written by Uno, “The Modern Girl in Pre-War Japanese Literature.”

In her dissertation research, Copeland discusses the concept of “confession” in the work of Uno Chieko during a spring-seminar session on “Japanese Modernity: Reading the Modern Girl in Pre-War Japanese Literature.”

Copeland teaches the University’s undergraduate course on Japanese civilization, as well as upper-level courses on Japanese literature, fiction and theatre. She chairs two publications, including Modern Japanese Literature, Fiction and Theatre, and the Japanese Association for the Study of Literature and Art.

She also brings her research into the classroom with courses such as “Japanese Modernity: Reading the Modern Girl in Pre-War Japanese Literature."

Copeland is respected for her research and teaching, but her half-marathon may be the life-shaping impact she often has on the students she advises and teaches.

Edward S. Macias, says, “For Rebecca, teaching one student long after graduation is as important as teaching one who becomes a marvelous mentor by introducing me to students in the field. I remember her encouraging me for further research, commenting on my book proposal and writing recommendations for grants.”

Speaking of her students, Copeland says, “It’s wonderful to see the students grow and change, help them to do, ‘He who does not climb a fool. He who climbs twice is a fool.’”

At Washington University, she has climbed into several departmental administrative roles, serving as a director of East Asian Studies in Arts & Sciences from 1998-2002. She also led efforts to win a $1.3 million grant from the Freeman Foundation for the Visiting East Asia Professionals (VEAP) Program, an undergraduate study initiative launched in 2002.

The Freeman contribution represents the largest single foundation grant for promotion of Asian studies that the University has ever received, says Edward S. Macias, Ph.D., executive dean and dean of Arts & Sciences.

Under Rebecca’s leadership, the VEAP program already has resulted in extensive student participation by an impressive array of prominent Asian journalists, artists and other professionals.

Macias says, “VEAP visitors are interacting with faculty and students and participating in public forums, special courses and workshops."

The interdisciplinary nature of the program is generating some terrific new ideas.”

Copeland teaches the University’s undergraduate course on Japanese civilization, as well as upper-level courses on Japanese literature, fiction and theatre. She teaches a special seminar on “Japanese Modernity: Reading the Modern Girl in Pre-War Japanese Literature.”

In addition to all of that, she adds, “she has also become a great friend. I could want nothing more from a professor and mentor."

Rebecca L. Copeland

University Title: Associate professor of Japanese Language & Literature in the Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures and director of the Visiting East Asian Professional program, both in Arts & Sciences

Years at the University: 12

Degrees: B.A. in English and creative writing from Appalachian College in Laurinburg, N.C. (1978); M.A. in English from Virginia Tech (1986); and a Ph.D. in Japanese literature, and in philosophy (1983), both from Columbia University

Family: Husband, Richard Ruby, a St. Louis-based entrepreneur and genealogist; German Shepherds; exploring German-born, non-competitive trailblazing, canoeing, and raising German Shepherds; exploring

In addition to all of that, she adds, “she has also become a great friend. I could want nothing more from a professor and mentor.”

April 18, 2003

Washington People