Safes steroids? Research may lead to new drugs  
By Michael C. Fortun

Scientists have identified a key component of steroids' effects on the immune system, a possible first step toward developing new drugs that can offer the same benefits as steroids without the many potentially serious side effects. Louis J. Muglia, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of molecular biology and pharmacology and of pediatrics, led a research team that published the new insight in the November issue of Nature Medicine.

By activating immune cells known as T-cells, Muglia's team linked steroids to the suppression of an inflammatory compound known as cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2). The compound acts as a kind of immunological lighter fluid, speeding and expanding a number of inflammatory processes designed to destroy harmful invaders.

When this immunological firestarting is misdirected at the body's own tissues, autoimmune and inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus and inflammatory bowel disease can result. "Even in normal people, we know inflammation is a way to protect you," he said. "But if it's too much and it's not controlled, it can cause damage."

Doctors have used steroids for decades to control such diseases, but without costs. Side effects of high doses can include hormone loss, obesity, diabetes, growth impairment and mood alterations.

"For many of these diseases, there's no alternative to steroids," Muglia said. See Steroids, Page 6

This Week in WUSTL History
Oct. 20, 1900
The cornerstone was laid for Busch Hall, the first building on the Hilltop Campus, which was completed in 1903. This building served as a classroom building for the students and engineers employed by the 1904 World's Fair. The university occupied the building in 1903.

Oct. 22, 1854
O’Fallon Evening School opened for classes at the First School House in downtown St. Louis — the first of the new University's facilities to do so. Courses were offered in arithmetic, algebra, reading, grammar, declensions and, if needed, writing and spelling.

Sophomore Adam Aigner-Treworgy works the controls during his show on KWUR 90.3 FM. He is one of about 60 disc jockeys who work at the station, located in the basement of the Women's Building.

Student-run KWUR: the little station that could
By Neil Schiesser

Do you know that the University has its own radio station? It's true.

Student-run KWUR 90.3 FM is housed in the basement of the Women's Building, but its signal is sometimes hard to pick up even on the South 40. Despite this, the station is gaining a loyal following. In fact, it was recently named the best radio station in St. Louis by the Riverfront Times.

"We are really excited to have more avenues for people to listen," he said.

Another reason for the station's popularity is its wide-ranging playlist.

"I think one of the things that's so powerful about KWUR is that you can tune it on at any time of the day or night and hear many different types of music," says Jennings.

And we're not done yet. The University is publishing a new history book, Beginning a Great Work: Washington University in St. Louis, 1853-2003, written by Candace O'Connor. The book will be available early next year, but pre-orders are now being accepted at a discounted price.

The book is available in a hardcover edition for $29.95, or in a softcover edition for $24.95. It includes more than 500 pictures and illustrations that will be included in the new book.

The publishing editor at the Washington University Press, O'Connor has sold, substantially revised and co-authored a number of books. She has also contributed to the Washington University in St. Louis: A History, which was just released.

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The technique of simulating radiation doses has long been a mainstay in radiation oncology, but pre-orders are now being accepted at a discounted price. "For many of these diseases, there's no alternative to steroids," Muglia said. See Steroids, Page 6

Parents Weekend, Homecoming to include numerous events
By Neil Schiesser

The weekend of Oct. 17-19 will combine the Sesquicentennial anniversary observance, Homecoming and Parents Weekend for a unique celebration of the University community.

For Parents Weekend, registration and check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. today at Umstead Lounge in Umstead Hall. Parents are then invited to join their son or daughter in class or to visit a variety of other classes throughout the day.

"It was a unique occasion for us to come together and show our appreciation for our students," said Aigner-Treworgy. "It's a little station that really works for us." See KWUR, Page 6

Pictorial history book marks 150th; orders now being taken
By Andy Clemens

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the University's founding in 1853, the University is publishing a new history book, Beginning a Great Work: Washington University in St. Louis, 1853-2003, written by Candace O'Connor. The book will be available early next year, but pre-orders are now being accepted at a discounted price.

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This feature will be included in the Project and engage parents in a discussion of the issues addressed, as well as for corporations and health-care institutions.

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Lewis the robot, now a ‘grad student,’ wins award

**BY TONY FITZPATRICK**

Lewis the robotic photographer recently added "graduate student" to his impressive resume when the robot gave a spoken presentation to computers and engineering students. Lewis, who was once a morning construction worker, now studies how to navigate to a room and to a desk, asked for directions to his major professor's office, set the robot to move, and then returned to the speaker's dais, where he gave a presentation.

He did all of this on his own, without any outside assistance. One of his inventors, William D. Smart, Ph.D., assistant professor of computer science and engineering, said that Lewis was capable of changing graphic material on a screen for him during the talk. Lewis' achievements gave Washington University the Robot Challenge Championship Award and the Ben Wegreen Award for outstanding achievement in artificial intelligence (AI) Technologies, given to the team demonstrating the best integration and effective use of AI techniques situated on a robot. Additionally, Lewis was named first robotic photographer, making a difference within the world of photography.

"I was delighted that everything worked as well as it did," Smart said. "We're excited about the future of Lewis and all that he's capable of doing."

Once the robot reached the desk, it was allowed to use a map of the conference center. The robot's navigation system uses sensor readings and techniques from probability theory to allow the robot to estimate its position in the room accurately.

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**Neighbors voice concerns, praise at annual meeting**

**BY ANDY CLYDESSHEN**

Construction brings headaches, noises and harried drivers. But when done correctly, it also brings some accolades.

At the fifth annual "Report to the Neighbors" meeting Oct. 8 in Steinberg Hall, a panel of University administrators heard both concerns and praise for the way construction, parking and financial matters have been handled in the past year.

The panel featured Pat Barrett, a member of the Neighbors Council; Steve Hoffor, assistant vice chancellor for students and director of operations; James E. McLeod, vice chancellor for students and dean of the College of Arts & Sciences; Richard A. Roll, executive vice chancellor; and Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton.

Leah Merrifield, director of community relations, moderated the meeting.

The majority of neighbors' concerns centered on the ongoing construction project — how it has, and will, affect the neighborhood. The one concern that is as far as new buildings and renovations and parking issues.

Roloff and Wrighton addressed some of the concerns and said there is not any new additions to the future plans for the immediate future, but several buildings would take "official" time to renovate.

According to Wrighton, Ursus A. Whitaker Hall for Biomedical Engineering will be formally dedicated Oct. 20, and an additional groundbreaking for the Sam Fox Arts Center will be April 14, with artist Frank Stella delivering the keynote address.

In addition, Wrighton said, the Olin Library renovation will be finished in the spring, with a May 7 dedication that will feature former Harvard University President Neil Rudenstine delivering the keynote address and the dedicating of Olin Library to the university community.

With the expansion of the University's holdings off campus, a concern was raised that some students have taken to parking in residential areas. Hoffor said expansion of the Olin Parking Garage would take place when construction of the University Center begins, probably in two or three years.

Other neighbors praised the University for its attention to detail, saying that all phases of the immediate future, but several buildings would take "official" time to renovate.

"It was a big deal that we had a small, tight-knit team of students working on the project," Smart said. "We're excited about the future of Lewis and all that he's capable of doing."

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**Picturing Our Past**

Homecoming queen Betty Jo Bussman (right) and her court in 1965. Homecoming is always a ritual at colleges, and Washington University is no different. Here, the festivities begin on the main campus and continue throughout the week. On Oct. 19, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton will talk about the undergraduate experience here as well as the latest happenings and returns for various groups; a tailgate party will start at 11 a.m.; and students will wear special jerseys. The highlight of the weekend is, of course, the football game. This year, University Athletic Association rival University of Chicago will be in town for a noon kickoff at Francis Field. All other athletic teams are on the road this weekend.

Washington University is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2003-04. Special programs and announcements will be made throughout the yearlong observance.
Enhancing career development
Faculty retreat aspires to improve academic life for all departments

BY KIMBERLY LEYDIG

W

It is the ultimate aim of enhancing the academic life and career development of School of Medicine faculty: that is the mission of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Faculty Council and the Academic Affairs Committee is inviting and encouraging all medical school faculty to attend the WUSM 2003 Faculty Retreat.

The interactive retreat will be held from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Nov. 15 at the Eric P. Newman Education Center.

"The purpose of this retreat will be to enhance the environment at the School of Medicine by focusing on issues that further the career development of medical school faculty," said Larry J. Shapiro, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the medical school.

"In order for we operate in a dynamic and changing environment, we must maintain constant vigilance in order to reinforce the high standards for which the School of Medicine is known. And to do so, we must have the support and involvement of all faculty.

After more than a year of intensive planning, which included an extensive survey, the Retreat Planning Committee narrowed down key issues and topics concern faculty and medical school faculty.

The five most frequently raised issues in the survey were promotion; improving the promotion process to ensure fairness and consistency; more effective implementation of the annual reviews, which is part of the retreat, the best approach to mentoring; and improving faculty diversity, which includes ethnic, minority, gender and handicap issues.

Participants will choose to attend two of five discussion sessions, which will be divided into small breakout groups for in-depth discussions.

The purpose of these sessions is to generate specific solutions and improvements that can be implemented over the next 12-24 months.

"We encourage faculty members from all departments and all tracks to attend," said retreat committee Chair Gregory A. Storch, M.D., professor of pediatrics, of medicine and of molecular microbiology. "By working together, we can provide a chance for all faculty to improve academic life for all faculty.

We plan to create an environment where there is interaction amongst all parties in order to achieve constructive analysis and useful solutions."

LARRY J. SHAPIRO

The retreat also will mark the first time departments heads come to answer questions related to the promotions process and faculty career development.

"Nothing like this has ever happened before," Storch said. "The open-panel discussion will offer faculty members the chance to ask questions and express their concerns to department heads. We are also very excited that the retreat will be the first occasion in which the new dean will formally address all faculty.

In order to identify key issues for the retreat, the committee conducted an online survey (in which 52 percent of the medical school faculty participated) to better understand faculty attitudes and perceptions. The results of the survey are detailed in a 53-page report, which includes advice to the new dean, the career development issues and discussions of both faculty diversity and the enhancements generated by the first retreat, held in February 2000.

The first retreat resulted in several positive changes: Annual reviews are now mandated for all faculty; non-departmental-faculty chairs are included on promotion committees; and research-track faculty now have parallel status with investigator and clinician-educator tracks.

Although the first retreat drew 270 faculty members, the participants reported the best way to improve future retreats was to increase attendance.

"Although the governance of our medical school was not assigned until the late democratic process, faculty members often feel frustrated by a perceived lack of knowledge about and influence over internal affairs," said committee member Diana L. Gray, M.D., associate dean for faculty affairs and professor of obstetrics and gynecology and of radiology.

"Participation in the faculty retreat is one mechanism whereby we can provide input into these democratic processes," Villareal said. "That's one of the things that makes it very difficult to lose weight," Lowe said. "Most of the time when you go on a diet, you lose weight, but when you go back to your regular eating patterns, the weight comes back because that's how heavy your body wants to be. We think enterostatin might play a role in the regulation of that set point.

With this grant, Lowe will investigate the effects of enterostatin on neonatal and adult mice to determine how the drug affects body weight and whether it is necessary for survival. The combination of safe and effective weight-loss aid, enterostatin, is too great to overlook and it is being administered orally as a treatment for human obesity.

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Boyd to address journalism's challenges for Freeman lecture

By Barbara Rea

Gerald Boyd, former managing editor of The New York Times, will deliver the Corzine Freeman Lecture at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31, in the Clopton Auditorium.

Boyd will address the current challenges facing the media and the importance of understanding, as well as engaging in, the history of press freedom and diversity.

Boyd joined the Times in 1973. He worked his way up to be the managing editor of the White House Correspondent. In 1985, he joined the Times and was the editor of the international political team. After the 1984 presidential election, he became one of the paper's two White House correspondents.

In 1991, Boyd became a senior editor and was appointed special assistant to the managing editor. Soon thereafter, he was named managing editor of the Washington bureau staff of more than 100 reporters and editors.

Throughout his career at both papers, Boyd has won several awards and has been a Pulitzer Prize winner. His work has been published in the Times. In 2017, Freeman was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his work at the Times.

Boyd will focus his lecture on the importance of understanding the history of press freedom and diversity. He will highlight the challenges facing the media today and the importance of engaging in the history of press freedom.

Boyd is a noted journalist and has worked to increase the number of minority students in journalism. While at the Times, he established a journalism workshop for high school students, and he has taught journalism at Harvard University.

Boyd's lecture will be in memory of Freeman, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. The lecture is sponsored by the Department of Journalism.

Boyd's talk is free and open to the public.

For information on the event, as well as parking assistance, call 912-5285 or go online to wusl.edu.
**Tuesday, Oct. 28**

**Football**

According to Hotchner, writing 30 years later, "I'd rather smoke... I'd rather smoke." Tom: I'm going out to smoke. You smoke too, right? No, Tom. You smoke... yourself." The reception was devas-...enough to give you a night-....

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**Wednesday, Oct. 29**

8 a.m. Environmental and Graduate Studies Roundup — "Skin Cell Disease: A Challenge for Biomedical Researchers." Michael R. Deeb, assoc. prof. of pathol. and immunol., Bowman Gray School of Medicine.

Clayton Apt., 4650d Campus’s Place. 935-4705.

**Thursday, Oct. 30**

7:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Influenza Clinics (3rd and 4th floors, Anthropology & Sociology Bldg., Mallinckrodt Academic Complex).

**Friday, Oct. 31**

7 p.m. Volleyball vs. Southern U., Illini Center, Athens. 950-4705.

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**Monday, Oct. 27**

7 p.m. Men’s Soccer vs. Westminster College. Francis Field. 935-4705.

**Saturday, Oct. 25**


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**Music**

**Sunday, Oct. 19**

3 p.m. Faculty Recital. "Give Us This Day..." A recital of Math and Classical Music. George Strehlow, gen. mus. prof. and conductor of Helzberg Hall. 455-6661.

**Monday, Oct. 20**

7 p.m. "Writing Program Reading Series. "Awards Banquet." St. Louis Public Library. 455-6661.

**Tuesday, Oct. 21**


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**Wednesday, Oct. 22**

2 p.m. "Men’s Soccer vs. Westminster College. Francis Field. 935-4705.

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**Thursday, Oct. 23**

8 p.m. Writing Program Reading Series. "Awards Banquet." Shontine, who was an English professor at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock when his novel was published, has taught at the University of Chicago and the University of Missouri.

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**Friday, Oct. 24**


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**Saturday, Oct. 25**

10 a.m. "Women’s Soccer season." The "Glass Menagerie.""

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**Sunday, Oct. 26**

4 p.m. "Women’s Soccer season." The "Glass Menagerie.""

---

**Monday, Oct. 27**

7 p.m. "Writing Program Reading Series. "Awards Banquet." Shontine, who was an English professor at the University of Chicago and the University of Missouri.

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**Tuesday, Oct. 28**

7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Infectious Diseases for the Primary Care Provider. Slide kit. 323 for all health profession-..." Med. Library. 315, 921-5053.

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**Wednesday, Oct. 29**

4 p.m. "Women’s Soccer season." The "Glass Menagerie.""

---

**Thursday, Oct. 30**

8 p.m. Writing Program Reading Series. "Awards Banquet." Shontine, who was an English professor at the University of Chicago and the University of Missouri.

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**Friday, Oct. 31**

7 p.m. Volleyball vs. Southern U., Illini Center, Athens. 950-4705.
Steroids
Study funded by National Institutes of Health, Pfizer

from Page 1

Muglia said. "It's very clear, though, that we've really limited in how high a dosage we can give patients because we can't treat them because of the side effects."

Steven Brewer, first author on the paper and a student in the Missouri Training Program, expressed amazement at how little is known of steroids' effects at the molecular level and how much progress he and his colleagues were able to make in the study. "The goal here was just to go out and further science and maybe — if we were really lucky — do something that could help people," Brewer said. "It looks like we won't have to wait too long to see if that goal is a second one that I want to achieve."

To zero in on how steroids work, Muglia studied their effects on the glucocorticoid receptor, a protein found within cells throughout the body. Natural steroids made by the adrenal glands normally bind to these receptors.

Scientists knew those binding abilities were important for human survival and prevented potentially dangerous, uncontrolled hormone activity. "Prior to the development of artificial steroids in the 1950s, people diagnosed with adrenal insufficiency, which left them with low levels of these natural steroids, only survived about a year," Muglia said.

In this study, funded by the National Institutes of Health and headed by researchers in Maglia's lab genetically disrupted the glucocorticoid receptor in mice and then gave the mice injections of testosterone. "The mice were either treated with steroids or with another compound that attack T-cells. Activated by the attack, the T-cells mounted a counterattack. In experimental mice, the counterattack was minimal and finally out of control."

When scientists looked for the genes that were out of control in the T-cells, they found unusually high levels of TGF-β, a protein linked to rheumatoid arthritis, infections and other difficulties. "To see if this compound was connected to the experimental mice's failure to treat their own T-cells, scientists applied a new batch of experimental mice suppressed in controlling TGF-β."

Muglia's group is working to check the theory of steroid action in mice for other autoimmune diseases such as lupus and multiple sclerosis. "Before we can move forward with this work, we need to make sure it works."

The researchers have submitted for patent the algorithm used for the wavelike analysis for a patent. Much of the programming for the algorithm was performed by Matthews Picard, a visiting undergraduate student working on his honors thesis for the Ecole Polytechnic in Palaiseau, France, considered that country's finest technical university.

Wickerhauser collaborates with researchers worldwide on problems that might better be handled by wavelet analysis.

The radiation oncology dosage distribution problem was a good candidate for wavelet-based simulation because wavelets give good approximations to smooth data distributions with "rough" noise, such as is produced by Monte Carlo simulations with relatively few particles. Wavelets preserve more of the roughness than other approximation features of the "smooth" function than other approximation techniques.

"Wavelet approximations take many things and smooth them out, without destroying sharpness," Wickerhauser said.

18 at Francis Field. A tailgate party will start at 11 a.m. in the stadium. Parents can buy tailgate tickets at the event. Students do not need tickets. A walking tour of historic Forest Park will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Brookings Center. Information on tours and services and tours will take place during each of the three days.

For more information, call Melanie Osborn, assistant director of orientation and Parents Weekend programs, at 935-8550 or go online to parentsweekend.wustl.edu.

South, the farming policies of the federal government and the desperate conditions of their lives.

The order Beginning a Great Work for the discounted price of $99.95, go online to wustl.bkstr.com. Or download a PDF order form; or go to the University of Chicago Press bookstore at www.pressuchicago.org. After Dec. 1, the book will cost $44.95. Beginning a Great Work will be available for purchase from the Campus Store in Mallinckrodt Student Center early next year.

The following incidents were reported to University Police Oct. 9-14. Readers with information that could assist in investigating these incidents are urged to call 935-5555. This information is provided as a public service to promote safety awareness and is available to the University Police Web site at police.wustl.edu.

Steroids

from Page 1

"I'm very proud of the students who work at KWUR. Every accolade the station receives directly translates back to the students. I'm very happy that other people are starting to notice the tremendous amount of work they put in."

Jim Hayes

Otolink Magazine and the Record.

"I'm very proud of the students who work at KWUR," Hayes said. "Every accolade the station receives directly translates back to the students. I'm very happy that other people are starting to notice the tremendous amount of work they put in."

In week 1939, which aired nationally on "The Charlie McCarthy Show" and "The John Abbott Show." Programmers at KWUR really want to be there." Wickerhauser said.

"I'm very proud of the students who work at KWUR. Every accolade the station receives directly translates back to the students. I'm very happy that other people are starting to notice the tremendous amount of work they put in."

Jim Hayes

Notebook
to Broadcasting Excellence Might Have Been More Wrong

Even though being on the air could will keep broadcasting excellence might have been more wrong. Since there isn't a broadcast station nearby, KWUR is run very much like a marketing and finance department on campus, when I first

student Djs must undergo a semester-long training course where they learn the rules of the station and the Federal Communications Commission. KWUR is run more like a commercial radio station.

"Since there isn't a broadcast major on campus, when I first came here three years ago I was concerned that the commitment to broadcasting excellence might not be there," Hayes said. "I could not have been more wrong."

"Even though being on the air is not a requirement for a class, the student Djs treat it very, very seriously. Everyone's who at KWUR really wants to be there."

Junior Spencer Kathol, a computer engineering and finance double-major and the station's director of operations, said: "I'm very proud of the students who work at KWUR. Every accolade the station receives directly translates back to the students. I'm very happy that other people are starting to notice the tremendous amount of work they put in."

Jim Hayes

Weekend

from Page 1

will present "Enhancing the Student Experience" from the ATC, 18 in the auditorium of Uincas A. Whitaker Hall for Biomedical Engineering. He will discuss what the University is doing to enhance the educational experience of undergraduate students, including new programs and new buildings.

The football team will take on the University of Chicago in the Homecoming game at noon Oct. 10.

Book

from Page 1

Otolink Magazine and the Record.

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Student Experience" from Week 1, which aired nationally on "The Charlie McCarthy Show" and "The John Abbott Show." Programmers at KWUR really want to be there." Wickerhauser said.

The station has been operating unassumingly — for several years — to get an upgrade to 100 watts so it can broadcast to the entire St. Louis region. More students are being drawn to the feasibility of such a move.

Until then, this little station that could keep broadcasting its huge variety of student-run programming for people not only on campus but also around the world, thanks to the Internet. "I'm very proud of the students who work at KWUR," Hayes said. "Every accolade the station receives directly translates back to the students. I'm very happy that other people are starting to notice the tremendous amount of work they put in."
Notables

Introducing new faculty members

The following are among the new faculty members at the University of Michigan who will be introduced periodically in this newsletter.

Katherine V. Barnes, J.D.
She joins the School of Law as an associate professor. Barnes is an expert in statistical evidence and forms of proof, including expert testimony on racial profiling and traffic stop data in the state of Maryland. Her professional interests also span discrimination law, employment law, civil procedure and criminal procedure. Barnes has written on the relationship between criminal justice policy and inequality.

Peter S. Horvath, Ph.D.
He joins the George Warren Brown School of Social Work as assistant professor. He earned a master’s degree in social work from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a Bachelor of Science in psychology from Washington University in St. Louis. Before coming to Washington University, Horvath is a former police detective and a male outreach coordinator for MSU’s “Safe Place.” His teaching interests span legal ethics, family dynamics, research methods, human behavior in social environments, social work theory and oppression. His research focuses on legal and ethical issues in social system dynamics and “flight simulations for social work practice.”

Tomika Bratcher, J.D., Ph.D.
She joins the Department of History in Arts & Sciences and the School of Law as an associate professor. Brown-Nagin is an expert in legal and social history and constitutional law. Her research and teaching interests span legal ethics, complex litigation and labor and employment relations. Brown-Nagin has published in journals including the Duke Law Journal, Law and Inequality Journal, the Journal of Legal History, the Journal of American History and the Journal of Law and Education, on topics such as civil rights, social change, social science, charter school litigation and affirmative action in higher education. Brown-Nagin earned a law degree in 1997 from Yale Law School, where she was an editor of the law journal.

Steven J. Gunn, J.D.
He joins the School of Law as an associate professor. Gunn, who has extensive experience in public interest litigation and clinical practice, most recently taught clinics at Yale Law School. In these clinics, he instructed and supervised law students in the representation of indigent defendants in criminal and civil cases, and clinics in constitutional law and administrative law. Gunn earned a law degree from Yale University in 1995.

Notable deaths

Jeffrey Blanchard, a graduate student in mathematics in Arts & Sciences, died at his home Thursday, Oct. 9, 2003, from complications of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He was 76.

Timothy P. Fleming, M.D., associate professor of surgery, has received a one-year, $175,000 grant from the University of Michigan Health System’s Prevention and Control Research Program titled “Relation of Matrix Metalloproteinase-2 in the Pathogenesis of Post-Transplant Obliterative Airway Disease.”

Zhi Hong Lu, Ph.D., research fellow, has received a one-year, $40,000 research fellowship from the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Katherine Weilbaecher, M.D., assistant professor of medicine, has received a two-year, $320,373 grant from the American Heart Association for research titled “Risk Assessment for Chronic Atrial Fibrillation.”

Paul Bridgman, M.D., associate professor of medicine, has received a two-year, $121,000 grant from the American Heart Association for research titled “An Essential Gastrointestinal Type-Specific Mechanism for Nonmuscle Myosin IIb in Cardiovascular Development and Function.”

Hong Xu, M.D., National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellow, has received a two-year, $80,648 grant from the American Heart Association for research titled “Engineering Thrombin for Exusive Activity Towards Protein C.”

By Kimberly Leviton

Armand Diaz, assistant professor emeritus of radiology, 76

Armand Diaz, assistant professor emeritus of radiology, died at his home Thursday, Oct. 9, 2003, from complications of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He was 76.

Diaz began teaching radiology courses at the medical school in 1968 and retired in 2001. Born and raised in Havana, Diaz studied nursing at the University of Havana and came to New York in the 1940s. He later became a United States citizen and entered the Army to serve in the Korean War.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Rita McLaughlin; two daughters, Dr. Karen Diaz with husband, David A. Leib, and Dr. Karen Diaz with husband, Dennis J. Dietzen; and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Radiology Education Fund at the Jewish Hospital College of Nursing and Allied Health at 3535 Taylor South Highway Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63110.

Homeland security fellowships received by students

By Tony Fitzpatrick

Jeffrey Blanchard, a graduate student in mathematics in Arts & Sciences, and Shannon Lieberg, a senior in computer science and engineering, are two of 101 recipients of scholarships under the new Homeland Security Scholars and Fellows Program.

This educational program is administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Training and Education. The initiative will support the development and mentoring of the next generation of scientists as they study ways to prevent terror attacks within the United States, reduce America’s vulnerability to terrorism and mitigate the damage and recovery efforts from attacks that occur.

“We are extremely pleased to welcome these individuals as part of our team to explore the future scientific possibilities for protecting our nation against terrorism,” said Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge.

The department received near 14,500 applications for review by more than 100 experts selected from a variety of disciplines including physical, biological, social and behavioral sciences, engineering mathematics and computer science.

The Homeland Scholars and Fellows Program is open to all U.S. students interested in pursuing scientific and technological innovations that can be applied to the homeland security mission.

Students from engineering disciplines constituted about one-third of the awards, followed by computer science, math, psychology and social sciences. Men and women were almost equally represented.

The students have begun their fellowships with the department. Funding for this program will be up to $3.4 million for fiscal year 2004. In addition, the department has proposed in every subsequent fiscal year, with a commitment to offer about 50 homeland security fellowships for awards annually.

The Homeland Security Scholars and Fellows Program will provide students with the opportunity to spend their entire undergraduate or graduate training in homeland security research and studies to further their knowledge of the homeland security field. The fellowship will offer three short- and long-term exchange programs at laboratories, facilities and organizations throughout the homeland security complex.
Giving the gift of hope

G. Scott Robinson uses his musical talents to help sick and disabled children.

"Scott is a strong and physical guitar player with an intricate style that keeps his hands moving and busy. He will benefit St. Louis Children's Hospital." — Bill Otten

Proceeds from Robinson's CD, Plenty Indeed for My Two Hands to Do, will benefit St. Louis Children's Hospital.

Scott Robinson plays a custom-built Martin guitar. "My story is not a sad story at all," Robinson says. "It's a happy story because I'm still alive, because I survived osteogenesis imperfecta. Many people didn't."

"Hope." — John Lennon

Scott Robinson was born with the rare genetic condition "osteogenesis imperfecta," known as "brittle bone disorder." As a child, he suffered fractures from playing on the floor, falling out of bed, even jumping when startled. All told, he's endured more than 200 such incidents. Yet in 6 years at the University of Washington, a systems programmer in the Division of Computing & Communications, has nevertheless carved out a unique and frequently colorful career while also emerging as an accomplished guitarist.

"My story is not a sad story at all," Robinson says. "It's a happy story because I'm still alive, because I survived osteogenesis imperfecta. Many people didn't."

"I learned songs in Sunday school, intrinsically. You are expected to contribute."

"A little farther before he retired, his family now living in Kirkwood, Mo., in September 1960."

"Primary Children's"

Robinson was born in 1946 at Brooklyn Naval Hospital. He had two broken legs and was alive.

His parents consulted doctors in New York and Salt Lake City (including one physician then caring for Babe Ruth), and at the age of 6 months he entered Salt Lake City's Primary Children's Hospital. Despite a pair of short, useless hands also move him through life — they push his wheelchair, drive his car, take care of his cats and keep watch over the University computer system.

"Now he wants to give something back to the world of pediatric medicine that once cared for him."

"Primary Children's"

Robinson frequently plays jazz and folk, has a "mellow sound, bright highs and low buzzing" tailored to his intimate, coffeehouse style gigs.

"Plenty Indeed for My Two Hands to Do"

Yet Robinson has never forgotten his roots. In the mid-1970s, he bought guitar to disabled children through the Easter Seals Society and later did the same through the Kirkwood Civic Center. Last October, Robinson and Givens — who had previously recorded together as part of Seed of 1999, a benefit for a Honduran orphanage — began conceptualizing Plenty Indeed.

The pair visited St. Louis Children's Hospital and met with doctors and patients. Robinson was deeply moved, but he was also struck by a lack of music.

"I looked at Steve and said, "That's it!" Robinson recalls. "We're going to donate the funds for instruments and training and get a music program going for these kids."

After months of rehearsal, Robinson, bassist Gerry Kasper, guitarist Patsy Diller, and vocalist George Rock were ready to perform. About 28 hours after the December 1988 Santa Cruz earthquake, they recorded originals such as "Bassline Blues," inspired by one of Robinson's cats — who had crawled inside a de-stringed guitar — and standards like "Moonlight in Vermont," for which Givens contributes vocals.

They also recorded several songs — "On A Slow Boat to China," "I Can't Give You Anything But Love," "I'm Beginning to See the Light" and "Lingering" — that Robinson first encountered as a teenager in Bay's guitar shop.

The collection's title comes from its final track, "I Have Two Little Hands," which Robinson remembered from Sunday school at Primary Children's.

(Plenty Indeed is available at the Campus Store; by calling 868-9301; or by e-mailing Robinson at gsr@aismail.wustl.edu. Cost is $15.)

Most recently, Robinson joined a mentoring program in order to more directly work with disabled children.

"I've beaten the odds and been able to live my life independently, but I still feel a sense of responsibility to others who feel their problems may be insurmountable," Robinson concludes. "Some of them don't care if they can't talk, they're in pain, I want to give them what was given to me."

"Hops."