Kidneys for cash?

Ethical questions aside, researchers study hypothetical cost-effectiveness

BY NICOLE VINES

The numbers are scary — especially if you’re one of the 55,000 Americans waiting for a kidney transplant.

Last year, only 13,000 of them got kidneys. Another 3,000 died on the waiting list.

Only half of potential organ donors actually donate, but even if every potential donor came through, many on the waiting list still wouldn’t be helped.

Although the vast majority of donated organs come from people who have died, transplanting kidneys from living donors has gained popularity in the last decade. These donations — many times made by family members — gain an extra chance of being successful and can happen quickly, often in less than a year.

But what if society chose to pay living, unrelated donors for their kidneys? Setting all ethical issues aside — how much would one of your kidneys be worth?

Mark Schnitzler, Ph.D., assistant professor of health administration in the School of Medicine, and Arthur Matta, M.D., professor of surgery at the University of Minnesota, set up a mathematical model to determine whether it would be economically feasible to pay donors.

Their study shows that society would pay donors $90,000 and easily break even.

“It’s a large number,” Schnitzler said. “Society could pay that, and the patient receives both quality of life and life-extension benefits from the donor.”

For their analysis, the researchers assumed the establishment of a government-regulated system in which a fixed price would be paid to the donor and the kidneys would be allocated by a pre-defined system. Factors included in the calculations were patient survival, cost of dialysis, organ survival after transplantation, cost of transplant surgery, maintenance costs and the cost of returning to dialysis.

For the recipient of a living, unrelated donor kidney transplant, the estimated medical expense for 20 years following transplant is $277,600. The expected medical cost for a dialysis patient for that long is $372,179.

“Kidneys for cash?” Schnitzler said. “We should also value the donation that could be paid to the donor without increasing costs.”

However, Schnitzler and Matta said there are additional benefits.

“We should also value the extra life — the quality of life — that patients get following transplantation,” Schnitzler said.

“If you compare that to what we already are willing to spend for dialysis, it increases the value of the donated kidney even more.”

The recipient of a living, unrelated donor’s kidney can expect, on average, nearly nine extra years of life after transplant. If that patient had remained on dialysis for life, he or she could only expect 3.4 years.

Schnitzler said assuming society values the gained life at the same rate it’s willing to pay foruce Kidneys, Page 7.

Sustainable management of rivers is focus of Earth Day forum April 22

BY GERRY EVERDING

“Our Rivers, A Sustainable Resource?” will be the focus of a public education forum that four University faculty will lead as part of an April 22-23 community-wide symposium being held in conjunction with the fifth annual St. Louis Earth Day celebration.

“Dialogue for Development: Investing in Sustainable Communities” is the unifying theme of the two-day Earth Day Symposium, to be held at the Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd. The University is co-sponsoring the symposium as part of a collaboration that involves 39 organizations, government entities and companies.

The program’s goal is to provide the St. Louis community with new tools and strategies to enable profitable development, a clean environment and the long-term livability of healthy, dynamic communities.

The University-led program on sustainable rivers will be held from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. April 22 and will feature Pratim Biswas, Ph.D., director of the Envi-

Network reception Anne Chao (right), a 1981 alumna of the School of Arts & Sciences, and Mark Hannah (background, left), a 1998 alumna of Arts & Sciences, chat with students Hane Nyklova and David Patterson during The Arts: PAD to stage The Good Person of Szechwan at Edison.
Roman installed into Welge fellowship

BY TONY FITZGERALD

G

nu-Catalin Roman, Ph.D., professor and chair of computer science and engineering, was installed as the Harold B. and Adrienne G. Welge Professor of Computer Science in a ceremony April 8 in Uncas A. Whitaker Hall for Biomedical Engineering.

The professorship was established in 1988 by a University alumnus and his wife in the "hope that engineering education and research may be made more effective in present years, as well as years to come."

Harold Briston Welge earned a bachelor's degree in architecture and mechanical engineering in 1930 and a master's degree in structural engineering in 1933 from the University.

He spent more than 26 years as a mechanical engineer and administrator with Proctor & Gamble in St. Louis and Cincinnati before returning to work for the St. Louis Water Division. He retired in 1979 and died in 1980. Adelaide Guina Welge earned two degrees from the University of Pittsburgh, a bachelor's in general science and a master's in mathematics. She worked as a buyer for a major department store in Pittsburgh before marrying Harold in 1939.

Her career took her on business trips to Europe, where she became interested in fashion design and costume. She died in 1986.

In 1975, at the age of 25, he became assistant professor of computer science at Washington University. He became professor and chair of the Department of Computer Science in 1997, just the third person to head the department.

In recent years, he has led his computer science colleagues through dramatic transformation.

In just five years, the faculty size reached an all-time high of 25. Fifteen faculty members were hired as part of a successful recruiting effort, and three transferred into the department as a result of a restructuring that consolidated the computer engineering and computer science programs into a single department, the Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

Roman's research spans a broad range of computer science subjects, including mobile computing, formal design methods, visualization, requirements and design methodologies for distributed systems, interactive high-speed computer vision algorithms, formal languages, biomedical simulation, computer graphics and distributed databases.

His international reputation played a critical role in securing St. Louis as the host city for the 2005 International Conference on Software Engineering, for which he will serve as general chair.

All of his work has been the result of intensive collaborations with students and colleagues. His initial efforts were marked by contributions to areas that were in its formative stage — for example, concurrency coordination in distributed databases.

See Roman, Page 6

Baseball in Japan, U.S., focus of today's forum

BY GERRY EVERING

"M"itts Across the Pacific

Baseball in Japan and the United States will be the topic of a panel discussion with top executives of the two teams and Japan's Orix BlueWave baseball team at 2 p.m. today in the Van Cleef Courtroom of Anheuser-Busch Hall.

The forum will feature BlueWave owner Yoshikazu Miyachi, chair of the Orix Corp.; Frederick O. Hanser, vice chairman of the St. Louis Cardinals; and Timothy Hanser, vice president of community outreach, and Japan's Orix BlueWave baseball team.

They will discuss the current state of baseball, including its internationalization, the use of performance-enhancing drugs, new stadiums, salary caps, parity between teams and the game's future in Japan.

Miyachi completed postgraduate work in management at the University in 1966. Frederick Hanser earned a law degree from the University in 1966.

The discussion will be led by international sports journalist and television producer Brad Lewis, who earned an undergraduate degree from the Business School in 1966. Lepton has produced documentaries about Seattle Mariners outfielder Ichiro Suzuki and Cardinals outfielder So Taguchi.

Free and open to the public, the panel discussion is co-sponsored by the Visiting East Asian Professionals Program in Arts & Sciences and the Whitney R. Harris Institute for Global Legal Studies in the School of Law. The event will celebrate U.S.-Japanese relations and is part of the University's 150th anniversary celebration.

For more information, go online to arts.wustl.edu/veap or contact Krystal Mowrey at 935-8722 or veap@arts.wustl.edu.

Symposium on corporate governance

The Center for the Study of Ethics & Human Values will sponsor a symposium on corporate governance and ethics from 8-10 a.m. April 23 at the Charles F. Knight Executive Education Center.

Panelists for the John Dubinsky Symposium on Corporate Governance and Ethics will include Benjamin F. Edwards III, former chairman and chief executive officer of A.G. Edwards; William Emmens, economist at the Federal Reserve Bank; John Embrille, the Wall Street Journal reporter who wrote the Enron articles; and Joshua Hochberg, chief of the Fraud Division at the U.S. Department of Justice.

"In organizing this panel of nationally recognized leaders in business, law, media and public policy, the center hopes to forge a dialogue on one of the most important ethical issues facing corporate America," said Stuart D. Yoak, the center's executive director. "Hearing from those who represent fundamental perspectives on this topic is a critical step in rebuilding trust and restoring integrity.

Miriam Migaquon, J.D., adjunct professor of law, and Stacy L. Brooks, Ph.D., assistant dean in experimental learning and professional development in the Olin School of Business, helped organize the event and will serve as moderators.

Support for the symposium was provided in part by BJC HealthCare.

A continental breakfast will be provided beginning at 7:15 a.m.

For more information, call the Center for the Study of Ethics & Human Values at 935-9538 or go online to humanvalues.wustl.edu.

Fiction writer Antrim to read today

Fiction writer Donald Antrim will read from his work at 4 p.m. today in the Writing Program in Arts & Sciences.

His new collection, America, is free and open to the public and will take place in Marlo Lounge, Duncan Hall Room 201. A reception will follow.

Antrim has published three novels, Elect Mr. Bushman for a Better World, The Hundred Brothers, a finalist for the 1998 Pen/ Faulkner Award and most recently, The Keep.

Over the past year, he has published a series of memoir pieces in The New Yorker, exploring his relationship with his mother, who died in 2000.

"Not since the late Donald Barthelme have we had such a pitch-perfect surrendering of daily life," writes David Brie in The New Yorker.

Antrim has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation. He was a 2002-03 fellow at the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library.

From 1999 to 2000, The New Yorker named him one of the "20 writers for the 21st century.""
Brain activity changes in Tourette syndrome

By Jim Detjen

Scientists have known for years that abnormalities involving a brain chemical called dopamine are somehow connected to the movements and vocalizations, or tics, associated with Tourette syndrome.

Now, a new study by researchers has found that brain activity in these patients is abnormal — at least in memory tasks.

"We’ve observed in the living brain a dopamine-sensitive abnormality in people with tics. That’s been hypothesized for 40 years, but this is the first time it’s been demonstrated," said the study’s lead author, Kevin J. Black, M.D., assistant professor of psychiatry, neurology and neurosurgery.

The study is published online in the May issue of the Journal of Biological Psychiatry. Using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), the researchers were able to see which parts of the Tourette syndrome patients’ brains were more active than those of healthy participants.

The clearest differences were in a brain region called the parietal cortex, at the top of the brain roughly in between the front and back of the head.

Tourette syndrome patients also had increased activity in the medial frontal gyrus and in the thalamus, which acts as the brain’s relay station between the outer layer, or cortex, and the rest of the nervous system.

"People with tics performed this task just as well as people without tics, so it’s not something that involves a difference in output," Black said.

"Therefore, we believe any differences we saw in the fMRI scans reflect changes in the way the brain is working," Black said.

To determine whether the results were related to dopamine abnormalities, Hershey, Black and their colleagues gave all participants an intravenous infusion of the drug levodopa.

"The results suggest levodopa decreases in brain activity during the working memory task," Black said.

For more information, go online to wustl.edu.

The task measures working memory, a type of short-term memory that involves information on several things at once.

"We chose to look at the brain’s response to a working memory task because past research has shown that memory function could be affected by dopamine levels in the brain," said first author Tamara Hershey, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry.

"We also know dopamine is involved in tics, but if we used a task that involved movement, for example, the fact that some tics involve movement could have made it harder to interpret the differences in brain activity," Hershey said.

In terms of speed and accuracy during the memory task, there were no differences between the two groups, but fMRI scans revealed that several brain areas were more active in Tourette syndrome patients than in healthy participants.

"Certain issues came up over the years that have not been solved," Black said. "We were trying to find more dopamine-related abnormalities."
University Events

Brecht's The Good Person of Szechwan
By Lisa Otten

This is one of Brecht's masterworks — a brilliant amalgam of musical theater, musical comedy, drama and politics — about William Whitaker, senior artist-in-residence, who directs the play. In Brecht's apocalyptic vision, the earth is swarming with ruthless criminals and the desperate poor. The situation is so dire that the gods themselves have come to search for a good person.

To use a World, Brecht said it is possible to find good! It, of course, necessary in order to save your soul and in his pun, somehow necessary in order to do good! His answers are not easy, but they resonate profoundly in our own troubled times.

Brecht (1898–1956) first conceived of The Good Person of Szechwan in the late 1930s. He wrote it primarily between 1939 and 1943, while living in Scandi- noravia and the United States during the years of exile from Nazi Germany. The play is widely considered a prime example of Brecht's "Epic Theatre," a concept developed in opposition to traditional dram- atic verse and realistic fiction. Where dramatic theatre appealed to feeling, Epic Theatre, Brecht argued, appealed to intellect. Where dramatic theatre required the audience passively to observe how this Epic Theatre would move us to action.

And indeed, the epilogue to The Good Person of Szechwan, expressed in Brecht's notes, asks the audience to respond to the play through their actions.

The production also stars soprano Margaret Wilson as Yang Sun, Brecht's alter ego, the hard-nosed, unsparing, shrewd, but penniless prostitute who, after everyone else in her village has refused, agrees to enter into a marriage contract to fatten up the farm shop.

Brecht's Shen Teh is the farmhouse's wealthy, homely, yet honest and free, woman who possesses a self-effacing, self-righting, dynamic nature. The play is set in the first half of the 20th century, in a small Chinese village, where the village's swindling, manipulative mayor and the village's hypocritical schoolteacher manage to control and manipulate the village's weak-minded inhabitants, including the final- ly-wised-up, shrewd, but hard-handed Shen Teh.

The production of Brecht's The Good Person of Szechwan is directed by senior Alix Dizey. Costumes are by Bonnie Kruger, senior artist-in-residence. Lighting design is by senior Matthew Wardell. The production also features an original score by senior Sherry on Nunn.

Tickets are $12 — $8 for stu- dents, seniors, and Westside faculty and staff — and are available through the Edison Theatre Box Office and MetroTix outlets. For more information, call the Edison Theatre Box Office at 935-6453.

Run for Research • Realist Vision • Out With a Bang!

St. Louis poet, critic and crime novelist Qiu Xiaolong to read

St. Louis-based poet, critic and crime novelist Qiu Xiaolong, Ph.D., will read from his work at 6 p.m. April 19 as part of The Seventh Annual Conference of the Gen-Tai Writers' Group, sponsored by The Center for the Humanities in Arts & Sciences.

Qiu is the son of the Chinese author and humorist Qiu Xiaolong. He has been published in French and will be released in English in July.


His novel, When Red is Black, has been published in French and will be released in English in July. His poetry transla-

tion, Poems From The Tang Dynas- ty, also is forthcoming this year.

Before arriving in the United States in 1988, Qiu published poems, poetry transla- tions and criticism in Chinese and was a member of the "Chinese Writers' Association." After emigrating, Qiu began writing in English and earned a doctorate in comparative litera- ture from Washington University.

Qiu's novel, The Detective Chen, first novel in English, received a 2001 Anthony Award for First Novel and was the first of Qiu's "Detective Chen" series which follows the exploits of a police inspector whose job sometimes brings him into conflict with upper echelons of the Chinese Communist party. The charac- ter's background in English lan-

guage and literature makes him an ideal American visi- tor, with whom he can discuss his love of Western literature, from T.S. Eliot to Faulkner.

Qiu's novel, The Death of a Red Heroine was favorably reviewed by The Wall Street Journal, Library Journal, Booklist and many others, and was selected by National Public Radio as one of the 10 best books of 2000.

In Qiu's novel, The Detective Chen contemplates the Chinese tradition of "Confucianism" with his own, Wang Liun, and daughter, Liua.

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The St. Louis Project at the St. Louis Public Library Public April 16-18

BY LIAM OTTEN

Krzysztof Wodiczko's

have committed violence are able

to public forum, while those who

were speaking to the city. At the

which will be projected onto the

actions.

costs they have paid for their

record.wustl.edu

3-7:30 p.m. Center for the Application

Public Library, 1301 Olive St.,

4 p.m. Biology Seminar.

Friday, April 23

3 a.m. 6-8 p.m. St. Louis City

Group Lecture.

1:10 p.m. George Warren Brown School of Social Work and Law. 935-5170.

noon. Genetics Seminar Series.

noon. Molecular Microbiology and Micro-

The schools of Architecture and

Art will present an interna-

tional symposium on media

technology and cultural transfor-

mation today and April 17.

"Critical Praxis for the Emer-

ging designer will help project

the future development of design and tech-

nology and practice." The centerpiece of

Praxis is "The St. Louis Project. Panel discussions will be held in Steinberg Auditorium.

at 9:30 a.m. today, art histori-

an Philip Walsh, assistant profes-

sor at Northeastern University, will

moderate a panel discussion on "Film/Installation/Perfor-

mance: Spatial Formations." At

2 p.m., Walsh will host a second

discussion, on "Technology and

Design Between Theory and Practice.

At 10 a.m. April 17, Carol Strohecker, principal investigator of the

Every event is free and open to

public housing. Sung Ho Kim,

art program for youth living in

City Faces, and assistant professor of

architecture and founder of

City Faces, will present her art program for youth living in

public housing. Sung Ho Kim,

assistance professor of architecture, and

Whitehead, a research

specialist with MIT's Center for

Advanced Visual Studies, are
designing and producing a

facilitate filming of the hands.

All works in the series of film

art candidate in photography,

serve as project coordinator.

Massachusetts Institute of

Architecture, a master of fine

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**Forum**

**Marks final event of Environmental Initiative — Page 1**

The University's yearly Sequeoiential Environmental Initiative Conference will continue at 2 p.m. April 21 with a program on "Educational Practices and the Environment." The event will be held in the auditorium of Unca A. Bickeler Hall for Biomedical Engineering and is free and open to the public.

A panel will feature administrators from Harvard, Stanford, and Arizona State Universities and the National Institute of Technology. It will also feature various environmental education organizations and research initiatives in their respective campuses. Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton will also moderate.

For more information, go online to www.wustl.edu/environment.

— Barbara Ries

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**Pool**

— Page 1

To be referred to hiring managers as administrative/clerical type positions.

"We decided that this was an area of opportunity, to be a little more proactive in the curve, by anticipating the hiring managers needs and being able to quickly refer quality candidates," said Rick Joss, director of employment and career development in human resources.

"The sourcing of skilled and experienced administrative candidates in the St. Louis region is competitive. By creating this administrative pool, we are cutting down the time significantly. Many times, our recruiters are able to refer candidates within 24 hours.

"The best candidates and the hires from the 'pool' are very satisfied.

The candidates for the administrative pool are typically selected from resumes received by the recruitment specialists that handle Hibbet-Hyatt Campus administration positions. The selected candidates are contacted to visit the employment office and have an interview, to take computerized testing and background and skills testing in the areas of math, word processing and proofreading.

In addition to assessing skills, the recruitment specialist assesses job interests and considers them to be critical for success in a particular position. Candidates selected to be in the pool must meet certain requirements, such as an administrative assistant background and be well-proficient in related software packages.

Also, since hiring managers are particularly interested in candidates with prior university administration experience, there is some emphasis on searching for candidates with this experience.

Linda Kilwin, M.B.A. admissions director for the Colman School of Business, said, "The whole application process with the employment office to review candidates is posted for a minimum of five days. The internal and external candidates are reviewed. We then match the matches to the position descriptions and contact the candidates accordingly to their skills, experience and behavioral fit.

I found the administrative assistant pool process used by human resources to be very beneficial to me as a pursued a career at Washington University," said Linda Kilwin, M.B.A., assistant dean for the School of Business.

"The whole application process for the administrative pool was a resource to my department when recently I had to fill an administrative position," said Lisa Underwood, manager of parking and transportation services. "The pool allowed the employment office to quickly provide us with an outstanding group of candidates."

"It actually made the selection process much more difficult. We were provided with such a great group of candidates that it was hard to choose one."

All administrative positions are posted for a period of two business days, and resumes of internal and external candidates applying for the open positions are reviewed. Internal and external candidates are contacted and matches to the position descriptions are made according to their skills, experience and behavioral fit.

"What I like about the selection process is we are able to provide candidates with more and more recognition because of the many collaborations he's participated in over his 20 years of teaching.

"He's very well-known not only for the research areas, but also for his skills as an administrator, but also for the many collaborations he's participated in over his nearly 30 years at Washington University!"

Roman is a member of Tau Beta Pi, the Association for Computing Machinery and the IEEE Computer Society.

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**Roman**

Established Mobile Computing Conference — Page 2

The School of Engineering & Applied Science highly values the integrity, energy and vision that Catalan Roman brings to computer science and engineering."

Christopher L. Byrnes

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**Sagartz still rolling; softball team 24-1**

Freshman Laurel Sagartz pitches two-hit, shutout for the No. 3 outfield team of Maryville University; 4-6, in the first of two games April 8. The second game was called due to darkness in the top of the seventh inning with the score tied at 3. Sagartz struck out 10 and walked three to improve to 2-0, while lowering her earned run average to 0.24. She also extended her scoreless streak to 24 innings with her third straight shutout. Junior Liz Swar led off the top of the sixth with a home run to give WUSTL (24-1) the lead. It was her fourth homer of the season and her 17th career. Washington U. then put the game out of reach with three runs in the top of the seventh inning, thanks to a Stephanie Sheppard bases-clearing double.

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**Sports**

On the Web

For complete sports schedules and results, go to https://wustl.edu.sports

The No. 7 men's tennis team fell to 7-7 with a 3-2 loss to the University of St. Louis April 7 at the St. Louis Tennis Center. Senior Brian Alt and sophomore Art Rosenthal posted in 8-5 win at No. 1 doubles to begin the match, but the Rivermen fought back for wins at No. 2, 3 and doubles to take the doubles point. In singles, USML won four of six matches as Rosenthal and sophomore Eric Hillyard each won their respective match.

The No. 12 women's tennis team placed third at the Midwest Invitational in Madison, Wis., April 9-10. The Bears opened play with an 8-1 win against Westminster College. WUSTL swept the doubles point and took five of the six singles matches en route to the win. The Bears then fell to eventual invitational champion Gustavus Adolphus College, 6-3, but rebounded with a 5-1 win against Albion College in the third-place match. Junior Erica Greenberg led the Bears at No. 5 singles, recording a 3-0 record. Greenberg picked up 6-2, 6-1 wins against Luther and No. 9 Gustavus Adolphus and posted a 6-1, 6-2 win against Alison. Greenberg is 2-2 this year in singles play, including 16-0 in dual matches.

From Roman's interests gradually evolving toward the study of mobile computing, he established the Mobile Computing Laboratory and started to work on a new generation of models and software systems that have enhanced the department's profile worldwide. Roman has published more than 120 technical papers, graduated 12 doctoral students — with the majority pursuing their own professional careers — and has been very actively serving professional societies in a number of capacities.

"The School of Engineering & Applied Science highly values the integrity, energy and vision that Catalan Roman brings to computer science and engineering."
The following incidents were reported to University Police April 7-12. Readers with information that could assist in investigating these incidents are urged to call 900-9000. This information is provided as a public service to enhance campus safety and is available on the University Police Web site at police.wustl.edu.

April 8 — A person reported that three fans and a cordless drill were stolen from the basement of a home in the 3700 block of Edgewood Avenue in the Universtiy City area. The items were last seen at 4:15 a.m. April 8, and the thief stated that the items had been left in an unsafe area. Total loss is estimated at $1,200.

April 9 — 7:16 a.m. — A contractor working at OHIO Electric's Forrestal substation reported that his truck, parked in the street parking lot at 3000 S. Brookings Drive, was stolen. The theft occurred between 4:00 a.m.-5:30 a.m. April 9. The driver's side camper-shell window was pried open, and three toolboxes containing mechanic's tools and dry-wall tools were stolen.

April 13 — 3:21 p.m. — A construction worker reported the theft of a machine drill from inside the company's unsecured garage area, which is in the Olin Library. The drill was approximately 16 inches long and 6 inches wide. The theft occurred between 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. April 11, and a total loss is estimated at $3,100.

University Police also responded to three reports of property damage, three reports of lost articles, two auto accidents and one report each of assault and drug offence.

Campus Watch

The following incidents were reported to University Police April 7-12. Readers with information that could assist in investigating these incidents are urged to call 900-9000. This information is provided as a public service to enhance campus safety and is available on the University Police Web site at police.wustl.edu.

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April 9 — 7:16 a.m. — A contractor working at OHIO Electric's Forrestal substation reported that his truck, parked in the street parking lot at 3000 S. Brookings Drive, was stolen. The theft occurred between 4:00 a.m.-5:30 a.m. April 9. The driver's side camper-shell window was pried open, and three toolboxes containing mechanic's tools and dry-wall tools were stolen.

April 13 — 3:21 p.m. — A construction worker reported the theft of a machine drill from inside the company's unsecured garage area, which is in the Olin Library. The drill was approximately 16 inches long and 6 inches wide. The theft occurred between 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. April 11, and a total loss is estimated at $3,100.

University Police also responded to three reports of property damage, three reports of lost articles, two auto accidents and one report each of assault and drug offence.

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The research of Pratim Biswas’ aerosols group has numerous applications.

The saying “what goes around comes around” has particular significance for Pratim Biswas, Ph.D., theMaterials and Chemicals professor of Environmental Engineering Science Program. Biswas proudly directs an ambitious program at Washington University in St. Louis. “I began synthesizing ceramic and metallic nanoparticles while a graduate student at the University of California, Los Angeles. Since then, my group has used nanoparticles in biomedical and environmental remediation applications.”

Completed the loop

Pratim Biswas, Ph.D. (center), postdoctoral fellow Myonghwa Lee, Ph.D. (left), and doctoral student Prakhar Kumawat (right), with equipment used in work with environment-sized magnesium oxides that will be used in biomedical and environmental remediation applications.

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Core of six University aerosol research centers within the Environmental Engineering Science Program (which has 10 members, plus three research and affiliated faculty). These researchers and teachers are mainstream aerosol research mathematicians and are interested in developing practical applications in environmental engineering. “Aerosols have numerous applications, ranging from health to environmental impacts.”

Biswas has noticed that solar power is emerging and that solar power’s impact on the environment depends on the application. “With the word ‘aerosol’ may appear to imply a lack of precision in the field, but aerosols are a gaseous suspension of fine solid or liquid particles. Such particles are often troublesome in the micrometer and nanometer range. On the plus side, these particles are also finding novel applications in electronics, pharma and medicines, and many industries. At Cincinnati, Biswas began his career as a researcher. He later became a professor of chemical engineering and director of the Aerosol and Air Quality Research Laboratory. Biswas is now a professor of chemical engineering at Washington University. He’s been at WUSTL since 1985 for the University of Cincinnati, spending 15 years there and ultimately directing his own aerosol engineering program. In 2000, he was named the Interim Director of the Center for Aerosol Science and Technology at Washington University.!

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