Wristband helps prevent wrong-site surgery

BY GWEN ERICSON

In the near future, an alarm sounding outside the operating room door may have surgeons reaching for their pens. That’s because a device has been designed to alert the surgical team if a patient’s incision site hasn’t been marked.

Invented by a School of Medicine physician, the device — a wristband that enforces surgical-site marking — should help eliminate wrong-site surgeries.

About 4,000 wrong-site surgeries take place in the United States each year — that’s about one in 17,000 surgeries — and are the fifth most frequent life-threatening medical error.

Using a marker pen on the patient’s skin to indicate the surgical site has become common practice in hospitals across the country.

Barnes-Jewish Hospital began requiring the practice three years ago. On July 1, 2004, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health-care Organizations adopted a set of formal guidelines that established marking surgical sites as a nationwide policy.

“Even with that in place, wrong-site errors still do occur, and that’s almost always because the surgical site hasn’t been marked,” said inventor Richard A. Chole, M.D., Ph.D., the Lindberg Professor, head of the Department of Otolaryngology.

Chole’s invention consists of a wristband embedded with a miniature, disposable electronic device — like the anti-theft chips attached to consumer items — plus a marker pen with a specialized sticker that deactivates the chip.

When the surgeon or another designated staff member marks — in consultation with the patient or the patient’s family — the patient’s surgical site, the sticker is removed from the pen and placed on the patient’s wristband to deactivate the chip.

If these steps aren’t followed, the wristband will set off a detector placed in the hallway between the pre-operative area and the operating suite. The detector can be set up to give a visual or auditory signal and to page hospital personnel.

“It’s a simple way to remind surgeons to mark the site,” Chole said. “The hand and pen area very simple to use and just add the small extra step of placing the deactivation sticker on the wristband.”

Said nurse Edna Woods, a surgical services administrator at the Center for Advanced Medical Education and Research, the system makes everyone more aware, and the wristband is a good way to get the patient involved with the process, too.

A 26,000-year-old early modern human, “Dolni Vestonice 16,” from the Czech Republic, had reduced strength of the bones of the lesser toes. It is one of three partial foot skeletons from Dolni Vestonice that shows reduced toe strength.

Protective footwear nearly 30,000 years old

BY NIEL SCHOENHERR

Those high-tech, air-filled, light-as-a-feather socks on your feet are a far cry from the leather slabs our ancestors wore for protection and support.

But believe it or not, our modern-day Nike’s and Reeboks are feet around 500,000 years ago.

Tileston Hemenway Professor of Neurology and director of the Center of Neurology and Biology and pharmacology.

“Wrong-site errors stem from a breakdown in communication among the pre-op staff, the operating room staff and the patient or the patient’s family. The device will help correct that.”

Danielle Scheidenhelm (left), an M.D.-Ph.D. student, and Diane Ma, a student in the STARS program, prepare solutions for their studies of the cytoskeleton. The STARS program pairs junior and senior high-school students with research mentors from WUSTL, the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Saint Louis University for six weeks each summer.

Danielle Scheidenhelm (left), an M.D.-Ph.D. student, and Diane Ma, a student in the STARS program, prepare solutions for their studies of the cytoskeleton. The STARS program pairs junior and senior high-school students with research mentors from WUSTL, the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Saint Louis University for six weeks each summer.

BY DIANE DUKE WILLIAMS

I am Ma, who will be a junior this year at Parkway South High School in St. Louis County, has always been interested in the brain and how it functions.

This summer, she participated in the 2005 Pfizer-Setola Partnership of Universities’ Residents and Teachers as Research Scientists (STARS) program gifted high-school students.

In the program, Ma delved into the inner workings of brain tumors, which are common in children who have a genetic disorder called neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1), the condition she was studying in the laboratory of David H. Gutmann, M.D., Ph.D., the Donald O. Schumack Professor of Neurology and director of the University’s Neurofibromatosis Center.

The majority of brain tumors in humans are caused by an abnormal proliferation of cells called astrocytes. Working with Danielle Scheidenhelm, an M.D.-Ph.D. student, Ma studied the cytoskeleton of astrocytes engineered to lack NF1 gene expression.

The cytoskeleton gives the cell its shape and is important for a variety of properties of tumor cells, including how fast the cells divide and how they move.

Ma learned that when NF1-deficient astrocytes were maintained under conditions that were not permissive for cell growth, the cytoskeleton resembled that of normal cells that were treated with growth-promoting factors.

These results suggest that astrocytes in individuals with NF1 may continue to proliferate, even those with NF1 disease.

A modest-sized brain tumor called glioblastoma multiforme affects about 15,000 people in the United States each year. Scientists are looking for ways to treat glioblastoma instead of using current therapies of surgery, chemotherapy and radiation.

Students, faculty go overseas to teach teenagers in Georgia

BY NIEL SCHOENHERR

Many college students spend their summer studying in other countries, taking a few credits or working a summer job, but three members of the WUSTL community are spending their English to 16 teenage members of the Azerbaijani minority in the former Soviet Republic of Georgia.

Joachim Faust, lecturer in International and Area Studies in Arts & Sciences, senior Aaron Weisman and junior Stephanie Schmolitzky were in Georgia for a four-week English language camp sponsored by the University and the U.S. Embassy in Georgia. They served as teachers, counselors and English conversation partners for a group of 13-15-year-olds.

"It was an absolutely amazing experience," Weisman said. "The kids were great to work with, as was the rest of the staff. It was also wonderful to see how far the kids’ English proficiency had developed through the month.

The three WUSTL community members visited Georgia as part of a nongovernmental organization (NGO) called the International Initiative for Georgian Development (IIGD), started last year in cooperation with a Georgian student.

Essentially, any organization that deals with problems of public policy that is not part of the government is considered an NGO. Examples include Amnesty International, the American Civil Liberties Union and the World Wildlife Fund.

Faust, Weisman and Lopatin were in Tbilisi, Georgia, last summer to participate in a seminar called "Emerging Democracy and Civil Society," taught by James V. Werch, Ph.D., the Marshall S. Snow Professor in Arts & Sciences and director of International and Area Studies.

During that time, the students, in cooperation with Georgian student interns.
PET scans detect more vaginal cancer than CT scans

By Gwen Erickson

Each day, 3,400 people in the United States are diagnosed with cancer, and another 1,500 die from the disease. While these numbers are disturbing, they also harbor a fundamental inequality. Racial and ethnic minority groups form a larger percentage of these totals than their population in the general population. Since its inception in 1999, the Siteman Cancer Center has implemented highly successful strategies for reducing such disparities in cancer care. From 2000-04, African-American participation in Siteman breast cancer studies went from 10 percent to 28 percent. In the St. Louis metro area, African-Americans comprise about 18 percent of the population. On the basis of Siteman’s success in increasing participation of underserved groups in its research and medical services, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) has awarded the center a five-year, $1.25 million grant to support its Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities (PECaD). Siteman was one of 25 institutions nationwide to receive a grant from NCI’s Community Networks Program in 2002.

In addition, Siteman’s Breast Imaging Team recently received recognition from the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the world’s leading professional organization representing physicians who treat cancer. ASCO presented the Breast Imaging Team with one of 12 annual Clinical Trials Participation Awards because of its outstanding success in recruiting minority members to breast cancer clinical trials, which are vital to improving cancer care.

Siteman’s strategies are based on enhancing awareness among underserved patients by enlisting partnerships with local community organizations. These organizations help the center spread the word about cancer risks, screening options, funding programs and referral centers in non-threatening ways.

Katherine Jehnige Mathews, M.D., discusses cancer care with a patient at the Siteman Cancer Center. Mathews and Dione Farriss, M.D., direct the Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities at Siteman.

"We build relationships with people by working with them and meeting other community networks," Farriss said. "By making personal connections, we are better able to establish the trust that attracts rural, low-income and immigrant populations as well as minority populations.

As a result of Siteman’s initiatives, for example, 3,500 uninsured women were screened for breast cancer. Subsequently, 100 of those women were diagnosed with breast cancer and received treatment at Siteman. The NCI grant will enable expansion of PECaD’s infrastructure, which in addition to adding staff will include forming a corps of volunteers who go out into the community to encourage screening.

It will also allow PECaD to add new and enhance existing community partnerships and to educate staff, researchers and clinicians about health-care disparities. The funding also provides a chance to collaborate more closely with other NCI-funded institutions such as Saint Louis University School of Public Health’s Center of Excellence in Cancer Communications Research, headed by Matt Kretz, Ph.D.

A program to reach those living in areas of Missouri’s Bootheel region has begun, and Siteman researchers are studying whether personal navigators who guide patients through the steps involved in cancer treatment will aid in reducing disparities by making the process less intimidating.

"Breast cancer outreach has provided a prototype," Farriss said. "From what we’ve learned from our outreach experiences, we plan to expand our outreach in the areas of prostate, lung, colorectal and cervical cancers."

Cancer research grant

Seeks junior faculty

Applications are being accepted for the University of St. Louis’ American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant. The program provides seed money for new projects initiated by junior faculty members. Awards of up to $25,000 will be made for one-year projects.

Eligibility is limited to faculty who are within six years of their first independent research or faculty appointment.

Inclusion of a letter from the department chairperson is required. Additional information may include one letter from an independent investigator.

Applications are due Sept. 26. For more details, go to www.biochemistry.wustl.edu/research/funding.shtml.

PET scans detect more vaginal cancer than CT scans

In patients with vaginal cancer, PET (positron emission tomography) scans detected twice as many cancerous lymph nodes as did CT scans, according to a study of university researchers. At this time, however, Medicare, Medicaid and many private insurance companies (CEPTs) do not cover PET scans for this purpose because they use a different detection method than CT scans.

"PET scans can pick up more cancerous lymph nodes in patients with cervical cancer," Grigsby said. "When you’re evaluating cancer, you’re looking at the tumor and the surrounding lymph nodes. PET scans can detect much smaller nodes that have cancer cells."

PET scans are effective for this purpose because they use a different detection method from CT scans. CT scans obtain cross-sectional views of the body by detecting the amount of x-ray energy that passes through the body’s tissues. Small tumors can easily escape detection. On the other hand, PET scans detect radioactivity that originates directly from a tumor after a patient has received a small dose of radioactive glucose, which accumulates in cancer cells.

Even tiny tumors will collect enough "hot" glucose to show up on the PET scan.

Vaginal cancer is very similar to cervical cancer; both are linked to the presence of human papillomavirus. About 1 percent of gynecological malignancies are vaginal. The rates of survival with vaginal cancer are considered to be similar to those of cervical cancer.

According to Grigsby, if cervical cancer has not spread beyond the primary site, about 90 percent of patients will survive. The rate of survival drops to 70 percent if the cancer has spread to lymph nodes in the pelvis.

The next stage of progression, in which the cancer has spread to nodes near the heart, has a survival rate of 30 percent to 40 percent.

After that, untreated cervical cancer will move to nodes near the collarbone and will not be survivable. "It is very important to know at the time of diagnosis, for both cervical and vaginal cancer, not only what the patient has in the pelvis, but also where the tumor has spread," Grigsby said. "That will absolutely determine the kind of treatment."

In a study to evaluate the PET and CT scanning techniques used at Siteman, the researchers studied 1,500 patients to determine if PET scans could detect more cancerous lymph nodes than CT scans. The patients received both PET and CT scans. According to Grigsby, PET scans detected twice as many cancerous lymph nodes in patients with cervical cancer. Before this study, the PET scan was considered a relatively new technology for detecting cervical cancer.

"PET scans detect more vaginal cancer than CT scans. The researchers are attempting to encourage a change in that standard — using the PET scan for diagnosis and monitoring of cervical and vaginal cancer."
**Irregular heart rhythm treatment shows promise**

BY GWEN ERIKSON

Atrial fibrillation, one of the most common and most manageable post-operative complications of heart surgery, may soon have an effective treatment. Last year, NIH-funded trials in St. Louis, Philadelphia and Boston found that atrial fibrillation drugs lowered the risk of post-operative complications, including congestive heart failure or stroke.

In the Aug. 4 issue of Circulation, two studies reported in a recent issue of Circulation.

Atrial fibrillation — a rapid, irregular twitching of the upper chambers of the heart — occurs in a quarter to a half of patients who undergo heart surgery such as coronary bypass or valve replacement. The condition can lead to serious post-operative complications, including congestive heart failure or stroke.

Patients have suffered post-operative fibrillation since the early days of cardiac surgery, but while beta-blockers (drugs used to prevent abnormal heart rhythms) seem to reduce the incidence, they have not been curative, said senior author Ralph D. D'Amico, M.D., the John Slocock Professor of Surgery. "Our research suggests a new option for preventative therapy."

The researchers investigated the effects of heart surgery in dogs. They found that the severity of atrial fibrillation corresponded to the amount of inflammation in surgically treated heart tissue.

Inflammation led to changes in the electrical properties of the atria.

The inflammatory response consists of alterations in heart rate, increased permeability of blood vessels and escape of cells from the blood into the tissues. It is a normal response of tissue to injury that speeds the healing process in most instances.

"We found that inflammation led to uncontrolled conduction of electrical impulses in the atria," D'Amico said. "There were areas of very slow conduction and areas of normal conduction. The result was chaotic contractions of the atria."

Anti-inflammatory therapy increased the uniformity of the conduction of electrical impulses and decreased the incidence of atrial fibrillation.

The researchers will continue their studies in dogs and attempt to block inflammation of the heart tissue in patients after normal inflammatory response in the rest of the body.

"Our hope is that we can bring this treatment to the operating room and eliminate one of the major complications of heart surgery," D'Amico said.

**African-Americans may suffer more arthritis pain**

BY MICHAEL C. PURDY

A pilot study comparing the self-efficacy scores in self-efficacy, a characteristic that describes a patient's belief in his or her ability to control or otherwise have a positive effect on disease symptoms. Earlier studies highlighted poor outcomes and low self-efficacy scores among African-American patients with other chronic diseases such as diabetes and scleroderma.

Brasington couldn't find any information on disparities in outcomes of rheumatoid arthritis patients he sees. Therefore, he decided to conduct his own study.

The sample size was small, but he had a study of hundreds of people it makes sense to see if we could produce some tentative evidence that a difference in outcome does in indeed exist.

"And it's important to note that we could make our comparisons among African-Americans with rheuma-toid arthritis aren't doing as well as other rheumatoid arthritis patients approximately 21 million Americans.

Women are 2-3 times more likely to develop the disease than men.

Rheumatoid arthritis has long been recognized as an autoimmune condition, which involves defense cells in the body's immune system mistakenly attacking healthy body tissues.

Symptoms, which often occur in episodic bursts, include morning stiffness, fatigue and joint and muscle pain.

In severe cases, rheumatoid arthritis can damage cartilage, tendons, ligaments and bone, leading to joint deformity and instability.

Patients are typically treated with a mixture of medications to reduce inflammation and control pain.

Brasington suggests that doctors should try to boost the belief of African-American patients that they can take steps to control their disease and decrease the symptoms.

"We need to do more work to understand our own country's African-Americans with rheuma-toid arthritis aren't doing as well as other rheumatoid arthritis patients."

**School of Medicine Update**

Process enables powerful immune attack cells

By Yukoyama

The condition can lead to serious post-operative complications, including congestive heart failure or stroke.

Our hope is that we can bring this treatment to the operating room and eliminate one of the major complications of heart surgery," D'Amico said.
Economist Ping Wang to hold Seigle Family Professorship

By Barbara Rea

Internationally renowned economist Ping Wang, Ph.D., has been named the inaugural holder of the Seigle Family Professorship in Arts & Sciences and will be installed in a ceremony later this school year. The professorship was established by University Trustee and alumnus Harry Seigle, who wished to honor his family, many of whom also are alumni.

In announcing the gift, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton noted Seigle's generosity.

"Harry Seigle is a great citizen of our University community and has been enormously generous in his support of programs, scholarships and facilities," Wrighton said. "Now he has added another major gift, this time for faculty support. We are extremely grateful for his significant contributions to Washington University and to its tapestry.

Wang comes to WUSTL from Vanderbilt University to chair the Department of Economics in Arts & Sciences.

"Ping Wang brings distinction and a broad-based background in economics to Washington University," said Edward S. Mai- cass, Ph.D., executive vice chancellor of Arts & Sciences and the Barbara and David Thomas Distinguished Professor in Arts & Sciences.

"We are delighted to attract someone of his stature to Arts & Sciences. His experience in teaching, research, administration and service to the discipline are exceptional assets for our Department of Economics," said Wang. Wang earned a bachelor’s degree in ocean transportation from the National Chiao Tung University in Taiwan; two master’s degrees in economics, from National Chengchi University in Taipei and the University of Rochester; and a doctorate, also from Rochester.

Among his areas of expertise are economic theory, macroeconomics, monetary economics, health and social economics, growth and development, and spatial economics.

While holding posts at Pennsylvania State University and later at Vanderbilt University, where he became a full professor in 1999 and chaired its economics department from 2002-20, Wang served in many visiting capacities, including the research arm of the Federal Reserve Banks of Dallas and Atlanta.

In addition, he has held visiting posts at Purdue University, Rochester, the University of Wisconsin and Tilburg University in the Netherlands. From 2001-03, he was a visiting scholar at the International Monetary Fund Institute, and from 2005-06, he served as the dean at the Doshisha University in Japan.

Seigle's Inc. is extending teachers' learning, including math and science instruction at a Richmond Heights, Ferguson-Crest Creek Nature Area in July to take ownership.

"We are working as partners with the district's textbooks. You present, you think, 'I can do this in my class!' You can follow through in a way that kids will take ownership.

"Teachers from the Riverview Gardens and Ferguson-Floissant school districts met at Little Creek Nature Area in July to develop lessons around science kits provided by the grant. Ferguson Middle School science teacher Barb Rain returned for her third summer working with the University, this time on a geology unit.

"It keeps getting better and better," Rain said. "Finally this year, we realized how helpful the course has been. Teachers never have to do this. But we know our kids, so we know how to set it up to work.

"May is director of the School of Math and Science Partnership Program, which provides grants designed to improve student achievement in mathematics in the school districts of Maplewood-Richmond Heights, Ferguson-Floissant, Riverview Gardens, University City and Webster Groves. Grant activities will affect more than 3,000 students in 2005-06. For more information, contact May at 935-6646, or vmay@wustl.edu.
Jobs for new college grads on the rise

By Neil Schneider

There’s good news for recent college graduates. According to Mark W. Smith, J.D., assistant vice chancellor and director of The Center, students now will probably have to find a job before their predecessors did in the past.

Smith says that overall hiring of college graduates is on the rise.

“Many employers are recognizing that a degree is not only a signal of skill and intelligence, but also indicates that the new graduate is a team player,” Smith said.

The increase in hiring is not universal, however.

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers survey, only 67.2 percent of the respondents said they expect to hire more college graduates this year than they did in 2003.

Hiring in the Midwest is projected to have the largest increase — 15 percent over 2003-04 levels. Jobs for recent graduates are also on the rise in the Northeast and West.

“I think the economy is getting stronger and there is a better confidence level in the economy,” Smith said. “Particularly with entry-level hiring, when the econ-

omists say companies will not hire a new employee than be forced to let a current employee go.”

People are also cautious after an economic decline and some- times there can be a lag time before the hiring really starts picking up. They think there is more of a confidence level now.

While there are more jobs available, salaries have remained steady for entry-level positions. However, Smith said, “That’s not necessarily a bad thing.” Society is demanding more than entry-level work.

Sometimes when there are large salaries, companies cut back on their hiring, especially “entry-level hiring,” he said. “I’d rather see salaries stable and have more jobs available.”

While the Internet job explosion of the 1990s may have come and gone, Smith thinks the health-care industry will continue to be the next big thing.

“It’s no secret that the baby boom generation getting older,” he said. “They will continue to need health care. Also, as older people are staying active longer, there is an increased need for medications and medical devices. As well as nurses and health care consultants, that can help that growing industry.”

Smith said other popular career choices for recent grads include public policy, consulting, law, communications, and specifically retail and independent education.

“Politics, law, consulting, pub- lic policy and communications have long been popular majors,” he said.

“College campuses have them- selves benefited of politics and public awareness, which leads to an interest in those fields.”

“The demand for those jobs will remain high,” he said.

The women’s soccer team is returning 17 letter- winners and eight starters from last year’s squad, including junior midfielder Talia Bucci, a team-best eight goals and three assists. Among them are junior midfielder Talia Bucci, a team-best eight goals and three assists.

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**African & Afro-American Studies changes its name**

**By Neil Schordenherr**

The African and Afro-Ameri- can Studies Program in Arts & Sciences has a new name and will now be referred to as the African and Afro-American Studies Program in Arts & Sciences.

"One of the important pro- grams of Arts & Sciences is entering a new phase in its life under the leadership of John Baugh (Ph.D., chair of the pro- gram and the Margaret Bush Wilson Professor in Arts & Sciences)," said James L. Mc- Lead, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. "The new name reflects this new phase while recognizing the continued com- mitment to programs that touch upon the past 30-plus years."

The program offers students the opportunity to explore the social, political and intellectual history of the continent, as well as the literature, culture and artistic life of vari- ous peoples and regions of the African or African descent.

Course work is balanced between the humanities and the social sciences. Principal areas of concentration are sub- Saharan Africa and the Americas.

The program also features study-abroad opportunities in Kenya as well as other African countries.

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**Wristband University to hold patent on invention from Page 1**

Medical has been formed to develop and distribute the technology developed by Richard Chole, the chief elected official of the technology at the Center for Advanced Medical Devices. The wristband monitors outside of all surgical suites in Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

"The system worked very well in our trial," Woods said. "We’re eager to implement it throughout the hospital. We want to everything we can to ensure patient safety.

Checklists to distribute the technology nationwide and is performing pilot trials in other regional hospitals. According to Richard Chole, the technology will be inexpensive, costing around $50 for the wristband and pen, and $7,000 to $8,000 for installation of the detectors.

The University will hold the patent on the invention.

"The University’s Office of Technology Management was extremely helpful getting the technology off the ground," Richard Chole said.

"I went to them with my idea, and they handled the entire pa- tient process."

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**Campus Watch**

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**Georgia**

*In sum, it was a great learning experience*

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**Stars from Page 1**

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**Record**

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**Just Find it! Libraries unveil online search tool**

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**Find it! training sessions**

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**African & Afro-American Studies changes its name**

**Just Find it! Libraries unveil online search tool**

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**WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS**

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**WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS**

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**Notables**

**Alumni & development's Stoll, Henson & Schwartz promoted**

**By Barbara Rea**

William S. Stoll has been named associate vice chancellor for development, and Pamela A. Henson and Jonathan J. Schwartz have been promoted to assistant vice chancellors.

The promotions were announced by David T. Blasingame, executive vice chancellor for alumni and development programs.

Stoll will lead the major gifts and capital projects team. He succeeds James D. Thompson, who has accepted a position as senior vice president and chief advancement officer at the University of Oklahoma.

"Bill has been an integral part of the development of our major gifts team and has earned this promotion with his ability to make friends for the University and with his outstanding contributions to the progress of our major gifts and regional initiatives," Blasingame said.

Stoll joined WUSTL's alumni and development team in 1993 as regional director of development. Four years later, he was named director of regional development programs, then senior director of regional development programs.

Most recently he served as executive director of regional development programs and as assistant vice chancellor.

He came to St. Louis after working in Washington, D.C., for American University and then at the National Academy of Sciences. Since he began his career at Ursinus College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in political science, Stoll has also held a master's degree in liberal arts from WUSTL.

Henson has been promoted to assistant vice chancellor for alumni and development programs. She will supervise programs for the Hilltop Campus and report to Blasingame in that capacity.

In addition, Henson will serve as chief deputy to Richard J. Luez, interim associate vice chancellor and director of the national council. In this role, she will assist with annual giving, alumni relations, parent programs, and alumni and parent admissions programs.

"Pam has done an excellent job for Washington University during her tenure, and we are fortunate to have someone with her experience and accomplishments to step into these responsibilities," Blasingame said.

Henson joined the WUSTL staff in 1993 as regional director of development and assistant director of major gifts. Three years later, she was named director of capital projects.

When the Alvin I. Sirman Cancer Center opened in 2000, she was appointed its executive director of development.

She will continue to lead Sirman's development activities until a successor is named.

Schwartz also has been promoted to assistant vice chancellor. He will serve as Stoll's chief deputy in the major gifts and capital projects department.

"Jonathan has been on an outstanding job since he joined Washington University and has played a key role in the success of our department," Blasingame said. "His excellent strategic thinking and organizational skills have been great assets."

Schwartz has been with the Washington University since 2001, when he joined alumni and development programs as director of capital projects.

Earlier this year, he was appointed senior director of capital projects.

Stoll, Henson and Schwartz have each entered the highest-education professional promotion in 1992, spending nine years in a variety of development positions at the National Academy of Sciences. Prior to that, Schwartz was a teaching assistant in film studies at the University of Southern California.

He holds a bachelor's degree in history from Grinnell College and a master's degree from Northwestern University, and he has conducted doctoral work in cinema at USC.

**Elbow grease**

First-year law students (from left) Akira Irie, Alane Hake and Samantha Folker remove rust from a sculpture at the Laumeier Sculpture Park in St. Louis as part of a public-service project during the School of Law's orientation. One hundred and seventy-five law students participated in a variety of service projects at seven sites throughout St. Louis Aug. 19.

**Volunteer sought for first day of class**

For Office of Student Activities and Student Union are looking for volunteers to help new students find their way to classes during the Aug. 21 and Sept. 1.

For more information, e-mail Pamela Bookbinder at pbook@wustl.edu.

**Obituary: Joseph**

Herald J. Joseph, M.D., attending physician on the University teaching service at St. Louis City Hospital from 1955-1960, died Thursday, Aug. 18, 2005, of cerebral hemorrhage at Missouri Baptist Medical Center. He was 78.

**Obituary: Van den Burg**

Mark W. Eggert makes sure he keeps his priorities in order.

Feeling the need to be closer to the new grandparents, Eggert— who grew up on a farm in Franklin County, Mo. —and attended Union High School— and Julie moved back to Missouri. Three children followed in the next few years, twins Natalie and Lauren and youngest son Kevin. Upon his return to Missouri, Eggert served as a U.S. Attorney's Office in St. Louis, where he was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the criminal crimes unit of the criminal division. "It was a great education."

Eggert says that because universities are always pushing the boundaries of science and human knowledge, they also push the boundaries of the rules and regulations that govern those endeavors. The government is constantly upsweeping the rules to account for new discoveries in science or medicine. That's a big factor for the universities, to stay in compliance to the top of the regulatory landscape that helps to fund these people on the inside of the University's physician's research or administrative. "This position has given me everything I've wanted," Eggert says. "I enjoy the competition and the camaraderie." He says that the kids have been a tremendous asset to his family and his legal practice. Eggert's clients include many of the University's top administrators. "When I started doing work for the University, I became very interested in the in-house practice at a university," Eggert says. "It's not something I knew anything about until I started working as an outside lawyer for the University."

"That the more I learned about it, the more I realized that universities face probably the broadest range of legal issues of any institution," Eggert says. "For a lawyer, it is an opportunity to use the best elements of the social sciences. We were required to have a grounding in economics, political science, social theory and philosophy. It was a social science major, but very interesting, and it really emphasized on social theory of captain and added a litany of awards and achievements to his resume. He also saw his outlook on life start to change. "The Army's Ranger and Path- finder schools teach soldiers to per- form special missions in small groups," Eggert explains. "It was really rigorous training and taught me a lot about how to meet under high strain, when they are tired, when the body is physically and mentally fatigued."

"It makes you realize how im- portant it is, in almost anything you do, to be supported by other people and to be able to count on those people when they need you. My military experience is something that I'm proud of, and it feels like it's had a big impact on how I do my job now — how I approach my work and my family life.

His first job as an attorney came in the office of Missouri Senator John Danforth in St. Louis, Mo., in 1987. But just two years later, Eggert and his wife, Julie, also a recent law school graduate, moved to San Francisco so she could take a job with a firm. "I wanted to try something new," Eggert says. "I decided to move back to private practice in order, which led Eggert to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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