Constitution Day to be marked by discussion with Gephardt

BY ANDY CLENDENNEN

Quick — what do Philadelphia and Beverly Hills have in common? Truth be told, not much — and that point was driven home in a recently released survey by the National Constitution Center. The survey, distributed to 600 students, revealed that just 25.2 percent of the respondents knew that the U.S. Constitution was penned in Philadelphia; but a full 75.2 percent knew that the numbers 90210 corresponded to Beverly Hills.

Want another one? Just 21.2 percent knew how many senators serve in the U.S. Senate. 81.2 percent knew how many members are in the music group Hanson. In May, the U.S. Department of Education took a step to rectify the above numbers by issuing a Notice of Implementation, stating that all educational institutions receiving federal funds must provide an educational program pertaining to the U.S. Constitution on Sept. 17 — when the document was signed in 1787 — of each year, unless that date falls on a weekend.

The University will therefore hold an informal discussion Sept. 19 with Richard A. Gephardt, the former U.S. majority and minority leader from Missouri, and James W. Davis, Ph.D., professor emeritus of political science in Arts & Sciences and director of the Richard A. Gephardt Institute for Public Service at Washington University.

Diversity initiatives council is formed

BY ANDY CLENDENNEN

In an effort to maximize involvement in the University’s diversity efforts, a group has been formed incorporating representatives from all schools and major departments at the University.

The Coordinating Council for Diversity Initiatives was formed to address diversity and gender balance in the faculty ranks and in the managerial-level administrative ranks, according to Leah Merrifield, special assistant to the chancellor for diversity initiatives.

“Previous and current approaches to strengthening diversity at the University have been driven by the faculty and the students,” Merrifield said. “This is the first time we’ve had a University-wide approach to the issue.

The impetus for forming this council came out of a series of discussions between Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, the most recent reaccreditation report from the North Central Association, which was released in the fall.

The report noted that Washington University had a long way to go in the area of diversity as much as it had in several other areas.

That is in mind, the council was formed with one main focus: “The overriding goal is to improve the racial diversity and gender balance (where appropriate) among the faculty and professional staff,” according to the diversity council.

WUSTL freshmen. They recruited about 764 students for initial measures of eating and exercise habits, in exchange for measuring them to fill out questionnaires about their height and weight and ask.
Weidenbaum Center forum
Series to open with discussion of excise taxes in health care

By GERRY EVERDEEN

The Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy will kick off its fall forum series with a half-day symposium on "Taxing Temptations: Excise Taxes and Health" from 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 23 in the Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom in Anheuser-Busch Hall.

The series, which is free and open to the public, also includes forums on education finance (Nov. 4) and monetary policy (Nov. 30).

The "Taxing Temptation" program will focus on implications for the health-care industry of excise taxes and individual welfare and social policy. Participants will include industry representatives as well as members of the federal government and the academic community.

Speakers will include James H. Luce, president and chief executive officer of the Grocery Manufacturers of America; and economists at the University of Michigan; William J. Adams, professor of economics at the University of Michigan; and Jeff Strnad, the Charles A. Beardriley Professor of Law at Stanford University.

The "Education Finance" forum, to be co-hosted with the Federal Reserve of St. Louis, will run from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 4.

This nontechnical discussion will explore public education funding formulas and the relationship between funding and student achievement. The program will feature extensive discussion of how these issues relate to the ongoing debate over public education financing in Missouri.

Participants will include leading scholars in the areas of school finance and accountability, as well as several public-school superintendents and state legislators.

"Monetary Policy" will be the topic of the Nov. 30 discussion featuring Laurence Meyer, former member of the board of governors of the Federal Reserve. The location and other details for this forum are still being confirmed.

Detailed agendas for each event are online at wu.wustl.edu.

For more information, contact Melinda Warren at 935-9662 or warrenm@wustl.edu.

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Joe Edwards, owner and developer of Delmar Loop establishments, speaks at the inaugural event for the Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Competition Sept. 8 in May Auditorium in Simon Hall.

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"It's about encouraging more people to be innovative like Joe Edwards. If we can make that happen, then we will all end up with a better society. It's like tapping into the latent energy of people that has been restrained. It's about finding and encouraging innovative ways to deliver needed public goods and services. The value of this competition in the learning, encouraging, networking and feedback that happens when people enter." - Anonymous

Institute

Social entrepreneurship competition launched

By SHELA NEUMAN

The Skandalaris Center for Entrepreneurial Studies has launched a "Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Competition" (SEIC) for the University of Chicago's student and graduate student populations. The competition's winners will receive up to $500,000 in funding for their ventures.

The competition's winners will be announced in April 27, but there will be a series of workshops and activities to provide support for participants along the way.

The competition will partner with schools and community organizations to help students and graduates develop viable social ventures.

"It will provide students a unique opportunity to learn how the Constitution influences the relationships between the branches of government, and when and how it affects the legislative process," Davis said. Free copies of the Constitution will be available at the Campus Store in Marion Student Center.

"The Constitution Day" discussion will center on the relevance of the Constitution in today's world and will be from 2:3 p.m. in the Women's Building Formal Lounge.

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Smoking and high-risk viruses pose danger for cervical cancer patients

BY GOWER ERICKSON

Cervical cancer patients infected with either of two strains of human papilloma virus were twice as likely to die of their disease as patients with other common strains of HPV, making these strains very high-risk forms of the virus, according to a School of Medicine study.

In addition, members of this group who smoked increased their risk of death even further. Nearly all cervical cancers are caused with HPV infection of the cervix, which is now recognized as the major cause of cervical cancer. However, only a small fraction of women with HPV infection go on to develop cervical cancer. The two most common strains, most common cancer in women worldwide,” said Aaron D. Wright, M.D., a gastroenterologist and director of the General Clinical Research Center.

"It's like a little cell of its own and it has its own way to move about through different environments," Bridgman said. "But it's also connected, of course, to the nerve cell branch or growth cone leading up to it."

Rubin's group was among the first to show that myosin II, which is similar to the myosin proteins found in muscle tissue, can help the growth cone to move forward. The growth cones have a clear preference for laminin type 1, a polypeptide found throughout the body during development but much less common in adults. Myosin II is growing across laminin in the lab will turn away when they encounter other substances and grow along the border of the area containing laminin.

In addition, the mouse nerve cells were able to extend processes to areas with much lower concentrations of laminin and instead grow along the boundaries of high-concentration regions. In their newest study, inhibiting myosin II caused growth cones to lose their direction and cross the border of the region containing laminin and a region that had no laminin. This proves that myosin II contributes in some way to the growth cone’s ability to preferentially select laminin-rich surfaces to grow on," Bridgman said.

The group also proved that stimulation from the environment affects the direction of a growing axon. Growth cones have a clear preference for laminin type 1, a polypeptide found throughout the body during development but much less common in adults.

"It's clear that HPV plays a role, but there are differences among viral strains that influence the progress of the disease," said Rubin. "More than 80 strains of HPV are known to exist, and scientists divide the viruses into low- and high-risk groups. The low-risk viruses are not known to cause aggressive cancers, such as cervical cancer." HPV 18 has been linked to a greater likelihood of disease recurrence in high-risk cervical patients, but its relation to cervical cancer is still not fully understood.

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Landscape. The word evokes yearlong series of lectures, panel discussions, artistic interventions and workshops exploring the intersection of contemporary art, architecture, art, ecology and urban design. Panel sessions run from 5-8 p.m. both days with discussions to follow. All sessions are free and open to the public and will take place in the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum in Steinberg Hall.

The series was organized by Peter MacKith, associate dean of Architecture and associate director of the Sam Fox School of Architecture, and the school’s Programs Committee, which includes Eickmann and Miller as well as Ron Fondacaro, professor of Art, Jane Wolff, assistant professor of Architecture; Ellen Petraits, Art & Architecture librarian; and Jatz Koeprich. Ph.D., professor in Germanic languages & literatures and in Film and Media Studies, both in Arts & Sciences.

"Unsettled Ground" demonstrates that the Sam Fox School exists now, well in advance of the completion of construction," said MacKith, referring to two new buildings designed by Pritker Prize-winning Japanese architect Fumihiko Maki, which are scheduled to open next fall. "This series is the product of a great deal of deliberation by a fabricating group of faculty from each of the school’s principal units — Art, Art Architecture and the Kemper Art Museum — as well as University Libraries and the College of Arts & Sciences. It is truly a collaborative effort."

The opening symposium will encourage audiences to explore what nature means today in our technologically mediated enviroment. As a statement by the programs committee points out, "Many contemporary artists are striking beauty in decaying industrial landscapes, and challenging global consumption through aesthetic strategies such as the reeling of junk materials."

How do we appreciate such values without cynically endorsing further destruction of our habitats and environments? How should we define concepts such as landscape, nature and ecology in the first place? Are ecological thinking and nature necessarily opposed to the commercial orientation and the global reach of postindustrial society?

In pursuing questions such as these, the series will illuminate the political, economic, aesthetic and social issues of the natural world.

Subsequent events in the Sam Fox School’s yearlong series will:

• A lecture and workshop with Matthew Cooledge, founder and director of the Center for Land Use Interpretation in Los Angeles (Oct. 26-29).
• A lecture by Berlin-based artist Olafur Eliasson, (March 30), part of the German Arts Foundation's "After the Digital Divide!"
• A lecture and workshop with Berlin-based artist Olafur Eliasson, (March 30), part of the German Arts Foundation's "After the Digital Divide!"

For more information, call 935-9347 or go online to samfoxweb.wustl.edu.

Lecture Series:

Monday, Sept. 19
4-5:15 p.m. Professor Peter Frey,
"Mammalian Genetics to Study Cancer in C. elegans." Craig C. Mello, Blais Professor of Molecular Genetics and Developmental Biology, Dept. of Biology, Mass. Moore Aud., 660 S. Euclid Ave.
935-7437.

Monday, Sept. 19
6-7:30 p.m. "An Evening of Cultural Preservation Through Film & Media Studies."
Lorenzo Carcaterra, author. Co-sponsored by the School of Arts & Sciences, Germanic Languages & Literatures, and the School of Fine Arts. Steinberg Hall, 935-9347.

Monday, Sept. 26
1:10-2 p.m. "The Problem of Aging and Diminished Function." Catherine Lang, instructor in film studies. Barnett Hall, Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom.
362-0198.

Mon, Nov. 10, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. "Contributions of Transverse Plane Ro-entgenography to Lower Extremity Vascular Disease." Gary A. E. Amini, assoc. prof, of medicine. Mid-935-9347.


Tuesday, Sept. 27
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. "American Indian Health Care: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Pub-lic Health Care." David C. Williams, assoc. prof, of American history, Yale U. Steinberg Hall, Rm. 725. 362-1006.

Women in Chemistry • Saving for Retirement

How to submit "University Events" items to Janice Paul Brodsky: the Record staff via:
(1) e-mail — events@wustl.edu
(2) campus mail — Campus Box 1760; or
(3) fax — 935-4293.
Upon request, forms for submitting events may be e-mailed, mailed or faxed to departments to be filled out and returned. University Events lists happenings sponsored by the University or its departments, schools, centers, organizations and student organizations. It usually covers a 13-day time period from Friday publication date to a week from the next Wednesday.

Arts & Sciences and Howard R. Lenner
Professor of American History, Yale U.
935-6935.

7 p.m. Sam Fox School Visiting Artist Lecture Series, "A Life in the Arts," Chancellor's Hall. Washington University in St. Louis. 935-9347.

Thursday, Sept. 29
7:30 p.m.-9:15 p.m. General Thoracic Surgery Grand Seminar Series. "Thoracic 
St. Louis Children's Hospital, 935-6530.
Dancer Alonzo King to present discussion

BY LAMM OTTEN

A

claimed dancer and choreographer Alonzo King, founder and artistic director of San Francisco’s Lines Ballet in San Francisco, will take part in a panel discussion on "Understanding Dance as the Language We Embody" at 4 p.m. Sept. 29 in the Women’s Reading Room in the library.

In addition, King and Fernan
dez will set excerpts from two of King’s works — In To Get Out and Kite — on students in the Performing Arts Department in Arts & Sciences’ Dance Program.

Both pieces will be performed as part of Rach/Sanford, the Washington University Dance Theatre (WUDT) concert Dec. 2-4 in Edison Theatre.

The panel discussion, part of the Center for the Humanities in Arts & Sciences’ Translation Series, is free and open to the public.

Other panelists are theater director Ron Hinny, the Henry E. Huntington visiting professor and founding director of the St. Louis Black Repertory Theatre, and dance critic for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and Gerald L. Early, Ph.D., the Merton King Professor of Modern Letters in the Department of English in Arts & Sciences and director of the Center for the Humanities.

For more information about the panel discussion, call 935-5773.

In addition, Fernandez will host an open showing of In To Get Out at 7 p.m. Sept. 23 in the Sundance Marta Dance Studio, Room 207 of the Millikannick Student Center. The showing is free and open to the public and will include the short video Alonzo King Goes to Venice. For more information on the show-
ing, call 935-8516.

The National College Choreogra phy Initiative, now in its second year, is an offering by DanceUSA, a national service organization for professional dance, in conjunction with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). This year, the initiative awarded 35 grants totaling $280,000.

Mary Jean Cowdell, director of the Dance Project, is project director for the King grant, while Slaughter serves as a rehearsal director for the WUDT works.

Alonzo King

King has choreographed dance works for many of the world’s finest companies, including the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, Alonzo King Ballet, Dance Theater of Harlem and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. The company has worked extensively in opera and television and received a national ballet master grant for the National Ballet of Canada, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal, San Francisco Ballet and others. Lines Ballet, which King founded in 1982, has since emerg ed as an international touring company and worked with music groups ranging from jazz great Pharoah Sanders to India’s Zakir Hussain and Bennie Johnson Beagom, founder of Sweet Honey in the Rock.

In 1989, King inaugurated the San Francisco Dance Festival, now one of the largest West Coast’s largest dance festivals. In 2001, he launched the Lines Ballet School and Pre-Professional Program.

King’s numerous honors include four Isadora Duncan Awards, an NEA Choreographer’s Fellowship and an Hippenstein Fellowship in Dance. In 2005, he was named a Master of African-American Choreography by the Kennedy Center.

Next April, Edith theatre and Dance at St. Louis will present Lines Ballet as part of the Edison Theatre Ovation Series. For more informa tion on that show, call 935-6543.

Arturo Fernandez

Fernandez has danced in both bal let and modern companies, including San Diego Ballet, Arizona Ballet, New Jersey Ballet, Pitts burgh Ballet Mahler, Les Ballets Trocadero da Monte Carlo, Oak land Ballet and ODC/San Fran cisco. In 1991, he collaborated with Brenda Way and KT Nelson of ODC to create Knay Kat for the San Francisco Ballet, and in 1992 he became ODC’s first full-time master for the NFB. Fernandez has choreographed for Juilliard’s Dance Lab, Los An geles Dance Theater, San Fran cisco’s School of the Arts and the San Francisco Ballet and others.

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Australian poet Kinsella to read his works Sept. 22

BY LAMM OTTEN

Australian poet John Kinsella will read from his work Sept. 22 for the Writing Program Reading Series.

Premier’s Book Award for Poetry (three times); a Young Australian Creative Fellowship from the for mer prime minister of Australia, Paul Keating; and senior fellowships from the Literature Board of the Australian Council.

For more information, call 935-7130.

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Jazz at Holmes continues Sept. 22 with pianist Patrick McClellan

BY LAMM OTTEN

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louis pianist Patrick McClellan will continue the Department of Music in Arts & Sciences’ fall jazz at Holmes series with a performance from 8-10 p.m. Sept. 22 in Holmes Lounge.

Jazz at Holmes features performances from several St. Louis artists and St. Louis and abroad performing in a relaxed, coffeehouse-style setting on Thursday evenings throughout the fall and spring semesters. All concerts are free and open to the public and take place in Holmes Lounge.

Subsequent Jazz at Holmes perfor mances include:
- • Pianist Phyllis Williams (Sept. 29).
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Senior Duesing shines in football's first win
Senior Jessica Duesing had eight receptions for 135 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Bear football team (1-1) to a 27-7 win Sept. 10 at Westminster College in Fulton.
Duesing had a 14-yard touchdown to clinch the invitational. Duesing's team is continuing to study the students as they make their way through college, but preliminary results show those studies don't much change behavior. So the team now is looking for ways to make it easier for college students to eat right and get more exercise.

from his pockets. The victim stated all four males then ran East on Kingsbury.

Precautions:
- Avoid walking or jogging alone and never walk or jog home after dark.
- Always choose a well-light path and avoid dark or vacant areas.
- Be alert to your surroundings.
- If you are confronted by a threat, give them what you want and don't chase or run away. This may stimulate their fight or flight response.
- Report suspicious persons or activities immediately to the police.
- Be extra cautious if someone approaches your car or asks for information.

Additionally, University Police remind everyone:
- Do not leave your keys in your car. Lock your doors and windows.
- Do not carry your keys with your ignition key.
- If you see a suspicious activity, immediately contact the police.

The University has a full-time dietitian — Cornie Dickman, director of University Nutrition — at the Hilltop Campus. Healthy-living dorms have sprung up around the campus, with special focuses on making healthier choices and not getting too stressed or worried about eating. The dietitian's office is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

"There's literature that suggests if exercise options are in convenient locations, they're more likely to be used," Deusing said. "We don't want students to have to travel across campus to exercise. It's all about creating an environment where healthy choices also are convenient."

For example, most working adults decide what food's brought into their office and eat it, but if there's a donut or cookies on the table, they'll eat it. Students also are at risk of not eating healthy because they're either too tired or too lazy, or because their finances are too tight.

"We are creatures in which we are dying from a condition (obesity) we can control, but not control another (eating disorders). To me, that's good news," Deusing said. "If you know early that you can take steps to prevent problems later on, then to some extent, the opportunity for good health is in your own hands."

The following incidents were reported to University Police Sept. 7-13. Readers with information that could assist in investigating these incidents are urged to call 285-5555. This information is provided to public safety personnel in an area to ensure safety and is available on the University Police Web site at police.wustl.edu.

Sept. 13
10:27 a.m. — The Sigma Chi fraternity reported that someone forced himself into the Chapter house on the first floor and vandalized a laser jet printer, valued at $1,781. The incident occurred following an party. An investigation is pending.

Crime alert
University Police issued the following crime alert Sept. 12. The incident reportedly occurred Sept. 11 while the victim was walking toward his fraternity. The suspect approached and threatened the person. He stated he was grabbed and struck by those of the suspects, while the fourth suspect removed his wallet and keys

Men's soccer wins home opener in OT
The Missouri men's soccer team scored the lid on its home schedule Sept. 7 with a 3-0 victory over Division II University of Houston-Victoria.
No. 11 women's soccer sweeps two games
The 11th-ranked women's soccer team improved to 4-0-1 with a 2-0 win Sept. 9 at Millikin University. In the 12th minute, junior Sara Schroeder cut it from sophomore Breanna Kennedy then wrapped it into the back corner for her first goal of the season. Freshman Lauren Mehlner made it 2-0 at 26:42 when she scored from 20 yards out on a 3-0 win over Wabash, one of the team's two goals in second half.
On Sept. 11, sophomore Abby Hertmann scored two goals and added an assist to lead the Bears to a 4-1 upset of No. 3 Whitman (Minn.) College.

Hurricane
Hurricane money going around the University and has collected donations in excess of $1,000 to benefit the American Red Cross.
Donations are available at several locations around the University. For a complete list of locations, check out wustl/couponservice/ wustl/couponservice/hurricane/

The coordinating council continues to cover this story and provide updates on new efforts related to hurricane relief. E-mail all information related to this topic to coordinate.memos@wustl.edu.

University Police

Sports

from Page 3

most gained least than the "Freshman"

The average weight gain was
closer to 9 pounds, but why the students gained weight was
completely understood.

"There may or may not have been
changes that we couldn't measure in this study," Deusing said. "We're
testing young people who are more muscular will have a higher-body-mass index as a result of their muscles, rather than poor eating habits. This may be counted for some changes.
"Others may have underestimated
their caloric intake or exaggerated the amount of
exercise they did to."
Rostand named communications director for School of Social Work

BY JESSICA MARTIN

Ellen Rostand has been named director of communications for the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, announced Edward F. Lawler, Ph.D., dean and a William E. Butler Professor. Rostand has more than 12 years of communications experience. Before joining the University, she was senior vice president of the health-care practice at Fleishman-Hillard in St. Louis, where she worked with a wide range of national clients developing and executing creative communications programs.

"Ellen's experience in health care, with universities and with social-service organizations is the perfect background for our communications at the School of Social Work," Lawler said. "I know that her leadership will have a significant impact on our internal and external communications."

Prior to her work at Fleishman-Hillard, Rostand served as the special assistant to the president of the University of Chicago Hospitals & Health Systems. She also held various communications positions with the Philadelphia Health Management Corp. and other medical centers throughout the country.

Rostand earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business and a certificate in health administration and policy from Chicago's graduate program in health administration and policy.

She earned an undergraduate degree in Business as assistant professor of Surgery from the University of Pennsylvania.

The economic factors of the Great Depression played a role in the architectural commission and construction of the Miller House. The commissioning of any type of building in the 1930s was a risky, possibly optimum venture; the investment of capital in an architect-designed winner house in the desert involved an even greater financial risk.

As Neutra's practice experienced a second home in the desert involved an architect-designed winner house in the desert involved an even greater financial risk.

At the same time, however, this mid-decade increase in building activity also had a negative effect on the project. As Neutra's practice experienced a dramatic rise in commissions, the demands upon his time escalated and his health declined.

This forced the architect to limit the number of visits he made to the construction site. Moreover, the rise in labor and building costs attendant on an impatient client helped drive the project over budget.

The increase in construction in 1936 was significant. As recently as 1934, 100 percent of the respondents to a national residential construction in the U.S. on the Pacific Coast answered "no" to the survey's question: "Is any considerable residential construction contemplated in your community?"

In the first quarter of 1936, residential building construction saw a 75 percent gain nationwide over the same period in 1935, and non-residential building construction saw a 118 percent gain over the same period in 1935. This forced the architect to limit the number of visits he made to the construction site. Moreover, the rise in labor and building costs attendant on an impatient client helped drive the project over budget.

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Campus Authors

Stephen Leet, associate professor of Architecture, Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts

Richard Neutra's Miller House

(Princeton Architectural Press)

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prove to be temporary, but it offered relief from the relentless stranglehold of the Great Depression might come to an end.

Unemployment had declined to approximately 13 percent (from a high of 25 percent in 1933) and industrial production had doubled since 1930.

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Shalini Shenoy does much more than perform stem-cell transplants

Shalini Shenoy

BY GENE ERICKSON

Exploring options

The stem cells used in transplantation are found in the bone marrow and blood and have the ability to differentiate into any of several types of blood cells. Allogeneic stem-cell transplants replace a patient's bone marrow, which has been destroyed from donor blood, bone marrow or umbilical cord blood.

The donor stem cells lodge in the patient's bone marrow, reconstitute the marrow and supply the patient with healthy blood, enzymes or immune factors he or she needs.

A stem-cell transplant is often the treatment of choice for certain immune or metabolic diseases where transplantation is the only option for a cure. For some cancers, stem-cell transplant is usually used only if other treatments fail, or the condition can only be cured with a transplant.

While potentially life-saving, a stem-cell transplant can be arduous. Before donor cells are given, the patient's own bone marrow or immune system may be wiped out by chemotherapy, radiation or other alternatives, leaving them exhausted and vulnerable to infection.

After the transplant, it may take months for patients' immune systems to return — and they must stay relatively isolated until then.

Stem-cell transplants are also highly involved procedures.

Timing, choice of medications, dosage and other elements of pre- and post-transplant protocols can have a great effect on the course of treatment, the body's acceptance of the donor cells and the ability to cure disease.

"There are many ways to transplant," Shenoy says, "many kinds of interventions, many subtle variations on a theme. I have to decide what would be the best approach for each patient."

Standard protocols for stem-cell transplants can have adverse side effects.

"The transplant offers hope for children suffering from chronic or terminal diseases, but their side effects can be debilitating and often include steroids," Shenoy says. "We are researching ways to spare children from the harsh side effects of stem-cell transplantation."

"Dr. Shenoy's work is having a major impact on how we approach bone-marrow transplantation in patients with non-malignant diseases," says Robert I. Hashimb, M.D., director of the Bone Marrow Transplantation Program at St. Louis Children's Hospital, and associate professor of pediatrics.

"By providing strategies that allow us to perform these procedures with relatively little toxicity, we can now offer this treatment modality to many patients who were not considered before because the risks previously were too high."

Common team goal

Shenoy sees the medical aspect as just a fraction of what she does. Even more of her time is spent managing follow-up and social and psychological aspects of treatment.

She works closely with patients and their families and with a large team of professionals devoted to supporting the patients during the time of transplant to life after.

This includes the stem-cell transplant team, social workers, school liaisons, physical therapists, dietitians, chaplains and child life therapists, among others. Their mutual goal is to make sure the children they treat and their families understand the procedures, goals and risks and that the patients are supported throughout the transition back to a normal life after their lengthy convalescence.

"It's a multi-disciplinary team," says Yvonne Barnes, nurse practitioner for bone marrow transplantation at St. Louis Children's Hospital.

"Each person has a vital role in caring for patients. Dr. Shenoy oversees the team. Her approach is very individualized and addresses the specific needs of each child. I think the best thing about working for her is seeing her go the extra mile for each patient."

"I like the global aspect of my practice," Shenoy says. "In this field you care for the patient in many ways. It's not as if I just fix them and they go home and that's it. That's just the start. We monitor them for many months to make sure there are no late complications and to follow their progress."

And we do all we can to get them back into their pre-transplant routines and lifestyles once their immune systems are reestablished.

"The natural consequence of spending so much time with patients and their families is that strong relationships develop. Shenoy gets invited to patients' graduation parties and recieves pictures of teenagers on first dates and learning to drive. She relishes hearing about the ordinary milestones reached in her young patients' lives, because they are often so hard-won."

Importance of family

Shenoy earned a medical degree in pediatrics from Mangalore University in Manipal, India, and practiced pediatrics in India. At that time, India offered no opportunities to branch into a subspecialty, so Shenoy decided to move to New Orleans for training in hematology/oncology.

Two years later she came to the School of Medicine.

"I think it was after I started my fellowship here that I realized I was interested in transplant, because you needed to have such comprehensive knowledge," Shenoy says. "I was introduced to the exciting fields of human immunology and transplantation in the laboratory of Thalha A. Mohanakumar and was hooked."

Mohanakumar, Ph.D., is the Jacquette C. and William E. Martin Chair in Immunology and Oncology, and professor of surgery and of pathology and immunology. Shenoy is married to Surendra Shenoy, M.D., associate professor of surgery, director of the Living Donation Program and a transplant surgeon at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. She comes from a town near where Shenoy grew up, and they wed in India.

"Our interests match well," Shenoy says. "We work in liver and kidney transplantation, and the fields overlap just enough that we can share ideas. But we try not to bring specific problems home with us.

The couple has one son and one daughter. Their son, Ashish, was born in India before the Shenoy left for the States. Shenoy is a sophomore at Stanford, but Shenoy doesn't think he'll pursue medicine.

"He's interested in things like economics," she says. "He told us in ninth grade that we could earn a million dollars and he was going to stop trying to teach him, just as long as he was happy and didn't have to do biology because biology was not his thing. He liked math. He liked numbers, but sure didn't want to do his homework, thank you very much."

Their daughter, Neeti, is 10 in the fourth grade. In contrast to Ashish, Neeti has expressed an interest in biology, but according to Shenoy, Neeti thinks she would rather take care of animals than people.

Family is definitely a central theme in Shenoy's life.

Her approach to her practice entails building a caring network of people around her patients. And she also feels that as part of the University, she is part of a family.

"I have a lot of friends in practice out in the community," she says, "Talking with them, makes me realize how much being at the University is like being in a family. I like the feeling of having this group I can work with. I really like that interaction."