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Building acquisition to greatly enhance music, performing arts space

BY LIAM OTTEN

Washington University has reached an agreement with Webster University to purchase the Community Music School building at 560 Trinity Ave. in University City. The purchase will provide Washington University with additional — and much-needed — performance, rehearsal and teaching facilities.

The building includes the 1,115-seat E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall, a 300-seat theater, a small recital hall, dozens of classrooms and practice spaces, a recording studio and administrative offices.

The concert hall will become the largest performance space at Washington University. Built in 1929, the two-story, 45,000-square-foot former synagogue is located less than a mile from the Hilltop Campus at the intersection of Trinity and Delmar Boulevard, near the western end of the Delmar Loop shopping and entertainment district. It has been home to the Community Music School since 1974.

Webster will use proceeds from the sale of the property for one year. At the end of that year, Webster will have use of the E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall for two Sundays per month for an additional eight months. Macias noted that Washington University’s current performance facilities — principally the 650-seat Edison Theater; the 10-seat A.J. Hutchiter Studio Theater; and the 100-seat Anselmed Merz Dance Studio — are striving to balance the needs of student, departmental and professional groups.

The concert hall in the Community Music School building will become the largest performance space at Washington University.

Scientists seek to solve hydrogen storage problems

BY DOUG MAIB

A WUSTL chemist hopes to find who might easily to put the elec-

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molecules in a sticky situation.

The problem is that as far

as we know, nothing is sticky enough without being too sticky. Gelb said.

But this doesn’t stop him from

solution to this storage problem, a process called "gas physical ad-

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In a recent study, the WUSTL researchers found that by applying some low-energy

of molecules that may be used to store and transport hydrogen.

Gaseous at room temperature, hydrogen is even lighter and less dense than natural gas and thus harder to store. So, while hydrogen is a high-energy-per-weight, it has a low energy-per-volume. "If you had a kilogram of hydrogen at atmospheric pressure, you’d have to store it in about 100 big balloons, if you can picture that," Gelb said. "A kilogram of gasoline, on the other hand — that would be a small container."

Scientists who study the properties of hydrogen molecules are particularly interested in finding new and efficient ways to store and transport the gas.

"The idea here is to create materials composed of molecules that like to stick to the hydrogen," Gelb said. "If hydrogen stuck to these particles, you could carry around much hydrogen as possible. Then adsorption — a process called "gas physical adsorption.""

"The problem is that as far as we know, nothing is sticky enough without being too sticky. Gelb said.

Welcome aboard

Washington University in St Louis

BY MICHAEL C. PURDY

By peering into the minds of volunteers preparing to play a brief visual game, School of Medicine neuroscientists have found they can predict whether the volunteers will succeed or fail at the game.

Before we present the task, we can use brain activity to predict with about 70 percent accuracy whether the subject will give a correct or an incorrect response," said lead author Aylert Sapi, Ph.D., a postdoctoral research associate in neurology.

Eleven seconds before volunteers played the game — discriminating the direction of a field of moving dots — scientists showed them a hint: an arrow pointing to where the moving dots were likely to appear. The dots were visible for only one-fifth of a second and therefore were easy to miss if a subject was not paying attention to the correct area.

After the hint and prior to the appearance of the moving dots, researchers scanned the volunteers with functional brain imaging, which reveals increases in blood flow to different brain areas indicative of increased activity in those regions. Based on brain activity patterns that reflected whether the subjects used the hint or not, scientists found they could frequently predict whether a volunteer’s response would be right or wrong before the volunteer even had a chance to try to see the dots.

The study’s results are available in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (http://www.pnas.org) and will be published in the journal’s print edition.

Sapi and her colleagues concluded that they don’t use the hint the same way every trial. See Brain, Page 6

Jaccquin, Lossos & Osdoby elected AAAS fellows

BY TONY FITZPATRICK

School of Medicine neuroscientists Meric Gonen and Philip J. Sapi, Ph.D., professor of biology at the medical school, were cited for distinguished contributions to somatosensory research in rodents, including the molecular mechanisms for the development of circuitry in the trigeminal system.

Jonathan B. Lossos, Ph.D., professor of biology in Arts & Sciences, was cited for distinguished contributions to the field of bone osteoclast development and cell biology and studies on cell-matrix interactions in bone.

The three are among 576 people this year awarded the honor by AAAS because of their scientifically or socially distinguished achievements in the development of science (AAAS).

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Compton's X-ray research lands WUSTL on register of historic physics sites

BY SUEAN KILLENBERG MCGINN

Physicist Arthur Holly Compton, the University's first faculty member to receive a Nobel Prize (1927), is still getting recognition for his groundbreaking research on X-rays — as a site of historical significance to physics.

The APS Historic Sites Committee selected Washington University along with four other U.S. sites to be the first listed on the APS Register of Historic Physics Sites. John L. Hopfield, Ph.D., president-elect of the APS, the APS's Senior Prior Professor in the Life Sciences at Princeton University, will present a commemorative plaque to Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton at a ceremony Dec. 12 in the Woman's Building Lounge. The signs will hang alongside a university plaque just inside the building's front entrance that marks the building in which Compton did his road-breaking research more than 40 years ago.

There talk about Compton, including information about where Compton discovered the X-ray scattering effect.

The APS prize is awarded to Washington University in 1945 to become its 11th chancellor and served for eight years. Compton brought many outstanding faculty to the University, particularly in the sciences, and in so doing began the University's rise to prominence as a leader in the sciences.

Charity Navigator gives WUSTL 4 stars for 5th straight year

A four-star rating from Charity Navigator — the largest independent charity evaluator in America — is the highest score possible.

Four-star ratings are earned by Washington University in St. Louis after having received a four-star rating, based on an evaluation of two broad areas: financial health and accountability and transparency.

The third, organizational efficiency, measures a charity's fund-raising results against fund-raising expenses and administrative expenses.

Free vehicle inspection Dec. 10

On Dec. 10, University Police will again sponsor the University's annual Vehicle Inspection Service to Stude- nt, faculty and staff alike. People traveling by car for the holiday break can bring their vehicles to the parking lot on the west side of University, until 3 p.m. in the English and History quadrants on the South 40 between noon-3 p.m. for inspections.

The service includes checking tire pressure, fluid levels, wipers, headlights and taillights. Local businesses have donated oil and windshield washer fluid to allow fluids to be topped off.

The WUPD Beat Patrol will assist the police and parking staff. The Police Department reminds those traveling during the holiday season to get plenty of rest, pay close attention to weather and road conditions. Make sure your vehicle is in good working condition and always wear a seat belt.

For more information, call the Staffed Crime Prevention Office at 933-5084.
Eye’s structure engineered to help brain manage movement

BY MICHAEL C. PERRY

The design of the eye and the muscles and bones that surround it help the brain manage movement, according to School of Medicine researchers. The finding, published in Neuron, may help propel debate about how eye movement is controlled toward resolution and why eye surgery better diagnoses and treats disorders such as strabismus, a condition that leads to misalignment of the eyes.

Adding to the complexity, research has shown that a round, three-dimensional object such as the eye has a way to take over as non-working tissues. This means that the result of a series of motions — a movement-tune and a half-turn-up, for example — is dependent on the order in which those motions are performed. Reverse the order of two steps in the series of motions, and the end result is different.

Scientists began to debate in the late 1960s whether the complexities of these problems were handled by signals from the brain or accomplished via contributions made by both the brain and the eye. The latter group theorized that the “motor plant” of the eye — which includes the eye, the orbit or eye socket and the muscles that pull it on — could perform some additional functions outside of input from the brain. The different models suggested very different things about the way the brain controls eye movements.

Anglekai and first author Fatima E. Ghasia, a postdoctoral fellow, conducted two sets of tests in primates. In the first test, the primates tracked a moving target by moving only their eyes even in the second, the bodies or heads of the primates were rotated while their eyes were tracked on the target, invoking VOR.

In both tests, scientists electrically measured the activity of ocularomotor nerves, the nerves that control eye muscles. They also measured the vertical, horizontal and torsional (winding shoulders) movement of the eye. The ocularomotor nerves changed their firing activity in the test that included head and body movement, demonstrating the brain’s role in the control of VOR. But in the first test, ocularomotor nerves did not significantly change firing patterns as the primates tracked the target by moving their eyes, suggesting some of the guidance for the eye’s movements was coming from the eye itself and its surrounding tissues.

“It appears that the motor plant of the eye is optimized to help the problem on its own, and then whenever you need to step in and override the brain, the brain has a way to take over,” Anglekai said. “Better understanding of how this ability is naturally engineered into the motor plant of the eye may be very important for clinical applications, because every time you have a surgeon manipulates the muscles of the eye it might interface with these abilities.”
University Dance Theatre to present Reach/Rebound

What's the Pointe by Christine Knoblauch-O'Neal, senior lecturer and director of the Ballet Program, choreographs an exploration of a dancer preparing for an audience. The work is part of Washington University Dance Theatre's annual showcase of professionally choreographed works performed by student dancers, to be presented Dec. 2-4 in Edison Theatre.

Kwaidan: What Heated the Asteroids? • Lopata Classicus

Oncologic Imaging Retreat.

On stage

Friday, Dec. 2
5:30 p.m. Presentation Arts Dept. Production.

Sports

Friday, Dec. 2
4:00 p.m. Basketball vs. U. of Dallas.

Worship

Thursday, Dec. 8
12:00 p.m. Catholic Mass.

How to submit ‘University Events’

’University Events’ is a portion of the activities taking place Dec. 2-8 at Washington University. Visit the Web site for expanded calendar for the upcoming Calendar (updated weekly). Please send information to: Director of Medicine (wumedcalea@wustl.edu).

Exhibits
American Writers at Work - Photographs From the Book by J. D. McClure

Wednesday, Dec. 14
7 a.m. Asian & House Languages & Literatures Japanese Film Series, Kwansei Gakuin, Osaka, Japan, dir. Richard Hay, Rm. 219, 935-5110.

Lectures
Friday, Dec. 2
6 a.m. Sloman Career Center Presentation, "Career Counseling at the Edge of Technology," sponsored by the Sloman Career Center and the Career Counseling Center, Eric P. Newman Education Center, Rm. 140, 935-4444.

Friday, Dec. 9
5:30 p.m., Center for the Application of Information Technology Workshop, "Strategies to Improve Your Professional Image," Continuing Ed. Rm. 139, 935-4444.

Saturday, Dec. 3
7:00 a.m. Noon, Centennial Divinity School Course, "Christianity: Current Faith Future Updates," Cost: $250, Eric P. Newman Education Center, Rm. 362-6061.

Sunday, Dec. 4
8 a.m. Catholic Mass.

Monday, Dec. 5
5:30 p.m. Catholic Mass.

Monday, Dec. 12
7:30 a.m. Noon. Center for the Application of Information Technology Workshop, "Strategies to Increase Your Professional Image," Continuing Ed. Rm. 139, 935-4444.

Tuesday, Dec. 6
7:30 a.m. Noon. Center for the Application of Information Technology Workshop, "Strategies to Increase Your Professional Image," Continuing Ed. Rm. 139, 935-4444.

Wednesday, Dec. 7

Wednesday, Dec. 14
5:30 p.m. Center for the Application of Information Technology Workshop, "Strategies to Improve Your Professional Image," Continuing Ed. Rm. 139, 935-4444.

Thursday, Dec. 15
5:30 p.m. Sloman Career Center Presentation, "Career Counseling at the Edge of Technology," sponsored by the Sloman Career Center and the Career Counseling Center, Eric P. Newman Education Center, Rm. 140, 935-4444.
University authors to be featured at colloquium

Larry May, Ph.D., I.D., professor of philosophy in Arts & Sciences, will deliver a keynote address on "The Moral Writer" as part of "Celebrating Our Books, Recognizing Our Authors." Washington University’s fourth annual faculty book colloquium, at 4 p.m. Dec. 7 in the Olin Women’s Building Formal Lounge. 

The colloquium will honor the work of scholars from across the university’s disciplines. Featured faculty presenters—who will read from their works and take questions from the group—will include: Dr. Keith Shaver, professor of education in Arts & Sciences, most recently the author of "Emergence: Societies and Morality." The second and third volumes of the series are available after the colloquium to those who sign their works. The symposium is part of the "Monopoly of Rgulz" series, "Sharing Responsibility" (1992), the "Social Responsibility Self" (1996), Morality and "Morality and Morality and Morality and Morality and Morality" (1998) and Crimes Against Peace and War Crimes Against Peace and War Crimes Against Peace and War Crimes Against Peace and War Crimes Against Peace and War Crimes. The latter volume is the first in a proposed series on the moral foundations of international social law. The second and third volumes, "Embracing Modernity in a Mexican Context" (2005).

In addition, Carter Reward, professor emeritus of English in Arts & Sciences, will read three poems from his latest collection, How the Songs Come Down (2005).

Women’s cross country finishes third nationally

The first-place finisher in the cross country team took third place at the NCAA Championship for the second straight year, placing in the top 10 on the team. The Bears, who tied for third place at the NCAA Championship, will place first in the men’s 8K race. The Bears will finish behind Williams College and the Union team. The Bears will be led by senior Brennan Bonner and sophomore Beth Herndon and sophomore Tyler Mulkin, who each earned All-America honors. Washington U. tallied 132 points for its place in the standings. Williams College had the win with 64 points, while the Union team scored 79 points. The next day, Washington U. finished second in the men’s 8K race, finishing behind Williams College with 64 points and the Union team with 79 points.

Men’s cross country finishes third nationally

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Sports
Hydrogen

Has potential, but also many challenges

The Department of Music and the Performing Arts Department, both in Arts & Sciences, currently combine nearly 100 faculty and undergraduate majors, that hundreds of students participate in student theatrical productions, dance productions and musical ensembles.

These range from the PAD’s large musical productions, such as the performances of the Community Music School building at 560 Trinity Ave. in University City was recently purchased by Washington University to serve as additional performance, rehearsal and classroom space for music and performance arts programs.

The PAD has been exploring ways to expand the number of performance venues on campus. In this regard, Gelb said, the PAD is increasingly interested in providing more opportunities for students to perform, regardless of which degree they are pursuing.

The PAD has also been working with the Arts & Sciences administration to better integrate the performing arts into the university’s overall cultural life. This includes exploring ways to make the performing arts more accessible to students and the public.

In addition, the PAD has been looking for ways to better support the performing arts financially. This includes exploring ways to increase support from the university’s endowment, as well as exploring ways to increase support from the performing arts community at large.

In summary, the PAD is committed to expanding and improving the performing arts on campus. This includes exploring ways to better integrate the performing arts into the university’s overall cultural life, as well as exploring ways to increase support for the performing arts financially.

The PAD is committed to ensuring that the performing arts remain an integral part of the university’s overall cultural life and are accessible to all students and the public.
A team of WUSTL students took first place in the regional Collegiate Programming Contest, placing one of 12 teams from Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois and Missouri. The annual contest is run by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). The contest involves teams of college students trying to solve difficult programming problems, against the clock. The WUSTL team, which included Chemical and Biological Engineering junior Michael B. Greer, sophomore Mary Ann S. V. Das, Computer Science sophomore Brian M. Prentice and Freshman Melanie H. K. Hunsicker, was coached by professor of computer science and engineering, Albert Mao, a graduate student from the School of Medicine.

"The problems are generally just tricky questions that one can write a computer to solve. One possible instance of a problem would be a decision that has a very complicated board game and asks a contestant to solve the program that determines who wins after a certain number of moves," said Mao. "Another possible problem would be to give (the contestant) a university course schedule including prerequisites and requirements and the computer to write a program that will determine the minimal number of semesters required to complete all of the courses in the schedule."

The team worked hard on the surface, but Albert said that the hard part is the contestants' ability to answer the question — the competitiveness is not the main goal. "The team good at this will help the program answer any of the questions it is given, even if it is a difficult question.

"One difficult twist to the competition is that if your program fails, you are given chances to redo your program. This encourages problem solving, through systematic thinking about the next problem in a surprising difficulty thing to do. Because the problems timed, the ability to perform this coordination effectively can often be the difference between winning and losing."

The WUSTL team did a particularly good job in this aspect of the competition, and that reflected in its final score, which was considerably better than that of the second-place team.

"Another difficult problem would be the question of the second-place team. The WUSTL team solved about 4.5 hours to complete the questions they answered. There is a time limit of five hours for the entire contest, which is completed simultaneously across the entire region. "Being able to win against such a tough field is probably the best thing about winning the contest," Albert said. "At least we did all in shock, and it definitely makes me feel like there was an obstacle too large for me to conquer in the future."

"Being a champion in the true sense of the word feels amazing."
Guiding Project ARK with compassion

Kim Donica helps children, adolescents and women with HIV

BY DIANE DUKE WILLIAMS

In 1989, Kim Donica took a social work position in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at St. Louis Children’s Hospital. As a small part of her job, Donica was asked if she would work with families whose babies had contracted HIV from their mothers.

“When I had this opportunity, I knew working with these families was what I wanted to do,” says Donica, now program director of Project ARK (AIDS/HIV Resources and Knowledge) and research administrator in pediatric infectious diseases.

New a national policy maker and the key figure in the field of HIV services for women and children in St. Louis, colleagues say Donica brings patience and a level head to her emotionally challenging work.

“We also have a very creative problem-solver,” says Greg Storch, professor of pediatrics, Donica’s co-founder, and program director of Project ARK. “Kim is an outstanding problem-solver. She’s very good at understanding how organizations work, fitting the right people into the organization and making sure they’re successful.”

“I consider her an organizational genius,” says Dr. Donica McGann, associate professor of pediatrics, who first met Donica when she was a teaching fellow at the hospital.

“I have also seen her do a great job of developing the skills of personnel at Project ARK,” McGann says.

Following a spike in the number of mother-to-child transmissions, in 1995 Donica, Storch and McGann wrote the grant to establish Project ARK, which would provide health-care and support services to 600 people and is critical in overseeing the growth of Project ARK.

“I consider her an organizational genius,” says Dr. Donica McGann, associate professor of pediatrics, who first met Donica when she was a teaching fellow at the hospital.

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