Candidates running like it’s 1952, Kastor says

By Jessica Martin

For all the talk of change, the candidates and campaigns of this election are similar to elections throughout the years, said Peter Kastor, Ph.D., history and American culture studies professor.

"These are unprecedented candidates in an unusual election year, but what’s striking is how these candidates are positioning themselves and describing themselves in ways very similar to previous presidential candidates, and in ways that are very typical of their parties," Kastor said.

"Barack Obama is trying to be what the Democrats have been seeking for the last half century; essentially Adair Stevenson with charisma. In some ways, McCain is speaking in the same way Eisenhower did," he said.

"Going into this election, both of the vice presidential nominales are assuming roles that are very traditional," Kastor said. "This is particularly important because right now people are focusing on how different the candidates seem. It’s difficult to imagine either of the two current vice-presidential nominees taking on the office as shaped by Gore and Cheney. But it does not mean that it may not be within their personalities or that it may exceed their talents, but rather that the institution of the vice presidency is unlikely to have as much power in the new administration as it does now, no matter who gets elected," he said.

Political and institutional factors account for this change, Kastor said. Gore and Cheney brought unprecedented power to the office of vice president, and the criticism heaped on Cheney’s expansive vision of the office could make it impossible for his successor to wield the same power.

So, too, does the issue of experience, which has played such an important role in this election. Joe Biden cannot become too prominent a factor in the nomination process, Kastor said, for fear that it could validate claims that Barack Obama is unprepared to be president. Meanwhile, Sarah Palin’s limited experience, which has played such an important role in this election, has spending the past year preparing for the vice presidency is unlikely to have as much power in the new administration as it does now, no matter who gets elected.

U.S. health-care system headed for perfect storm

By Jessica Martin

We are headed into a time where a confluence of changes are going to lead to a perfect storm, making us finally realize that our health-care system needs a major overhaul," said Timothy D. McBride, Ph.D., leading health economist and professor of social work.

"The elderly population doubles between now and about 2030, projections say that we will see at least a doubling of the costs of the federal and state health and retirement programs," he said. "That will likely be when the perfect storm hits. But if we miss it then, we will likely have missed all the storm clouds for the foreseeable future.

Familiar trends associated with the current health-care crisis are the high rate of uninsured Americans and rising health-care costs. The number of uninsured declined from 47 million or about 16 percent of the U.S. population in 1990, to 16 million or about 16 percent of the U.S. economy — more than three times the share health care took in 1960.

"While attention focuses on the growing uninsured and the rising premiums, the aging population storm clouds are brewing," McBride said. "It’s a long term crisis that grows, forms and receives little attention, despite the problems with affordability, quality and access to long-term care. These problems will only become much worse as the aging population doubles by 2030."

"Much attention also has been paid to the problems of the uninsured and rising health-care costs. These problems will only become much worse as the aging population doubles by 2030."

Racial disparities decline for cancer incidence, death in Missouri

By Gwen Ericson

Cancer death rates in the United States are highest among African-Americans, but a new report shows that in Missouri, the disparity in cancer incidence and death between African-Americans and whites is declining. As a result, cancer incidence (the rate of newly diagnosed cases) between the races is equal, although the death rate will probably remain higher for African-Americans for some time.

The report will be published in an upcoming issue of Missouri Medical. Mario Schootman, Ph.D., chief of the Division of Health Behavior Research and associate professor of epidemiology and medicine, is the lead author.

"A lot of effort has been made to reduce cancer racial disparity in Missouri," said Schootman, also co-leader of the Prevention and Control Program at the Siteman Cancer Center. "But there is still work to be done, especially in decreasing cancer mortality. Ideally, cancer will become just another bump in the road — an illness that people will be able to live with for many decades and keep under control.

The report shows that in 1996, the rate of new cancer cases was 18 percent higher for African-American Missourians but declined to 6 percent higher by 2003, the last year for which the data were analyzed. If this downward trend continues, the disparity in new cancer cases between African-American and white Missourians will have disappeared when 2006 data is analyzed, Schootman said.

On average, the overall Missouri cancer incidence rate decreased by 0.8 percent per year, possibly reflecting a drop in smoking rates and other preventive measures. The disparity in incidence between African-Americans and whites might have arisen from such factors as differences in physical activity, weight, vitamin D deficiency, diet and occupational exposure to pollutants, according to the report.

On the other hand, racial disparity in overall cancer death rates remains. In 2005, the last year for which the data were analyzed, the cancer death rate was 28 percent higher for Missouri’s African-Americans than for whites. This was down from a 48 percent higher cancer death rate for African-Americans in 1990, but the slow pace of the decrease means that racial disparity in cancer death rates probably will continue for several more decades unless more aggressive measures are taken, Schomman said.

Schootman also analyzed four major cancers — colorectal, breast, prostate and lung — and found some trends contrary to the overall cancer trends. Instead of decreasing, the gap between African-Americans and whites has increased for each of these four cancers.

See Health care, Page 2
since early September, more than 70 billboards featuring original political artwork have popped up with messages to spread awareness.

Artists and art organizations from around the state, including Missouri Billboard Project, Kansas City, Mo.; and Harvard University; Peregrine Honig, an artist and gallery owner from Kansas City, Mo.; and May Rosier and Willie Cole. The eighth and final one, selected in an online contest on artthevote.com, which also includes a complete map of all billboard locations. The billboards will remain up through early November.

The panel discussion will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and be immediately followed by a broadcast of the second presidential debate at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn.

Registration for the event is free and open to the public and take place in Steinberg Hall. For more information, call 935-4700 or visit steinberg.wustl.edu/calender/
Siteman Cancer Center opens around-the-clock clinic for urgent care

BY GWEN ERICSON

Our past research showed that fumagillin nanoparticles reduced blood-vessel formation in experimental rabbits after one week,” Lanza said. We carefully tested how long that effect lasts and if it could be extended by increasing the dose.

When the rabbits received a single dose of blood-vessel-targeted nanoparticles that also carried fumagillin, the researchers saw that the amount of MRI signal at the site of plaques decreased sharply to near zero by the end of one week. But a high MRI signal return by the fourth week, indicating that plaques were active again. Because repeated injections of fumagillin nanoparticles is impractical for treating humans, the researchers sought ways to extend the initial effectiveness.

Atherosclerotic rabbits (that got daily injections of the statin atorvastatin [brand name Lipitor] had no change in plaque angiogenesis measured by MRI. When the statin and fumagillin nanoparticles were started at the same time, the atorvastatin had no additional benefit for the targeted therapy.

However, when the statin had been given for at least one month prior to the nanoparticles, the foreshadowed reduction in MRI signal due to diminished neovessel growth was maintained for four weeks. Lanza said that the results suggest that one or possibly two injections of fumagillin nanoparticles in patients who are already on statins could lead to a long-term reduction of atherosclerotic plaque and prolonged plaque stability. “Because we can detect patients experiencing their first heart attack for the first time, our goal is to prevent or greatly delay clinically significant atheroscle- rotic disease,” Lanza said. “We hope to achieve this by a person- alized nanomedicine approach that risk-stratifies patients and affords safe, targeted delivery of potent compounds that block progression in high-risk patients.”

Frustrated with technology’s decades-old drug to beat arteriosclerosis, fumagillin nanoparticles in new School of Medicine research, the scientists have found that drug-loaded nanoparticles plus a statin could stop the growth of tiny blood vessels that feed arterial plaques. Their results suggest that the dual treatment also prevents the vessels from restarting their growth, which could shrink or stabilize plaques. Although the data were obtained in two rabbits, they now hope that a similar approach could help patients with atherosclerosis.

In the nanoparticles, minute spheres about 200 nanometers smaller than the diameter of a strand of human hair were coated with a substance that made them stick in growing blood vessels and with fumagillin, a potent compound that stops blood-vessel growth. “We found that statins sustain the acute inhibition of blood-vessel growth produced by the fumagillin nanoparticles within the plaque,” said senior author Gregory J. Lanza, M.D., Ph.D., professor of medicine and of biomedical engineering.

Lanza and co-senior author Samuel A. Wickline, M.D., pro- fessor of medicine, of physics, of biomedical engineering and of cell biology and physiology, published these results in the September issue of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology: Imaging. Patrick M. Winter, Ph.D., research assistant profes- sor of medicine, was the lead author of the study.

Patients with atherosclerosis often start to lower cholesterol, and this also decrease atherosclerotic plaque progres- sion by modestly inhibiting plaques growth (growth of vessels) within plaques. Patients provided with re- fused blood oxygen to cells in actively developing plaques.

Because of their high fragility, neo-blood vessels are frequently blocked or ruptured, leading to local hemorrhages that greatly accelerate the disease process. Fumagillin nanoparticles could be designed to further inhibit the development of new vessel treat- ment in high-risk patients. Lanza said.
Music of Shakespeare will resonate at Edison with Resonance Chaconne

Through no scores are included in Elizabethan operas, William Shakespeare frequently wrote music for his plays, setting poems for new songs and adopting existing ballads. Numerous characters ad-libbed their own tunes while composers such as Thomas Morley and John Dowland also contributed original compositions.

Next week, the acclaimed period music trio Ensemble Chaconne, joined by mezzo-soprano Pamela Dellal, will present a concert of songs and instrumental music from Shakespeare’s oeuvre. The performance, titled “Measure for Measure, The Music of Shakespeare’s Plays,” will begin at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 6, in Edison Theatre.

“Some of the most prominent Elizabethan and Jacobean composers wrote music for the Bard’s plays,” said ensemble Chaconne’s Olof Chris Henrikson, who performs on lute, theorbo and guitar. Morley, who served as organist and later as master of music at the court of James I, wrote music to Shakespeare’s lyrics for plays such as “As You Like It.” Meanwhile John Dowland— who served as composer to the court of James I—wrote music to Shakespeare’s lyrics for songs such as “When the night is gone.”

“Throughout the plays, Shakespeare refers to ballads in tunes and adoptng existing ballads. He often employs music in his published works, which is mentioned in various ideas and circumstances.” For example Ophelia, described as a “madwoman” in “Hamlet,” is mentioned in the song “Fortune My Foe,” with lyrics identical to the song “The Witches’ Dance.”

In the play “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” the rogue balladeer Autolycus in “The Night Before Eastertide” is a frequent leitmotif throughout the play. The song “The Witches’ Dance,” which was frequently employed as an opening piece for Shakespeare’s plays, followed by Morley’s “O Miserere Minor,” which is sung by a boy in “Twelfth Night.” “La Volo”” is sung by the Whirlwind,” and “It Was a Lover and His Lassie” is sung by the Witches in “Macbeth.” The ballads were also popular in the early days of the 19th century, which is mentioned in the song “The Witches’ Dance.”

For example Ophelia, described as a “madwoman” in “Hamlet,” is mentioned in the song “Fortune My Foe,” with lyrics identical to the song “The Witches’ Dance.”

In the play “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” the rogue balladeer Autolycus in “The Night Before Eastertide” is a frequent leitmotif throughout the play. The song “The Witches’ Dance,” which was frequently employed as an opening piece for Shakespeare’s plays, followed by Morley’s “O Miserere Minor,” which is sung by a boy in “Twelfth Night.” “La Volo”” is sung by the Whirlwind,” and “It Was a Lover and His Lassie” is sung by the Witches in “Macbeth.” The ballads were also popular in the early days of the 19th century, which is mentioned in the song “The Witches’ Dance.”

In Shakespeare’s time, the famous ballad tune, is mentioned in “The Merry Wives of Windsor.” Henrikson said, “It’s largely forgoten today that the title refers to ladies of ill repute, who were recognized by their green sleeves.”

The program will be directed by Sarah Ruddy, a founding member of the ensemble. The Baroque flutes and Carol Lewis, a founding member of Favella Lyrica, will perform in various ensembles.

The Los Angeles Times described the book as “a guide to reading the Bard’s works, followed by other ensembles.”

To reserve tickets, contact the Centre for Music and Drama, 362-2763.
Next up in Assembly Series: Lectures on music, ‘green’ in six songs

By Kurt Mueller

S ensation musician, commercial recording engi neer, concert producer, world-class bestselling author and psychologist Daniel Levitin visits the WUSTL campus Wednesday, Oct. 8, in Graham Chapel for the Assembly Series. The lecture, originally slated for 4 p.m. on the Assembly Series calendar, has been moved up to an 11 a.m. start.

Levitin talks, “How the Musical Brain Created Human Nature,” will explore themes from his recently published book, “The Worm of the Songbird.” Levitin earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology at Stanford University, and his doctorate in psychology from the University of Oregon.

He is an associate professor of psychology, biological neuroscience and music at McGill University in Montreal.

He also worked for the regional Development Administration in the Department with Justin Petersen Housing.

Saturday, Oct. 4

11 a.m. Rosemary’s Cafe at the Center for Service Learning

EcoUrban Homes are affordable and help preserve the local environment. For more information on either of these assemblyseries.wustl.edu or call 935-2685.

Elephant package

All areas of panels, discussions, artistic experiences, lectures and other special events are taking place on the Darwin Campus throughout the presidential campaign season. Visit a-bcc. and turn out voters in the upcoming election programming update.

Thursday, Oct. 2

6:30 p.m. Edward Dinkl’s Final Project

WUSTL, faculty and staff, are invited to this final project. The presentation will be held at the Center for the Arts, 700 South Euclid Avenue.

At the event, the University will celebrate the completion of the Center for the Arts, a public art project that has transformed the city into a cultural hub.

Friday, Oct. 3

7:30 p.m. Concert

The event, which features the University’s Concert Orchestra, will take place in Graham Chapel. Open to the public, $20/0 for students; $22/0 for seniors; and $30/0 for the general public.

Saturday, Oct. 4

7:30 p.m. Concert

The event, which features the University’s Concert Orchestra, will take place in Graham Chapel. Open to the public, $20/0 for students; $22/0 for seniors; and $30/0 for the general public.

EcoUrban Homes are affordable and help preserve the local environment. For more information on either of these assemblyseries.wustl.edu or call 935-2685.

Monday, Oct. 6

7:30 p.m. Concert

The event, which features the University’s Concert Orchestra, will take place in Graham Chapel. Open to the public, $20/0 for students; $22/0 for seniors; and $30/0 for the general public.

Tuesday, Oct. 7

7:30 p.m. Concert

The event, which features the University’s Concert Orchestra, will take place in Graham Chapel. Open to the public, $20/0 for students; $22/0 for seniors; and $30/0 for the general public.

Wednesday, Oct. 8

7:30 p.m. Concert

The event, which features the University’s Concert Orchestra, will take place in Graham Chapel. Open to the public, $20/0 for students; $22/0 for seniors; and $30/0 for the general public.

Thursday, Oct. 9

7:30 p.m. Concert

The event, which features the University’s Concert Orchestra, will take place in Graham Chapel. Open to the public, $20/0 for students; $22/0 for seniors; and $30/0 for the general public.

Friday, Oct. 10

7:30 p.m. Concert

The event, which features the University’s Concert Orchestra, will take place in Graham Chapel. Open to the public, $20/0 for students; $22/0 for seniors; and $30/0 for the general public.

Saturday, Oct. 11

7:30 p.m. Concert

The event, which features the University’s Concert Orchestra, will take place in Graham Chapel. Open to the public, $20/0 for students; $22/0 for seniors; and $30/0 for the general public.

Sunday, Oct. 12

7:30 p.m. Concert

The event, which features the University’s Concert Orchestra, will take place in Graham Chapel. Open to the public, $20/0 for students; $22/0 for seniors; and $30/0 for the general public.

Monday, Oct. 6

7:30 p.m. Concert

The event, which features the University’s Concert Orchestra, will take place in Graham Chapel. Open to the public, $20/0 for students; $22/0 for seniors; and $30/0 for the general public.

Tuesday, Oct. 7

7:30 p.m. Concert

The event, which features the University’s Concert Orchestra, will take place in Graham Chapel. Open to the public, $20/0 for students; $22/0 for seniors; and $30/0 for the general public.

Wednesday, Oct. 8

7:30 p.m. Concert

The event, which features the University’s Concert Orchestra, will take place in Graham Chapel. Open to the public, $20/0 for students; $22/0 for seniors; and $30/0 for the general public.

Thursday, Oct. 9

7:30 p.m. Concert

The event, which features the University’s Concert Orchestra, will take place in Graham Chapel. Open to the public, $20/0 for students; $22/0 for seniors; and $30/0 for the general public.

Friday, Oct. 10

7:30 p.m. Concert

The event, which features the University’s Concert Orchestra, will take place in Graham Chapel. Open to the public, $20/0 for students; $22/0 for seniors; and $30/0 for the general public.

Saturday, Oct. 11

7:30 p.m. Concert

The event, which features the University’s Concert Orchestra, will take place in Graham Chapel. Open to the public, $20/0 for students; $22/0 for seniors; and $30/0 for the general public.

Sunday, Oct. 12

7:30 p.m. Concert

The event, which features the University’s Concert Orchestra, will take place in Graham Chapel. Open to the public, $20/0 for students; $22/0 for seniors; and $30/0 for the general public.

Monday, Oct. 6

7:30 p.m. Concert

The event, which features the University’s Concert Orchestra, will take place in Graham Chapel. Open to the public, $20/0 for students; $22/0 for seniors; and $30/0 for the general public.
Health-care conference Oct. 16

By JESSICA MARTIN

Washington University's Graduate Program in Public Health and the Center for Health Care Reform will host a public health-policy conference Oct. 16 concerning the future of health care across the country.

The conference is one of six meetings the graduate program is holding across the country to discuss the role of the federal government in health care policy.

"In Missouri, African-American women and whites for colorectal cancer death rates remained the same as those for whites in the study period from 1990 to 2005, but it remained in the African-American than white Missourians," Schootman said. "But that doesn't appear to have made enough of a difference in the rate of death yet. The racial disparity in colorectal cancer death rates is still the most serious concerns raised by the study."

Schootman explained that there are four possible reasons for the higher colorectal cancer death rate: less aggressive treatment, more advanced stage at time of diagnosis, less patient engagement in lifestyle factors that reduce the risk of dying — such as a healthy body weight and exercise and weight loss — and more physical characteristics that increase risk of dying — such as a higher body-fat index and smoking.

Malignant tumors of the prostate are most common in African-American men, and with the rise in the number of cases and deaths, researchers have been studying prostate cancer mortality trends. The study, which included 4,646 African-American and 10,758 white men, found that prostate cancer death rates were higher for African-American than white Missourians.

Cancer Focus must be on equal access to care — from Page 1

And whites for colorectal cancer death rates remained as large as the entire racial disparity that other studies suggest that lack of access to care may be a reason for the racial disparity observed in this study. Schootman said that a possible explanation is that African-American men are less likely to receive prostate cancer screening and new therapies than white men.

Racial disparity in lung-cancer death rates increased during the study period, African-American men in Missouri had a 7% lower incidence of lung cancer than did white Missourians at the end of the study period but had a 46% higher breast-cancer death rate, the study showed. And other studies suggest that lack of insurance, fear of testing, delay in seeking care and unfavorable tumor characteristics all contribute to this disparity."

Another major concern raised by the study was the much higher death rate from prostate cancer among African-Americans. Unlike prostate cancer mortality trends, the study found that the racial disparity in colorectal cancer death rates was larger among African-Americans. Among African-Americans, the death rate from prostate cancer was higher for African-American than white Missourians.

"In Missouri, African-American and whites for colorectal cancer death rates remained as large as the entire racial disparity that other studies suggest that lack of access to care may be a reason for the racial disparity observed in this study. Schootman said that a possible explanation is that African-American men are less likely to receive prostate cancer screening and new therapies than white men."

Racial disparity in lung-cancer death rates increased during the study period, African-American men in Missouri had a 7% lower incidence of lung cancer than did white Missourians at the end of the study period but had a 46% higher breast-cancer death rate, the study showed. And other studies suggest that lack of insurance, fear of testing, delay in seeking care and unfavorable tumor characteristics all contribute to this disparity."

Another major concern raised by the study was the much higher death rate from prostate cancer among African-Americans. Unlike prostate cancer mortality trends, the study found that the racial disparity in colorectal cancer death rates was larger among African-Americans. Among African-Americans, the death rate from prostate cancer was higher for African-American than white Missourians.

"In Missouri, African-American and whites for colorectal cancer death rates remained as large as the entire racial disparity that other studies suggest that lack of access to care may be a reason for the racial disparity observed in this study. Schootman said that a possible explanation is that African-American men are less likely to receive prostate cancer screening and new therapies than white men."

Racial disparity in lung-cancer death rates increased during the study period, African-American men in Missouri had a 7% lower incidence of lung cancer than did white Missourians at the end of the study period but had a 46% higher breast-cancer death rate, the study showed. And other studies suggest that lack of insurance, fear of testing, delay in seeking care and unfavorable tumor characteristics all contribute to this disparity."

Another major concern raised by the study was the much higher death rate from prostate cancer among African-Americans. Unlike prostate cancer mortality trends, the study found that the racial disparity in colorectal cancer death rates was larger among African-Americans. Among African-Americans, the death rate from prostate cancer was higher for African-American than white Missourians.

"In Missouri, African-American and whites for colorectal cancer death rates remained as large as the entire racial disparity that other studies suggest that lack of access to care may be a reason for the racial disparity observed in this study. Schootman said that a possible explanation is that African-American men are less likely to receive prostate cancer screening and new therapies than white men."

Racial disparity in lung-cancer death rates increased during the study period, African-American men in Missouri had a 7% lower incidence of lung cancer than did white Missourians at the end of the study period but had a 46% higher breast-cancer death rate, the study showed. And other studies suggest that lack of insurance, fear of testing, delay in seeking care and unfavorable tumor characteristics all contribute to this disparity."

Another major concern raised by the study was the much higher death rate from prostate cancer among African-Americans. Unlike prostate cancer mortality trends, the study found that the racial disparity in colorectal cancer death rates was larger among African-Americans. Among African-Americans, the death rate from prostate cancer was higher for African-American than white Missourians.

"In Missouri, African-American and whites for colorectal cancer death rates remained as large as the entire racial disparity that other studies suggest that lack of access to care may be a reason for the racial disparity observed in this study. Schootman said that a possible explanation is that African-American men are less likely to receive prostate cancer screening and new therapies than white men."

Racial disparity in lung-cancer death rates increased during the study period, African-American men in Missouri had a 7% lower incidence of lung cancer than did white Missourians at the end of the study period but had a 46% higher breast-cancer death rate, the study showed. And other studies suggest that lack of insurance, fear of testing, delay in seeking care and unfavorable tumor characteristics all contribute to this disparity."

Another major concern raised by the study was the much higher death rate from prostate cancer among African-Americans. Unlike prostate cancer mortality trends, the study found that the racial disparity in colorectal cancer death rates was larger among African-Americans. Among African-Americans, the death rate from prostate cancer was higher for African-American than white Missourians.

"In Missouri, African-American and whites for colorectal cancer death rates remained as large as the entire racial disparity that other studies suggest that lack of access to care may be a reason for the racial disparity observed in this study. Schootman said that a possible explanation is that African-American men are less likely to receive prostate cancer screening and new therapies than white men."

Racial disparity in lung-cancer death rates increased during the study period, African-American men in Missouri had a 7% lower incidence of lung cancer than did white Missourians at the end of the study period but had a 46% higher breast-cancer death rate, the study showed. And other studies suggest that lack of insurance, fear of testing, delay in seeking care and unfavorable tumor characteristics all contribute to this disparity."

Another major concern raised by the study was the much higher death rate from prostate cancer among African-Americans. Unlike prostate cancer mortality trends, the study found that the racial disparity in colorectal cancer death rates was larger among African-Americans. Among African-Americans, the death rate from prostate cancer was higher for African-American than white Missourians.

"In Missouri, African-American and whites for colorectal cancer death rates remained as large as the entire racial disparity that other studies suggest that lack of access to care may be a reason for the racial disparity observed in this study. Schootman said that a possible explanation is that African-American men are less likely to receive prostate cancer screening and new therapies than white men."

Racial disparity in lung-cancer death rates increased during the study period, African-American men in Missouri had a 7% lower incidence of lung cancer than did white Missourians at the end of the study period but had a 46% higher breast-cancer death rate, the study showed. And other studies suggest that lack of insurance, fear of testing, delay in seeking care and unfavorable tumor characteristics all contribute to this disparity."

Another major concern raised by the study was the much higher death rate from prostate cancer among African-Americans. Unlike prostate cancer mortality trends, the study found that the racial disparity in colorectal cancer death rates was larger among African-Americans. Among African-Americans, the death rate from prostate cancer was higher for African-American than white Missourians.
Brookings Institution president to deliver Tyrell Williams Lecture

BY JESSICA MARTIN

S

Tonde Talbott, president of The Brookings Institution, will deliver the School of Law's Tyrell Williams Lecture on "The Great Experiment: The Old World Order, the New World Order, and the Next World Order." The lecture is scheduled for Oct. 13 in the Bryon Cave Boulevard Courtyard at Anheuser-Busch Hall.

This lecture is co-sponsored by the university's Assembly Series.

As Deputy Secretary of State in the Clinton administration, Talbott was deeply involved in U.S. policy-making and in the management of executive branch relations with Congress. Talbott entered government service after 21 years with The Wall Street Journal, where he covered eastern Europe, the State Department and the White House; he also was Washington bureau chief and senior editor-at-large and foreign affairs columnist.

A prolific author, he has written numerous books on diplomacy and U.S. foreign relations, including his new book, "The Great Experiment: The Story of Ancient Empires, Modern States, and the Quest for a Global Nation." He co-authored the collection of essays, "The Age of Terror: America and the World After September 11." He also translated and edited "Tales Between Two Worlds" by Nikolai Khrushchev's memoirs in the early 1970s.


At WUSTL, Talbott is a member of the McDonnell International Scholars Academy advisory committee and will be meeting with Academy scholars and other groups on campus during his visit.

The Bears have shut out their opponent in each of the six games during the win streak, the best scoring streak since 1995.

The win was the final warm-up before Saturday's Border Wars Meet in Madison, Ill.

Cross country rolls in Rock Island meet

The men and women's cross country teams were in action at the 27th Annual Brunswick/Lindenwald Invitational in Rock Island.

The women's team won the event, beating a field of 27 teams, and the men's squad came in sixth out of 28 teams.

Sophomore Tarrey Surties paced the women's team, coming in second with a time of 22:09.7. Sophomore Kevin Kruter was the best finisher for the men's team, running to a 1:58-place finish on the 8K course with a time of 26:28.9.

Both teams have a week off before returning to action Oct. 11 at the Border Wars Meet in Edwardsville.

Volleyball splits games in Birmingham

The No. 4 volleyball team split its four matches at the Birmingham Southern College Invitational Sept. 26-27. The Bears fell to the University of West Florida and George Washington College but swept tournament host Birmingham Southern and Rhodes College.

Senior right side attacker Nikki Morrison was named to the all-tournament team with a team-leading 31 kills in the four matches.

Sports

John Hengel has been on a hot streak. He has scored four straight game-winning goals during WUSTL's winning streak.

Triton and Bears Ladies Invitational Golf Tournament begins Oct. 1, and continues through Saturday, Oct. 4, at the Renaissance Grand Hotel in St. Louis.

The four-day conference will consist of workshops, poster sessions, lectures, committee meetings, career fairs and career-improvement sessions.

Service-learning grants offered by Gephart Institute

The Gephart Institute for Public Service invites University faculty to apply for grants to support community-based teaching and learning, also known as service-learning.

Service-learning is an effective pedagogy that reaches across campus. Employing a broad conception, the distinguishing features of service-learning include, as applied, learning activities in service to an organization or community, faculty direction and oversight and applicable course content and assigned evaluation.

To support the use of this teaching innovation and provide greater opportunities for community-based learning at the undergraduate and graduate levels, the institute will provide up to five faculty grants of $2,500 each. Grant funding can be applied to supplies, summer salary, faculty assistance and other expenses.

"Last year we supported several faculty members who did amazing work with the community," said Amanda Moore McRae, Ph.D., assistant professor and assistant professor at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work.

The deadline for submissions is Nov. 1. Applications should be submitted online by contacting Jenni Harpring, institute program manager, at 935-8112 or jharpring@wustl.edu.

Biomedical engineers worldwide meet in St. Louis

By TONY FIEZTПACK

The annual meeting of the Biomedical Engineering Society began Oct. 1, and continues through Saturday, Oct. 4, at the Renaissance Grand Hotel in St. Louis.

Kevin Yin, M.D., Ph.D., the Stephen F. and Camilla T. Brauer Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Engineering and chair of the department, is chairing the event that expects to draw about 2,000 biomedical engineers from around the world.

The four-day conference will consist of workshops, poster sessions, lectures, committee meetings, career fairs and career-improvement sessions.

The four-day conference will consist of workshops, poster sessions, lectures, committee meetings, career fairs and career-improvement sessions.

Of note

Amie M. Hofmeister, Ph.D., research professor of earth & planetary sciences in Arts & Sciences, has received a three-year, $187,632 grant from the National Science Foundation for research titled "Collaborative Research: CSEDl — First Principles Calculations and Measurements of Total Diffusivity for Application to Earth's Interior." Also included in the grant was Ianjuan Dong, Ph.D., of Auburn University.

Obituary

Alvin Goldfarb, 91, WUSTL benefactor

A

lvin Goldfarb, generous supporter of the University and recipient of honorary doctorate degrees in humanities, died Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2008, at his home in Clayton, Mo. He was 91.

"As wonderful and deeply committed to the work we do will always be remembered as one of Washington University's most important alumni," Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said. "He demonstrated a great commitment to his profession, to St. Louis and to Washington University. We will forever be indebted to Al for his generous and thoughtful contributions." Goldfarb was the retired president of Morton Stores Corp., a St. Louis-based retailer of ladies' apparel, and of the Alvin Goldfarb Foundation.

Goldfarb and his late wife, Jeannette Rudman Goldfarb, a graduate of the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, were founding sponsors of the Scholars in Business Program in the John M. Olney School of Business. The Alvin and Jeannette Goldfarb scholarship has been an important part of that program since 1983.

Goldfarb and his late wife, Jeannette Rudman Goldfarb, a graduate of the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, were founding sponsors of the Scholars in Business Program in the John M. Olney School of Business. The Alvin and Jeannette Goldfarb scholarship has been an important part of that program since 1983.

Alvin and Jeannette Goldfarb House in recognition of the Goldfarb family's devotion to WUSTL.

Alvin Goldfarb's support also enabled the establishment of the WUSTL School of Social Work to construct Alvin Goldfarb Hall, which opened in 1998.

"As a wonderful person and a wonderful leader of our community, Alvin will be deeply missed," said Edward F. Lawlor, Ph.D., dean of the Brown School and the William F. Gordon Professor.

"His generous gift for Goldfarb Hall provided us with world-class facilities and propelled the modern era of the School. He cared greatly about issues of social justice and was enthusiastic in his belief that a world-class research institution and training have social impact. He was a remarkable person who lived his values, and we are fortunate to have called him our friend," Lawlor said.

Among his survivors are a daughter, Jennifer Lawlor, and grandchildren.

For more information, contact Yin at 935-6164.
Grandma knew best, but choices and circumstances also played a role in Cheryl D. Block's career path.

"My grandmother always used to tell me I was going to be a lawyer because I was very argumentative and persuasive from a very early age," says Block, J.D., professor of law. "But I insisted that wasn't going to happen. I said, no, no — I'm going to be a teacher. In the end, I wound up doing both."

Block initially became interested in law in college at Hofstra University, where she was a political science major. "I was interested in government, the rules that govern how those rules are made," she says. "I wanted to focus on economic and political issues and other constitutional issues."

So she ended up with a career in tax law.

Tax law "I tell my students that life does funny things, and that sometimes things happen to you by accident," Block says. "If you would have told me when I started law school that I was going to do tax law — I would have said you're crazy. In fact, I don't even think I had taken a course in tax law if it hadn't been a required part of the law school curriculum at the time."

In terms of the budget deficit, we are basically spending on a scale never before seen. What's interesting is that it really doesn't matter which party you are talking about. It's just that each party wants to spend on different things," she says. "We will want lower tax rates and more government programs — or at least the programs we prefer. But you just can't have it all."

Her current research centers on the federal budget process, focusing on the impact of earmarks, or congressional funding for special projects.

"Most everybody says that earmarking is a bad thing, but nobody is really prepared to get rid of it. It's a very hard political habit to get out of once you've started it, especially if you're up for reelection," she says.

Beyond earmarks, Block has been looking at federal bailouts and assistance relief through the tax code.

"One of the things that struck me after the Hurricane Katrina tax relief legislation came out in 2005 was that the tax code should not necessarily be the first place to look for disaster relief," she says. "I found myself wondering whether the poor in New Orleans who really needed help benefited from the waived penalties on early withdrawals from retirement accounts, for example," she says. "I think it's really important to have guidelines and be clear about what we are doing rather than having knee-jerk reactions to different disaster or bailout situations. Why did we offer special tax legislation to New Orleans and New York City after 9/11 but not to those impacted by other disasters? Why did we bail out Bear Stearns but not other troubled businesses?"

Life at WUSTL

The University has become a comfortable home for Block's research and teaching since she joined the faculty in 2006 after a long stint at George Washington University law school, where she received a Distinguished Faculty Service Award for teaching.

"The law school here feels very integrated with the rest of the University," she says. "The school's relationship with the political science department was a real asset and should prove beneficial to my work."

Block has found the faculty to be very welcoming and the students exceptional.

"I've graded some of the best papers I've ever read while teaching," she says.

Block's other passion — children's literature — is evident in end of year office. The lower bookcases in her office are filled with children's picture books. This collection has become a fragrant library for the nearly 20 law students who, like Block, volunteer with Ready Readers, a local nonprofit that promotes reading readiness for at-risk preschool children and provides free, personalized books to those children several times a year.

"It's so wonderful to read to kids and 5-year-olds who are so excited when we walk in the room," she says. "I get a hug every time I go, and it's just very rewarding."

Block's work with Ready Readers is an extension of her work in Washington D.C., where she was one of the founders of the Literacy Volunteers of America, D.C.-National Capital Area, which focuses on adult illiteracy. The chapter has become so successful that it now has a substantial budget, office and staff.

Outside WUSTL, Block, her husband, Chad, and their children, Hannah and Aaron, are enjoying St. Louis.

"We love the Muny, the zoo and the botanical gardens. We've also gone on some great bike rides in the area," she says. "St. Louis has been a great place for our kids."

---

More than crunching numbers

Block's interests lead to an unexpected career in tax law

The Block family: (from left) Cheryl; son, Aaron; husband, Chad; and daughter, Hannah.

at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Great teachers and personal connections changed her mind. "I had a phenomenal teacher for my tax law class and went on to a second teacher who was also excellent," she says. "I also developed a great rapport with those teachers. In fact, I ended up something with just say tax law one of my tax professors."

Even after her tax experience in law school, Block did not think she would continue in the field. She served as a clerk for the Honorable Kevin Thomas Duffy, a U.S. District Court judge in the Southern District of New York and then went to work for the law firm Lord, Day & Lord in New York City.

"It turned out that the tax people were the nicest people at the firm," Block says. "One thing led to another and I started doing tax work at the law firm.

Still, as Block began her teaching career, tax law was not at the top of her list. "I quickly discovered that there was a real need and demand for tax professors in a way that there wasn't a demand for constitutional law or civil rights professors," she says. "A woman teaching tax was particularly unusual at the time, so that, in a sense, is what made me more marketable in the teaching profession. Most important, I realized that being an academic in the area tax offered me the flexibility to combine my background in tax and my interest in legislation, public policy and constitutional issues."

"When people ask me what I teach, I don't just say tax law. I really think of myself as teaching Congress, legislative process and tax policy," she says.

Now Block is at the top of her field. She's the author of a leading book on corporate taxation and has written numerous articles and op-ed pieces on taxation, public policy relating to federal bailouts, legislative voting rules, social change theory and the interplay between tax and budget policy.

Kendall S. Syverud, J.D., dean and the Ethan A.H. Shepiey University Professor: "She is by far the nation's most sophisticated legal observer of the federal budget process, yet she can inspire a first-year law student or a professor from another discipline to become fascinated by tax law and policy."

Cynthia D. Block, J.D., professor of law, meets with third-year student David Binder in her office in Anheuser-Busch Hall. Block is at the top of her field in tax law and has written numerous articles and op-eds on taxation. Says Kent Syverud, J.D., dean and the Ethan A.H. Shepiey University Professor: "She is by far the nation's most sophisticated legal observer of the federal budget process, yet she can inspire a first-year law student or a professor from another discipline to become fascinated by tax law and policy."

"I can't tell you how many students come to me and say, 'I thought I was going to hate this class, but I really loved it,'" she says. "I don't take a lot of personal credit for that; I had the same reaction. I think people are surprised to discover that tax is not just that each party wants to spend on different things," she says. "We will want lower tax rates and more government programs — or at least the programs we prefer. But you just can't have it all."

Her current research centers on the federal budget process, focusing on the impact of earmarks, or congressional funding for special projects.

"Most everybody says that earmarking is a bad thing, but nobody is really prepared to get rid of it. It's a very hard political habit to get out of once you've started it, especially if you're up for reelection," she says.

Beyond earmarks, Block has been looking at federal bailouts and assistance relief through the tax code.

"One of the things that struck me after the Hurricane Katrina tax relief legislation came out in 2005 was that the tax code should not necessarily be the first place to look for disaster relief," she says. "I found myself wondering whether the poor in New Orleans who really needed help benefited from the waived penalties on early withdrawals from retirement accounts, for example," she says. "I think it's really important to have guidelines and be clear about what we are doing rather than having knee-jerk reactions to different disaster or bailout situations. Why did we offer special tax legislation to New Orleans and New York City after 9/11 but not to those impacted by other disasters? Why did we bail out Bear Stearns but not other troubled businesses?"

Life at WUSTL

The University has become a comfortable home for Block's research and teaching since she joined the faculty in 2006 after a long stint at George Washington University law school, where she received a Distinguished Faculty Service Award for teaching.

"The law school here feels very integrated with the rest of the University," she says. "The school's relationship with the political science department was a real asset and should prove beneficial to my work."

Block has found the faculty to be very welcoming and the students exceptional.

"I've graded some of the best papers I've ever read while teaching," she says.

Block's other passion — children's literature — is evident in end of year office. The lower bookcases in her office are filled with children's picture books. This collection has become a fragrant library for the nearly 20 law students who, like Block, volunteer with Ready Readers, a local nonprofit that promotes reading readiness for at-risk preschool children and provides free, personalized books to those children several times a year.

"It's so wonderful to read to kids and 5-year-olds who are so excited when we walk in the room," she says. "I get a hug every time I go, and it's just very rewarding."

Block's work with Ready Readers is an extension of her work in Washington D.C., where she was one of the founders of the Literacy Volunteers of America, D.C.-National Capital Area, which focuses on adult illiteracy. The chapter has become so successful that it now has a substantial budget, office and staff.

Outside WUSTL, Block, her husband, Chad, and their children, Hannah and Aaron, are enjoying St. Louis.

"We love the Muny, the zoo and the botanical gardens. We've also gone on some great bike rides in the area," she says. "St. Louis has been a great place for our kids."

---

Cheryl D. Block

Title: Professor of law

Education: B.A., political science University of Buffalo; J.D., State University of New York at Buffalo

Family: Husband, Chad; daughter, Hannah; and son, Aaron

Interesting fact: Block's time at WUSTL is not her first time living in Missouri. Block and her husband met while both were teaching professors at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

---

By JESSICA MARTIN

The Block family: (from left) Cheryl, son, Aaron; husband, Chad; and daughter, Hannah.

---

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Oct. 2, 2008