5 to receive honorary degrees at Commencement

Washington University in St. Louis

Washington University will award honorary degrees to five prominent people, including a 2004 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry and a pioneering scholar of African-American literature, during the University's 147th Commencement ceremony May 19.

During the ceremony, which begins at 8:30 a.m. in Brookes Quadrangle, the University will also bestow academic degrees on more than 2,300 students.

The honorary degree recipients and their degrees are:
- Celia C. munch, M.D., D.Sc., a 2004 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry and distillate professor of chemistry at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, doctor of science;
- Steve Forbes, record-setting adventurer and first person to fly nonstop around the world alone in a balloon, doctor of science;
- Henry Louis Gates Jr., Ph.D., the W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Humanities and chair of the Department of African and African American Studies at Harvard University, doctor of human letters; and
- John E. McDonnell, vice chairman of Washington University's Board of Trustees and retired chairman of the board of McDonnell Douglas Corp., doctor of science.

Clechanover has devoted a highly productive scientific career to understanding the mechanisms of protein breakdown within living cells — a vital aspect of cellular metabolism. His early scientific work on cellular proteolysis (protein breakdowns) was conducted at The Technion as a graduate student (D.Sc.) of Arav Herbild, M.D. Ph.D. They made the initial discovery of the ubiquitin-dependent proteolytic system, its enzymatic components and mechanisms of action.

The basic functions of ubiquitin and the components of the ubiquitylation pathway that, if left untreated, can include the following: cellular processes by removing key regulatory proteins.

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HHMI re-confirms support of Elgin's genomics core

By TONY FITZPATRICK

Sarah C.R. Elgin, Ph.D., who was named a "Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Professor" in 2002, is one of eight scientists who recently received a special grant funding renewed in 2006.

Elgin is one of the many research projects of Elgin's Center for Research on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CRIE), which is focused on the School of Education.

Elgin's research focus is on the role of chromatin structure in DNA replication.

In July 1958, five professors from the WUSTL School of Business arrived in Seoul to teach the first course in business as the process of seeing, understanding, and using limited resources to create new value for others. The process results in innovative discoveries, products, services, and sustainable activities that sustain the business while benefiting mankind.

Application details

Applications are due by June 15, with awards expected by July 1. Interested faculty members are encouraged to submit a preliminary application to the Related Research Funding Supplemental Worksheet, which can be obtained from Karin Jenks, CRIE coordinator (karin(jenks@wustl.edu; Campus Box 1120; 935-9490).

Proposal requests may be made at any time, but funding is approved only for the first year. Funding for the second year must be approved prior to the end of the first year. Funding for the third year will be granted on a fiscal-year basis.

The proposal should be a maximum of 10 pages, and will be evaluated on the following criteria:

• Significance of research and expected value of findings, including potential interest to the business community.
Osteoporosis drug effectively reduces breast cancer risk

By Ginger Ericson

Raloxifene, a drug prescribed to prevent and treat osteoporosis, has been shown by a large, national clinical trial to work as well as tamoxifen to reduce the risk of invasive breast cancer for postmenopausal women who are at a higher risk than normal for the disease.

This could be good news for women who may not want to take tamoxifen because of the odds of developing uterine cancer, blood clots, strokes and cataracts.

Researchers at the Siteman Cancer Center participated in the two-drug study, called the STAR trial (Study of Tamoxifen and Raloxifene). The STAR trial, one of the largest breast cancer prevention studies ever conducted, enrolled nearly 20,000 women and was coordinated by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the American Association of University Women-based Bowl Fund Project and sponsored by the National Institute of Arthritis, Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Disease.

In the trial, women taking either drug had a 36 percent lower risk of breast cancer. Women who took raloxifene had 36 percent fewer invasive cancers and 29 percent fewer blood clots than women assigned to take tamoxifen.

In the STAR trial, women taking either drug had an equivalent number of strokes. Tamoxifen demonstrated superior ability to reduce the incidence of noninvasive breast cancers.

“Although no drugs are without side effects, tamoxifen and raloxifene are vital options for women who are at increased risk of breast cancer and want to take action. For many women, raloxifene’s benefits will outweigh its risks in a way that tamoxifen’s benefits do not.”

Leslie Ford

The trial demonstrated that raloxifene, like tamoxifen, reduced the risk of invasive breast cancer by 50 percent, and women who took raloxifene had 36 percent fewer invasive cancers and 29 percent fewer blood clots than women assigned to take tamoxifen.

In the STAR trial, women taking either drug had an equivalent number of strokes. Tamoxifen demonstrated superior ability to reduce the incidence of noninvasive breast cancers.

“Although no drugs are without side effects, tamoxifen and raloxifene are vital options for women who are at increased risk of breast cancer and want to take action,” said Leslie Ford, M.D., associate director for clinical research in NCI’s Division of Cancer Prevention. “For many women, raloxifene’s benefits will outweigh its risks in a way that tamoxifen’s benefits do not.”

Tamoxifen and raloxifene are synthetic estrogen mimics that have different effects on estrogen receptors in different parts of the body, producing estrogenic, estrogen-like and anti-estrogenic effects in various tissues.

In the two drugs act slightly differently in various tissues, both tamoxifen and raloxifene appear to force estrogen in bone — maintaining bone strength and increasing bone density — but they compete with estrogen in breast tissue to potentially lessen the likelihood of estrogen-induced breast tumors.

“Although no drugs are without side effects, tamoxifen and raloxifene are vital options for women who are at increased risk of breast cancer and want to take action.”

Leslie Ford

Valente leads development of national adult hearing-aid fitting guidelines

By Beth Miller

Audiology nationwide will have new guidelines to follow when fitting hearing aids for adults, thanks to the work of Dr. Michael Valente, Ph.D., professor of clinical otolaryngology in the School of Medicine.

Valente, also director of the adult audiology program, recently chaired a task force for the American Academy of Audiology that developed a new national guideline on how hearing aids should be fitted for adults. It is the first national guideline to use evidence-based principles to support the recommendations, he said.

“The method, procedures and protocol the task force developed are based on the way hearing aids have been fit at the School of Medicine for the past decade,” Valente said. “It’s the standard that our patients want and the country to follow.”

The Division of Adult Audiol- ogy in the School of Medicine has about 13,000 patient visits per year and uses nearly 70 hearing aids per month. About 95 percent of those are digital. Valente sits on a number of national committees and is involved in ongoing studies with various hearing-aid manufacturers for about 15 years.

Valente defined “fit” as making sure a hearing aid is the right style for the patient’s hearing loss and whether it provides the best possible amplification.

“We look at whether what is being fit to a person’s ear is the most appropriate solution for their hearing loss,” he said. “That’s part of what the guideline is all about.”

Valente said there are other tools to help people deal with hearing loss, such as amplification devices for telephones and televisions and wristwatches that vibrate instead of making an alarm sound.

Verification is perhaps the most unique and important aspect of the new guideline, Valente said. In 70 percent of cases, audiolo- gists simply download the man- ufacturer’s “Fit” algorithms that are part of their software to a patient’s hearing aid without any external verification to determine what fit is appropriate for the pa- tient’s hearing loss, Valente said.

“Research has clearly shown that there are high probability of error for using this approach be- cause it’s not fine-tuned,” he said.

“Instead, we personally adjust and verify all fits. The software then notifies the office and confirm that the hearing aid is doing what it is supposed to do,” said Valente. “It’s a quality improvement for the hearing loss and satisfactory for the pa- tient.”

“You can have the world’s best hearing aid, but if it is not fitted properly, it’s garbage!”

Michael Valente

“Although no drugs are without side effects, tamoxifen and raloxifene are vital options for women who are at increased risk of breast cancer and want to take action.”

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Leslie Ford

First scholars named to research development program

By Beth Miller

The National Institutes of Health’s K12 Multidisciplinary Clinical Research Career Devel- opment Program in the School of Medicine, in collaboration with its institutional partners, has named its first seven scholars, who will begin the program July 1.

The scholars are funded by a five-year, $1.15 million NIH grant received late last year by Victoria Fraser, M.D., professor of medici- ne and clinical chief of the Divi- sion of Infectious Diseases in the Department of Medicine.

The program is designed to promote multidisciplinary collabora- tion in clinical research and will provide training to fellows, post-doctoral scholars and junior faculty from diverse fields.

Based at the School of Medi- cine, the program will provide funds for up to 20 junior faculty mem- ber’s salary, research sup- port, travel and tuition for course work, leading to a master’s degree in clinical investigation or pub- lic health.

“The scholars have chosen this year are extraordinary re- searchers who we believe will make tremendous contributions to clinical and translational sci- ence and to public health as a re- sult of this program,” Fraser said.

Scholars are from the partner institutions, which include Saint Louis University School of Public Health, University of Missouri St. Louis College of Nursing, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing and St. Louis College of Pharmacy.

For more information, call the Department of Otolaryngology at 362-7489 or 362-7309.

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Leslie Ford

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By Beth Miller

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Michael Valente

“The program’s focus on training in multi- disciplinary clinical research will provide for an increase in patient-related research and thus, improvement in patient outcomes.”

Victoria Fraser
The Center for the Humanities and the Program in Film & Media Studies, both in Arts & Sciences, will host the Second Annual Children's Film Symposium May 5-6.

Presented in conjunction with Cinema St. Louis, the event will feature a keynote address by Nicholas Sammond, author of Babes in Tomorrowland: Walt Disney and the American Child, 1930-1960 (2005), as well as screenings of the films Duma (2005) and Saving Shiloh (2006), the latter of which was shot in St. Louis last year.

Sanmmond, assistant professor of film studies at the University of Toronto, will speak on the topic of children's film at 4 p.m. on May 5 in the Campus Center Ballroom. 935-6900.

Wednesday, May 17


Saturday, May 6

7:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Cardiothoracic Surgery Symposium. "Strategies in the Management of Varvar." Heart Disease: The Present State-of-the-Art in Diagnosis and Intervention." Center East, 100 Curators Plaza. 362-0891.

Monday, May 8


Tuesday, May 9


7 p.m. Whitney R. Hixson Lect. for Global Legal Studies Tlk. "Gnosticism: Emergent or Catholic?: Who Will Survive Today?"

Thursday, May 11

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Program in Audiology and Communication Sciences, Children's Hospital, Whitaker Hall, Holmes Lounge. 935-4841.

Friday, May 12


3 p.m. Cell Biology & Physiology Seminar. "Computational Approaches to Understanding the Cytoskeleton." David Seifert, ass't prof. of biochemistry.

Saturday, May 13


Monday, May 15


Tuesday, May 16


Wednesday, May 17


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From chaos comes order? Physicists make baffling discovery

The police are not here to create disorder; they are here to preserve disorder." - Richard J. Daley, Chicago mayor, explaining to the media why he commended Daley's famous quote above — only to dismiss it as the result of his famously tangled tongue — is sometimes disorder impossible, right?

According to a computational study conducted by a group of WUSTL physicists, one may create order by introducing disorder.

While working on their model — a network of interconnected pendulums, or "oscillators" — the researchers noticed that when driven by ordered forces, the various pendulums behaved chaotically. The researchers then introduced a group of interconnected synchronized sinusoids. This was unexpected — shouldn't chaotic forces yield synchronized pendulums? But then came the real surprise. When they introduced a disordered force — forces were applied at random to each oscillator — the system became ordered and synchronized.

The force that is countering is that when you introduce a disorder into the system, the forces on the pendulums act at random — the chaos is present before dispersers and there is order, "said Ralf Wessel, a physics graduate student in Arts & Sciences and lead author of the study, which appeared in a recent edition of Physical Review Letters.

Insights into other realms

The physicists' research is not only hard to grasp for nonphysicists, but also puzzling for physicists. As supervisor Ralf Wessel, Ph.D., associate professor of physics, said, "Every physicist who hears this is surprised."

Research on the role of disorder in complex systems is new and not well understood. Wessel hopes that one day this theoretical understanding will be better than it is today.

Nevertheless, the researchers believe the model in their paper provides new insights outside the realm of theoretical physics.

Neurons, for example, have been modeled as interconnected, or "coupled," oscillators because of the way they interact with one another. In the model, coupled oscillators can be imagined as being tethered to their neuron neighbor, thus influencing their movement.

Neurons, on the other hand, may display repetitive electrical activity that can be influenced by the activity of neighboring neurons. In other words, the oscillators in the model may be likened to a child on a swing. Within a small range, the child will move in constant proportion to how hard you push. If you push twice as hard, the child will go twice as far, but if nearly all complex systems are ordered, like the neurons, the model is nonlinear. Once the child is fully gripping the push bar, releasing the push twice as hard will not make the child go twice as far.

Neurons are composed of many elements and are typically nonlinear.

"When you hear your favorite music twice as loud you don't double the volume," Wessel said. "You start to hear new things."

Thus, they believe, their findings might have potential in the fields of psychology, where it is more difficult to change personas — but relatively simple to apply an external force.

"This is, of course, basic research," Brandt said. "But what you can learn from this is that complex systems sometimes behave in a very unexpected way, completely opposite to your intuition at first sight."

"It will be interesting to see if the mechanism that we have found will eventually be put to some use."

Tennis teams head to Division III tournament

The men's and women's tennis teams are headed to the NCAA Division III Tournament for the seventh consecutive season. The No. 16 men and No. 9 women will travel to Greenville, Ind., for the NCAA Central Regional May 7-8.

The men (18-2) take on No. 15 Kalamazoo College (16-6) Friday. The women will play No. 16 Denison University (17-5) in the opening round.

Baseball team stays on roll, post 3-0 week

The No. 28 baseball team went 3-0 last week, beating MacMurray 5-3, Wabash 4-0 and Illinois Wesleyan 4-0 Wednesday. The Bears ended the week with a 1-0 win in six innings at Maryville University April 30.

Women's 4x400 relay shows well at Drake

The men's and women's track and field teams turned in some strong performances at the Drake Relays. In preliminary action, the Bears' 4x400-meter relay squad provisionally qualified for the NCAA Championships. The quartet of senior Laura Ehret, junior Nalanie Kadawo, sophomore Danielle Wadlington and senior Michelle McCully clocked a team season-best time of 3:55.64 to place 11th.

College

Veterans helped raise enrollment post-WWII

From Page 1

for former Chancellor Margaret R. Barnett. He joined Washington University in 1992 and served for two years as the editor of Washington University Magazine. Following his three-year stay in England, where he served as the university's cultural advisor, he returned to Washington University in 1997 as assistant to the chancellor.

He has been active on many University committees and plann- ing groups and often represents the University in the St. Louis community through involvement in organizations such as the Interdisciplinary Project for Children and Truth, the St. Louis Regional Council on Racism issue tickets Harmony, the National Conference for Community and Justice, and the Skinde-Delware Community Council.

He is a board member of the National Association of Presidents of Higher Education. He is the father of five children's books published by New Canaan Publishing as well as numerous religious-education publi- cations and books. He is the co-author, with photographer Tom Elboth, of Arch Celebration, a book that commemorated the 250th anniversary of the Gateway Arch in 1990. In the 1980s and 1990s, he was a widely published freelance journalist. More recently, his essays and commentaries have appeared in such publications as the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the Chicago Urban Journal and the St. Louis Review, and several of his commentaries have been reprint- ed on National Public Radio's "Only a Game."

Givens was a contributing writer, composer and musical director for "The World's Greatest Fair," a two-hour CNN Gold Eagle and Emmy-nominated documentary on the 1904 St. Louis World Fair that aired nationally on PBS. He recently composed two pieces of musical theater music for a new documentary on the Gateway Arch in St. Louis produced by the WUSTL production company, Civil Pictures. He has produced six inde- pendent CD projects.

Givens is married to Susan (Givens) Givens; they have two children, Jonathan, 19, and Jen- nifer, 15.

Under both Dean Frederick W. Shipherd and his successor and fel- low history professor Douglas Da- beton, it offered innovative courses such as Chinese and Russian, and degrees until 1941, to give bachelor's degrees to prospective art teach- ers; and a master's degree in edu- cation. Military veterans helped raise enrollment to 6,000-14,000, Innovative noncredit courses, popular lecture programs, film se- ries, study halls established in the 1950s made University Col- lege the community leader in adult education, and in 1957-58, the college approached 10,000.

In the academic year 1972-73, University College was the largest single one of its kind in St. Louis, with 17,000 enrollment courses.

After a reorganization that in- corporated University College and Arts & Sciences in 1980, the Mas- ter of Liberal Arts Program, the only one of its kind in St. Louis, got its start under the leadership of Robert C. Williams, then the dean of University College and professor of English in Arts & Sciences.

Students took part in interdisciplinary seminars organized into four categories: ideas and inquiry, the creative imagination; science and human values; and historical understanding.

Today, through University Col- lege in Arts & Sciences, part-time, evening and summer students may earn bachelor's and master's degrees and certificates, or attend classes double the pleasure," Brandt said. "It's a world-class academic institution. And it's a great place to be."

College includes special audit and courses and the Lifelong Learning Program.

And U. College shows no signs of slowing down, hoping for at least another 20 years, people. The current ceremony was attended by more than 20 people. Following the ceremony, the participants gathered for a reception and shared many stories and memories of "libby," the first lady of Washington University for more than 24 years. The Woman's Club maintains the gar- den, which is open to the public.

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Fossett has been WUSTL's athletic director since 1995.

In addition to the presidency, Crosslin has received the 2005 Distinguished Alumnus Award from Washington University and the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

The organization is playing a major role in revitalizing the city's neighborhoods, working on a number of projects, including the renovation of old buildings and the development of new businesses and housing.

The following year he received a PhD from Harvard University, where he began as an assistant professor and later became a full professor. During his tenure at Harvard, he published hundreds of articles and contributed significantly to the field of American Business at WUSTL. In 2000, he was elected to his current position of the board of directors of the University's Business School. He also chairs the board and the Foreign Policy Research Institute. He also chairs the board of directors of the University's Business School.

At age 21, Crosslin was the youngest member of the Civil War, turned to aviation after working toward his flight license. Working with assistance from the Smithsonian Institution, he became the first commercial pilot to fly a plane across the English Channel, and the first commercial pilot to fly a plane across the United States. He continued flying for several years, and during the Taft administration, he was elected to his current position of the board of directors of the University's Business School. He also chairs the board of directors of the University's Business School.

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At age 21, Crosslin was the youngest member of the Civil War, turned to aviation after working toward his flight license. Working with assistance from the Smithsonian Institution, he became the first commercial pilot to fly a plane across the English Channel, and the first commercial pilot to fly a plane across the United States. He continued flying for several years, and during the Taft administration, he was elected to his current position of the board of directors of the University's Business School. He also chairs the board of directors of the University's Business School.
Business school presents alumni awards, Dean's Medal

BY SHULA NEUMAN

The Olin School of Business honored the achievements of four alumni May 3 at the school's annual dinner at The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis.

Dean Mahendra Gupta, Ph.D., and his wife, Elaine, a 1960 alumna. The couple is being honored with the Dean's Medal for exceptional dedication and service to the school.

Greenbaum's accomplishments as dean are numerous. He enlarged and strengthened the faculty, overseeing the building of the Charles H. Flowers Education Center and helped initiate the joint program with the George Washington School of Medicine.

He also led successful efforts to establish the E.M.B.A. partnership with Fudan University in Shanghai. Meanwhile, Elaine Greenbaum, an economist, was finding her own ways of enriching the school. Her passion for education made her the perfect partner in the Total Quality School effort.

Her relationship with Olin School students, faculty, staff and alumni fostered a culture of caring in the school that became central to its identity.

Outside of the Olin School, she served as chair of the Down Syndrome Center at Childbirth at St. Louis and helped launch the Down Syndrome Collaborative, with the renamed CLSI Licensing.

In 1994, he joined his former client as the company's senior vice president and quickly progressed through the faculty. He became president, the position he held until he retired in 2005.

The Olin School in 1973, has only had two employers. He started with Mark Twain Bank as a loan officer and within a few years was bank president.

Gillula moved to the holding company, Mark Twain Bank, where he served as chief legal officer, the role of senior vice president and chief financial officer.

Gillula had contact with a new company, Computer Sciences International.

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Discovering drugs that work

John W. Newcomer, M.D., studies metabolic effects of antipsychotic drugs in people with schizophrenia

John W. Newcomer, M.D., reviews a grant application with Brenda Roseno, administrative coordinator, in the Department of Psychiatry. "John's just a great guy to work with," says James A. Moran, J.D., assistant dean for clinical trials and executive director of the Center for Clinical Studies. "We've got to work very closely together, and we have some exciting plans in the works. I think clinical research here is really going to be changing in the next few years as we find new ways to match investigators with funding.

"That's where an investigator has an idea and, working with the Center for Clinical Studies, can find an interested and willing investigator-initiated researcher. We think investigator-initiated research offers the greatest opportunity for growth in the coming years, especially if the NIH budget continues to be tight. There's just an enormous amount of intellectual wealth at Washington University, and industry wants to come and take advantage of these resources."

One person helping investigators navigate some of the barriers that exist between industry and academic medicine is James A. Moran, J.D., assistant dean for clinical trials and executive director of the Center for Clinical Studies. "That's where an investigator has an idea and, working with the Center for Clinical Studies, can find an interested and willing investigator-initiated researcher. We think investigator-initiated research offers the greatest opportunity for growth in the coming years, especially if the NIH budget continues to be tight. There's just an enormous amount of intellectual wealth at Washington University, and industry wants to come and take advantage of these resources."

With all that he has going on professionally, Newcomer doesn't have a lot of time left, so he spends all his spare time with his family. Newcomer's wife, Barbara Freedman, is a psychotherapist in private practice in Clayton, and his daughter, Leah, and son, Adam, attend John Burroughs and Whitfield School, respectively. He enjoys cooking and eating great food together, traveling rigorously and discussing political and social issues, Newcomer says. The family also has two yellow Labrador retrievers, Max and Ruby, so when the weather is nice they like to take walks with the dogs in Quarry Park. His fondest memories include the time he competed in a parents vs. kids soccer competition. He earned it about as much as Newcomer says.

"It's interesting because we have some exciting plans in the works. I think clinical research here is really going to be changing in the next few years as we find new ways to match investigators with funding."

John W. Newcomer, M.D., with his family in Paris: (from left) wife, Barbara Freedman; son, Adam; and daughter, Leah.