McDonnell Academy welcomes 17 scholars

BY EILEN DUGGAN

The McDonnell International Scholars Academy is welcoming this fall 17 students as its first cohort of highly select graduate and professional students from 12 of Asia’s leading universities.

The academy, a unique global education and research initiative, partners with universities and corporations around the world to provide the scholars with an extraordinary educational experience.

"Scholars from highly respected partner universities are selected based on their promise to become future leaders in government, academia, or in business," Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said.

"Each McDonnell Academy scholar has a one-of-a kind opportunity to study and to experience American culture and people in a great university in the heart of America," said James V. Wertsch, Ph.D., the Marshall S. Snow Professor in Arts & Sciences and director of the McDonnell International Scholars Academy.

"They'll also form relationships and create an international network of fellow scholars that will serve them throughout their careers. But just as they learn from us, we hope to learn from them and to listen to what they can tell us. In today's world, powerful forces of globalization been unleashed, and we all need to understand them and each other."

Each student is matched to a faculty mentor who also serves as an "ambassador" to the university partner from which the student is enrolled. The ambassador-mentor system in the scholar's academic and professional life and will travel annually with the scholar to the partner university to build relationships between that institution and Washington University.

The academy scholars are funded by a sustaining endowment gift from John F. McDonnell, S. Wrighton said.

El Hombre vs. The Babe

BY GERRY EVERING

Baseball purists, especially those of Yankee allegiance, might argue that St. Louis Cardinals home-run hitting superstar Albert Pujols is simply not in the same league as legendary New York Yankees slugger Babe Ruth.

It's an argument that science may never resolve fully, but WUSTL researchers now can offer at least some hard numbers on how Pujols compares to Babe Ruth in terms of the perceptual and motor skills necessary to consistently hit balls out of the park.

Pujols, complaining of a strained back, may have held back a bit on some of the tests, but his results compared favorably with those of Ruth.

The researchers are confident that their fruit fly model parallels human physiology to a great extent.

New company uses fruit flies to screen diabetes, cancer drugs

BY GWEN ERICSON

A new St. Louis-based company will use a novel technology to rapidly screen thousands of drugs for their effectiveness against one of the biggest health threats in the United States — diabetes and cancer.

Ron Cagan, Ph.D., professor of molecular biology and pharmacology at the School of Medicine, and Thomas Barnanski, M.D., professor of medicine, will head the company, called Medros Inc.

The company's technology can identify drugs with medical benefit by capitalizing on extensive information currently available about fruit fly biology and genetics.

The researchers are confident that their fruit fly model parallels human physiology to a great extent.

The researchers said they find their approach may be superior to traditional approaches that go after one disease target, such as a chemotherapy drug that aims to influence one gene responsible for cancer.
American Culture Studies expands, integrates social thought program

Social Thought & Analysis (STA), an interdisciplinary degree program in Arts & Sciences, has moved to American Culture Studies, said Henry L. "Roddy" Roddiger III, Ph.D., the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor and dean of academic planning in Arts & Sciences.

Created in the early 1990s to enhance integrated social science teaching at the university, the program has provided an excellent undergraduate major, fostered faculty collaboration, sponsored seminars and workshops and brought many interesting visitors to campus," Roddiger added.

Three important activities will continue, he said, but in a new way, through collaborations with the American Culture Studies Program in Arts & Sciences. In the future, the university community may expect even wider representation of social science perspectives across disciplines, Roddiger added.

The expansion of American Culture Studies, the emergence of International and Area Studies and the developing programs in urban studies are all providing the opportunity to fulfill STA's original mission, said John R. Bowen, Ph.D., the Dunham-Van Cleve Professor in Arts & Sciences and chair and professor of the Social Thought & Analysis program.

"The merging of STA and American Culture Studies is a sign of the vitality of social science research at Washington University and the growing belief across the campus that some of the most exciting opportunities for developing new knowledge require social science methods and insights," Roddiger said.

"The challenge is what new projects will STA do after the move to American Culture Studies. Hopefully, we will continue to develop interesting social science projects around social thought, we will be able to collaborate with the Center for Urban Research and Public Policy and its emerging social thought program, as well as with International and Area Studies.

"Because American Culture Studies requires an even deeper major in a traditional discipline, this change will also strengthen ties with academic departments and make for a truly multidisciplinary, integrated experience for students and faculty," Roddiger said.

While the transition is taking place, current STA majors will be able to fulfill their original plans, and all required STA courses will be offered until those majors have graduated, Bowen said.

Future students will have access to a wider range of resources and opportunities, with the program also available in American Culture Studies in providing organizational and advising support.

Students interested in each opportunity should contact Margaret L. Brown, Ph.D., academic coordinator for American Culture Studies, at mbr@brown.wustl.edu.

Albert Pujols proposes to swing a bat in the lab of Catherine Lang, Ph.D., assistant professor of physical therapy, neurology and occupational therapy.

In observing Mr. Pujols' performance, I initially thought he was searching randomly. As I watched, however, I realized that he was searching as if the page were divided into sectors. After locating a single target within a sector, he moved to another sector. Only after locating a single target within each sector, did he return to previously searched areas and continue his scan for additional targets.

As he depresed a tapper with his index finger and thumb in multiple locations as possible in 10 seconds, Pujols scored in the 99th percentile, a score almost identical to the tapping speed of Ruth on a similar test.

While White was impressed not only by Pujols' tapping speed (2.4 standard deviations faster than normal), but also by the fact that his performance kept improving after repeated trials.

"It was interesting that Mr. Pujols actually tapped faster in later trials of the task, suggesting considerable gains in movement speed and endurance," White said.

"Most people tap somewhat slower as the test progresses because their fingers and hands begin to fatigue." Deanna Watts

Wait is over Above, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton waves to bystanders during the inaugural ride celebrating the opening of the MetroLink Cross County Extension Aug. 26. Wrighton rode the length of the extension, which began regular service Aug. 25. He delivered several speeches along the eight-mile route before disembarking at the Shrewsbury-Landsdowne I-44 station.

The University hosted its Grand Opening Celebration Aug. 26 in the northeast corridor of the new Shrewsbury-Landsdowne I-44 MetroLink station. Activities included a minute train ride for children, as well as arts and crafts, music and refreshments.

(Pujols) actually tapped much faster than normal. White refined the criteria for determining if Mr. Pujols' tapping speed was even more impressive than Pujols' performance on two tests in particular, a finger-tapping exercise that measures gross motor coordination and a letter cancellation task that measures ability to conduct rapid searches of the environment to locate a specific target.

Asked to place a mark through a specific letter each time it appeared on a page of randomly positioned letters, Pujols used a search strategy that White had never witnessed before in 18 years of administering the test.

"What was remarkable about Mr. Pujols' performance was not his speed, but his unique visual search strategy," White said.

Pujols' ability to make split-second modifications in a planned response, such as checking his swing at the last moment when the strike zone, was tested using a standard psychological test known as a go-no go task. Pujols was given a visual "go" signal requiring him to respond as quickly as possible by pushing a button, occasionally, the initial signal would be followed by a "stop" signal requiring him to inhibit the response, if possible.

"The Pujols tests, researchers suggest, represent just a sampling of what some very fine brain would be able to uncover regarding the mysteries of superhuman skills and cognitive performance in honorum hitting and sports in general," Joggi Berra, a St. Louis native, who starred for many years as a catcher on the New York Yankees, has been quoted as saying that "baseball is 90 percent mental. The other half is physical.

Perhaps this "Vygotsky" suggests, the mysteries of baseball will remain a reason and logic of science. But researchers at the University are willing to take that challenge. We already know that Albert Pujols is a great baseball player -- we can be sure that every day on the field," Abrams said. "What we don't know is whether laboratory measures of cognitive, perceptual and motor abilities will help us predict who the next Pujols or Ruth will be. It sure could be fun to find out!"

For a complete listing of related links, including the 1921 Popular Science article and video footage, go online to news-info.wustl.edu/news/page/norval/2355.html.

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Unanue named Paul and Ellen Lacy Chair of Pathology

By MICHAEL C. PURDY

Emil R. Unanue, M.D., has been named the Paul and Ellen Lacy Professor of Pathology. Unanue recently stepped down after 21 years as head of the Department of Pathology and Immunology, the chair named for his predecessor as those fields from 1961-1984. He pioneered translational strategies, "The goal has been to integrate advances in genetics and genomics with developmental biology and combine that with educating the best people to apply those advances," said Alan Muglia, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of pediatrics, of molecular biology and of pediatrics and of genetics; Louis J. Muggia, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of pediatrics of genetics, immunology and infectious diseases; and Patrick Fang, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of pediatrics of molecular microbiology.

"I am very honored to receive the Lacy chair because Paul was not only a close personal friend but also someone that I admired greatly," Unanue said. "He is one of the most significant influences in making the department a major center for biomedical research prior to my arrival."

Unanue joined the School of Medicine in 1985 as head of pathology and immunology in the division of infectious diseases. During his tenure, Washington University's immunology program has become one of the most innovative and productive centers in the world for immunological research. Unanue is internationally recognized as a leader in understanding how the immune system identifies foreign material, or antigen, and how immune system T cells recognize it. The cells are important components of the body's response to infectious diseases; when misdirected against the body's own tissues, they also can cause major contributions to autoimmune conditions, including diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis.

Unanue has made fundamentally important contributions to our understanding of how the immune system identifies foreign material, or antigen, and how immune system T cells recognize it. The cells are important components of the body's response to infectious diseases; when misdirected against the body's own tissues, they also can cause major contributions to autoimmune conditions, including diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis.

Through his continuing investigations of how immune system T cells recognize and attack take place, Unanue has helped scientists gain important insights that may one day be harnessed to improve the body's defenses against diseases and to discern misdirected immune system attacks that can lead to autoimmune conditions. Unanue is also part of the MFK program.

Patricia Wolff, M.D., gives a checkup to a girl in Meds & Food for Kids (MFK) clinic in Haiti. MFK fights childhood malnutrition and related diseases in Cap Haitien, Haiti's second-largest city, by giving Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food, a nutrient-rich mixture of peanuts, sugar, oil, vitamins, minerals, and powdered milk, to children between 6 months and 5 years old with medically diagnosed malnutrition.

"Medika Mamba," is given to families to feed their children at home. To give that work a boost, MFK recently received $25,000 from the Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Competition sponsored by the Skandia Tisch Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at the Olin School of Business and the St. Louis-based YouthBridge Foundation.

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University Events

PAD to present Dance Closeup Sept. 7-9

Biennial faculty concert to feature traditional and cutting-edge dance

By LAM OTTEN

Tang, tango and Indian bharta natyam will share the stage with contemporary multimedia works and live improvisation in Edwin Closeup, the biennial concert of original choreography by Dance Program faculty in WUSTL's Performing Arts Department in Arts & Sciences.

Performances begin at 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7 and 8; and at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, in the Andrew Mertz Dance Studio, located in Room 207, Mallinckrodt Center.

Tickets are $17 for the general public and $12 for students, children, senior citizens and University faculty and staff. Door-only seating — in keeping with the event's intimate, informal atmosphere — is available for $18. Tickets are available at the Edison Theatre Box Office, located in the Mallinckrodt Student Center, through all Metrotix outlets. For more information, call the box office at 935-6543.

Launched in 1995, Dance Closeup regularly serves as the unseasonal kickoff to St. Louis' professional dance season. This year's installment will feature 10 works choreographed and performed by faculty and guest dancers.

"Dance Closeup always reflects the breadth of style and expertise among the dance faculty," said artistic director Mary Jean Cowell, Ph.D., associate professor and coordinator of the Dance Program. "However, this year's program is exceptional in its variety of approaches, including connections with the new field of performing arts and technology."

The concert will feature "Leonardos's Chimes," an ambitious multimedia work by David Merchant, senior lecturer in dance, and composer John Toen of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The piece uses motion-tracking technologies that allow Marchant to move through virtual "hot spots," thus activating preprogrammed sounds, which are then selected and layered by Toen.

"The computer has been programmed to change the pictures and general direction of music depending on how the mover/performer chooses to play 'Leonardos's Chimes' on any given night," Merchant explained. "The result is a spontaneous 'conversation' among the musician, dancer and programmer."

Henry Claudio, music director for the Dance Program, will lead a performance by the Nuclear Percussion Ensemble. As the group, which is dedicated to innovative percussion work, will collaborate with several of the dancers to create an improvisational piece.

Christine Knoblauch-O'Neil, senior lecturer in dance, artistic director of the Ballet Project, will choreograph by Jennifer Medini, visiting assistant professor of dance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a company member with the Wylliams/Henry Dance Theatre.

"Movement has been drawn from the images of a courtesan's life, as well as that of a captured bird," Medini explained. "This dance is dedicated to women everywhere who have had to live in a compromised way."

Other featured dances are:

- "Tracings": Carolyn Voss, choreographer. "Tracings" is a multi-media dance which explores "personal transformation from uncertainty to hope and faith," and is set to music of Operaeta, Slaughter, who also serves as artistic director of the annual Washington University Dance Theatre. Voss is a founder and director of The Slaughter Project dance company.
- "Quietly": Adjunct instructor Estella and Randy Buric, founders of the Tango Society of St. Louis, choreograph and perform these traditional dances. Music of Tango will be "Cezylia" by J. Gade. Music of Operatica. Slaughter, lecturer in dance, choreographs and performs a solo in "Past-present-presentpastpre-

Adjunct instructor Mary Massello, a University alumna, choreographs and performs "Quickly," a modern-influenced jazz dance, set to music of Sigur Rós.

"Beauty Bound": Cecil Slaughter, lecturer in dance, choreographs and performs this piece, which explores "personal transformation from uncertainty to hope and faith," and is set to music of Operaeta, Slaughter, who also serves as artistic director of the annual Washington University Dance Theatre. Slaughter is a founder and director of The Slaughter Project dance company.

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University Events

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS


2:30 p.m. Volleyball vs. III. Wesleyan U. William and Mary Dinner Hotel. 935-4705.

5:30 p.m. Women's Soccer vs. Shaker College. Francis Field. 935-4705.

9 a.m. Volleyball vs. Ohio Northern U. Washington University Natural Histori-

7 p.m. Football vs. Westminster College. Francis Field. 935-4705.
Law school speaker series to focus on public interest

BY CYNTHIA GEORGES

A
real turnout in the Guanta

Com

nary law student

and has served as an

district attorney global

men of Armenia, Benin, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kazakstan, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Ukraine, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

He also has written books and ar

11 a.m. Oct. 11 – Lucas

Gonzalez, director of the Center for Social Justice at Northeastern University College of Law, will address "Immigrants' Rights in the United States." This talk is cosponsored by the American Constitution Society and the Cardozo Society.

4 p.m. Nov. 7 – Richard A. Gephardt, former U.S. Congressman and advisory board chairman of the Richard A. Gephardt Institute for Public Service, will speak on "Addressing America's Most Pressing Problems." Gephardt will spend 28 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he represented Missouri's Third District and served as majority leader. He is a senior advisor in the Government Affairs practice group of DLA Piper Rosenthal Stockton, an international law firm based in Washington, D.C. His talk is co-sponsored by the Richard A. Gephardt Institute for Public Service.

Noon Nov. 20 — Joseph Margulies, a lecturer and trial attorney at the MacArthur Justice Center at Northeastern University's School of Law, will examine "Prisons Beyond the Bar: The Political, Legal, and Racial Realities of American and Global Prisons." This talk is co-sponsored by the American Constitution Society and the Cardozo Society.

The reading is free and open to the public and reservations are required. For the Assembly Series schedule, visit www.wustl.edu/links or call 935-4958.


Margulies will give the keynote address for "Justice at Nuremberg," a symposium commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Nuremberg trials. The symposium is co-sponsored by the school's Whitney R. Harris Institute for Global Legal Studies, the National University of Ireland, and the University of Nijmegen.

The symposium will be held on Monday, Sept. 19, at 10 a.m., in the law school's law school, the Nuremberg law school. The symposium is co-sponsored by the school's Whitney R. Harris Institute for Global Legal Studies, the National University of Ireland, and the University of Nijmegen.

Bassin is president of the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences in Strassbourg, France, as well as a honorary professor at the International Institute of Criminal Justice and the Central University of Nijmegen. She is also a co-founder of the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in the field of international criminal justice.

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The Class of 2010
arrives on campus
Above, Orientation Ambassador Sheila Forjah, a sophomore, greets Ken Goldman, Ph.D., an associate professor, and his wife, Sally Goldman, Ph.D., a professor, both in the Department of Computer Science, as they drop off their son, Mark, an incoming freshman, during “move-in” day Aug. 24. Student Orientation ambassadors were on-site to answer questions and provide direction.

Right, senior Nina Zhao, part of the Residential Life student staff, leads the way as new students and their families carry belongings into the South 40. (Joe Angeles photos)

Incoming class numbers ‘compliment to University’

BY ANDY CLENDENNEN

The numbers just keep growing.
This year’s incoming freshman class — the Class of 2010 — features some very impressive numbers indeed.
The approximately 1,450 first-year students hail from all over the world and represent about 19 countries, 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

They arrived in late August and have been busy unpacking, letting their way around the Hilltop Campus and gearing up for the fall semester, which began Aug. 26.

“Many in the select group were academic leaders, student government officers and participants in extracurricular activities and athletics and high school,” said Nanette M. Tolls, director of undergraduate admissions.

“We encourage everyone to extend a warm welcome to them,” said Nanette M. Tolls, director of undergraduate admissions.

The freshmen were chosen from a record number of applicants — more than 22,000.

“We are excited that so many students chose to come to Washington University,” Tarbox said. “That is quite a compliment to the Washington University community.”

More than 1,000 freshmen
to volunteer at Service First

BY NEIL SCHOLNBERG

Students in the Class of 2010, newly arrived on campus, will be rolling up their sleeves and getting to work right away — not only in the classroom, but also in the community.

More than 1,000 freshmen will volunteer their time Sept. 2, to paint, landscape, clean and beautify 12 area public schools to make the school year more enjoyable for students and their teachers.

It’s all part of the eighth annual Service First, an initiative that introduces first-year University students to community service in the St. Louis area.

This year’s projects will range from painting indoor and outdoor murals, maps on playgrounds and other painting activities, to creating bulletin boards and preparing classrooms.

The bulk of the work will take place 1-4 p.m.

“Service First is popular among the students and schools alike for good reason,” said Stephanie Kurtzman, director of the Community Service Office and associate director of the Richard A. Garnier Institute for Public Service. “It’s such a bright, colorful day and is a great opportunity to build friendships, make a meaningful contribution to our neighboring schools and begin the commitment to community service.”

Upon returning to the University after a day of work, students will participate in a Community Service Fair and barbecue featuring more than 30 student-run organizations that focus on community service. It allows students to learn more about opportunities in which to get involved during their time at college.

Service First is co-sponsored this year by St. Louis Public Schools, The Women’s Society of Washington University, Student Unions and Congress of the South, 40, among many others.

Service First began in 1999 with about 1,000 student volunteers helping to clean and beautify streets. It has grown and flourished every year, and now typically draws more than 1,500 students, staff and faculty volunteers.

Schools to be visited this year are Bishop Middle School in the Wellston School District; Washington/Euclid Montessori schools; Clay, Columbia, Farragut, Kenwood, Oak Hill and Wellston Elementary schools; Fanning, Humboldt and Stowe middle schools; and Roosevelt High School.

For more information, call Kurtzman at 935-5066.

Medros
First WUSTL company funded by BioGenerator — from Page 1

ous growth.

“With our method, we aren’t asking what target is — we’re letting the system tell us,” Cagan said. “We do the flies get better? If you find the magic compound that hits everything that contributes to the disease in just the right amount so that the fly can live, then you’ve made true progress.”

Medros gives the researchers a mechanism to obtain private drug libraries, establish the effectiveness of their technology and potentially attract commercial interest to their discoveries.

“We believe in the technology,” Baranski said. “But we’re scientists, not businessmen. That’s where BioGenerator came to the rescue. They were willing to invest in us, and together with the Office of Technology Management here at Washington University, they were able to help us through the fairly involved process of creating a company.”

The Office of Technology Management assists faculty members who wish to translate their research to the private sector to fully realize the societal benefit while generating income supporting research and education.

BioGenerator previously has invested in four other companies, all located in St. Louis, but Medros is the first BioGenerator-funded company originating from research conducted at the University. The Office of Technology Management assists faculty members who wish to translate their research to the private sector to fully realize the societal benefit while generating income supporting

Medros
First WUSTL company funded by BioGenerator

Founded in 1905
Washington University in St. Louis

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Founded in 1905
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More than 1,000 freshmen
to volunteer at Service First

BY NEIL SCHOLNBERG

Students in the Class of 2010, newly arrived on campus, will be rolling up their sleeves and getting to work right away — not only in the classroom, but also in the community.

More than 1,000 freshmen will volunteer their time Sept. 2, to paint, landscape, clean and beautify 12 area public schools to make the school year more enjoyable for students and their teachers.

It’s all part of the eighth annual Service First, an initiative that introduces first-year University students to community service in the St. Louis area.

This year’s projects will range from painting indoor and outdoor murals, maps on playgrounds and other painting activities, to creating bulletin boards and preparing classrooms.

The bulk of the work will take place 1-4 p.m.

“Service First is popular among the students and schools alike for good reason,” said Stephanie Kurtzman, director of the Community Service Office and associate director of the Richard A. Garnier Institute for Public Service. “It’s such a bright, colorful day and is a great opportunity to build friendships, make a meaningful contribution to our neighboring schools and begin the commitment to community service.”

Upon returning to the University after a day of work, students will participate in a Community Service Fair and barbecue featuring more than 30 student-run organizations that focus on community service. It allows students to learn more about opportunities in which to get involved during their time at college.

Service First is co-sponsored this year by St. Louis Public Schools, The Women’s Society of Washington University, Student Unions and Congress of the South, 40, among many others.

Service First began in 1999 with about 1,000 student volunteers helping to clean and beautify streets. It has grown and flourished every year, and now typically draws more than 1,500 students, staff and faculty volunteers.

Schools to be visited this year are Bishop Middle School in the Wellston School District; Washington/Euclid Montessori schools; Clay, Columbia, Farragut, Kenwood, Oak Hill and Wellston Elementary schools; Fanning, Humboldt and Stowe middle schools; and Roosevelt High School.

For more information, call Kurtzman at 935-5066.
nall additional endowed professorships and 11 multitudinal corporate sponsors. Sponsoring corporations also offer internships and on-site educational opportunities for the academy’s Corporate Fellows. This year’s Corporate Fellows to date are Boeing Co.; St. Louis, Brown Shoe Co., St. Louis; Cabot Corp., Boston; Charoen Pokphand Indonesia, Jakarta; Corning Inc., Corning, N.Y.; Emerson, St. Louis; Energy and Environmental Research, Ames, Iowa; Monsanto Co.,

An-Chun "Jenny" Chien
Lee Foundation Fellow; National University of Singapore; molecular cell biology in the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences; Michael W. Sherraden, Ph.D., the Benjamin E. StgetSingleton Professor of Social Development at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work.

Wei-Jen Chua
National Taiwan University; immunology, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences; David Hill, Ph.D., professor of biology in Arts & Sciences.

Vikram Govindam
Mumtaz/Dr. Norman Borang Corporate Fellow; Indian Institute of Technology; M.B.A., Olin School of Business, Princeton, Biowci, Ph.D., the Stif1 and Quinette Jens Professor of Environmental Engineering Science.

Te-Chih Hsiao
Boeing Corporate Fellow; National Taiwan University; environmental engineering, School of Engineering & Applied Science; David Hill, Ph.D., "Theoretical physicist.

Woosung Kim
Yonsei University; electrical and systems engineering, School of Engineering & Applied Science; David Hill, Ph.D., "Theoretical physicist.

Zhou Li
Cornell Inc. Corporate Fellow; Fudan University; chemistry, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences; T.S. Park, M.D., "Theoretical physicist.

Qing Nian
University of Hong Kong; L.I.M., School of Law; Stephen H. Legumsky, J.D., Ph.D., the Charles V. Nagel Professor of International and Comparative Law.

Hong Min Park
Seoul National University; public science doctoral program, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences; T.S. Park, M.D., "Theoretical physicist.

Hyeon Cheol Jib
Korea University; biology, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences; T.S. Park, M.D., "Theoretical physicist.

St. Louis; Nestle Purina PetCare Co., St. Louis, Rohm and Haas, Philadelphia; and Tyco Healthcare/Mallinckrodt. St. Louis. The Lee Foundation of Singapore is a foundation of the same name.

The McDonnell Academy not only provides these students rigorous graduate instruction in their chosen degree areas, but also steeps them in a cultural, political, and social education program designed to prepare them as future leaders knowledgeable about the United States, other countries and international issues.

"One of the biggest benefits these students are going to get is the networking and the relationships they’re going to have in place by the time they leave here," Wertsch said. "Our hope is that 20 years from now, they’ll be movers and shakers in global society.

Other partner universities that will be providing students in future years include: China Agricultural University in Beijing, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, Israel; Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya, in Herzliya, Israel; University of Indonesia in Jakarta and the University of Tokyo.

Academy officials expect the numbers of partner universities as well as sponsorships and foundations to grow.

The McDonnell Academy Scholars receive funding for full tuition, living expenses and travel to and from their home countries. Most of the scholars reside in two fully-equipped and furnished apartment buildings at Pershing Avenue and Skinker Boulevard.

The scholars, their corporate or foundations sponsors and their universities, WUSTL, fields of study, and ambassadors (in italic) are listed below.

Mannerjan Sahu
Engineering and Environmental Research Group Corporate Fellow; Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay; environmental engineering, Sever Graduate School of Engineering, Prasln Brown, Ph.D., "Theoretical physicist.

Yauunnling Shan
Emerson Corporate Fellow; Fudan University; electrical and systems engineering, Sever Graduate School of Engineering, James F. Little, Ph.D., "Theoretical physicist.

Karelawir Sveasen
Nestle Purina PetCare Co. Corporate Fellow, Chulalongkorn University; M.B.A., Olin School of Business; Gautam N. Yadama, Ph.D., director of international programs and associate professor at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work.

Yanjiao Xie
Peking University; environmental engineering, School of Engineering & Applied Science; Barbara A. Schaal, Ph.D., the Spencer T. Olin Professor in Arts & Sciences in Biology.

Ziyon Zhang
Tyco Healthcare/Mallinckrodt Corporate Fellow; Peking University; Chemistry, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences; Barbara A. Schaal, Ph.D., "Theoretical physicist.

Chuanzhong Zhou
Rohm and Haas Corporate Fellow; National University of Singapore; Chemistry, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences; Michael W. Sherraden, Ph.D., "Theoretical physicist.

Ming Zuo
Cabot Corp. Corporate Fellow; Tsinghua University; M.B.A., Olin School of Business; C.P. Cui, Ph.D., chair and dean, and Stephen F. and Camilla T. Brower Professor of Biomedical Engineering.

“Our hope is that 20 years from now, they’ll be movers and shakers in global society.”

James V. Wertsch
Although breast cancer is more common among white women, African-American women are far more likely to die of the disease.

What accounts for this fundamental racial imbalance? Dione Farria, M.D., knows all too well. African-American women are less likely to get mammograms that can detect breast cancer early when it is more easily treated. 

Socioeconomic influences such as limited access to health care, mistrust of the health-care system, and the lack of health insurance, both for screening and treatment, play a major role in this disparity. For Farria, the inequity in breast cancer deaths has been a personal call to action. A radiologist who specializes in breast imaging, she is one of the rare few in the field who also holds a master's degree in public health. Her work to improve the quality of health care for people in less privileged segments of society helps Farria understand the barriers to cancer screening in a way that most radiologists don't.

"Mammography screening for breast cancer is a huge public health issue," says Farria, assistant professor of radiology. "In parts of the program in reaching out to personal connections. This skill has not just about the technology or techniques that prevent people from missing an early diagnosis, it's about the barriers to getting to the hospital and its bustling emergency room.

The first experiences with dying patients, especially children, occurred there.

"I can still vividly recall the wails of the mothers every morning as they made the decisions of their children's lives, who had died the night before," she says. "Despite my best medical training, this was by far the most meaningful and rewarding clinical experience of my career."

It also influenced Farria's decision a decade later to adopt twins — a boy and a girl — from Ethiopia, a country with 5 million orphans. The children, Ethan and Eva, who were six months old when they came to the United States, are now 4 and heading to preschool.

After graduating from medical school in 1989, Farria returned to Liberia as an intern for a rotation in a hospital in Monrovia, and later did a stint at a Nativos pediatric health clinic in New Mexico. But ultimately, she chose radiology as her specialty. 

"As a radiologist, you can focus on almost any aspect of medicine," Farria says. The field's rapid growth and evolution made, in part, to new imaging methods, also was an attraction.

After a clinical fellowship in breast imaging at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Farria decided to merge her training in radiology with her interest in public health by enrolling in UCLA's School of Public Health. Not to do anything with breast imaging, but rather, to help others get mammograms to the traditional, film-based scans. Digital mammograms produce images on a computer screen, where they can be enhanced to reveal looming signs of cancer.

The study found that digital mammography was better at detecting cancer in young women and those with dense breasts.

Farria is now the principal investigator at WUSTL for a multi-center study evaluating whether breast imaging with ultrasound and digital mammography in detecting breast cancer in high-risk women, including those who are African-Americans.

Increasingly, she devotes her time to the Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities. When it was established in 2003, Farria's main role was to develop strategies to increase minority enrollment in clinical trials at Siteman.

"As a radiologist, you can focus on almost any aspect of medicine," Farria says. The field's rapid growth and evolution made, in part, to new imaging methods, also was an attraction.

Farria came to WUSTL in 1999, seeking a career in academic medicine. She was drawn by the highly regarded Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology — the largest of its kind in the nation. She was impressed by the reputation of the medical school, but was drawn by the people with whom she would be working.

Farria's background in both radiology and public health proved to be just what Washington University was looking for.

"The public health aspects of breast imaging were well known to us," says Barbara Monsees, M.D., the Ronald and Hanna Evans Professor of Women's Health and head of the breast imaging section.

Farria is reaching out to African-Americans, the uninsured and immigrants in the city through the Siteman Cancer Center's Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities, a program she co-directs with Katherine Mathews, M.D., assistant professor of oncology and gynecology.

In this role, Farria draws on her expertise in breast screening and public health to develop programs that encourage screening for breast cancer and other conditions with well-established racial disparities — lung, colon, breast and prostate.

"We tell all the women, 'Don't let insurance be a barrier. If you come for a mammogram, we will get you one. Don't worry if you don't have the money,'" Farria says.

To that end, the University, in collaboration with philanthropic groups, the University can pay for mammograms for poor women, even if they don't qualify for Medicare.

"Many women worry that if breast imaging is expensive, they can't afford the care. We make sure they will get the proper treatment and follow-up care," she said.

When Farria's not working, she enjoys swimming at the YMCA with her children or taking them to the movies. She likes to spend time with her two dogs and takes pleasure in her African-American women's book club.

A New Orleans native, Farria has spent the past year providing help and encouragement to her extended family, many of whom were displaced after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the area. Four family members even stayed with Farria while they were getting back on their feet. But she considers her family lucky, all survived the storm and many are working their way back to their old lives.

Farria, M.D., M.B.A.

Education: Bachelor's degree in chemistry, Xavier University of Louisiana, 1985; medical degree, Harvard Medical School, 1989; masters degree in public health, University of California, Los Angeles, 1997. 

Family: Twin sisters (Ethan and Eva) and two dogs (Dusty and Gypsy) exclusively enjoys taking them for a trek through an obstacle course (which they do happily), gardening, church activities, reading and French.

Favorite recent books: "Your Best Life Now" by Lisa Ginsburg; the "Harry Potter" series; "To Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis; "Dreams of a Goddess" by Arthur Golden; "The Endurance" by Sebastien Junod; and "No Postage Necessary" by Dwayne Johnson.

From left: Dusty the dog, Ethan, Dione Farria, Eva, and Gypsy the dog.