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Campus named for Danforths

Dedication to University, students were hallmark of chancellorship

William H. (Bill) Danforth, his late wife, Elizabeth (Ibby), and John C. Danforth at the 1995 Commencement. The naming of the campus is to be a national foundation.

By Andy Clendenennen

Perhaps no name is as recognizable — or has been as important to the success of Washington University — as the name Danforth.

From William H. Danforth, who established the Danforth Foundation in 1927, to his son, Donald Danforth, who served as chair of the Danforth Foundation from 1953-1995; to a grandson, also William H., who served as chancellor of the University for 24 years (1973-1997); to another son, John C. Danforth, who chaired the foundation upon his retirement after 18 years in the U.S. Senate in 1997, the Danforth name has made an indelible imprint on the University.

And Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton and the Board of Trustees have taken steps to ensure the Danforth imprint remains as long as there is a Washington University.

On Sept. 17, the Hilltop Campus will be named the Danforth Campus in a ceremony from 8:30-5 p.m. in Graham Chapel. The naming of the campus is to honor the legacy of Chancellor Emeritus William H. Danforth and his late wife, Elizabeth (Ibby) Gray Danforth; the Danforth family and its contributions; and the support of the Danforth Foundation.

The ceremony is open to the public, but registration is required at danforthcampus.wustl.edu.

"Naming the main campus the Danforth Campus is a wonderful double play," says Frank H.T. Rhodes, president emeritus. "It's a great tribute to the Danforth family, especially to Elizabeth (Ibby) Gray Danforth and John C. Danforth being part of its renaissance." Over a four-year period, the award recognized a religious congregation for its community outreach efforts to the poor, homeless, elderly and youth.

The Central Reform Congregation received the 2000 "I Dare You" award.

"Even more than the money, it was a challenge to continue the legacy of "I Dare You," the Danforth brothers' grandfather's little red book of how to live," says Susan Talmie, assistant rabbi at Central Reform Congregation. "I buy the book and give them out all the time. Its message inspires individuals and institutions and communities and maybe even nations to act reasonably and become part of a community to make a more loving world."

Those words pretty well sum up the first William H. Danforth (1860-1925) and how he lived his life.

After graduating from the Maguire Training School and Washington University, Danforth founded — at age 24 — a horse and mail feed company, the Danforth Co., based on the idea that farmers would welcome an opportunity to improve their animal feed.

A month later, a tornado demolished the company.

Danforth then assumed leadership, put all of his remaining resources on the line and rebuilt the enterprise. The company is simply amazing. The challenge is to rebuild the very distinct neighborhoods in ways that recognize their very particular heritages," Hoel explained. "You can't just formulate a generic proposal.

"New Orleans has fabulous architecture, but New Orleans is really about a kind of spirit," Hoel continued. "The individual will to rebuild homes is simply amazing. Our challenge is to craft a plan that accommodates the character of each area while also recognizing the rebuilding people have already done."

Hoel spent most of the summer developing H3 Studio's proposal and made a formal community presentation Aug. 1. Several lections were announced Aug. 28, marking the one-year anniversary of the New Orleans Museum of Art, Nogari's mandatory evacuation order.

H3 Studio, which was selected from a field of 65 national and international firms, will have primary responsibility for planning in Districts 2 and 13.

District 2, split almost equally between high ground and low ground, is a pie-shaped area wedged between downtown and uptown along the Mississippi River. This district is probably best known for the historic Garden District, home to a famously well-preserved collection of Southern mansions.

Other areas include the working-class Irish Channel and the predominantly African-American Central City neighborhood, the latter of which suffered significa- cent flood damage.

H3 Studio is located across the river on the Mississippi's west bank, on a large swath of land formed by a sharp bend in the river. Predominantly a conservation group, it has helped to map the lower-income communities of New Aurora as well as the suburban city, elderly and youth.

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Joint task force addresses 1-64 construction concerns

By Beth Miller

WUSTL and BIC HealthCare are working with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) to ensure that the $535 million reconstruction of Highway 40 has the smallest possible impact on employees, students and patients.

The project, called The New 1-44, will replace 12 miles of interchange and more than 40 bridges from west of Spode Road to Sarah Street, just east of Boyle Avenue. In addition, the department will rebuild Interstate 170 from south of Brentwood Boulevard to Eager Road.

A joint task force made up of representatives from the Danforth and School of Medicine campuses and medical center institutions is studying how the project might affect employees, students and patients and addressing concerns and working to develop alternatives and solutions to minimize the impact for the University and BIC HealthCare.

"Our joint task force has made MoDOT officials and the involved construction firms aware of the unique role we play in providing critical health-care services for our community and has proposed several ideas for sequencing the highway construction project in a manner that would preserve access to the medical center campus," said Fr. Crane, M.D., associate vice president of University Affairs. 
The annual Freshman Reading Program, now in its fourth year, helps incoming students tap into their potential and provides a forum of the need and debate that is integral to the WUSTL academic community.

The program, initiated at providing students with an opportunity to meet and interact with a member of the WUSTL faculty in an informal discussion over the boundaries of the classroom and formal academic requirements, focused this year on a book by Mark R. Rank, Ph.D., the Herbert S. Hope Professor of Social Welfare, and George Warren Brown School of Social Work.

Over the summer, incoming freshmen were sent Rank's book, Caste, Unprivileged: Why America Needs a Caste System and How We Can Build One, by early next year. Freshmen gathered Aug. 28 at various locations around the Hilltop Campus to participate in faculty-facilitated discussions of the book, in which Rank presents a compelling argument that poverty is now a condition experienced by the majority of Americans year-round, not just in areas, places that were blighted after Katrina. Some were areas, which were abandoned by the majority of Americans at times and in a condition that impacts all of U.S. society. More than 200 students and faculty members participated in the discussions, including Chancellor Eugene J.ay. "We wanted to choose a book that would generate thoughtful conversation and challenging questions to the students and faculty and to engage in dialogue with their classmates," she said. It provides new students with a forum for exchanging ideas with other students and representatives of the residence hall floor. Some faculty members and students who were reviewing the discussion with their group via e-mail.

It is a great opportunity for freshmen to challenge themselves, to meet more with faculty and to engage in dialogue with their classmates," she said. Rank presented students with a forum for exchanging ideas with other students and representatives of the residence hall floor. Some faculty members and students who were reviewing the discussion with their group via e-mail.

There are many issues raised in the book and the "higher sense of purpose," theme complements the Danforth Campus dedication celebration and the Culture course at some point in their freshman year. For more information and a list of upcoming events, go online to tripfinder.metrostlouis.org, which lists events, focused this year on a book by Mark R. Rank, Ph.D., the Herbert S. Hope Professor of Social Welfare, and George Warren Brown School of Social Work.

The university already has several alternatives in place to lessen the impact of the construction.

The parking lot adjacent to the Whitaker Hall Biomedical Engineering Building is part of the improved recovery plan for the historic Forest Park Parkway and Skinker Intersection, which is now a controlled-access lot.

Permit holders and visitors must log on to Whitaker Hall to enter the lot. Those entering without a permit will be charged $10 per car. University departments can make arrangements in advance with Parking and Transportation Services to extend the University rate of $5 to those attending events.

The location will be staffed.

Casted parking has also been implemented at the Forest Park campus east service area. Permit holders and visitors who wish to use this area must pass a control point near the West Campus Library for access to the parking lot. Fees will be charged a $1 hourly rate for parking upon exit. This location also will be staffed.

The changes were made to discourage parking on campus lots by customers riding Metrolink. For more information, go online to park.wustl.edu.

This moderately heavy westbound traffic on Highway 40-interstate 64 at Hamilton Avenue may be reduced to just one lane in each direction when the $354 million New I-64 construction project gets under way next year.

Traffic congestion, an issue that was raised in Rank's book, is now a condition experienced by the majority of Americans year-round, not just in areas, places that were blighted by Katrina. Some were areas, which were abandoned by the majority of Americans at times and in a condition that impacts all of U.S. society. More than 200 students and faculty members participated in the discussions, including Chancellor Eugene H.ay. "We wanted to choose a book that would generate thoughtful conversation and challenging questions to the students and faculty and to engage in dialogue with their classmates," she said. It provides new students with a forum for exchanging ideas with other students and representatives of the residence hall floor. Some faculty members and students who were reviewing the discussion with their group via e-mail.

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Constructions begins on orthopaedic center

BY JIM DREYER

The acquiring property in a location West St. Louis County location, the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Barnes-Jewish Hospital have begun construction on a $13 million outpatient orthopaedic facility.

The building, at 1435 S. Osage Drive in Chesterfield, Mo., will be a 60,000-square-foot facility offering comprehensive, one-stop outpatient care, including physicians, exam rooms, ambulatory surgery suites, diagnostic radiology (including MRI imaging and general diagnostic services) and rehabilitation and hand therapy services.

The center will be the department's first dedicated orthopaedic medicine, hand surgery, shoulder surgery, foot and ankle surgery and physical medicine and rehabilitation.

"This facility is designed to provide patients with the latest, technologically advanced orthopaedic care," said Richard H. Gelberman, M.D., the Fred C. Reynolds Professor, head of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Barnes-Jewish Hospital, where the center will be located.

"It will provide minimally invasive surgical procedures that will allow them to be admitted and discharged on the same day. Non-surgical services will include a rehabilitation center, and the building will include space to support future expansions when they become necessary.

All surgeons, physiatrists, radiologists and anesthesiologists at the new center will be Washington University physicians.

Barnes-Jewish Hospital, located with BJC HealthCare, will manage the ambulatory surgery center, including pre-operative, operative and post-operative services and the radiology services including the MRI and general diagnostic radiology. Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital will manage the rehabilitation center and outpatient physical therapy, and medical services will be provided by physical therapists from the Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis' Mid-Missouri Hand Rehabilitation Center.

The facility will relocate and expand orthopaedic surgery and sports medicine services from clinical offices at 1020 N. Mason Road, near Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital. The services offered in the new location will complement the department's existing clinical practice at the Center for Advanced Medicine and Barnes-Jewish Hospital, where BJC's joint replacement program and orthopaedic oncology services are located.

Clancy is the general contractor, Larry Chapman the development manager and AGC/Roland the project architect. Construction is under way and scheduled for completion next summer.

On her way First-year medical student Theoma Nwaogu dons her white coat from W.H. R. Ross, M.D., associate dean and director of the Office of Diversity, at the annual White Coat Ceremony on Thursday. The tradition has been held for nearly 10 years to honor the beginning of the academic year for admissions, locks on. Nwaogu and 122 other first-year medical students were presented with a white coat, long a symbol of the medical profession. Nwaogu graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Houston.

Cortisone's connection to osteoporosis becomes clearer

BY MICHAEL C. PERRY

Scientists are closing in on the solution to a persistent medical puzzle: why do high doses of cortisone, widely prescribed for asthma, rheumatoid arthritis and other conditions, weaken bones? Through studies of mouse, School of Medicine researchers now have identified osteoclasts, cells that dismantle old bone, as the essential link between cortisone and osteoporosis. As scientists flesh out the molecular-level details of this connection, they may be able to identify targets for therapy to prevent cortisone's devastating effects.

"High-dose cortisone is the second most common cause of osteoporosis, and we currently have no real treatment for this serious side effect," said senior author Steven L. Teitelbaum, M.D., associate dean for Diversity and Inclusion and Teitelbaum Cary and Cori Gurti Ceramist at University.

"In these studies, they use high-dose cortisone to study the effects of cortisone on bone metabolism. They have identified the role of corticosteroids in the disease and have shown that high-dose cortisone is a major contributor to bone loss.

Cortisone is a steroid produced naturally by the adrenal gland and is used to treat a number of medical conditions. When prescribed for osteoporosis, the drug is used to treat lupus, multiple sclerosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and it is prescribed to transplant patients to prevent rejection of transplanted organs.

Earlier attempts to identify the connection between bone loss and cortisone produced seemingly contradictory results. In prior lab animal experiments, researchers found that cortisone caused bone-building osteoblast cells to self-destruct, suggesting that cortisone disrupts the body's ability to form new bone after it is naturally dismantled by osteoclasts. However, experiments in a test tube also showed cortisone stimulates bone formation.

Teitelbaum identified a new opportunity to explore the conundrum while at a lecture by Arthur Horwich, M.D., Yale University, who spoke about genetics and medicine.

"He talked about a new way to approach the problem, by looking at the effects of cortisone on osteoclasts," Teitelbaum said. "He showed that high-dose cortisone stimulates osteoclast activity, which in turn leads to increased bone turnover.

Scientists also found that cortisone inhibits the ability of osteoblasts to dismantle old bone, genetically normal mice. This blockage might seem to cause bone loss, but their study, with the regular skeletal renewal process stopped, bones were lean dramatically from aging and stress. Dampening of osteoclast activity may therefore be a cause of bone loss in osteoporosis.
Bill and Ibby said they wanted to return to the University. In fact, he set out to demonstrate that every year understand their new community and how to "catch the excitement of learning and growth." And his address to the 1974 freshman class, Danforth spoke of the opportunities available to the university family, of contributing scholars, who care about teaching. At the same time, and respect to one another.

William H. Danforth, M.D., and his wife, Elizabeth (Ibby) Gray Danforth, served as chancellor and first lady of the University for 24 years. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends — and all of these groups had no doubts about their caring concern.

Danforth’s faith in the simple virtues and in optimism based on hard work and a sense of the possible were implicit in his actions. The culture of inclusion, integrity, academic freedom, collaboration and accomplishment this modest man painstakingly tended had much to do with what he and the thousands of individuals he inspired were able to accomplish. As Wrightson said when he took office, Danforth had been "a perfect Mr. President." He personified Washington University.

"The Danforth era was one of enormous change, not driven by Washington University," Wrightson said. "It's my hope that the campus community will become a perfect University of the 21st century.

"As chancellor and first lady, Bill and Ibby Danforth set a tone that others have described as more focused. They have set a tone that others have described as more focused. They have set the standard for all our officers and faculty. They have lived up to this standard.

When Danforth and Ibby became chancellor and first lady, he said that the University had to be "a place where the community can go to thrive." And his vision of the University was one of community, of leadership, of excellence, of responsibility.

One of the ways Chancellor Danforth interacted with the students was through his annual Bedtime Stories event on the South 40. At these events, Danforth would read a story to the students, often with kindness, acceptance of other people who are different from one another, and respect for each other. He hoped that the students would be able to experience and develop a love of literature.

Danforth’s address reflected his hopes for the University. He encouraged the students to think about how they could make a difference in the world. He also called on them to be leaders and to set a tone for the University.

There is a place here, he said, for the University to be a place where the community can go to thrive. And his vision of the University was one of community, of leadership, of excellence, of responsibility.

The medical center to the place where people talked about common goals. Our developed the perfect opportunity to reach out to the community. In his first address on the campus.

Day 1972, he conveyed a message, a message for his city and for the people who the University campus they see the same things about Bill and Ibby Danforth and his family.

Building a community

It didn’t take long for William H. Danforth to make his mark on the University. In fact, he set out to demonstrate that every year understand their new community and how to "catch the excitement of learning and growth." And his address to the 1974 freshman class, Danforth spoke of the opportunities available to the university family, of contributing scholars, who care about teaching. At the same time, and respect to one another.

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Chancellor William H. Danforth, M.D., presents the championship trophy to the Bears football team. Danforth and his wife, Elizabeth (Ibby) Gray Danforth, were champions of all student activities and were supportive of the Danforth athletic programs.

In 1994, a $100 million grant was awarded to Washington University as part of the Campaign for Washington University. In addition to supporting and building up the region's well-known strength in medicine and the biological sciences, this gift was also contributing to the further development in the humanities, the social sciences, undergraduate student life, engineering and the University’s partnerships with community organizations.

"No single source of financial support for Washington University has been more important than the Danforth Foundation," Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said. "The gifts provided have been placed in the endowment, contributing to the underlying financial strength of the University. "But the importance of the

Homecoming was a great time for the Danforth family to interact with the students and show support during the traditional homecoming parade.
The St. Louis Black Repertory Company while earning a baccalaureate degree from University College in 1975. In 1976, Ron Himes founded St. Louis' true cultural gems, "The Black Pearl" neighborhood, Jackson rose to be the spiritual voice of the Civil Rights Movement. She was the world's greatest gospel singer of her day, known for recordings such as "Elijah Rock," "Precious Lord," and "We Shall Overcome." A close friend of Martin Luther King Jr., she continues to make it 21-0. "I am thrilled to open our 30th anniversary season with such a moving show that provides a unique historical look at the life of Mahalia Jackson," said Himes, who also serves as the Henry E. Hampton Professor in Residence in the Performing Arts Department at Wash U. "She was the world's greatest gospel singer and the inspiration of the Civil Rights Movement." The cast is led by Roz White Gonzaules, Martha Lincoln L. Speed and Pamela D. Mallory performs in Mahalia, which celebrates the life and music of gospel great Mahalia Jackson.

Mahalia, written by Tom Stolf and produced and directed by Himes, celebrates the life and music of gospel great Mahalia Jackson (1911-1972).


Wednesday, Sept. 13

Wednesday, Sept. 14

Thursday, Sept. 15
8 a.m. Pediatric Grand Rounds. Annual Journal Club. "Community-acquired Multidrug-resistant Pneumonia in Children: It's Everywhere." Station Adjunct, and was chapter chair for clini-
cal affairs. Dept. of Pediatrics, Baylor U. Children's Hospital. 404-8363.

7 p.m. Cell Biology and Biophysics Seminar: "Integration of Signaling and Turbulence in Growth Factor Receptor Function." Sila Conolly, prof. of molecular medi-
cine, U. of St. Louis, McKeon Medical Sciences Building, Rm. 426. 622-6952.


7:30 p.m. St Louis Astronomical Society Meeting. St. Louis Science Center. For more info: 456-5689.

Thursday, Sept. 14

Saturday, Sept. 16

Monday, Sept. 18

Monday, Sept. 18
5:30 p.m. Cardiology and Biophysics Seminar: "Anastomotic Reconstruction in the Treatment of Myocardial Infarction." Sila Conolly, prof. of molecular medicine, U. of St. Louis, McKeon Medical Sciences Building, Rm. 426. 622-6952.

Men's soccer starts 2-0
The men's soccer team opened the 2006 season with a 2-0 win at Lake Forest College in both of its season openers. Sept. 2006 in impressive fashion. The Bears defeated Washington College. The Bears suffered a 1-0 loss to No. 17 The WUSTL men placed six men's soccer team posted a 1-1 record at the Bob Baptiste Invitational.

Women's soccer 1-1
The women's soccer team posted a 1-1 record at the Bob Baptiste Invitational. The Tigers. Washington U., responded with a 2-1 overtime victory over No. 6 Wittenberg College on Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Music Monday, Sept. 11
3 p.m. Concert. Washington University Center for the Arts and Howard University. "Talking With the Dead." Lawrence Bobo, assoc. prof. of musicology. Clothier Chapel. 935-5285.

Thursday, Sept. 14

Tuesday, Sept. 19
4 p.m. An Evening of Shakespeare. Goldfield Hall, Rm. 122. 747-7073.

Wednesday, Sept. 20
4 p.m. An Evening of Shakespeare. Goldfield Hall, Rm. 122. 747-7073.

Wednesday, Sept. 20
7:30 p.m. Men's Soccer vs. St. Mary's. Francis Field. 935-4705.

Saturday, Sept. 9

Saturday, Sept. 9

Saturday, Sept. 9
7 p.m. Volleyball vs. Central College. Francis Field. 935-4705.

Saturday, Sept. 16
11 a.m. Men's Soccer vs. Wartburg College. Francis Field. 935-4705.

Sunday, Sept. 17
11 a.m. Women's Soccer vs. Augustana College. Francis Field. 935-4705.

Wednesday, Sept. 20
7:30 p.m. Men's Soccer vs. Fontbonne U. Francis Field. 935-4705.
The Department of Music in Arts & Sciences opens its 2006-07 season at 8 p.m., Sept. 11 in the Building Formal Lounge. The performance is free and open to the public, and takes place in Umphrey Hall. The Chamber Orchestra comprises both undergraduate and graduate students and is led by Elizabeth Macdonald, director of strings in the music department. The program will focus on the music of two contrasting historical periods — the 18th-century Baroque and the early 20th century. While examining urban America, his work never fails to address the broader social and public policy questions that all of America must address. His topic on the nation's crisis dealing with immigration could not be more timely.
Changing lives with compassion

Eagon’s gastric bypass surgery patients regain a sense of normalcy

BY CAROLINE ARBANAS

Patients come to Christopher Eagon, M.D., having suffered a lifetime’s worth of indignities. Severely obese, they are forced to pay for two seats on airplanes, shop for clothes in special stores and endure stares, derisive comments and other reminders that they don’t fit in.

Eagon specializes in weight-loss surgery, also known as bariatric surgery. The technique he uses most frequently reduces the stomach from the size of a football to that of an egg and shortens the length of the intestine. This so-called gastric bypass surgery helps patients lose weight by decreasing the number of calories they can consume.

Eagon has performed more than 900 such surgeries since 1999, giving many patients a new lease on life.

“For people who are severely overweight, gastric bypass can make a profound difference in their lives,” says Eagon, assistant professor of surgery and surgical director of Washington University’s Weight Management Center.

“The stories my patients tell me really pull on my heartstrings because they are so dramatic.”

Eagon’s gastric bypass surgery patients regain a sense of normalcy

He recalls one patient whose life’s aspiration was to be a police officer. The man was extremely obese, and his weight kept him from reaching his goal. He also had a passion for motorcycles but was far too big to ride.

Eagon performed a gastric bypass, and the patient’s weight stabilized at near normal. Several years later, he visited Eagon at the clinic.

“He came on his motorcycle—it was a little street rocket — and he had applied for and entered the police academy and was ecstatic to finally be a police officer.

“It is incredibly gratifying to follow these patients as they move on with their lives,” Eagon says.

When patients first come to see Eagon, they typically have been through numerous failed diets and their self-confidence is quite low. Many have faced some type of discrimination or bias. Eagon, although tall and thin himself, tries to eliminate these obstacles.

“Dr. Eagon is one of the most compassionate people I have ever worked with,” says Donna Marin, R.N., who has worked with him for six years. "This is a very vulnerable population with numerous physical, psychological and emotional needs, and he treats each patient with the utmost respect and concern. Their well-being is his top priority.”

Demand for gastric bypass surgery has grown dramatically in recent years as obesity has become one of the nation’s most pressing health problems. Today, about 30 percent of Americans adults are obese, including about 3 percent who are morbidly obese. Morbid obesity is defined as a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or more, and gastric bypass is generally limited to these patients. A 5-foot-9-inch person would have a BMI of 40 or 271 pounds.

In addition to long-term weight loss, the surgery can quickly reverse the complications of obesity. In a study of Type 2 diabetics and high blood pressure, as well as respiratory and sleep disturbances in nearly a third of all obese adults, surgeons were able to make patients feel much better within six months.

Eagon says the ability to do clinical research in addition to maintaining a surgical practice is what drew him back to St. Louis.

“What impressed me most about what I learned in medical school is that academic medicine was stronger here. And this is one of the reasons why I continue to feel passionate about my work.”

Eagon returned to St. Louis shortly after Samuel Klein, M.D., the Danforth Professor of Medicine and head of the Division of Hepatobiliary and Gastrointestinal Surgery, encouraged him to return to Washington University in 1997 as a faculty member in the section of hepatobiliary and gastrointestinal surgery.

“Dr. Eagon was one of our most outstanding chief residents,” says Strasberg, now Pruett Professor of Surgery.

In addition to long-term weight loss, the surgery can quickly reverse the complications of obesity. It helps patients lose weight through decreased hunger and promoting weight loss.

Eagon completed a general surgery residency at Washington University, where he was also chief resident. During his training, he became interested in outcomes research as it relates to particular surgical procedures.

“I was interested not only in whether patients live or die but their quality of life, recovery time, side effects and the cost of their care,” he says.

Eagon’s advice, Steven Strasberg, M.D., encouraged him to follow his interest in medical informatics. This is a growing field that uses computers to gather and analyze patient information so doctors can make better decisions about their care. Eagon spent two years at the University of Utah completing a fellowship in medical informatics before returning to Washington University in 1997 as a faculty member in the section of hepatobiliary and gastrointestinal surgery.

“Dr. Eagon was one of our most outstanding chief residents, and he treated each patient with the utmost respect and concern. Their well-being is his top priority.”

By CAROLINE ARBANAS

In obesity surgery, gastrointestinal motility — the way food moves through the digestive tract, is obesity surgery, gastrointestinal motility is altered, thereby decreasing hunger and promoting weight loss. Eagon performed a general surgery residency at Washington University, where he was also chief resident. During his training, he became interested in outcomes research as it relates to particular surgical procedures.

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Christopher Eagon

Eagon started doing medical informatics but was later known about complications associated with the procedure or its long-term success. His training in medical informatics has helped him analyze outcomes of his patients and predict how individual patients will fare.

When Eagon started doing gastric bypass surgery, little was known about complications associated with the procedure or its long-term success. His training in medical informatics has helped him analyze outcomes of his patients and predict how individual patients will fare.

Last year, Eagon and his colleagues Valerie Halpin, M.D., assistant professor of surgery, performed 155 gastric bypass surgeries. Eagon also sees bariatric patients, using small incisions and tiny instruments guided by miniature cameras. This technique reduces the risk of complications, including wound infections, postoperative pain and hernias at the site of the incision, and also shortens the hospital stay.

Benefits of gastric bypass are quite dramatic. The average patient loses about 70 percent of his excess body weight in the first year, Eagon’s research shows, and patients keep 55 percent of excess weight off 15 years later. For example, a patient who was 300 pounds over his ideal body weight of 180 would lose about 140 pounds in the first year. He will typically regain 30 pounds over the next four years before stabilizing 30 pounds below his original weight 15 years later.

Eagon often handles complicated cases, including patients that are extremely heavy, who are referred to the University because they don’t meet the criteria set by other institutions. “Our program has experience with our rarest cases, and if we can do the difficult cases well and have good outcomes, we can handle the easier ones,” Eagon says.

When he is not with his patients, Eagon saves time spent with his family, including five children who range in age from 8 to 32. His youngest two are boys, and last year Eagon was the assistant coach of their hockey team. He is also an avid downhill skier, especially enjoys downhill skiing.

Christopher Eagon

Education: bachelor’s degree, biology, Williams College, 1984; medical degree, Harvard Medical School, 1988

Hometown: New Brighton, Minnesota

Family: wife, Jane; sons, Eric, Matthew and Eric

Hobbies: coaching sons’ hockey team and downhill skiing and ski racing

When Eagon started doing medical informatics but was later known about complications associated with the procedure or its long-term success. His training in medical informatics has helped him analyze outcomes of his patients and predict how individual patients will fare.

The Eagon family at their home last Christmas: (From left) Eric (8), Emily Czerniejewski (18), Matthew (9), Haley (15), Sarah Czerniejewski (21), wife Jane and Chris Eagon.

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