National political spotlight to shine again on WUSTL
2008 vice presidential debate Oct. 2 marks fifth selection by CPD

Calling it “one of the great traditions of Washington University,” Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton announced during a news conference Nov. 19 that the University will host the 2008 vice presidential debate, scheduled for 8 p.m. Oct. 2.

This is the fifth consecutive time the University has been selected by the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) to host a debate. Washington University is the only institution to host more than two debates.

In 1992, the University hosted the first three-candidate presidential debate. George Bush, Sr., was selected to host a presidential debate in 1996 that eventually was canceled, hosted the third and last presidential debate of the 2000 campaign season and the second of three presidential debates before the 2004 election.

“It is a privilege to once again play an important role in the American electoral process and to be chosen from among 19 applicants to be one of the hosts and play an important role in the campaign season and the second of three presidential debates before the 2004 election. It is a privilege to once again play an important role in the American electoral process and to be chosen from among 19 applicants to be one of the hosts and play an important role in the campaign season and the second of three presidential debates before the 2004 election.

“I am gratified,” he said. “The debate is an opportunity to volunteer to become interested in the political process and to be a part of the campus culture,” said Jennifer Sisto, a sophomore biology major.

The debate will focus on both domestic and foreign policy and will be administered by a single moderator.

“There are one-a-kind events are great experiences for our students; they contribute to a national understanding of important issues, and they allow us to bring national and international attention to our great community,” Wrighton said.

All tickets to attend the debate are assigned by the CPD. As was done in 1992, 2000 and 2004, any debate tickets that may be assigned to the University will be distributed only to full-time students, who will be selected in a University-wide lottery. Wrighton said.

Students also will have the opportunity to volunteer to become involved with the debate as well as take part in the political conversations that surround such an event.

“The debate is going to be a part of the campus culture,” said Jennifer Sisto, a sophomore biology major.

Fat cells send message that aids insulin secretion

By GLEN ERICKSON

The body’s fat cells help the pancreas do its job of secreting insulin, according to School of Medicine research. This previously unrecognized process ultimately could lead to new methods to improve glucose metabolism in type 2 diabetic or insulin-resistant people.

In a study using laboratory mice, published in the Nov. 7 issue of Cell Metabolism, School of Medicine scientists report that fat cells release a protein that aids insulin secretion from pancreatic beta cells, which are the sole source of insulin. The protein is an enzyme that the pancreatic cells themselves produce to allow a much more minimal amount of glucose in the blood.

Insulin helps to break down sugar (glucose) and provides diabetes with a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes, and many more are undiagnosed.

Volleyball team wins ninth national title

The WUSTL volleyball team defeated the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, 3-2, to win the NCAA Div III Championship in Bloomington, Ill., Nov. 17. The title is the team’s NCAA-best ninth and its first since the 2003 season.

Head coach Rich Wagenhals was named the NCAA Coach of the Year for his work.

In the NCAA tournament, the Bears defeated four teams ranked in the top 10 and four of the final three rounds defeated a team they have lost to earlier in the year.

Senior setter Jessica Schnee and junior outside hitter Alii Alberts were named to the NCAA All-Tournament Team. Junior outside hitter Alii Alberts earned NCAA Championship MVP honors.

In route to the championship, the Bears defeated five teams ranked in the American Volleyball Coaches Association top 15 and in each of the final three rounds defeated a team they have lost to earlier in the year.

The Bears defeated University Athletic Association (UAA) rival No. 3 Emory University, 3-2, in the semifinal Nov. 16.

The Bears ended the season on a six-match winning streak, with their last loss coming to Emory, 3-2, in the UAA championship Nov. 1.

What made the title all the sweeter is that the team had a rough start, beginning the season with a 7-4 record. However, the Bears would lose only one more match — against Emory in the UAA championship — en route to the title.

“You have to understand how proud I am of this team,” Wagenhals said. “This group has worked so hard, and they have a lot of passion for what they do. They have a lot of passion for what they do. They have a lot of passion for what they do.

The Bears hoist the championship trophy.

Seigles provide major commitment for social sciences/law building

Seigle Hall to be dedicated in fall 2008

By BARBARA REA

A $10 million commitment has been made to Washington University by alumnus and philanthropist Harry Seigle and his wife, Susan, according to Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. It is the lead gift for the building currently under construction on the west end of the Danforth Campus that will serve academic functions for the three social science departments in Arts & Sciences and for the School of Law.

The Boston-based architectural firm Callanan McKinnell & Wood designed the Colleget Gothic facility. It will occupy 145,736 square feet and contain 14 classrooms, the most of any Danforth Campus building. When it opens for the fall 2008 semester, it will be known as

Harry and Susan Seigle visited campus last month and surveyed the progress of the building that will bear their names.

Center wins $10 million NCI grant

Medical News: Molecular Imaging Center wins $10 million NCI grant

Washington People: Denise Wollig's passion is battling obesity in children

Washington University in St. Louis

Nov. 29, 2007

record.wustl.edu
University exceeds United Way goal
$571,064 raised as of Nov. 19

BY JESSICA DAVIES

Thousands in the St. Louis community will benefit from Washington University’s generous donation to the United Way of Greater St. Louis campaign, surpassing its stated goal of $555,000.

“Our success as an institution in raising money for the needs of St. Louis speaks to the truly generous spirit of the Washington University community,” said Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. “I am grateful for all of those in our community who chose to make a contribution during this year’s United Way campaign.”

The University’s fiscal year kicked off in September and reached its targeted dollar amount in early November, just as the success of Greater St. Louis celebrated its record-breaking, $64.8 million drive.

“Every year, the University community steps up its efforts to support the United Way-funded agencies, and 2007 has been no exception,” said Anne Prentice, vice chancellor for human resources.

“The United Way and the University are grateful to faculty, staff and students who supported this effort,” Wrighton said.

Kumon mathematics fills gap in education system

BY TONY F. FITZGERALD

Proponents of school-aged children might consider giving their children an enduring gift with the Kumon method of mental mathematics program. Washington University’s senior computer science and engineering student, David Kimura, whose specialty is software programming, took action.

The results of practicing mathematics daily are noticeable to both students and parents. Children gain self-esteem and confidence; parents feel a sense of relief and pride in their children’s accomplishments.

Three popular supplemental programs are Singapore, Saxon and Kumon. Many home-school practitioners see the first two, and Kumon, which involves daily practice and some tutoring, is preferred by parents who feel schools might be letting their kids down.

David Kimura, Ph.D., senior computer science and engineering student, opened the first Kumon center in St. Louis in 1984 in large part because of his disappointment in the math education system. Mathematics is a major foundation of computer science, and Kimura, whose specialty is software programming, took action.

Begin in Kimura’s hometown of Morinouchi, Japan, in 1958 by the late Toru Kumon, a math teacher who invented the method to help his son, the break and in the time leading up to it. At right, first-year graduate student Christine Rudin helps herself to some pumpkin pie at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work Dinner held Nov. 18 in the Chaffee Hall Lounge. In the background is Edward F. Lawlor, Ph.D., dean and the Charles F. Knight Executive Education Center. The event was kicking off at the Sein, Olm officials said, more than 400 students, faculty and alumni.

Inclement weather information

SECURITY SPECIAL REPORT

Washington University in St. Louis

By Mark S. Wrighton

Inclement weather information

Separate announcements will be made regarding the Danforth Campus (which includes all campuses other than the Medical School Campus), the Medical School Campus and evening school classes. These announcements will only apply to Washington University students, faculty and staff.

The media outlets that would air such an announcement are KTVI-TV Channel 2, KMOV-TV Channel 4, KSDK-TV Channel 5, WSIE-AM 960, KSLZ-AM 107.7 and KCMO-AM 1120.

Weekly forecasts are provided by the National Weather Service in St. Louis. The weather forecast can be reached by dialing 314-935-4300. The phone number is available only during regular office hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. When inclement weather is expected, the phone number will be available 24 hours a day. A recorded message will be played at the telephone number, describing the weather conditions expected and the time the weather conditions will end.

Emergency numbers

Emergency numbers include the campus police, 314-935-4300; fire department, 314-935-4500; medical emergency, 314-935-4565; and medical emergency medical services, 314-935-4565.

Bus service

The University will provide shuttle service on campus and evening school. The University will evaluate the situation and take into consideration the safety of the University’s faculty, staff and students as well as the services that must be provided despite the inclement weather.

In the unlikely event that the University alters the normal work and/or class schedule, an announcement will be posted on the University’s home page (wu.edu) and a number of media outlets also will air an announcement.

No snow emergency

There is a sense that you can’t learn mathematics because the applications of mathematics, the philosophy in Kumon is that you have to learn mathematics before applying it.

The transition from the knowing stage is sped, Kimura said, calling it perhaps the most vital tenet of the method. The Kumon method stresses the syntax of mathematics, not the semantics, which is opposite the applications of mathematics. The philosophy in Kumon is that you have to learn mathematics before applying it.

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Kemp to lead $11 million grant

BY BETTE MILLER

J. Kemp, M.D., professor of genetics and a researcher with the Siteman Cancer Center. “If we affect MOF in tumor cells, they may become more sensitiveto radiation and be able to recover after radiation exposure.”

Pandita and his research group focused on ways to increase the radiation sensitivity of cancer cells to enhance the cure rate of radiation therapy. They became interested in MOF because it was previously found to be involved in genetic instability and defective DNA repair. Other studies have suggested that loss of the histone tag created by MOF is a hallmark of cancerous cells. In this study, however, an analysis of more than 300 tumor samples demonstrated that all tumor cells had either normal or increased amounts of MOF and the histone tag compared to normal samples. When the researchers caused MOF to be more abundant than usual in cells, the cells proliferated faster and showed tell-tale signs of cancerous transformation. When the same cells were injected into mice, tumors from cells that had an overabundance of MOF grew faster than other tumor cells.

The study also demonstrated that cells with less MOF were more sensitive to radiation exposure. Now the researchers are trying to identify inhibitors of MOF that block its ability to tag histones specifically in tumor cells. “Our research on MOF indicates that it is a component that is absolutely essential for cancer cell proliferation,” Pandita said. “It could be that the Achilles’ heel of cancerous growth.”

The research group plans further studies to clearly identify MOF functions and what other cellular components it interacts with. “Using this kind of information, we can more logically approach the issue of making cancerous cells more sensitive to radiation,” Pandita said.

“Our aim is to achieve a balanced therapeutic adjunct that can keep normal tissue healthy while weakening tumor cells,” the researcher added. “MOF is vital for the development of embryos. It is present in all cells, called stem cells, in mouse embryos. High amounts of MOF and without MOF they stop growing; like cancer cells, stem cells divide rapidly. Evidence is accumulating that suggests if these stem cells could be considered aberrant stem cells,” Pandita said. “MOF is a factor that is common to both embryonic stem cells and cancer cells and ensures their ability to proliferate rapidly.”

Molecular Imaging Center gets $10 million renewal grant

BY DAVID PIWNICA-WORMS

The Washington University Molecular Imaging Center has received a five-year, $10 million grant from the National Cancer Institute.

The grant will fund a second cycle of research at the innovative center, where scientists from different specialties collaborate on advanced imaging projects. A center at the center will include an effort to help researchers track the spread of gene therapy for cancer and projects to closely monitor the contributions of key genes to the start of tumors.

"We're looking for potential correlations with an eye to one day determine by positron emission tomography that graft-versus-host disease is starting even before clinical symptoms become apparent." DAVID PIWNICA-WORMS

As a failure against this serious complication, DiPersio has developed a "suicide gene" that can cause the transplanted cells to self-destruct. Scientists create the gene for giving patients a drug.

Using radiolabeled trocars developed at the Molecular Imaging Center, scientists can now track where cells from the bone marrow transplant go in the body through whole body imaging with positron emission tomography (PET). Scientists know from mouse models that there are different patterns of cell trafficking were to predict GVH, Pwnica-Worms said. "Otherwise, we won't be correctly made patients treatment decisions based on these kinds of pattern. But we'll be looking for potential correlations with an eye to one day determine by PET that GVH is starting even before clinical symptoms become apparent."

In another project, researchers led by Lee Rater, M.D., Ph.D., professor of molecular microbiology and of medicine, will use a genetically engineered mouse line to study the roots of tumor formation. The mice have a mutated copy of a gene called Tn that is linked to the formation of cancers. In a research project during the Molecular Imaging Center’s first five years, scientists added the genetic coding for a luminous protein from fireflies to the mutated Tn gene. Now when the mice develop tumors linked to Tn, the tumors will glow, giving researchers the chance to study tumor development at its earliest stages.

Scientists led by Helen Pwnica-Worms, Ph.D., professor of cell biology and physiology of medicine, will probe progression through the various stages of their life cycle. Helen Pwnica-Worms and her colleagues are using molecular imaging to better understand how delays in the processes of replication are created, allowing cells to inspect their own DNA for damage that could lead to cancer.

Raphael Kopan, Ph.D., professor of molecular biology and pharmacology of medicine, leads a fourth project that will examine how a particular molecule contributes to cancer. This project focuses on a molecule that acts as a kind of screening core that allows rapid testing of compounds for desirable interactions with a target molecule. Kopan’s group wants to use this method to screen for compounds that prevent Netch of signals between cancer cells and their regulators.

In addition to research activities at the center’s new grant includes funding for support of postdoctoral and graduate students.
Dance Theatre concert features 50 student dancers

Paula Weber (center) associate professor of ballet at the University of Minnesota-Kansas City's Conservatory of Music, works with students during a master class at the Mallinckrodt dance studio. This striking piece consists of 10 performers manipulating a large grid of color-ful colorful bands, which are attached to their hands and feet. The resulting patterns and forms require extreme precision yet create an ever-changing cat’s cradle of line, space and kinetic energy.

"With those elastic bands, anything happens — you really need to be able to think on the spot."

Earlier this month, "Tensile Involvement" was performed by Dialah Declan. Hite-Woodbury Dance Company as part of "Niko- lain Dance Theatre," an evening long concert of Nikolai’s choreography presented by Edition Theatre.

"We thought it would be very interesting to have student work performed by a professional company for a few weeks before seeing it themselves," Slaughter said. "And of course, having such an important historical work on the concert prompted all of the choreographers to start thinking about our own artistic processes."

In addition to "Tensile-Involvement," the concert will feature new works by guest artist Diadhi Baalé, executive and artistic di- rector of the Afrika Lulu dance company, and Paula Weber, associate professor of ballet at the University of Minnesota-Kansas City’s Conservatory of Music, who composed in a "minimalist" form.

"The Seasons," Christine Knoblauch ‘06, associate professor in dance and director of the Ballet Program, created this ambitious work for 22 dancers, which "pictures the four seasons in a somewhat different light — at times magical, but other times play- ful and poetic."

"Choir" choreo- graphes this piece for 18 dancers. "This work is about constructing and deconstructing boundaries such as racial, gender specific and territorial exchange of energy," he said. "It’s based on dif- ferent cultural ethos, different thought, patterns of behavior, pat- terns of reaction — and what happens when they intersect."

Tickets are $15 for the public and $10 for Washington University students, faculty and staff and are available through the Box Office and all MetroTix outlets. For more information, call 935-6543.

Meso-American Art • Ethics and Epidemics • Modernity in China


4 p.m. Immunology Seminar. "New sightings." Mary Jean Cowell, associate professor of dance and director of the Dance Program in Arts & Sci- ences, choreographs this work in collaboration with students. "The theme of this dance is shift- ing perspectives on social issues and otheres through time and relationship with different people and situations," Cowell said. "And all that jazz?" David W. Marchant, senior lecturer in dance, choreographs this work for 12 dancers, which he describes as "an homage to collage of late 20th cen- tury jazz dance vocabulary, composed in a "minimalist" form."

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Tickets are $15 for the public and $10 for Washington University students, faculty and staff and are available through the Box Office and all MetroTix outlets. For more information, call 935-6543.
Women's basketball coach Nancy Fahey gives junior guard Halsey Noonan (10) the game ball as the University won its 500th career game. The No. 1 women's basketball team completed its 10-0 week that was highlighted by head coach Nancy Fahey picking up the 500th win of her career Nov. 24.

Fahey's historic victory came in the Bears' 78-75 overtime win against Kenyon College on the first day of the Seventh Annual McWilliams Classic, held in the WUSTL Field House. Fahey is just the ninth coach in Division III history to record 500 wins, and her career-winning percentage of 0.915 ranks fourth in the history of NCAA women's basketball at all three divisions. The Bears are 6-1 overall this season.

Men's basketball 3-2 on the season

The men's basketball team split a pair of games at the Washington U/Webster Tournament, losing to Augustana College, 66-60, Nov. 24, before beating Wash U, 87-76.

WUSTL alumna Finneran to read from 'Tender Land'

"The 'Tender Land" reminds us of how complicated, unique and fragile an organism the family is," notes the Boston Globe, while the St. Louis Post-Dispatch praises the book as "beautifully written...like life itself; this memoir evokes both sadness and joy."

Finneran, a writer-in-residence at the University, will read from her work at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29, in Duncker Hall, Room 201, Hurst Lounge.

"Seeking St Louis: Voices From a River City" and "The 'M' Word: Writers Writing on Same-Sex Marriage" are the two most recent books from Finneran's "The Tender Land: A Family Love Story," "The 'M' Word: Writers Writing on Same-Sex Marriage"

For more information, call 935-4332 or visit duchuman@wustl.edu.
Free vehicle inspections offered to WUSTL community

The Washington University Police Department (WUPD) and the WUSTL Student Government (SG) are sponsoring a free vehicle inspection service to students, faculty and staff who have a valid WUSTL ID card. Persons attending the inspection will be provided with a copy of the vehicle's inspection certificate and guidance on how to register for the WUSTL Bear Patrol. The inspection will be conducted from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Center in cases of emergencies.

Register to Vote DC at December Campus, Y

Jessica Martin

The WU Votes Committee, led by John Duggan, Dean of the School of Social Work, has conducted a voter registration drive for the 2008 presidential election. The drive was coordinated with the Campus Y, the College Republicans, and the College Democrats. Students are encouraged to register to vote on Monday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Student Center.

Seigle's Family's dedication to WUSTL widespread — from Page 1

Most important, Susan and Harry Seigle exemplify the spirit of Washington University, said John Duggan, Dean of the School of Social Work, in a statement on Dec. 1. The Seigles have had a lifelong commitment to their alma mater. Their philanthropy and dedication took many forms, Duggan said.

This building will allow, for the first time, the general public to have state-of-the-art facilities located near their collaborators in law and business.

The interdisciplinarity space is both an important and crucial component of our need, said Susan Seigle, a former lawyer and professor of business law at the University of Chicago. She has a long history of involvement in both the law school and the business school in St. Louis. The Seigles have had a lifetime commitment to WUSTL, and their dedication to the institution is recognized in the new building.

Debate

The 'golden standard' at debate sites — from Page 1

Debate sites

2000 and 2004, which include the Field House, Francis Gymnasium and other areas of Academic Administration. The Gym and Francis Field were the scenes of the first presidential debates and in the 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008 presidential debates.

The CPD, a nonpartisan, non-profit organization established in 1987, is responsible for selecting the venues and producing the presidential debates.

The Field House was the site of the first nationally televised three-candidate presidential debate in 1992, featuring President George Bush, Ross Perot and Democratic Candidate Bill Clinton. The CPD had just seven days to transform the Floor House from a gym into a red-carpeted debate hall.

The University hosted a "town hall" debate between Texas Gov. George W. Bush and Mark Dayton, the Minnesota state commissioner of health, on Oct. 7. The debate was held in the Field House, which was transformed into a debate hall.

Cells

Protein modulates pancreatic function — from Page 1

The researchers assert that the enzyme secreted by fat cells, called Nampt, could be used to raise insulin secretion from pancreatic cells and thus improve the way the body handles sugar. Imai and his group are collaborating with clinical researchers at WUSTL to find out how much NAMPT is let out of pancreatic cells and obese patients. They believe that NAMPT could be used in patients with type 2 diabetes to test NAMPT as a therapeutic agent in patients with type 2 diabetes.

Namt is a widely expressed enzyme and catalyst in an important metabolic process that most cells use to produce energy from the food they eat. By studying the role of NAMPT in the pancreas, the researchers hope to find a new treatment for type 2 diabetes.

"Our work marks a conceptual breakthrough.

NAMPT is a widely expressed enzyme and catalyst in an important metabolic process that most cells use to produce energy from the food they eat. By studying the role of NAMPT in the pancreas, the researchers hope to find a new treatment for type 2 diabetes.
National ranking for architecture graduate school

By Shula Neuman

From home-delivered soup to issue calls, the first in the Midwest. This year's finalists were selected from a field of 12 teams. Ultimately, two teams will win up to $70,000 in seed investment capital and a student-owned-and-operated team will win a $5,000 cash prize. Two new Olin Cup sponsors, RubensteinLaw and Slavens Powers, will provide additional awards of in-kind services, bringing the total award value to nearly $100,000. This year's finalists (indicated student-owned or student-supported venture): • Human Equity?, an online equity marketplace that connects supply- dents and their education; • iEDUCators, a Web site that draws on users' opinions to generate relevant and accurate product recommendations and meaningful discussions; • Magnetic Connection Technologies®, which develops a technology to change the way consumers plug in cords and screws in built environments; • Medi-bite*, a disposable physical therapy device aimed at retraining and rehabilitation. Students with Learning and Attention Disorders** • IsThatOneGood*, a Web site that provides HIPAA- compliant, boutique, patient-focused health care; • Soup Says It All, which packages soup in a mug with a cloth napkin and menu. 

Wu cited for Very best and Depression for research titled "Reactive Cognitive Control and Depression in children, adolescents and adults. Wu has taught advanced courses in the summer immersion program of Indiana Uni- versity for Level IV language instruction at the American Language Institute at the Middlebury College.

It has published a set of textbooks for beginners and intermediate students and is working on a book about Chinese grammar and advanced levels as well as calligraphy, for about 25 years. Wu has taught advanced courses in the summer immersion program of Indiana Uni- versity for Level IV language instruction at the American Language Institute at the Middlebury College.

Wu cited for ‘very best’ Chinese language

By Gerry Ewing

Fragata Wu, a senior lecturer in Chinese in Arts & Sciences, offers one of the nation’s very best bachelor’s degree programs in Chinese, according to a recent College Board Advanced Placement World Languages Best Practice Study Course.

Conducted by the Eugene, Ore.-based Ed- ucational Policy Improvement Program (EPIC), the College Board study identified Wu’s third-level “Modern Chinese II” course as one of the nation’s top 10 “best practice” courses in China. Wu’s course and others selected on the basis of exemplary teaching practices will be used as models for the redesign of the College Board’s equivalent college-level Advanced Placement Program in Chinese.

We have a master’s degree from Indiana Uni- versity Bloomington in Chinese and taught there be- fore joining the Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures in China.

Wu has been teaching Chinese, including elementary, intermediate and advanced levels as well as calligraphy, for about 25 years. Wu has taught advanced courses in the summer immersion program of Indiana Uni- versity for Level IV language instruction at the American Language Institute at the Middlebury College.

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Looking to trim down obesity

Denise Wilfley tackles one of the country's biggest health problems

Medicine, enjoys the challenge of finding effective treatments for significant public health problems such as obesity and eating disorders. "I have aimed throughout my career to study the causes, characteristics and treatment of obesity and eating disorders," Wilfley, professor of psychiatry, medicine and medilliers at the School of Medicine and professor of psychology in Arts & Sciences, says. And since an important risk factor for the development of eating disorders is being overweight in childhood, she believes it's important to study the whole range of problems with eating — from anorexia nervosa to obesity — across all ages — from childhood throughout life.

Wilfley is a principal investigator on several large, National Institutes of Health-funded research projects. The research program provides training for undergraduate and graduate students, fellows and junior faculty members. The projects also provide much-needed treatment and prevention services to the people who take part in the studies. Not only, Wilfley was recognized for her laboratory's productivity with a Midcareer Investigator Award in Patient-Oriented Research from the National Institute of Mental Health. Her laboratoryspan the spectrum of eating and weight disturbances, from helping overweight children maintain weight loss to studying psychological treatments for those who struggle with binge eating disorder to studies of family therapy and antidepressant medication in the treatment of anorexia nervosa. Much of her research focuses on developing novel treatment and prevention approaches. For example, her team is working with an Internet-based intervention called Student Bodies that helps college-aged women with weight and shape concerns develop better emotional regulation and an improved body image. The idea is that an improved body image and better mood regulation will influence the development of eating disorders and related problems, such as binge eating and substance abuse. "Denise brings tremendous experience and innovation to her studies of eating disorders and childhood obesity. Her work is in the leading edge of the field in terms of understanding eating disorders and treatment," says Charles E. Zimbrok, M.D., the Samuel B. Gaze Professor and head of the Department of Psychiatry and professor of anatomy and neurobiology. "Obesity represents a major contributor to health-care costs in our country and, along with depression, nicotine dependence and alcohol abuse, is one of the primary areas where behavioral and psychiatric interventions can have a large impact on public health.

Returning home

A native of St. Louis, Wilfley returned to the area in 2001 from San Diego where she was director of the Center for Eating and Weight Disorders. After spending her early years in St. Louis, Wilfey's family moved to Fulton in central Missouri. After earning her degrees, she spent her career on both the East and West Coasts, at Stanford University, Yale University and the University of California, San Diego/San Diego State University Joint Doctoral Program. She decided to return to the Midwest at the suggestion of her husband, Robinson Welch, Ph.D., also a psychologist, associate professor of psychiatry and fellow

obesity and eating disorders researcher.

"We started seriously considering it when our son, Wil, was about a year and a half old," Wilfey recalls. "We wanted him to be closer to my family. I really loved the ocean, but my husband reminded me that the beach would be there forever, but my parents wouldn't.

That statement took on deeper significance when Wilfey's father, Donald, passed away several months ago. But Wilfey's mother, Arlene, is doing well, still living near Fulton, along with all four of Wilfey's siblings, who settled within 10 minutes of Arlene.

"My little boy has a lot of cousins to play with," she says. At 7 years old, he also has two new sisters to play with, Ella and Emma, both seven months old. It's a good time for Wil because area is his favorite number, and for a few weeks, everybody has been calling him for the number.

That number also would seem to be just about the number of minutes of rest that Wilfley and George get as they raise their family and pursue their research. But she does find time to run, enjoy the outdoors, and make the kids hiking at Castlewood State Park and the river area of Grafton where they often go for family bike rides.

"We've even had the twins out in a bike trailer, and they seem to like it," she says. They also spend time at places like The Moty, the Saint Louis Zoo and at youth soccer games. And they haven't had to give up the ocean completely. With in-laws in San Diego, body surfing and boogie boards are never too far away.

Denise E. Wilfley

Born: June 29, 1960, St. Louis, Mo. Education: Bachelor of science with honors, psychology, 1982, Central Missouri State University; master's degree, counseling psychology, 1984, and doctorate in counseling psychology with an emphasis in health psychology, 1989, University of Missouri-Columbia. Postdoctoral training: Fellowship, 1990, Stanford University. Family: Son Wil Welch, 7; daughters Emma and Ella Welch, 7 months; husband Robinson Welch, Ph.D.; mother Arlene Wilfey.