Bears basketball back to the Final Four

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Senior Troy Ruths earned sectional MVP honors after scoring a game-high 23 points on 9-of-15 shooting from the field. Junior Tyler Nadig also was named to the all-sectional team, averaging 13 points, 7.5 rebounds and five steals per game.

The Bears advance to the Final Four for the second time in school history and will face No. 1 Hope College in the regional semifinal at the Salem Civic Center in Salem, Va., at 6 p.m. Friday, March 21.

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New sports management class at Olin includes all-star lineup of guest speakers

BY SHILLA NEUMAN

F rom allegations of steroid use by Olympic athletes, the business of professional sports is facing a unique challenge rarely covered in a standard MBA course. The Olin Business School is an exception. This spring, the school is introducing a sports management course that will feature an "all-star" lineup of guest speakers.

The class will be co-taught by Todd Ponturo, Ph.D., professor of finance, and by someone who knows the business inside and out, with Abraham, former CEO of Time Warner Sports and an Olin Business School alumnus.

"This will be a wonderful introduction class for students to get a panoramic view of the business of sports around the world," Abraham said. "What we've proposed has now transformed into a look at the global business, rights, team and league management, corporate sponsorship, marketing, media coverage and the impact of multinational corporations that will all be covered in depth. Students will get a new perspective on how the sports economy works."

In addition to the class, 704 business school students have elected to take the course, showing the business of sports from some of the most knowledgeable people in the industry.

The first guest speaker March 14 is Neal H. Pilson, a senior for industry executive officer and former president of CBS Sports. Pilson, whose sports television company resulting company in all areas of sports television, marketing, media and marketing, is one of the most influential executives in sports television negotiations.

The second guest speaker on March 18 and meets on Tuesday evenings. March 25 is Neal H. Pilson, a senior for industry executive officer and former president of CBS Sports. Pilson, whose sports television company resulting company in all areas of sports television, marketing, media and marketing, is one of the most influential executives in sports television negotiations.

"What was once a pastime has now transformed into a global economy," Ponturo said. "In my class, I will explain in detail how the business of sports of the 21st century is an extension of the business of sports in the 20th century, and he said that applications for fall 2008's freshman class have exceeded 22,000 for the third consecutive year.

The University is expecting one of the strongest classes in history when students enroll in August.

Ponturo concluded his remarks by saying that both the men's and women's basketball teams will again make appearances in NCAA Division III tournaments and that the women's swimming and diving team has qualified eight competitors for the NCAA championships.

In a spring meeting, the trustees heard presentations from leading members of the medical school faculty including: Wayne M. Yokoyama, M.D., the Jam and Levin and Audrey Loew Professor of Research in Anesthesiology and director of the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP): David R. Provost-Worms, M.D., Ph.D., professor of radiology and director of the Molecular Imaging Center; Virginia Fraser, M.D., the J. William Campbell Professor of Medicine and co-director for the infectious diseases division; Timothy J. Ley, M.D., the Alan A. and Edith L. Wolff Professor of Medicine, professor of genetics and director of the Stem Cell Biology Section in the Division of Oncology and John M. Lasala, M.D., Ph.D., professor of medicine and medical director of the Cardiac Catheter Laboratory and director of Interventional Cardiology. The presentations dealt with current challenges facing the university, including issues of regulatory oversight, clinical medicine, and research. The trustees received reports from the following standing committees: development, educational policy, University, financial management, finance, alumni, and Alumni Board of Governors.

Trustees hear Plan for Excellence in Arts & Sciences

At its spring meeting March 14, the University's Board of Trustees heard reports on the strategic plan presented by Arts & Sciences, presented by chairperson Earle H. Barbour Jr., chairman of the Harbison Corp. and retired president of the Mannos Group Co. The presentation is part of an overall Plan for Excellence, according to Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton.

The presentation focused on the continuing development and strengthening of the University.
Gene chips to discern ventilator-associated pneumonia from other illness

BY CAROLINE ARABAS

Using gene chip technology, School of Medicine scientists demonstrate for the first time that they can distinguish pneumonia associated with ventilator use from other serious illnesses. The research, published Feb. 13 in the journal Public Library of Science, was established in 2000 to recognize the medical school’s outstanding teaching, research, and educational innovations. The committee forwards its recommendations to Larry J. Shapiro, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, for final approval. A selection committee, made up of faculty and a student representative from each of the school’s 12 schools, reviewed all submitted nominations and selects three award winners based on excellence in contributions to teaching and educational innovations. The committee forwards its recommendations to Larry J. Shapiro, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine.

Genes could determine which patients are destined to develop pneumonia based on early changes in the activity of genes that regulate immune response, “we could give them antibiotics sooner, with the hope that we might be able to prevent or curtail the infection.”

As one of the more common and deadly hospital-acquired infections, ventilator-associated pneumonia has recently become a target for both quality-improvement and patient-safety efforts. Up to 90 percent of patients on a ventilator develop pneumonia, statistics show, increasing length of stay, the risk of death and the amount of each patient’s hospital bill.

Scientists have tried unsuccessfully for years to identify a single marker or a suite of markers that could diagnose infection in intensive care units. While both fever and an elevated white blood cell count often indicate an infection in ventilator-dependent individuals, the same symptoms are widespread in ICU patients, where they are linked to a range of underlying conditions, including trauma, shock, organ failure and surgical complications. Diagnosis of infection is even more complicated in patients on a ventilator because they are sedated, and the breathing tube prevents them from talking. The study took Cobb and his colleagues from the laboratory to the ICU to determine whether changes in the activity of 85 genes as patients on mechanical ventilation developed pneumonia — and predicting patients’ responses to treatment and their outcome.

The researchers then moved to the ICU to determine whether the activity of the equivalent human genes could differentiate between pneumonia and infections in patients breathing with the assistance of ventilators. They narrowed their focus to 11 of 20 patients who developed pneumonia more than two days after having a breathing tube inserted. These patients had blood samples drawn at 48-hour intervals to determine whether changes in gene expression could monitor patients’ response to treatment and their outcome.

The researchers found alterations in the activity of 85 genes some 24-72 hours before diagnosis of pneumonia by the physician attending in the ICU. “This suggests that we could start antibiotics before the patient actually gets sick, and this change in their early signs, and we think this change could significantly improve their ability to diagnose pneumonia,” Cobb said.

The scientists confirmed the ability of their genomic analysis to diagnose infection and monitor recovery in a small group of seven patients on mechanical ventilators.
**University Events**

**PAD to present Young Choreographers Showcase March 28-30**

**Dance concert to feature seven original works**

By Lita Ottens

The Performing Arts Department (PAD) in Arts & Sciences is pleased to present the Young Choreographers Showcase March 28-30 in the Malinckrodt Student Center. The concert will feature more than a dozen dancers in seven original works by student choreographers performed by PAD's Dance Ensemble. Performances begin at 7 p.m. March 28 and 29 and at 2 p.m. March 30.

"We have a really interesting mix of dances this year," says David W. Marchant, senior lecturer in dance, who serves as co-artistic director for the show, along with senior Noelie Bohly.

"There's a nice range of styles and groupings and relationships — from modern works to ballet, from abstract dance to narrative stories, in works that include a large group pieces and all configurations in between," he said.

All works are chosen by audition — a three-part process that begins with an initial audition followed by a selection round and then a final performance critique.

The selection jury is comprised of PAD's four full-time dance faculty — Marchant; Mary Jean Covert, associate professor of dance; Koobsha O’Neal, senior lecturer in dance; and Cecelia Slaughter, senior lecturer in dance — as well as Helen M. Haddad, the PAD’s music director for dance.

"We can now justify just as an obligation committee," Marchant said. "The artistic product, from choreography and performance to lighting and costumes, is realized by the students, and none of that could happen if they weren't willing to dedicate a lot more hours and effort toward the shows."

"The success of each choreographer depends largely on theirs, which is a remarkable testamento for this department," said Bohly.

"Bohly, in addition to serving on the selection jury, choreographs and performs in the "Gathering," a large ensemble piece for eight dancers. Adapted from a site-specific work put to "This Well," the piece was originally presented last fall as part of a senior thesis project.

"Seasoned choreographer William chronographs and performs in "Tentatively Behind Closed Doors," a modern work in which two dancers "explore their relationship to each other as well as their experience of the past, present and future," Engel said.

Anne Lasse Madsen, a senior architecture major in Saint Louis School of Design & Visual Arts, choreographs and performs in "Drawing: Series: Line. "In the Mix," a duet choreographed by student senior Heather Wigmore and junior Jackie Dodd — that explains "the relationship we can and cannot build during a crisis," Hurt said.

Tickets — $12 for the public and $9 for seniors, students and other non-entertaining patrons — are available through the Edison Theatre Box Office at 933-6543.

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**Students perform senior Sheila Goodman's 'Holding,' one of the 1400 events featured at the Missouri Historical Society in Saint Louis.**

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**Clouds over Conkry • From Mouse to Man • Fashion Design Show**

**University Events**

On Thursday, March 29, all students and faculty are invited to explore the performing arts on a different level, as the Department of Music and the School of Medicine host a special screening of the film "Mama Put" followed by a panel discussion, "The U.S. and the Eye of Cinematic Anthropology," moderated by professor of anthropology Richard van Emden. The event begins at 7 p.m. in the School of Medicine's Kiel Auditorium. All events are free and open to the public.

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**Exhibits**

"Audrey Deeds: Maudsley and Mother," through April 21, Kemper Art Museum, 935-2030.

"On the Margin," through April 21, Kemper Art Museum, 935-2030.

"Seder plate," through April 21, Kemper Art Museum, 935-2030.

"Care Level Exhibition," April 2, Quad foyer, Bixby Hall, 900-2657.

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**Film**

On Thursday, March 22, 7 p.m., Kim Film Festival, "Vina del Mar," directed by Bernardo Huberman, will be shown. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Film Department at 935-5100.

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**Exhibits**


"Mama Put," through April 22, Malinckrodt Student Center, 935-2030.

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**Film**

On Thursday, March 22, 7 p.m., Kim Film Festival, "Shine," directed by Keoni Kauai, will be shown. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Film Department at 935-5100.

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On Thursday, March 22, 7 p.m., Kim Film Festival, "The Fortune Teller," directed by Leonardo Perez, will be shown. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Film Department at 935-5100.

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Acclaimed choreographer Susan Marshall brings ‘Cloudless’ to Edison Theatre

By NEIL SCHNEIDER

The third African Film Festival will be held March 27-30. The series consists of four feature films and four short films from eight different African nations, touching on themes of love, gender, family and the effects of global corporations. The festival will include a new youth program March 26-27.

Saturday, March 22

Thursday, March 27
4 p.m. Jazz at Holmes. Jeanne Trevor and the Carolbeth True Trio. Ridgley Hall, Holmes Lounge, 935-5566.

Friday, March 28
10 a.m. Softball vs. Fontbonne U. Saint Louis Invitational. WUSTL Field. 935-4705.
2 p.m. Softball vs. Maryville U. Saint Louis Invitational. WUSTL Field. 935-4705.

Monday, March 31
4:20 p.m. Women’s Tennis vs. Maryville U. La Fontaine Sports Complex. 454-8701.

Wednesday, April 2
1:30 p.m. Baseball vs. Marybury College. Kelly Field, 454-7375.

Thursday, April 3
11 a.m. African American Women’s Week Food Tasting and Information Booth. Legionnaire Corcoran & student-dealer Commons. 605-6206.

Sports

March 20, 2008    5

by NEIL SCHNEIDER

The annual Thruette Road Race, which raises both money for charity and awareness of the Thruette Family, will be held at 5:30 a.m. March 30 on the Danforth Campus.

The race’s start at 5:30 a.m. is a great time for families to enjoy some fun and exercise together,” said junior James Cornwall, economics major in Arts & Sciences and vice president of the road race for Thruette Junior High School 2008. “We’re hoping that faculty and students and their families can participate and help raise money for our charity.”

Proceeds from the event, which includes a 5K road race and a one-kilometer fun run/walk, will benefit Thruette’s chosen charity this year, the South Side Day Nursery in St. Louis.

The registration fee — $20 for adults and $10 for students and children — can be paid on the day of the event, but preregistration is encouraged, and a prize will be awarded for the best one.

The Thruette Carnival, the oldest and largest student-run benefit carnival in the nation, will be held on the Danforth Campus April 24-26.

For more information on the race, visit thruette.org or call Carnival at (917) 974-6931.
Leonard-Fleckman wins pole vault title
The women's swimming and diving team crushed the records that those previous teams set, won the pole vault national championship with a WUSTL-record jump of 3.36 meters. Leonard-Fleckman is the third WUSTL student-athlete to win an individual national title and was named the NCAA Women's Field Athlete of the Meet.

Senior Danielle Wadlington also had a strong performance, finishing second in the triple jump with a distance of 11.6 meters, just 0.02 meters behind the most recent record holder. The distanceemed relay team of freshman Kelli Bicardi, Wadlington, Leonard-Fleckman and freshman Samergeta Hardy and freshman Taryn Sartore also achieved All-American honors with a fourth-place finish.

Women's swimming team sixth at NCAs
The women's swimming and diving team swam to the second-best NCAA finish in program history, placing with overall at the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving National Championships in Oxford, Ohio, March 13-15.

Welcome to our home! Nimah B. Pakrasi, Ph.D., director of the International Center for Advanced Renewable Energy and Sustainability (I-CARES) and the George William and Irene Koechig Freiberg Professor of Biology in Arts & Sciences, addresses the crowd at the I-CARES Open House Feb. 29 in Wilson Hall. Nearly 150 students, faculty and research affiliates from around the nation attended the event, which included remarks from Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton on the history of I-CARES. The program also included information on the mission of the center and plans for personnel and physical facilities. To view a slideshow of photos from the event, go to record.wustl.edu/news-info/page/norm/11297.html.

New tool to help WUSTL identify troubled students
BY NEIL SCHROMER

Student Health Services is making available an online Web-based tool, MentalHealthHi, to help faculty and staff members recognize students who are at risk to determine the best way to help them.

"Students often reach out to faculty and staff with issues that are concerning them," said Alan L. Gläis, M.D., director of Student Health Services.

"The faculty and staff are often the first to notice changes in students that may indicate more complex mental health issues. MentalHealthHi gives faculty and staff members the tools necessary for identifying students who may need professional intervention and identifies University resources for referral of these students," he said.

"Designed by mental health experts known for their work with college and university students, MentalHealthHi is a 30-minute online program that helps faculty and staff members recognize warning signs of students in distress and how to refer them to appropriate WUSTL resources. "We have received an increasing number of requests from faculty and staff interested in taking the program," said Gläis. "We have multiple resources available to assist students and improve their ability to help to increase utilization of these resources."

MentalHealthHi aims to reduce the impact of mental health issues and to promote early intervention. Participants learn to identify warning signs of stress commonly exhibited by students.

The program also provides specific guidance on how to bring out to students and presents real exercises that allow participants to experience the impact of taking, or not taking, certain steps.

Interested faculty members can obtain a course login at facultysite.wustl.edu. Staff and students can get a login at studentfiles.wustl.edu and facultysite.wustl.edu.

For more information about the program and its benefits, e-mail Gläis at aglais@wustl.edu.
Astronaut
Behnken's success reflects well on WUSTL.
-- From Page 1

The fun room drywall and ceiling is under way. The tile installation in the restrooms was completed March 6, and the millwork in the formal lounge is 60 percent complete. Weather has held up the completion of copper caps, door frame copper, sconces and downspouts. The project is on schedule to be completed by July 2008.

Village East
This building is enclosed and heated. Drywall work is scheduled to begin. The paint color in the stock room has been selected as well as the aggregate sidewalk sample. Mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems infrastructure is continuing. Masonry and roofing work has been delayed due to the outside air temperature and inclement weather. This project is scheduled for completion in August 2008.

Law professor named to U.S. patent advisory board


Kieff served on the committee in 1999 to advise the under secretary of commerce for intellectual property and director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the implementation of various policies, goals, performance targets, budget and user fees of the patent operation. Kieff also is a Research Fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution, where he runs the Hoover Project on Commercializing Innovation, and a faculty member of the Munich Intellectual Property Law Center in Germany.

Kieff regularly serves as a testifying and consulting expert, mediator and arbitrator to law firms, businesses, government agencies and courts. He has served for two years on the Federal Cir-

Notables

Lawrence "Larry" Poll, utility zone mechanic, 66

Lawrence "Larry" E. Poll, a utility zone mechanic in facilities, died Sunday, Feb. 17. He was 66.

Born in 1941 in St. Louis, Poll was a graduate of the Walsworth High School, worked at the Jefferson Barracks veterans' hospital in South St. Louis County before he was hired by the University as a mechanic in 1970.

Any WUSTL student, faculty or staff member who enjoyed cool air while inside a Danforth Campus building on a hot summer day last year has Poll to thank; most recently, he worked to maintain the University's chillers, which are large cooling units that supply air-conditioning for the campus.

What stood out about Poll to John Berkows, utility zone manager and Poll's supervisor, was his reliability. "He came in every day and did his job, and never caused any problems," said Perkins, who had worked with Poll for nearly 22 years. "He enjoyed what he did, and he took pride in his work."

Poll, who was recognized for 26 years of service to the University at Staff Day last year, consistently worked to make the University a safer and more friendly place — whether it is through helping to put out fires in the George McGill Labs and Wohl Center, assisting students with their move into residence halls, fixing faulty wiring or cleaning restrooms. Lounge wiring so a wedding reception could have music, or helping a student fish her keys out of a crack in a floor.

Poll is survived by his wife of 42 years, Mary Louise; two daughters, Mary Poll-Collins and Tina Stember; and three grandchildren, Christina, Andrew and Melanie Stember. A funeral service will be held Feb. 21.

Anyone who wants to share a story about Poll or give their condolences is asked to visit mem.com, search for "Poll" and sign the online guest book. A slideshow and video of his life is featured as well. They can also check the obituary posted online.

For the Record

Robert Alexander, 75

Robert Alexander, a WUSTL staff member, died Friday, March 7. He was 75.

Alexander had a great interest in history, politics and the environment. He was a charter member of the American Federation of Teachers and was a strong advocate for better pay for University workers.

A Graduate of the University of Missouri, Alexander was a member of the 1966-67 class of the Missouri Union Graduate Students Association, which ultimately led to the creation of the Graduate Student Organization. Alexander was a leader in the movement to achieve the first full-time equivalent of dissertation-student salaries, and he was instrumental in the formation of the first union contract for University workers.

Alexander was also a member of the Missouri Union Graduate Students' Association and a member of the Missouri Union Graduate Students' Association's executive board. He was a member of the Missouri Union Graduate Students' Association's executive board and a member of the Missouri Union Graduate Students' Association's executive committee.

Alexander is survived by his wife, Janet, a daughter, Susan Alexander, a son, Brian Alexander, and two grandchildren.

Obituaries

Martin, former athletic director, 75

Richard "Dick" Martin, former director of athletics and head football coach at WUSTL, passed away Saturday, March 8, at the University of Kansas Medical Center after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 75.

Martin arrived at the University in 1968, where he served as the school's head football coach and athletic director for four years. He led the WUSTL football team to an overall record of 13-24 in four seasons, and the Bears were co-champions of the College Athletic Conference in 1970.

After leaving WUSTL, Martin became the assistant commissioner of the Big Eight Conference in Kansas City, Mo. He moved to Morgantown, W.Va., in 1979 when he was named the athletic director at West Virginia University.

Martin also served as the commissioner of the Missouri Valley Conference from 1981-85 and as the executive director of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Athletic Foundation from 1985-92.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret Martin, two sons, a grandson, a step-granddaughter and a great-granddaughter.

Blue ribbon

Linghui Zeng, M.D., Ph.D. (right), a postdoctoral research associate in neurology, shows Michael Wong, M.D., Ph.D., professor of neurology and Zeng’s mentor, her winning poster titled “Rapamycin Prevents Epilepsy in a Mouse Model of Cerebral Plexus Complex” at the 2008 Postdoc Scientific Symposium poster session at the Eric P. Newman Education Center.

For the Record

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ager and Poll's supervisor, was his reliability. "He came in every day and did his job, and never caused any problems," said Perkins, who had worked with Poll for nearly 22 years. "He enjoyed what he did, and he took pride in his work."

Poll, who was recognized for a project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for research titled "Multiscale Infrastructure Characterization Studies: BioFuel Production Facilities." 

Hemrika McCoy, doctoral candidate in the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, has received a $3,500 grant from the Fabs- Rock Fund for Research and Experimentation for research titled "Exploring MAPSI-2 Differences: African American & Caucasian Male Juvenile Offenders."
Putting patients at ease

Dicke helps moms-to-be with his expertise and gentle demeanor

The same thing. Anything he said to me I could handle.

Dicke referred the Casiolas to the Fetal Care Center in Cincinnati, where the Casciola hoped in utero surgery could help their son. Instead, they received more bad news— he was not a candidate for fetal surgery.

On April 13, 2006, in Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Casciola delivered her son, whom they had named Benjamin. He was stillborn. Dicke visited Casio after her delivery.

The Casciola's second pregnancy, after Maria was born.

"I thought learning about the human body would be constantly

passion for science

Dicke, who grew up in a large family in the small town of Defiance, Ohio, was a stickler child who liked school. And his four siblings learned a strong work ethic from their parents, who started their own business that sold oil, tires and batteries to trucking companies. Later, his father owned several gas stations. Dicke's mother words that were remarkable that babies develop normally as often as they do.

Most of Dicke's clinical time is spent conducting gynecologic and obstetric ultrasounds. In gynecologic ultrasonography, he looks for tumors, fibroids and other problems. The obstetric ultrasonograms involve prenatal diagnosis and prenatal procedures such as amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling (CVS). After conducting prenatal diagnostic procedures, he spends a great deal of time talking to patients about the results, which can be challenging, he says.

"Women who become pregnant anticipate that their will be a normal, healthy, happy outcome," he says. "But if I feel privileged, if there's a problem, to provide them with accurate information, to discuss their options and to help them arrive at some sort of decision regarding the pregnancy."

Dicke says patients are initially devastated, but he has learned that giving them enough information helps make the situation more tolerable.

"In addition to knowing about fetal physiology, we're dealing with a patient who has a problem, and how best to diagnose and manage the problem," he says.

Dicke conducts dramatically fewer amniocenteses and CVS than when he started in the field. Many moms now choose the first trimester screen or the quad screen, blood tests and ultrasound evaluations early in the pregnancy that identify the risk of Down syndrome and other chromosomal abnormalities. Through these tests, many mothers find out that their risks of having a child with chromosomal abnormalities are lower than they expected.

"More women have begun to rely on these minimally invasive screening procedures as opposed to invasive testing," Dicke says. "Most people are looking for a reason not to do a procedure.

The next generation

Dicke also is known as a natural educator of students, residents and fellows. "He's very patient with trainees and is an excellent role model for everyone," says D. Michael Nelson, M.D., Ph.D., the Virginia S. Lang Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, who recruited Dicke to the School of Medicine in 1987.

Dicke says working with the people who will become the next generation of obstetricians and gynecologists is an important and rewarding part of his job.

"I get great satisfaction in training others to give excellent care," he says. "One reason is that when someone calls me with a problem to refer, I can tell within a minute whether they've been trained well or not.

With colleagues in the maternal-fetal division, he is studying the expected outcomes of fetal kidney and renal disorders and how best to diagnose and monitor growth-restricted fetuses.

In addition to his demanding work schedule, Dicke is committed to an intense fitness regimen, getting up at 4:30 a.m. each morning to ride his bike and run.

He and his wife, Jan, are the parents of a 26-year-old daughter, Erin, who manages residential downtown properties for Rodemeyer-Chresten Inc. in St. Louis.

He is also a big fan of The New Yorker magazine, which his parents have renewed for him every year since he was in college. And he is known among his colleagues for his dry sense of humor and his knowledge about diverse topics, ranging from fountain pens.

George A. Macen, M.D., head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, says Dicke has an record of excellence and is an integral part of the department.

"He is an accomplished clinician, wonderful educator, and his units provide world-class service in prenatal diagnosis," he says. "We are fortunate to have him as director of our ultrasound division.

Jeffrey Dicke, M.D., performs an ultrasound on Diane Halst of Champaign, Ill. "Jeff Dicke's calm and professional demeanor puts patients at ease, especially during times of uncertainty," says Gill A. Gross, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology. "And when I receive a report from Dr. Dicke, I am completely confident that my patient received the highest level of care even in the most difficult of clinical situations."

Jeffrey Dicke

What he likes about St. Louis: "People seem to be very attached to this area—most residents would never consider living anywhere else," Dicke says. "I also love all the multi-generational families.

Last trip: Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Dicke and his wife, Jan, take this trip every year with D. Michael Nelson, M.D., Ph.D., the Virginia S. Lang Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and his wife, Peggi.

Last movie seen: "In the Valley of Elah."

Dicke helps moms-to-be with his expertise and gentle demeanor.