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It's the most wonderful time of the year

By ANDY CLENDENEN

No more all-nighters. No more Thurtene Carni-
val. No more homecoming weekend festivities.

At least, not as students.

The world awaits.

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton will confer degrees at the 146th Commencement ceremony, which begins at 8:30 a.m. May 18 in Brookings Quadrangle. The 2,622 candidates will receive 2,735 degrees, of which 1,467 are undergraduate and 1,268 are graduate and professional.

There are 558 doctoral candidates, comprising 108 for the doctor of pharmacy degree from the Graduate School of Engineering & Applied Science, 242 for the juris doctoris degree from the School of Law, two for the juris scientia degree from the School of Medicine and 204 for degrees from the School of Medicine.

In the event of rain, Commencement still will take place in the Quad. If the weather turns violent, the ceremony for undergraduates will be moved to the Athletic Complex, and graduate and professional degrees will be bestowed at each respective school's Commencement reception (see listing on page 4).

Streaming video of the ceremony will be broadcast online at commencement.wustl.edu. The Webcast can be viewed in Room 110 of January Hall and in Rooms 100 (wheelchair accessible) and 118 of Brown Hall.

Tim Russert, managing editor and moderator of NBC's "Meet the Press" and political analyst for "NBC Nightly News" and the "Today" show, will deliver the Commencement Address. The title of Russert's speech is "A View From Washington."

Russert also anchors "The Tim Russert Show," a weekly interview program on CNBC, acts as a contributing anchor for MSNBC, and is senior vice president and Washington bureau chief of NBC News. He will announce the honorary degree of honorary letters during the ceremony.

Russert, who joined NBC News in 1984, is no stranger to the campus. He covered the three presidential debates WUSTL has hosted since 1992.

See Ceremony, Page 11

Spirited student speaker wants to 'soak it all in'

By NEIL SCHNEERBERG

"I think WUSTL is the best place we could ever have chosen to go to school," said senior Ryan Buchman. "I hope we can look back 10 years from now and remember everything we've accomplished here, because we've accomplished a lot."

Appropriate words, given Buchman's role as this year's student Commencement speaker. Buchman, treasurer of the senior class, is a candidate for bachelor's degrees in computer science and computer engineering in the School of Engineering & Applied Science.

"I've always loved logical problem-solving," Buchman said. "After taking the Business, Management and Information Technology major in. The courses here have been fantastic."

In fact, the Dallas native enjoyed his time at the University so much, he's decided to stick around. He plans to complete an MBA from the John M. Olin School of Business May 5.

See Speaker, Page 11

Two faculty elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences

By GERRY EVERDING AND MICHAEL C. PURDY

Two University professors have been elected fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The new fellows are Helen M. Piwnica-Worms, Ph.D., professor of cell biology and physiology and of internal medicine at the School of Medicine, and Murray L. Weidenbaum, Ph.D., the Edward Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor in Arts & Sciences, professor of economics and honorary chairman of the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government and Public Policy.

"I am delighted to have two of WUSTL's distinguished professors join an organization formed in 1870 to cultivate the arts and sciences and to recognize leadership in scholar-
ship, business, the arts and public affairs," Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said. "Professors Piwnica-Worms and Weidenbaum have been elected fellows of more than 4,500 includes more than 170 Nobel laureates and 50 Pulitzer Prize winners. Fellows are selected through a competitive process that recognizes individuals for their contributions to the world.

While he loves computers, he realized in his junior year that he didn't necessarily want to sit in front of one and program for the rest of his life. He hopes the business degree, coupled with his interest in computer science, will lead to more opportunities.

"I thought that a business degree would be the perfect fit," he said. "It will allow me to go into the project of more than 4,500 includes more than 170 Nobel laureates and 50 Pulitzer Prize winners. Fellows are selected through a competitive process that recognizes individuals for their contributions to the world.

More inside

Commencement events calendar: Page 4

Galley of Graduates: First prizewinner at start of the University's most interesting graduates. Pages 5-10

Other Commencement speakers: Page 11

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Wen wins New York Times reporting trip to Africa

By DIANE DUKE WILLIAMS

Between graduating from the School of Medicine and beginning a Rhodes Scholarship this fall, Leana S. Wen will be blogging about her observa-
tions in Rwanda, the Congo and Burundi, Africa. She has been chosen, along with another Chicago teacher, to accompany New York Times columnist Nicholas D. Kristof on a three-
week reporting trip to Africa this summer.

"I believe that doctors are in the best position to correct injustices in the world because we are the natural storytellers for our patients," Wen said. "We see our patients' problems, we hear their needs and we have an obligation to communicate the issues to the world."

This is the second year that Kristof, a two-time Pulitzer
Prize winner who writes about health, justice and social issues in Third World countries, has sponsored a contest for essayists to accompany him to Africa. Wen and high school teacher Will Okun's essays were chosen from among 2,000 entries as the win-
er of a contest to accompany a Pulitzer Prize-winner to Africa.

"I chose medical school because I wanted a more direct way of changing the world," she said. "Now, I recognize that considered becoming a foreign-af

See Africa, Page 11

Leana Wen speaks with fellow medical student Kao-Ping Chua. His essay was selected from among 2,000 entries as the winner of a contest to accompany a Pulitzer Prize-winner to Africa.

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"I am delighted to have two of our outstanding faculty receive this tremendous honor," Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said.

"Professors Piwnica-Worms and Weidenbaum are two dedicated scholars, and this recognition is well-deserved. This achievement symbolizes the good for-

See Fellows, Page 4

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Six nonprofits win innovation awards

BETH NEUMAN

E nding a skateboarding park for teens and providing meaningful jobs for marginalized women are among the ideas that won two students and four local nonprofits a total of $125,000 at the second annual Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Competition (SEIC) Awards Ceremony May 3 in the Studio at the Missouri School of Art.

The Skandalaris Center for Entrepreneurial Studies and the YouthBridge Association partnered to create the SEIC, which was launched in September 2005. The partnership has hosted a series of workshops and networking events for participants and last year announced its inaugural grants.

Leslie D. Michelson, founder, CEO, investor, advisor and director for a portfolio of entrepreneurial success stories and real estate companies, delivered the keynote address at this year’s awards ceremony. The SEIC is designed to foster growth for social entrepreneurs who craft innovative processes, projects and services to help solve social issues. The winning nonprofits were selected from a field of 24 entrants who submitted their initial business proposals, attended a training workshop and then submitted a complete business plan. This year’s winning teams were selected from a field of 24 entrants who submitted their initial business proposals, attended a training workshop and then submitted a complete business plan.

The winning nonprofits celebrated that they have ventured their ideas and social value and that their goal is to bring about positive change in communities.

During the past months, the teams have participated in a series of open judging events and received feedback on their ideas.

This year’s winners are:

• The Bridge St. Louis received the $30,000 YouthBridge Award. The Bridge will use its $30,000 award to establish a co-op with the Zoll Family Foundation to enhance the Bridge’s ability to implement co-op in schools. This year’s winning teams were selected from a field of 24 entrants who submitted their initial business proposals, attended a training workshop and then submitted a complete business plan.

• One World Neighborhood Collaborative received the $10,000 Incarnate Word Foundation Award and will use its award to create a community gardening program and other fee-based services. The Bridge has operated in the city for the past three years.

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Baseball returns to NCAA Tournament

For the third straight season, the baseball team is headed to the College World Series for the third straight season.

The Bears — who made former

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Spouse may ‘drive you to drink’ but also protect you from alcohol

BY JIM DREJDEN

Men and women at risk for alcohol dependence are more likely to marry people who are at risk, School of Medicine investigators found. But that doesn’t necessarily mean that both spousal partners will be problem drinkers.

A study of four well-known cultures, common among partners of alcoholics than among partners of non-alcoholics, indicates that people at risk might actually reduce alcohol dependence.

A team of researchers from the University of Queensland and the Queenland Institute of Medical Research in Brisbane, Australia, studied 5,974 twins born between 1902 and 1944 who were part of the Australian Twin Register. They also spoke with 3,651 of those twins.

Programs prepare trainees for patient-oriented research

BY GWEN ERICSON

Two recently initiated School of Medicine programs will grant degree students certificates this year in their first classes. The Mentored Training in Clinical Investigation (MTCI) and the Pre-Doctoral Clinical Research Training Program (PCTP) are preparing the next generation of clinical researchers. In addition to specialized medical training, clinical research trainees study physicians and researchers about study design, statistical analysis, data management, and ethical and legal issues. Students in the Division of Clinical Sciences, part of the Biotech 2.1 initiative, provide students with this essential framework of knowledge.

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Thursday, June 14
3:30 p.m. Department of Genetics Seminar Series. In the Life Sciences Bldg., Rm. 823. 362-2139.
5:30 p.m. Film on Data Science Colloquium (downtown St. Louis), Ferrara Student Center (downtown St. Louis), Ferrara Student Center.

Friday, June 15
8 a.m. - 4 p.m. School of Medicine asthma screening. Saint Louis University Health Sciences Campus.

Friday, June 18
7:30 a.m. Limburg Colloquium. "Hepatology," Asst. Prof. of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.

Friday, June 22
8:30 a.m. University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Friday, June 25
5 p.m. Cardiac Surgery: "Innovations and Dis-
Friedman charts own course through scholarship, service

BY STEVE GIVENS

Jessica L. "Jess" Friedman may not know where she'll be in five years, but no one can doubt her navigational skills. Between her sailing abilities, GPS mapping systems experience and a highly developed sense of place and purpose, she'll get wherever she's headed.

Friedman, who grew up in Des Moines, is graduating with a bachelor's degree in earth and planetary sciences in Arts & Sciences and an impressive list of awards and accomplishments, including twice receiving the distinguished Morris R. Udall Scholarship and an honorable mention on USA Today's 2007 All-USA College Academic Team.

Along the way, her educational experiences on campus as part of the Pathfinder Program for Environmental Sustainability in Arts & Science have been augmented by a number of off-campus and international educational and research opportunities. Those opportunities included an "education at sea" experience that took her to the South Pacific, an interdisciplinary course on study ecological and geological processes in the Mojave Desert and two summers (and an honors thesis) studying soil loss in Arizona.

She has already contributed to several professional presentations on soil erosion with her mentors in the School of Engineering & Applied Science, including one that recognized her achievements early on.

"Jess has a wide-ranging mind and real passion not just for the acquisition of knowledge, but for its application," says Jennifer R. Smith, Ph.D., assistant professor of earth and planetary sciences. "From the first time I encountered her, she's been excellent at synthesizing, at reconciling multiple lines of evidence and making a coherent whole out of disparate parts. She's also always more than willing to try something new, which has resulted in her having a remarkable breadth of experience."

When Smith said she needed someone to go to Croatia with her, Friedman had no hesitation. She went for two summers, working on an archaeological-geological project and becoming adept at using Global Positional Systems to create detailed maps.

"I wore this GPS unit on my back that looks like I'm communicating with satellites," she says. "Her next global adventure led her to a six-week sailing trip from Tahiti to Hawaii aboard a 135-foot schooner. On the voyage, during which she learned to sail and perform all the operations of the boat, she designed and implemented a research project on the mixing of saltwater and freshwater from its ranging to weather conditions and El Nino. She had little previous sailing experience, but she took to it quickly."

"There were people who wanted off, but there was a core group of us that just really fell in love with it," she says. "I stayed on for four days at the end and just helped them get ready for the next batch of students that were coming on, tightening knots and making sure all the rigging was stable."

As focused and driven as Friedman is about her academic and research interests, she'd perhaps be forgiven if she found little time in her day to help others. That wouldn't be her.

She serves as a teaching assistant and peer adviser in a campus program called Women in Science, which she designed and facilitated with Barbara A. Baumgartner, Ph.D., associate director and senior lecturer in Women and Gender Studies, and Regina F. Perry, Ph.D., senior lecturer in chemistry and director of the Women in Science, Culture and Technology Program at all Arts & Sciences.

Friedman also has been heavily involved in the Sexual Assault and Rape Anonymous Helpline as a trainer and facilitator.

Indeed, Friedman is putting graduate school on hold to help others. She has been accepted into Teach For America and will be teaching middle school or high school math in the Mississippi Delta.

She believes that working with the non-profit organization will give her the opportunity to connect her passions for the environment, education and justice.

"We really made my dream come true," she says. "So what course will Friedman have navigated in five years? Nothing's clear except one thing: She will have relished the journey of discovery along the way."
Gwynn is making up for lost time in a big way

By Andy Clendenen

For someone who didn’t exactly know what he wanted to do after college as recently as his junior year, Kendrick Gwynn sure has figured out a plan in a hurry.

Gwynn, a biology major in Arts & Sciences who will receive a bachelor of fine arts degree on May 18 from the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, is moving toward becoming a medical doctor.

"That’s one of the reasons I want to go get a dual degree," he continues. "If you have an MPH alone, you don’t have as much say as if you really understand you can make a lot more change if you have both of these degrees. Also, if you are a doctor, you are trained to deal specifically with the patient, whereas in public health, you are trained to deal with the population as a whole.

"Plus, I’ve always had an interest in doing a socially active thing," he adds.

Which was evident from his days at the McDonogh School in Owings Mills, Md.-Sharon Howells, director of diversity at McDonogh, started a diversity initiative at the school. She found five students who were interested in tackling the issue of diversity, and those students tried to create initiatives to be presented to school administrators.

Gwynn was one of her students.

Kendrick distinguished himself by affecting school change," Howell says. "He devised a plan to start a free clinic where he treated people who didn’t have insurance and those who do, and it’s not just based on race. I think you can make a lot more change if you have both of these degrees. Also, if you are a doctor, you are trained to deal specifically with the patient, whereas in public health, you are trained to deal with the population as a whole.

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Westbrooks seeks a different kind of ‘green’

By Shula Neuman

ost boys dream of being professional baseball players. Stephen Westbrooks dreams of owning a baseball team. And not just any team — Westbrooks plans to own the St. Louis Cardinals.

When he was a toddler, a searing sound groan-diose, but Westbrooks’ self-confidence, along with a determination to believe he can do anything he sets his mind to, wouldn’t let him say, “I can’t do it.”

Walker, who earned a doctorate in occupational therapy in December, has exemplified the spirit of determination since she was a child. As with Westbrooks, he wasn’t about to stop pursuing his vision of natural capital.

During his time at Olin, Westbrooks has not been shy about making the most of the school’s resources. In addition to entering the Olin Cup Competition, Westbrooks is active with the Consortium for Entrepreneurial Studies and Management in an organization that promotes diversity in business and business schools. He also is a member of the Regional Business Council.

Walker chose Washington University for the master’s program and because her father’s family lives in St. Louis and offered her a full scholarship.

As an MBA candidate, Stephen Westbrooks and a classmate founded Natural Capital and developed plans for energy-efficient homes for a North St. Louis neighborhood. After graduating, Westbrooks plans to continue the venture and expects to have all the homes built and sold in about two years.

As a young boy, Westbrooks says the classes he took and his involvement with the Consortium for Entrepreneurial Studies and Management helped build his skills beyond expectations.

"It's scary to venture out on your own," Westbrooks says. "I've spent a lot of time here working on natural capital. A lot of people are saying no to things, but that's not for me. I'm already reaping the rewards personally. I think it's just a matter of time before I also enjoy the financial rewards."

By Beth Miller

Kimberly A. Walker, O.T.(R), right, works in the Enabling Mobility Center at Paralyzed with personal experience living with a mobility limitation, which taught that assistive technologies can be the difference between participating in activities and being left out. She says Walker’s mentor David Gray, Ph.D.

But there wasn’t a university near her home in central Taiwan that offered a degree in occupational therapy, and Walker knew she was not ready to leave the United States for her close-knit family and other resources.

"I became a 911 dispatcher for the Palm Bay (Fla.) Police Department, put occupational therapy on the back burner and earned an associate’s degree in criminal justice."

Although she liked law enforcement, she decided to pursue an undergraduate degree in speech-language pathology to help her family lives in St. Louis and offered her a full scholarship.

Walker says her experience living with a mobility limitation taught her that assistive technologies can be the difference between participating in activities and being left out. She says Walker’s mentor David Gray, Ph.D.

"I wish I had done it sooner."
When asked what she’s going to do over the summer, Homa Zafer responds with a typical college student answer: “Sleep,” she says with a laugh. “I miss it.” Zafer is a sophomore, is anything but typical. She completed 20 credits this semester and at Commencement will receive a bachelor’s degree in communications with a journalism emphasis from University College in Arts & Sciences. Her route to the University was circuitous. She started writing in high school in her native Afghanistan: short stories, news articles, columns. Later, she became a reporter for an Afghan women’s magazine, which helped launch her to the position of editor in chief of a women’s magazine in Pakistan called Safar. Zafer’s father also is a writer. His pen was a strong weapon against threats to humanity and peace, Zafer says. His criticism of warlords and their drug business in Afghanistan resulted in his family being terrorized. After years of the communist regime in Afghanistan, the family lived in exile in Pakistan, where her father was a columnist. She left Pakistan for the United States, where U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services sent her to St. Louis. “As soon as I arrived in St. Louis, I started looking for a way to improve my education,” Zafer says. “I asked around for the best school in St. Louis, and Washington University was the answer.” She simply walked into Wash. U. and met Diane Willis, coordinator of undergraduate advising and student services. Diane walked with me extra miles. “I will never ever forget, she asked me how much money I had.” Zafer says before breaking into laughter: “I said none. And she asked if I had a diploma or anything from my country, I said nothing. She said, ‘But I am glad that you have not lost of courage, that’s great!’” Zafer earned a scholarship and enrolled in journalism classes. She plans to enroll in University College again in the fall to pursue a master’s degree in political science or international affairs. “Homa is an unforgettable person, and her love of learning, resolve and tenacity are remarkable,” Willis says. “Homa became the talk of the floor in University College both personally and academically. She showed a new confidence in herself and in her education experience on a daily basis to make life better for others.” Zafer says the ways she might make life better involves trying to change the way Americans view the turmoil and its people. — of the Middle East.

There are lots of stories untold, especially dealing with conflict,” Zafer says. “I see a lot of conflict in the world based on not knowing the cultures of the people. I can imagine myself as being a good cultural bridge. A bridge that has been built on rumors. It’s not exact news, and that’s sometimes what can make me upset. I wish I could work toward fixing that.”

“I want to bring viewers and readers closer to the issues and the situations and give them more awareness about the reality,” she continues. “I see lots of things that, if Americans know more about the culture and get to know those people, that would bring a big change. For example, when I was in Afghanistan, there were a lot of pre-African-American people — a big part of the communities. "But America doesn’t know that because the media has generalized the issue of terrorism so much and made it a big, big issue," she says. "America is not a superpower only for its modern and equipped army; mostly, it’s because of the values that they are bringing to the rest of the world. There are many people around the world whose securities and lives are losing on Americans," she adds. "They have a great expectation of us to look after and lead the people, and most Americans over here don’t know about what the world's people want to do for something. This is something I want to get out there."

But that can start after she gets a little rest this summer.

### McDonnell Scholar Kato takes on medicine and law

By Neil Schoenherr

When one thinks of challenging careers, law and medicine might quickly come to mind.

Not a problem for Ryotaro Kato, M.D., M.A., who completed a three-year residency in internal medicine at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in 2004, will receive a doctor of law degree at the May 18 Commencement ceremony.

Born in Tokyo, Kato graduated from high school in Maryland after moving there in eighth grade. He returned to Tokyo in 1991 to begin his medical studies.

“We don’t have undergraduate degrees in Japan,” says Kato, 33. “When you graduate from high school, you are expected to decide which field you want to go into. I thought being a physician would make for a rewarding career.”

He graduated from the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Medicine in 1999, followed by an anesthesiology residency in Japan.

He came to St. Louis in 2001 to begin his residency at Barnes-Jewish, which led to his being named the School of Medicine’s Karl-Fiance Teaching Resident of the Year in 2004.

While he considers it an honor to treat patients, his interest was to further his training in a career in health-care policy, looking for ways to address issues such as malpractice.

“Medical malpractice is becoming much more common in Japan,” he says. “It used to be that you would have one family doctor you saw for your entire life. Medicine in Japan is becoming more Westernized, and with the large amount of specialists comes an increasing amount of malpractice lawsuits.”

So following his residency, Kato entered the School of Law — a good fit for the lifelong world traveler who seeks a career with international qualifications.

“I thought that if I really wanted to do something international, I should go to law school,” says Kato. “It seemed like a fitting choice.”

Such international awareness also is fitting with the University’s McDonnell International Scholars Academy, in which Kato is one of 18 McDonnell Scholars.

The McDonnell Academy enrolls exceptional graduate and professional students from Partner Universities in Asia and the Middle East. The program provides rigorous graduate instruction and uniquely steps McDonnell Scholars in a cultural, political and social education program designed to prepare them as future leaders knowledgeable about the United States, other countries and critical international issues.

In keeping with that mission, Kato and his fellow McDonnell Scholars visited Washington this spring and met with numerous dignitaries, including Missouri’s Senate delegation Christopher “Kit” Bond and Claire McCaskill, as well as representatives from the White House, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and The Brookings Institution.

At law school, Kato developed an interest in bioethics — a topic that because the media has generalized the issue of terrorism so much and made it a big, big issue, he says. "America is not a superpower only for its modern and equipped army; mostly, it’s because of the values that they are bringing to the rest of the world. There are many people around the world whose securities and lives are losing on Americans," she adds. "They have a great expectation of us to look after and lead the people, and most Americans over here don’t know about what the world's people want to do for something. This is something I want to get out there."

But that can start after she gets a little rest this summer.

Ryotaro Kato, M.D., talks with Rebecca Dresser, J.D., the Daniel Noyes Kirby Professor of Law and professor of ethics in medicine. A native of Japan, Kato completed a residency at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, then entered the School of Law to pursue a career with the US. Department of Housing and Urban Development and The Brookings Institution.

Kato and his fellow McDonnell Scholars were leading him toward a career in health-care policy, looking for ways to address issues such as malpractice.

“Medical malpractice is becoming much more common in Japan,” he says. “It used to be that you would have one family doctor you saw for your entire life. Medicine in Japan is becoming more Westernized, and with the large amount of specialists comes an increasing amount of

But if doing so will only prolong your life a few months, is it worth spending the thousands of dollars surgery would require? These are the types of questions find very interesting and challenging.

After graduation, Kato will return to the medical school as an instructor of health care policy and will work in general medicine at the St. Louis VA Medical Center.

“I had considered returning to Japan to work as a lawyer, but the medical school was very excited to have me back,” he says. "It’s one of the best medical schools in the nation, and I’m thrilled to work in such a great community.”

His goal is to work as a physician and stay involved in ethics committees and risk-management work. He’ll also be teaching students and interns.

“I might go back to Japan at some point in my career to help the Japanese health-care system,” he says. “But I’d like to stay here as long as possible. I think my new job will be challenging, but it’s very exciting for me, too. I’m normally looking forward to working with extremely talented residents and medical students of Washington University.”

James V. Wertsch, Ph.D., the Marshall S. Stone Professor of Arts & Sciences and director of the McDonnell Academy, says Kato has a bright future.

"Ryotaro Kato promises to be a major leader on health-care policy," Wertsch says, "and we are very pleased that he will continue through the McDonnell Academy and serve him well in what promises to be a very important future."
Schupanitz hits high notes with music and studies

BY GERRY EVERDING

"Do it because you love it."

That’s the credo of the Amateurs, a co-ed a cappella student singing group that has been a favorite campus diversion for graduating seniors at Washington University in St. Louis. Founded in 1931, the 32-member a cappella group sings in four-part harmony, and its repertoire includes ranging from traditional folk and jazz standards to contemporary hits. For student singer Andrew Schupanitz, who graduated in May with a bachelor’s degree in music, the group provided the perfect platform to explore his musical talents.

"The award recognizes the sophisticated nature of Andy’s interdisciplinary work in the history of ideas, work that engages economics, literature and philosophy. He is a credit to the George Warren Brown School of Social Work and co-recipient of the 2006 National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) in Portland, Ore., a private, non-profit organization she worked for last year. "NICWA offered an opportunity to nurture my professional growth and an opportunity to work with tribes, policymakers, state officials and other agencies to bring awareness to American Indian children’s overall need for protection," she says.

"I feel comfortable at NICWA because we are teaching the policymakers about the culture and tradition of American Indian children," Schupanitz says. "The job lends Clyde a place in a teenage experience in which one college woman has been raped or suffered attempted rape. Schupanitz traces his interest to a teenage experience in which his close friend was raped by an acquaintance.

"Students can be uncomfortable talking about rape, so our group provides students with training that helps them facilitate discussions and raise awareness about how men can help prevent sexual assault and rape," he says. Schupanitz also has a passion for teaching. Clyde says, "I took voice lessons and performed in school plays and choir. But he figured music would take a backstage to his college studies. Somehow, he managed to do both, finding time to perform solo roles and develop new song arrangements as musical director of the Amateurs. The 14-member group, a campus fixture since 1991, just released its fifth full-length CD, "mmmm ... Pie!" Schupanitz contributes solo performances on "This Love" by Maroon 5 and "Maas Pike" by The Get Up Kids. Following graduation, Schupanitz plans to gain political experience working as an intern in Washington. Then, his Beinecke Scholarship will help defray the cost of graduate studies, perhaps in law or a joint doctoral program that combines law with international relations.

Down the road, he’s considering a career in teaching or maybe the Foreign Service. No matter where he ends up, it’s a good bet he’ll remain true to his musical credo “Do it because you love it.”

Schupanitz used Oxford’s resources to perform in a whirlwind tour of Europe. Schupanitz spent an intensive year studying abroad at Oxford University.}

For Clyde, family past plays a big role in her future

BY ANDY CLENDENEN

Miss Clyde was raised to give back to her Navajo homeland by her maternal grandmother’s inspiration and hope for her family’s future. “The first thing that stood out was the princi- ples of womanhood that is not just to be a provider or a nurturer, I’m the voice of the Navajo tra- dition.”

Tradition is a main theme in Clyde’s work and life. She knew she was interested in the human- ity of her field, which she pursued at the University of Ariz- ona, where she helped Native American students struggling to adjust to mainstream campus life.

The experience planted a seed that she continued to nurture through further work and studies. She took a summer job with the Upward Bound Program, where she taught leadership to Native American students, many of whom discussed the struggles and social problems they and their families experienced.

She returned home to Gallup, N.M., and worked with the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services, providing child protective and case manage- ment services. The job was an eye-opening emotional roller-coaster, she recalls.

"Initially, I was caught off guard," she says. "I wasn’t prepared to see all the social issues facing my Navajo people, issues of poverty, child abuse and poor mental health paired with the severe lack of resources."

But seeing the struggles of the Navajo led Clyde to dedicate her life to social justice.

"I knew after a month of working with my Navajo peo- ple that I wanted to be a social worker," she says.

Two years of work with the Navajo Nation was followed by two years as a treatment coor- dinator with Navajo Children and Family Development Cen- ter in Farmington, N.M. It was there that she discovered Con- vince Clyde to earn a master’s degree.

Clyde received the Kathryn M. Buder Scholarship, a full- tuition scholarship awarded to Native Americans who intend to practice social work in Na- tive American communities.

"As a strong native woman, Melanie honors us all through her successes, her constant generosity of spirit, and her embodiment of collegiality and the social work ethical princi-
Polster explores who we are, with time on her side

By Cynthia Georges

The first person in her family to pursue a university degree, Heike Polster has come a long way from the spunky, inquisitive girl in Bergisch Gladbach, Germany, who wanted all of it "to become a dentist's wife," she says. It was frequent trips to the library that expanded her horizons. "I spent so much time there," she recalls, "that my parents probably should have paid them more money." For Polster, who receives a doctorate in Germanic languages and literatures from the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences May 18, timing is everything. She launched her academic career with a body of research on how we think of and perceive time.

"The dissertation stage is tough for us," Polster says of her convivial group of doctoral colleagues. "Basically, we sit by ourselves and write a book." Polster's "book" examines how narratives and aesthetic images probe philosophical concepts of time and space.

"What engests me," Polster says, "is how experiences such as the Holocaust factor into the cultural narrative that we keep telling ourselves. Or, in the German context, it often is the case of not telling enough of the keeping silent."

Such exploration defines who we are, the add, and is necessary in the post-modern environment.

German-born Heike Polster discusses the novel "Austerlitz" by W.G. Sebald, whose work she included in her thesis. The first in her family to earn a college degree, she studied American literature in Germany and German literature in America. In her own case, Polster defines who she was as a child by saying, "Suffice it to say that I read a lot, ran with the boys and sang in the choir."

In her thesis, she took a passion for culinary arts at Motherwell Technical College in Motherwell, Scotland. Then, she changed courses.

She entered Otto-Friedrich Universität in Bamberg, Germany, and studied philosophy, history, and English and American literatures. Through a collaboration with her university, she came to the United States for the first time at the University of Georgia, where she went on to earn a master's degree in German literature at Georgia, a strong advising community of women — whom Polster calls "realistic role models" — set her on the path to academia. She was twice recognized for excellence in teaching with the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award and also received the Outstanding German Graduate Student Award.

When it came time to explore doctoral programs, WUSTL won. A factor for Polster was the possibility of working with Lutz Koepnick, Ph.D., professor of German and film and media studies, both in Arts & Sciences. Indeed, Koepnick became her advisor. Polster is pleased with her choice of programs.

"Over the years, I've enjoyed the sense of community here, the friendly exchange among graduate students and the excellent mentorship," she says. Polster is a valued mentor in her own right.

"Heike's service to the University in general and to the Peer Mentoring Program in particular has been superb," says Nancy Pope, Ph.D., associate dean of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. Polster also has served as a graduate student senator, graduate student representative to the faculty and member of the Graduate Student Research Symposium Committee.

This fall, Polster will put her work into play at the University of Memphis, where she has accepted a ten-year-track position on the German faculty. She is "and will make — an excellent instructor," Koepnick says. "Heike is a rigorous, intellectually astute and impressively mature researcher. Her thinking and writing are reflective, probing, independent. She is demanding, very much concerned about the progress of her students and eager to draw the best effort from each and every one."

In addition to her intellectual pursuits, Polster has a sense of recreational adventure, including traveling and rock climbing.

"We Germans love to travel," she says. Her favorite destinations: "Beachy winds places in the Pacific Northwest, Britain and the Baltic Sea." Koepnick says that sense of adventure defines Polster's well-roundedness.

"The fact that Heike goes rock climbing once a week sums it up. She has enormous focus, a great sense of challenging herself, but also great ability to switch off academic efforts for a moment and do nothing but live a good life," Koepnick says.

Wong works to rebuild New Orleans neighborhood

By Liam Ottigen

The Hoffman Triangle in New Orleans lies below sea level, sandwiched between the levees of Lake Pontchartrain on the north and the high banks of the Mississippi River to the south. During Hurricane Katrina, floodwaters rose about 9 feet, destroying two-thirds of the neighborhood's housing.

Yet even before Katrina, "the Hoffman Triangle was facing lots of problems," says Carolyn Wong, who received a bachelor's degree in architecture May 18 from the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, College of Architecture. Preying in situations, vacant land and abandoned properties exacerbated high rates of poverty and crime. "The hurricane just brought these issues more to the light," Wong says. Wong, along with classmate Rebecca Castellon, has spent most of the spring semester crafting an ambitious new master plan for the Hoffman Triangle.

As part of the architecture studio "New Orleans "94," the pair visited the area and spent months developing strategies to address some of the neighborhood's most pressing problems. "We're looking at everything from water management to housing design to energy conservation."

"The Hoffman Triangle is one of the city's most difficult areas," Wong says, "but this is a legitimate proposal," says Derek Hoefelin, an assistant professor of architecture, who led the studio. "They didn't just try to redo everything," adds Hoefelin, a former New Orleans resident and now project manager for 113 Studio Inc., one of five firms coordinating rebuilding scenarios for the Unified New Orleans Plan. "They carefully assessed the extent of damage and dealt with conditions on the ground."

Wong, who grew up in Aurora, Ohio, won state and national awards for art in high school, but for college she began contemplating a career in architecture.

"I don't think I knew exactly what architecture was," she says with a laugh, "I wanted to pursue something that combined art with other disciplines — math, science, industry — and architecture seemed to fit."

Wong excelled in the program, receiving the College of Architecture's Leslie J. Laskey Outstanding Sophomore Book Award and the Elizabeth S. Schmerling and the Philip Richardson Shepley memorial scholarships. Nominated as a FirstBiboon Scholar, last fall she served as architecture's senior representative at convocation and this spring was undergraduate speaker at architecture's scholarship dinner.

She has worked as an assistant set designer for the Performing Arts Department in Arts & Sciences and as a painter and sculptor for the Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis. For the past two summers, Wong interned with the Cleveland Summit Westlake Reel Lab, creating models for the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and The Cleveland Museum of Art's Gartner Auditorium.

She spent a junior semester in Florence, Italy, where the links between daily life and built environment impressed her. "Florence has iconic architecture," Wong says. "But it was even more interesting to see how buildings are used — how people occupy them, how they influence local culture."

Such concerns and an eye toward the future have informed much of Wong's work on the Hoffman Triangle.

For example, Wong and Castellon address the FEMA guideline for raising homes at least two feet above base flood elevation with a kind of terracing, shaping the ground beneath homes upward.

Low areas between homes would be linked to a series of retention ponds, which would help control flooding by draining excess water to a nearby pumping station.

New buildings would be green and designed to capitalize on natural resources, allowing natural light and ventilation.

"We chose light gauge steel construction because it's durable, water resistant and termite resistant," Wong says. "In the event of another hurricane, it can also be recycled."

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Carolyn Wong creates architectural models of her design for the Hoffman Triangle, a New Orleans neighborhood devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The Ohio native helped devise a plan that would allow the area to supply its own energy and water, with housing constructed using recyclable materials. "We want to take the entire neighborhood off the grid, meaning that it supplies its own energy for the future," she says.

"To that end, rainwater is collected, rooftop solar panels provide energy for the community battery bank to be stored until needed," Wong explains. "In the event of another emergency, we want the neighborhood to be able to sustain itself.

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M ore than a dozen distin- guished engineers and scholars will speak at Commencement rituals on May 17, 2007, celebrating the Class of 2007 and their friends and families.

Russert has interviewed every major political figure in American political, with Presi- dent Gerald Ford among the most frequent interview guests. He also hosted a three-hour interview on "Meet the Press" as well as numerous other world leaders.

In 2005, he received an Emmy for his role in President Barack Obama's funeral. He was the holder of the Joan S. Baronow Award, as well as the Dorothy and Martin M. Frankel Lectureship for Excellence in Television Journalism. He received an honorary degree from WUSTL for his 2000 election interviews with Bush and Al Gore on "Meet the Press."

Russert received a 2001 Ed- ward R. Brown Award for Overall Excellence in Television Jour- nalism for his 2000 election coverage. He won the Alfred P. Sloan Award in 1997 for his work on "Meet the Press." He also served as the organization's pres- ident and on its board of direc- tors. He was a director of the American Board of Ophthal- mology from 1992-1995.

Smith and his wife, Paula, an artist, have three children, Jill, Miles, and Sarah. Smith is a supporter of the American Association of Retired Persons and has served as a News director at the Clinical Lear- ning Center for the past three years.

At Commencement, approximately 150 alumni from the Class of 1957, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1957, will stand in the opening procession.

Commentator Scott Russert, will begin the traditional academic procession into the Quad, which will be led by honorary grand marshal Morton E. Smith, M.D. professor emeritus of medicine and professor of ophthal- mology and visual sciences and associate dean emeritus.

An internationally recognized clinician and cancer researcher, infectious enthusiasm for oph- thalmology and excellence in teaching have honored him with nearly a dozen teaching awards. The University awarded him the Founder Day Distinguished Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2006. In addition, he was recognized by the 1999 America BMES/POSH Serv- ice Award in 1999, which honors high quality of inst- ruction, strong relations with students inside and outside the classroom, and excellence in scholarship and distinguished service.

On May 19, the University will also bestow Distinguished Service Teaching Awards and a Distinguished Alumni Award upon the Barbara J. and Jerome R. Cox Center.

The Class of 1977, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Class of 1977, will follow, with the class of 1957 and the class of 1927, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1927, last in the opening procession.

Commentator Scott Russert, will begin the traditional academic procession into the Quad, which will be led by honorary grand marshal Morton E. Smith, M.D. professor emeritus of medicine and professor of ophthal- mology and visual sciences and associate dean emeritus.

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Becoming dean of a law school wasn’t in Kent D. Syverud’s strategic plan. “I don’t believe in taking jobs because the jobs they lead to,” says Syverud, J.D., dean and the Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor of Law at the School of Law. “I believe in taking jobs because they’re the steps that are the most sensible growth experiences for you at the time. I didn’t become a professor to become a dean. I became a professor to become a professor. And I loved each step, I’ve gotten so much from each job I’ve taken.” Now, Syverud is enjoying planning the future of the law school, his favorite part of my job right now is thinking strategically about how to make this law school the best place to learn to be a lawyer,” Syverud says. “The faculty, staff and students at the law school are amazing, and I think you avoid complacency by refusing to assume that you’ve already fixed every problem and that the only thing you need to do is the same thing you did the year before. You constantly re-examine everything you do and ask how to make it better. That includes what you do in the classroom and what you do outside the classroom.”

Syverud notes that the law school’s plan for the future includes expansion of the faculty, substantial improvement of job opportunities for law students across the nation and the world, investment in interdisciplinary programs with other schools and colleges, development of exciting international programs— particularly in Asia and in Europe—and continued extraordinary attention to student recruitment. “One of the things that makes Kent such an effective dean is that he has a strategic vision for the law school, and he tries to ensure that all of the programs of the school are contributing toward that vision,” says Daniel L. Keating, J.D., vice dean of the School of Law and the Tyrrell Williams Professor of Law. “The net result of this approach to leadership is that we are developing a cohesive identity as an institution. By working towards the same goal, we are better able to maximize the impact and viability of our faculty’s energy and creativity.”

A homecoming

Before coming to the University, Syverud planned to return to the professor role after spending eight years as dean of Vanderbilt University Law School. Serving on a Northwestern University accreditation team with WUSTL Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton helped convince him otherwise. “I was going to spend a year teaching and writing at Cornell and the University of California, Berkeley and then return to the Vanderbilt faculty, but as things turned out, I gave up the Berkeley position in order to start as dean here,” he says. “I spent two days with Mark at Northwestern and came to appreciate what a unique leader and person he is, and that made me wanting to look at Washington University when the position became available,” he continues. “I had several friends who I’d known over the years who were on the faculty here who worked hard to recruit me, including Dan Keating. The more I looked at St. Louis and at Washington University, the more it seemed like a great opportunity.” He became dean Jan. 1, 2006. “Kent has been a wonderful addition to the senior leadership team at Washington University,” Wrighton says. “In his short tenure as dean, he has built a strong foundation for our School of Law as one of the premier institutions in the United States. This spring, Kent was instrumental in bringing Chief Justice of the United States John Roberts and former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to the Danforth Campus.”

Accepting the leadership at the law school also gave Syverud the opportunity to return to his geographical roots. “My wife, Ruth Chen, and I are originally from South Dakota, and I grew up on the edges of the Midwest and lived most of my life in the Midwest. So for us, it’s returning home in many ways.”

Chen, Ph.D., is a researcher and professor at the University in complex litigation, and opportunity to make a difference in the world. “I find it very rewarding to work with people who want to shape the future of society,” she says. “I’m an applied economist, and I think the impact of my research can be significant. I’ve always been interested in using my expertise to make a difference in the world.”

Syverud especially has enjoyed teaching at WUSTL. “I’ve taught five classes so far in the last year—and a half, so I’ve already taught several hundred students here,” he says. “They are the best students I’ve taught. They are smart, civil and respectful, and they want to make a difference in the world. I find that that nourishes me every day.”

“Making a difference”

Syverud entered graduate school with a vision that he would earn a doctorate in economics and enter government service, but a scholarship stipulation requiring he go to law school put him on a different path. “I had an extraordinary teacher in law school who opened my eyes to both the intellectual possibilities in law and opportunity to make a difference in the world through law,” he says. After law school, Syverud clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Louis Oberdorfer and was chosen by O’Connor to be one of her first clerks. “My clerkship with O’Connor was a very formative experience in my understanding of law,” he says. “While working for her, I was exposed to someone with a wide range of experiences that really changed how I looked at law.” Syverud spent a few years as a trial lawyer in Washington before he decided to enter academia, where he developed an outstanding reputation as a teacher and a scholar in complex litigation, legal education and civil procedure. “I have loved every aspect of litigation,” he says. “I’m not one of those people who dislike litigants or the trial process. I enjoy both the competition and the efficacy in it. But then, once I got into my academic career, I just loved teaching and writing.”

Teaching is where Syverud found that he could make a difference through the law. Prior to becoming dean at Vanderbilt law school, he was a professor at University of Michigan Law School. "I’ve taught five classes so far in the last year-and-a-half, so I’ve already taught several hundred students here,” he says. “They are the best students I’ve taught. They are smart, civil and respectful, and they want to make a difference in the world. I find that that nourishes me every day.”

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Kent D. Syverud

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Education: Bachelor’s degree, Georgetown University, 1977; juris doctorate, University of Michigan School of Law, 1981; master’s degree in economics, University of Michigan Rackham School of Graduate Studies, 1983

Family: Wife, Ruth Chen, Ph.D., research associate in the School of Engineering & Applied Science, and sons Steven, 21; Brian, 19; and Daniel, 18

"Thinking strategically"

Kent D. Syverud helps the School of Law develop a cohesive identity

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