First U.S. incision-free procedure for obesity performed here

Orientation helps new students make a smooth transition

Student Orientation and Parent & Family Weekend. "Students will have the opportunity to interact with faculty, tour the campus, socialize with fellow students and discover a lot of ways to get involved in campus life!" Once again, a highlight of orientation will be the Freshman Reading Program, convocation, dorm meetings among welcoming activities

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Freshman Reading Program, convocation, dorm meetings among welcoming activities

BY NEIL SCHOENHERR
Members of the Class of 2012 will soon be arriving on campus and will be welcomed with a variety of activities during Fall Orientation Aug. 21-26. "We're really excited about our programming this year," said Danielle Brown, director of New Student Orientation and Parent & Family Weekend. "Students will have the opportunity to interact with faculty, tour the campus, socialize with fellow students and discover a lot of ways to get involved in campus life!" Once again, a highlight of orientation will be the Freshman Reading Program. The annual program is designed to reach freshmen before they arrive on campus to help them focus on skills they will continue to cultivate throughout the year and their entire college career. It also encourages interaction with members of the WUSTL faculty in informal discussions outside the classroom setting. This summer, incoming students read "Field Notes From a Catastrophe: Man, Nature and Climate Change" by Elizabeth Kolbert. The book was chosen by the Freshman Reading Program Steering Committee.

Welcome! More than 300 people, including student services staff members and their families, toured the Danforth University Center July 31 as part of a "sneak peak" of the new building before its Aug. 11 public opening. Staff members were able to see the "fun room" (above), a second-floor area that includes garage doors that can be raised or lowered, movable furniture, chalkboard walls and visitor giveaways. For more information, go to duc.wustl.edu.

Seminar to address ways to lessen earthquake damage

BY TONY FITZPATRICK
The earthquake that hit the lower Midwest on April 18 this year was a hearty 5.2 on the Richter scale and got the attention of the St. Louis region. What if a quake—occurring either in the New Madrid Fault or Wahbas Valley Fault—larger than the April quake would hit the region? How would we respond? To address these concerns, the Department of Mechanical, Aerospace and Structural Engineering is presenting a series of seminars and workshops on the topic of reducing the damage that would occur when a major earthquake strikes the area again. The program will cover the subjects of hazards, codes, vulnerability and strengthening of infrastructure. Speakers are practicing engineers, professors and officials with experience in seismic hazard mitigation, especially in Missouri and the surrounding vulnerable region.

The second seminar and workshop in the series, "Damage Reduction through Preparedness," will be offered from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19, in Room 100 Whiskey Hall. The seminar will be presented to an invited audience of public officials at the local and regional level.

"The earthquake threat to Missouri and much of mid-America is severe, both in terms of loss of life and economic damage," said Phillip L. Gould, Ph.D., the Harold D. Jolley Professor of Civil Engineering and one of the seminar organizers. "Our intent is to raise awareness about earthquake hazards and preparedness. The sharing of disaster plans by public and utility sectors will enhance awareness and preparedness."

See Seminar, Page 6

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See Seminar, Page 6
Cost of caring for a child with special needs varies from state to state

By Jessica Martin

heptherapies, rehabilitation and specially medical care are just a few of the extra costs that parents face when raising children with special needs. In a new study published in the current issue of Pediatrics, Paul Sutera, P.H.D., professor of social work, found that families with similar demographics and the size of their children's special needs had different out-of-pocket health expenditures, depending on the state in which they live.

"This is an area that focuses on families' costs when caring for children with special needs, rather than the overall cost for society as a whole," Shattuck said.

The study examines the existence of two different groups of states that have a smaller or larger proportion of families with any financial burden, and a lower or higher extra cost for a child with special needs.

At the low end, families in Massachusetts paid an average of $560 for out-of-pocket medical expenses," Shattuck said. "At the high end, families in Georgia shouldered an average of $970 in additional care expenditures.

"This study shows that programs like Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) may not be going far enough to help families with children with special needs. We need to have appropriate support to poorer states where families, on average, have less income but are experiencing greater financial burden compared with families of similar means in wealthier states," he said.

The researchers used data from a national telephone survey of households with children who have special health care needs, including a representative sample from families and the District of Columbia. The National Institute of child Health and Human Development provided partial support for this study.

Shattuck's upcoming research includes studies on how financial special needs impacts family assets and earnings to determine what policy changes need to be made to help families pay for current care and save for future expenses.

To view a state-by-state comparison as well as a video of Shattuck discussing his findings, visit news-info.wustl.edu/news/page/normal/11870.html.

O'Sullivan named dean of joint engineering program

Joseph A. O'Sullivan, Ph.D., the Samuel C. Sox Professor of Electrical Engineering, has been appointed dean of the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL) Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program, coming to St. Louis from Lafayette S. Putnam, Ph.D., interim dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

O'Sullivan, whose appointment was effective July 1, is currently a professor at the University of Miami, where he was named Dean of the School of Computing and Engineering.

"We are confident that Professor O'Sullivan and I are pleased that Professor Putnam, Parahd, and assistant professor of social work at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, note that Missouri and states tend to have a smaller proportion of families with any financial burden and a lower extra cost for a child with special needs.

"The overall proportion of U.S. families with children with special needs that experience an added financial burden was 91.2 percent," Shattuck said. "This group faced average extra out-of-pocket health care expenses of $374 per year for expenses related to their children's special needs."

Shattuck and his co-author, Susan Shattuck, a professor of social work at Washington University in St. Louis, noted that Missouri and states tend to have a smaller proportion of families with any financial burden and a lower extra cost for a child with special needs.

"We see that the University of Missouri-St. Louis is a leader in engineering and applied science, and we are excited to be part of the joint program," O'Sullivan said.

"We are also grateful to Professor Trumpman for his dedication and leadership during his time as dean of the joint program," Sutera said.

O'Sullivan joined the UMSL School of Engineering and Applied Science in 2009 after earning bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Notre Dame.

Since then, O'Sullivan has held several leadership positions, including chair of the Faculty Senate Council, and as the faculty representative to the Board of Trustees. O'Sullivan also served as director of the Electronic Systems and Signal Research Laboratory (ESSRL) from 1998-2007, and he directed the Imaging Science and Engineering certificate program.

Created in 1993, the mission of the joint program is to provide a high-quality engineering education leading to a well-trained, cooperative workforce primarily for the St. Louis region. Students enter the program to pre-engineering and some engineering courses at UMSL and then take upper-level engineering courses at WUSTL.

The degree is awarded by the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Bachelor of science degree programs are offered in civil engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical and chemical engineering. These are NWCE upper level engineering students enrolled in the programs, with another NWCE pre-engineering students enrolled. To date, 336 have graduated from the joint program.

For more information about the joint engineering program, visit engineering.wustl.edu.

International and area studies office moves

By Neil Schoenherr

The International and Area Studies Program in Arts & Sciences moved its offices from the first floor of Stix International House Aug. 4.

The program promotes international education for students and faculty here and abroad. It includes Overseas Programs, the Global Scholar Program, the Asian Civilizations major and the freshman International Leadership Program as well as other international programs, national grants and fellowships.

Those moving to the west corridor of the second floor of McMillan include Priscilla Stone, Ph.D., director of overseas and undergraduate programs, and Dr. Cao Tien, professor of Chinese literature and linguistics. Dr. Cao Tien, professor of Chinese literature and linguistics. Dr. Cao Tien, professor of Chinese literature and linguistics.

New international and area studies office will be in Room 234.

The Overseas Programs office will move its offices and staff to the west first floor of the co-op.

The main office will be in Room 138.

The Office of International Students and Scholars is the group responsible for providing information and services to international students, researchers, faculty and scholars from other countries, who will remain in Stix House, taking over the first floor.

Physics student receives prestigious P.E.O. Scholar Award

By Susan Kilgenn McGinn

Bryan Gibson, a doctoral student in physics in Arts & Science, has been the recipient of a prestigious P.E.O. Scholar Award for the 2009-2010 academic year. He was one of 85 recipients selected from more than 640 applicants from universities in the United States and Canada.

The $15,000 merit-based award is given to women who are either pursuing a doctoral level degree or engaged in post-graduate study or research who show potential to make significant contributions to the fields of study.

Since earning a master's degree in physics from WUSTL in May 2005, Gibson has been working toward her doctorate in physics in the department's Laboratory for Ultracold under James G. Miller, Ph.D., the Albert Gordon Hill Professor of Physics, and Mark R. Holland, Ph.D., research associate professor of physics. The laboratory, under Miller's direction, studies the physics of ultracold in materials such as heart and bone. Gibson's research has focused on quantities cardiovascular tissue characteristics on fetal hearts and the hearts of two diabetes.

Through her physics doctoral research, she also has collaborated several School of Medicine physicians and spent four years at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration working with other distinguished scientists Gibson, who is a graduate research assistant and graduate teaching assistant in physics, plans to continue doing research after graduation.

A 2003 summa cum laude graduate of Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C., and Rhodes Scholar semifinalist, Gibson is the recipient of numerous other awards and scholarships, including the Department of Physics' 2008 Shull Prize for Outstanding Teaching Assistant, the 2003 Virgil I. Griswold Astronaut Fellowship and selection to the 2001 USA Today All-Academic Team.

Her numerous volunteer activities include working with Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels and abused women and children.

P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organizations), one of the pioneer societies for women, was founded in 1896 by seven women from Worms College in Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Now based in Des Moines, P.E.O. has grown to almost a quarter of a million members in chapters in the United States and Canada.

Its mission is to promote educational opportunities for women.

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School to lead international Alzheimer's disease research network

By Michael C. Purdy

The Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) at the School of Medicine will lead a six-year, $32 million research collaboration dedicated to unraveling the mysteries of Alzheimer's disease. The National Institute on Aging will fund the project.

Forms of Alzheimer's disease linked to certain genetic mutations are rare but have provided scientists with important insights into the more common "sporadic" form of Alzheimer's disease. The National Institute on Aging will fund the project.

Connections between sporadic and inherited forms of Alzheimer's are widely dispersed geographically, but these findings have been reported from as few as one case to conduct extensive research through the newly created Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer's Network (DIAN), investigators hope to enroll and follow a broad pool of qualified volunteers.

"For treatments now in development to be optimally beneficial for patients, we have to know when to target the potential biomarkers in individuals who have inherited a known mutation from an affected parent and are almost certain to develop the disease," said John C. Morris, M.D., the Harvey A. and Dorisaku Hefner Friedman Distinguished Professor of Neurosurgery and director of the ADRC. "That's likely to happen much more quickly as we report more families in the study. We hope this will help identify telltale changes in the clinical features of Alzheimer's disease as symptoms are becoming apparent.

Scientists are aware of inherited mutations in three genes that may cause Alzheimer's disease: amyloid precursor protein, presenilin 1 and presenilin 2. Changes in all three genes cause Alzheimer's disease early or late in life. DIAN is modeled after the ADRC's Adult-Children Study, which regularly conducts detailed examinations of families of Alzheimer's patients. This has made amyloid beta a primary target for researchers developing new drugs for Alzheimer's disease.

"Scientists already have several potential indicators, known as biomarkers, that may help us identify Alzheimer's disease. However, the only current way to confirm their validity is to wait years or decades and see whether volunteers who have abnormal biomarkers eventually get the disease. DIAN may help scientists understand this process dramatically by allowing them to look for the potential biomarkers in individuals who have inherited a known mutation from an affected parent and are almost certain to develop the disease.

"To get important changes in the brain that may be contributing to the beginning of Alzheimer's disease."
University Events

Cultural and political issues take center stage in PAD's 2008-09 season

BY LIAM OTTEN

Theater, like film and architecture, is a collaborative art, drawing on the work of actors, writers, directors, designers, dancers, choreographers, musicians and more. That sense of interdisciplinary cooperation is at the heart of the Performing Arts Department (PAD) in Arts & Sciences' 2008-09 season, which will explore connections between theater and contemporary cultural and political issues as well as between the PAD and other campus areas.

This is a year of political transition that, not unlike 1968, will see the campaign, election and inauguration of an American president in the midst of a controversial war, said Robert Henke, Ph.D., chair of PAD and associate professor of drama and of comparative literature, both in Arts & Sciences.

“Our productions will address elections, gender relationships, immigration, the intertwining of politics and psychology, and war,” Henke said. “We will examine the relational and political power of an art that, from the polls of ancient Greece to the present, has explored human beings in their interactions with others.”

The season opens Sept. 4-6, with “Dance Close-Up,” the bi-annual concert of new and original choreography by the PAD 28 dance faculty—the un Moffett call to St. Louis professional dance seasons.

On Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Marge Betyl, dramaturg, and literary manager for the Givova Theater Center in Rochester, N.Y., will direct the A.E. Hotchner Playwriting Festival, which will feature staged readings of three winning student plays from the A.E. Hotchner Playwriting Competition. Works include “Better” by senior Margaret Stabile; “All at Once” by senior Karl Lombard; and “Cavatine” by recent graduate Elizabeth Berkemeyer (LA ’08). (The latter, a love story centered on the world’s most debauched Beatle fans, will receive a full staging in March.

The season continues Oct. 24- Nov. 2, with “Off Dec 1915,” the classic 1931 political satire by George and Ira Gershwin. Directed by Jeffery Matthews, senior lecturer in drama and in Arts & Sciences, the story centers on an American bachelor professor who visits his French beauty queen only to find himself poised on the brink of war with Britain.

Next up is David Mamet’s “Boston Marriage” Nov. 20-23. Directed by Amanwara Pfeifer, senior lecturer in drama, the play explores the relationship between Claire and Anna, two Victorian women whose long-term relationship is euphemistically referred to as a “Boston marriage.”

“Common Ground,” this year’s Washington University Dance Theater concert, will run Dec. 5-7. Directed by Cecily Leonard, senior lecturer in dance, the performance will feature student dancers in professionally choreographed works by both faculty and visiting artists.

Highlights will include “Still Crossing,” a work exploring the immigrant experience by visiting artist Liz Lerman; and “Dark Elegies” a poignant classical by Annoni Tudor (1908-1978), set to James Jordan, ballet master of the Kansas City Ballet.

Finally, April 21, the PAD will present an academic symposium centering on “Mother Courage and Her Children.”

More information about the PAD season or to order tickets, call the Edison Theatre box office at 935-4543.

New eateries named by WUSTL Community

BY NEIL SCHONER

A long with the great food at the new Danforth University Center, people may notice the campus restaurant names as well.

The Office of Student Activities sponsored naming contest for five of the dining venues to be located on the main level. The names selected were: 1839 Diner, Trattoria Verde (white meats greens in Italian environment building is designed to be LEED certified), DressedToGo (over seas in Spanish), Waah, U. Wok and George’s Express.

More than 450 name submissions were received from 115 different members of the WUSTL community. Online voting helped narrow the decision for a community of three students and three staff members to decide the final names.

Some people were involved in multiple name submissions. Winning submissions came from:

• Cory Arnold, temporary director of Office of Student Activities;
• Emily Becker, a junior majoring in international and area studies in Arts & Sciences;
• Colin Towery, a junior majoring in biomedical engineering and in biology and Chinese, both in Arts & Sciences;
• Jill Stratton, assistant director in clinical and premedical studies, and the Adolescent Mind,” a Feb. 21 symposium, “Hamlet and the Study of Ethics and Human

The season will conclude April 17, with a special “Mother Courage and Her Children” event at an academic symposi

of Psychology in Arts & Science.

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Volleyball expects to be in title hunt

The volleyball team won the 2007 NCAA national championship and enters the 2008 season with high expectations. A perennial national power, the Bears once again expect to vie for the national title.

Three players earned All-America honors in 2007, and all three will return this year. Senior right-side attacker Nikki Morrison was a first-team All-America selection six years ago, leading the Bears with 475 kills.

Senior setter Audi Janak earned a third All-America selection, pacing the WUSTL off-ensive attack with 1,101 total assists. Senior middle hitter Erin Albers garnered honorable mention All-America recognition, leading the University Athletic Association (UAA) with 118 blocks per game.

The Bears also welcome back senior outside hitter Alli Alberts, who was named the Most Outstanding Player of the 2007 NCAA Championship, and junior libero Laura Brazeal. Brazeal tallied 596 digs a year ago, the second-highest single-season total in school history.

Despite losing two starters to graduation, the Bears will remain strong as coach Rich Loewer, long-time head coach, welcomed a large and talented freshman class to join the 11 returning student-athletes.

Youth football team looks to compete

The football team lost 22 players to graduation last year but 13 starters will try to build on last season's 7-5 record, which included EDWUSTL's first win against a nationally ranked opponent in six years. Coach Larry Kusdbaus has a young team, but he should have more than enough depth for his 11-man unit to make a run at a league title.

The Bears have three senior starters who will anchor the offensive line in Dan Elliott, Nate Froogle and Paul Nordheim. Senior quarterback Zack Smith threw for 1,891 yards and 13 touchdowns in route to second-team All-University Athletic Association (UAA) accolades in his first season as the signal caller. Running backs junior Matt Glenn and sophomore Jim O'Brien should provide a dynamic one-two punch out of the backfield. Glenn led the Bears in scoring last season and was second in the UAA with 12 touchdowns.

Men's soccer has high expectations

Coming off its first visit to the NCAA sectional finals since 1995, and the most successful campaign in school history for Clarken's 11 seasons, the men's soccer squad has high expectations heading into the season.

WUSTL will return all of its top goal scorers from a year ago as it prepares for the 2008 season. Leading the Bears in scoring in 2007 was then-freshman Harry Beddo, who netted nine goals to go along with four assists leading to second-team All-University Athletic Association (UAA) recognition.

Adding Beddo on the offensive attack will be junior midfielders John Hengel and Net Zemter, who each tallied six goals a year ago. Overall, WUSTL returns nine players who scored 41 of their 42 goals last season.

Another key returnee will be junior goalkeeper John Smelcer. Smelcer is coming off a year in which he started all 32 games in the net, posting a 0.66 goals against average and was a second-team All-UAA selection.

In his first season, Smelcer was named the 2007 NCAA Division III National Championship Most Outstanding Player. He also helped the Bears defend their national title.

Senior attacker Nikki Morrison is back to help the Bears defend their national title.

O'Brien earned UAA Rookie of the Year honors and first-team all-conference accolades after leading the team with 456 yards rushing and 3,035 all-purpose yards.

The Bears have two veteran safeties to lead the charge on defense in senior strong safety Tommy Bevans and junior free safety Tim Machau. Bevans set a school record last season with a 100-yard interception return at Greenville College. Also returning on the defensive side of the ball is junior linebacker Andrew Bernett, who showed impressive depth back Brandon Brown, sophomore defensive tackle Todd Palmer and junior linebacker Trent Sensenich.

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Siddiqui is new manager of dining services

By JESSICA DAYER

Nahera S. Siddiqui has been named manager of A&M Dining Services at Texas A&M University and director of dining services at TAMU-FCV.

Siddiqui, who was born and raised in the United States, will oversee Bon Appetit’s dining program and Bon Appetit’s dining services at TAMU-FCV.

"I am honored and excited to join the TAMU-FCV campus community and to continue the progress that the A&M Dining Services team has made," Siddiqui said.

"At TAMU-FCV, our focus is on providing a diverse, creative, and nutritious menu while maintaining a commitment to sustainable practices. I am looking forward to working with the team to further enhance our dining services and ensure that our guests have a rewarding and enjoyable experience."

Siddiqui has held various leadership positions in dining services at various institutions, including St. Lawrence University, Marian College and Concordia College.

She earned a bachelor's degree in religion from the University of Chicago, a master's degree in culinary arts from the University of Wisconsin and a certificate in culinary arts from the University of Pennsylvania.

Procedure

WUSTL planning to enroll at least 27 into the trial

By NEIL SCHROENNER

Eleven current or former WUSTL students have been awarded Fulbright Scholarships for the 2008-09 academic year.

Four are graduate students; five are postdoctoral scholars; two are students; and two are graduate students.

Fulbright recipients must be citizens of the United States.

"Fulbright scholars bring a unique perspective to their work, as they are able to share their experiences with people from other countries," said Amy Suelzer, Ph.D., assistant director of international and area studies in Arts & Sciences and the University's Fulbright Program advisor.

"Each year, several WUSTL students are chosen, a testament to the great talent and drive our students possess. We wish to congratulate all the recipients for their success in their Fulbright year and beyond."

The Fulbright Program is designed to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Under the program, 1,493 American students visited different countries to study and conduct research in 155 countries through the Fulbright Program, established in 1946, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

More than 108,160 Americans have held Fulbright grants since the program began in 1946. Since 1991, WUSTL has had 11 Fulbright scholars.

This year’s awardees come from all 50 states as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. They are drawn from a diverse cross-section of American higher education, with more than 250 institutions represented.

Fulbright Scholarships awarded to 11 students

By NEIL SCHROENNER

Siddiqui has been named manager of dining services at Texas A&M University.

Landy has served as regional director for the mid-continent region of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, based in St. Louis. For the previous six years, he worked for Hillel at the University of Florida, as Hillel's regional director for the mid-continent region.

"I am excited to join the Hillel family at Washington University and to work with the talented students, faculty and staff to continue and expand the successful initiatives that are in place," said Landy.

Director of Dining Services

Michael Landy has been named executive director of dining services at Washington University in St. Louis.

Landy started at Hillel Aug. 11. Since 2006, Landy has served as regional director for the mid-continent region of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, based in St. Louis. For the previous six years, he worked for Hillel at the University of Florida, as Hillel's regional director for the mid-continent region.

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Morton promoted to associate dean

By Cynthia Georges

Patrick S. Morton, Ph.D., has been promoted to associate dean at the Olin College of Business, announced Mahendra R. Gupta, Ph.D., dean and named L. Virgil Professor of Accounting and Information Systems.

Morton will continue to serve as the director of the Enterprise Learning Factory at the Washington University-Fudan University Executive MBA Program. Morton was named one of the world's leading educators and most effective business programs in mainland China, among China's best business schools.

“He has provided leadership in developing the program and attracting top business faculty from across the world to ensure we deliver an exceptional educational experience to our students,” Gupta said.

Morton joined the Olin School as assistant professor of management and strategy in 2003. Morton has taught in the undergraduate and graduate programs and is a recipient of the Reid Teaching Award for excellence in teaching.

The 18-month EMBA program is among the first U.S.-based EMBA programs in China when it was established in 2002.

Appell named associate dean for clinical affairs

Annette L. Appell, J.D., professor of law and associate dean for clinical affairs at the William S. Boyd School of Law, in her new position, will oversee the clinical programs at the law school and to integrate, to the greatest extent possible, the school's existing strong and diverse clinical programs.

Appell will help to mentor junior faculty, to build community within and among the clinic, faculty and staff, and to integrate clinical affairs into the administrative and academic life of the law school. Along with other members of the clinic program, she will work to maintain and build ties with legal and social services communities outside the law school.

The award provides librarians new opportunities to broaden their professional development. It covers them to revitalize St. Louis-area urban core neighborhoods.

Promotion with tenure

Douglas L. Chatterley, Ph.D., to associate professor of chemistry, Sophie H. Hayes, Ph.D., to associate professor of medicine, Gregory P. Magarian, J.D., as associate professor of law, effective Jan. 1, 2008, with tenure effective July 1, 2008, unless otherwise noted.

Speaking of

David Stancioe, Ph.D., a professor of physical therapy, and associate professor of physical therapy, presented the Roger Pecore Lecture at the American Diabetes Association National Convention in June. The Pecore lecture is known as a lifetime achievement award for research into the diabetic foot. Stancioe's talk was titled "Pedal Osteolysis: Pernicious Pathology or Innocuous Consequence."

Brensdon, 73

Barry S. Brensdon, who retired in March as a research engineer at the creation of a detection and imaging system for breast cancer, died June 15, 2008, at his Clayton, Mo., home. He was 95.

Hawkins, 86

Gerta L. Hawkins, housekeeping aid, line room clerk, housekeeping supervisor and head of pediatric patient information at the Institute of Pediatrics, died Friday, July 11, 2008. She was 86.

Henne, 86

Omar Edward Henne Jr., lecturer in marketing from 1974-86 and University College instructor from 1984-85, died Saturday, July 5, 2008. He was 86.
Ida H. Early would issue Harriet K. Switzer, Ph.D., former secretary to the Board of Trustees. “I used to tell her, if you ever retire, I want your job,” Ida says. “It’s the best job at the University.”

But while Switzer announced in 2006 that she planned to retire, Ida, then senior associate director of Schools, Alumni & Development Programs, hesitated before applying. First, there was the challenge of following one of WUSTL’s most beloved women — Switzer, who had served as secretary since 1981. And while she coveted the position, she knew its importance and the serious commitment it would require.

“The secretary to the board is the chief deputy to the Chancellor for management of the board and the connector between the board and the administration,” she says. “The secretary also assists the various board committees, which make decisions about University policy and tenure. The job has to be taken seriously because what the board and committees do affects everyone at the University.”

In the end, Ida didn’t let a few nerves keep her from her dream job. She became secretary July 1, 2007.

It was an easy choice, as Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton says she’s perfect for the job. “Ida Early is a highly conscientious, knowledgeable and dedicated person who provides careful and thoughtful support to both the trustees of Washington University and me,” Wrighton says. “She is a great communicator and works effectively with all University constituencies.”

“Although she is relatively new to her current job, she has already established a distinguished history of service to Washington University spanning nearly three decades, and I am most grateful to have her still on part of our leadership team,” he says. And she is grateful, too. “I love my job,” she says. “Love it, love it, love it.”

Pickles and pancakes
Ida, born in Dallas, Texas, says her favorite pastime as a child was riding her bike and eating the neighborhood delicacy. “I would park my bike, sit on the front steps and eat sour pickles on pepper stick,” she says.

Sour pickles and peppermints! “I guess it’s a Texas thing,” she laughs. “I don’t eat them anymore.”

As a senior in high school, Ida attended two college — the University of Pennsylvania and Stanford University — and was accepted by both. After her friend Joan announced she would attend Penn, Ida decided she would, too.

As a freshman at Penn, Ida found herself in a university in an administrative office, and she quickly moved up to director of special projects, information and foundation relations. In 1977, Gerald, despite her learning German, her interest in art until 1996, when she began her job is keeping up with it. “You’re always either getting ready for a meeting or finishing one,” she says.

The new key to her new position is being organized, which she says she is — in her work life. She also credits her job as secretary to the board of trustees, administration and WUSTL’s Women’s Society, which she coordinates, for the support she receives in the University community. “It, among other things, runs Bear Necessities, a store that sells WUSTL apparel and other items. It’s being organized, which she says is — in her work life. She also credits her job as secretary to the board of trustees, administration and WUSTL’s Women’s Society, which she coordinates, for the support she receives in the University community. “It, among other things, runs Bear Necessities, a store that sells WUSTL apparel and other items. I was able to raise money for scholarships and student programs. When the group discovered that construction in the South 40 would make it difficult for people to find the store, Iida helped the society get help from students on how to best market Bear Necessities during the transition.”

Ida is attentive, calm, thoughtful, intelligent and very efficient,” says Joni Karandyjff, president of the Women’s Society. “When she makes a note on her pad to contact someone or to look into something, you can be sure that you will have an e-mail from her when you next check your messages.”

Ida spends what little free time she has learning German. Her daughter Rosalind, who graduated from WUSTL in 2003, taught in Vienna, Austria. “I felt like a goofball in Vienna with my reading menus to me,” she says. “Now when I go back, I can read and order for myself. It’s very stimulating to learn a new language. It keeps the mind sharp!”

Not that Ida is in danger of

Behind the scenes, Ida E. Early keeps the University running smoothly

Family; Husband, Gerald L. Early, Ph.D., the Merle Kling Humanities in Arts & Sciences.

Education: B.A. sociology, 1974, University of Pennsylvania. Ida also did graduate work at Cornell University in educational administration from 1977.

Favorite movies: Webster Groves, Mo.

Favorite TV show: "Love It’s Too TV and ABC anything," Ida says.

Ida E. Early, secretary to the Board of Trustees, meets with her staff. Administrative Coordinators Sharon Britt (left) and Jane Stone, in her office in Brookings Hall. "Ida Early is a highly conscientious, knowledgeable and dedicated person who provides careful and thoughtful support to both the trustees of Washington University and me," says Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. "She is a great communicator and works effectively with all University constituencies."

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