New surgery to remove gallbladder nearly scarless, less painful

By Caroline Arbanas

It is a first for the St. Louis region. School of Medicine surgeons are removing patients' gallbladders using a single small incision in the belly button that leaves only a barely visible scar.

"The more than a dozen patients who have had the procedure have fared extremely well," said L. Michael Brunt, M.D., professor of surgery and co-director of the Institute for Minimally Invasive Surgery at the School of Medicine. "They typically go home the day after the surgery or the morning afterward. The most striking difference is that when patients come back several weeks later for a checkup, you essentially can't see a scar."

Surgery to remove the gallbladder is one of the most common operations performed in the United States. More than 750,000 patients undergo the procedure each year, often due to the formation of gallstones that cause intense pain. The surgery typically is performed using a laparoscopic technique in which surgical instruments and a miniature video camera are inserted into four small incisions in the abdomen. The camera is linked to a video monitor, where surgeons view the patient's internal organs.

With the new procedure, the laparoscopic surgical instruments and camera are all inserted through one tiny incision in the belly button. See Surgery, Page 2

Architectural competition reinvents St. Francis de Sales children's theater

By Liam Otten

S. Francis de Sales church, affectionately known as "the Cathedral of South St. Louis," has been a local landmark since the end of the Civil War. Its six-building campus - located at 2615 Ohio Ave. - is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and includes the elegant Gothic revival church as well as a rectory, a former convent, two former school buildings and a gymnasium.

One of those school buildings includes an 8,000-square-foot children's theater in urgent need of renovation. This fall, teams of architecture students from the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts have worked to develop plans for the theater as part of the "Sam Fox School Community Service Competition." The agenda for this project was to create a schematic design proposal that can be used by St. Francis de Sales as both a fund-raising tool and as a basis for construction documents," said graduate student in architecture Eric Cenai, who organized the competition with classmate Ali Lang. The theater is located in a well-preserved 19th-century building. The historical quality of the space as well as its state of preservation and the enthusiasm of the community offers an opportunity to create something truly special," said Lang. "The theater is located in a well-preserved 19th-century building. The historical quality of the space as well as its state of preservation and the enthusiasm of the community offers an opportunity to create something truly special," said Lang.

Architects Roche and Bharat, M.D., a resident in the Department of Surgery, perform surgery at Barnes-Jewish Hospital to remove a patient's gallbladder. See St. Francis, Page 6

Pine forests to get help from WUSTL biologists

By Tony Fitzpatrick

WUSTL biologists will play a key role in helping restore the longleaf pine ecosystems of the southeastern United States.

Ellen Damschen, Ph.D., and John Orrock, Ph.D., both assistant professors in biology in Arts & Sciences, are the lead principal investigators on the ambitious project that hopes to restore one of the most unique ecosystems in the country. See Population, Page 2
**United Way campaign still accepting donations**

**By Jessica Davies**

The United Way can make a difference in the lives of many in the St. Louis area, but it needs help from the WUSTL community.

Washington University continues to accept donations to the annual United Way of Greater St. Louis campaign, which began Sept. 2.

The University's goal for this year's drive is $600,000, and those who have not yet donated are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

The University offers employees two ways to contribute: via pledge cards, which were sent through campus mail, or online through the HRMS system.

WUSTL faculty and staff members who would like a second or replacement pledge card should contact Lisa Carees at 935-6087 or on campus x6087.

Alternatively, faculty and staff members who prefer to make a pledge online can visit wusaid.wustl.edu and click on HRMS Self Service. Click on Employee Self Service and select United Way Pledges. For assistance with passwords, call the Help Desk at 935-5707.

**Unhealthy Research Symposium set for Saturday**

**By Neil Schoenmakers**

Heath and well-being researchers will present papers at the Symposium on Diet and Health on Oct. 25, in the Danforth University Center.

The symposium will be held in one of the University's biennial event's four-year history, the symposium will feature presentations by students from the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, Ohio Business School, School of Engineering & Applied Science and College of Arts & Sciences.

More than 200 undergraduates are expected to showcase their research projects through poster presentations and visual and oral presentations during the event, which is free and open to the public.

The University encourages employees to attend the symposium and benefit from the information it offers.

**Surgery Procedure reduces pain and scarring — From Page 1**

"This is not only minimizing scarring but reduces pain because there are few incision. It is a mother's communication style that helps them to depression in pre-schools. How are novel poly-

"We are looking for ways to make those operations ever less invasive and the single-incision biliary surgery is our alternative," he added.

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Barnes-Jewish Hospital. But he predicts that the majority of gallbladder surgeries at Barnes-Jewish will soon be performed using this technique.

"One of the biggest advances in surgery over the past 20 years was the development of laparoscopic techniques to perform many operations that were traditionally done through large, open incisions," Matthews said. "Now, we're looking for ways to make those operations even less invasive and the single-incision biliary surgery is our alternative."
Flu shots for medical school employees

The following locations offer School of Medicine employees a free flu vaccination. Employers and students must bring their badge with them to obtain the vaccination and be prepared to supply their employer ID number.

School of Medicine
Nov. 6, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., 4444 Forest Park Ave. (main lobby)
Nov. 10, 1-3 p.m., McDonnell Pediatric Research Building (main lobby, next to the bookstore)
Nov. 25, 1-3 p.m., East Building, 4552 Scott Ave. (third floor, Room 3420)

St. Louis Children's Hospital
Nov. 11, 7:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m., noon-3 p.m., Northwest Tower, 4900 Children's Place (8th floor, Conference Room BA)
Nov. 21, 7:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m., noon-3 p.m., Northwest Tower, 4900 Children's Place (8th floor, Conference Room BA)

Barnes-Jewish Hospital South
Nov. 12, 1-3 p.m., Ortho Dept. Suite 11380
Barnes-Jewish Hospital West County
Nov. 13, 8 a.m.-10 a.m., 999 N. Mason Road (in the lobby by the vending machines) and 1-3 p.m., Professional Building One (main lobby)

Flu shots for medical school employees

The group helped with the design of the space and told us they wanted a homey feel," she said. "They took top requests to heart in obtaining testing for HIV or STDs, mental health and substance use, and counseling services available." Among the University disciplines contributing to the SPOT are the departments of pediatric and infectious diseases, the Adolescent Center; Jeffrey Nepa, M.D., the D. Ross Berry Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and principal investigator for the Project; and Denise Willers, M.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology. Supporting the University in this Phase II clinical trial are St. Louis Children's Hospital Foundations, BJC HealthCare, the City of St. Louis and the Minnesota Foundation for Health.

The SPOT will rely on a variety of community partnerships for services, including Youth in Need, Epworth Children & Family Services, Planned Parenthood, St. Louis Area National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment, and local health departments.

"This is really a community partnership, St. Louis taking a role in public health," Donica said.

Alzheimer's researchers' study seeks volunteers for clinical trial

Researchers at the School of Medicine and elsewhere are conducting studies on an experimental medication to block nerve damage and inflammation in the brain that can lead to progressive memory loss and behavioral changes in people with Alzheimer's disease. Current Alzheimer's disease therapies focus on improving symptoms rather than attacking the root of the disease progression.

The St. Louis branch of the trial is seeking 120 volunteers, 50 older with mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease to test the new approach. Nationally, organizations are working to recruit a total of 400 volunteers at research centers.

The buildup of amyloid plaques can trigger inflammation in the brains of people with Alzheimer's disease. A protein called amyloid beta builds up in plaque deposits and may promote damage to nerve cells. Researchers will test an experimental drug that seeks to stop amyloid beta from binding to a receptor in the brain called RAGE (receptor for advanced glycation endproducts). Participants will be monitored for changes in the progress of the disease.

In addition to monitoring disease progression through cognitive tests, we will examine various biological markers of the disease," said James Galvin, M.D., principal investigator at the WUSTL site. "These include the degree of atrophy (or shrinkage) of the brain as measured by magnetic resonance imaging, the extent of amyloid deposition in the brain, as assessed by Positron Emission Tomography imaging, and levels of amyloid beta and other proteins in the blood and spinal fluid."

"The research is being conducted by the Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study (ADCS), a consortium of researchers supported by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), part of the National Institutes of Health. The ADCS at the University of California, San Diego will coordinate a 18-month, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. The group helped with the design of the space and told us they wanted a homey feel," she said. "They took top requests to heart in obtaining testing for HIV or STDs, mental health and substance use, and counseling services available."
Addressing the intersection of art and community

By Barbara Rea

L eanne, choreographer and creative performer Liz Lerman, together with Washington University Distinguished Professor of Dance, Sarah Schuman, will participate in a panel discussion on the collision of art and community.

The Assembly Series program "Still Crossing: Expressing Identities, Building Communities" begins at 4 p.m. Oct. 30 in the Women's Building Formal Lounge. The event is part of a larger project funded by the National Endowment for the Arts for the Arts at WUSTL's Performing Arts Department and is the brainchild of David Marchant, senior lecturer of dance and community and culture.

Marchant chose Lerman and her acclaimed piece "Still Crossing" to demonstrate the power of art to address community and civic dialogue.

Lerman created the dance "Still Crossing" in 1996 to address issues of immigration, transition and the meaning of "home" and "community." Lerman will be in residence at WUSTL to create this new-class dance for the annual Washington University Dance Theater concert in December as the end piece of this project.

Lerman is a major figure in dance and has been recognized with a host of distinctions, including the MacArthur "genius" grant, the American Dance Festival Award and, most recently, the National Foundation for Jewish Culture's Achievement Award. Her work has been commissioned for national centers of art and culture, including the Lincoln Center for Performing Arts in New York and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

In 1976, she founded the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, known for its multimodal performances. Considering her expert dance educator, she has authored many books and articles in the subject.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information about the Assembly Series, visit assembly.wustl.edu or call 935-4620.

Celebrated poet to speak for reading series

Mon., Oct. 27

4 p.m. Visiting Writer Series

Washington University's Writer in Residence, Louise Glück, will read from her newest book, "Daisy K柏ker." In 2005, her collection "Lunik II" won the National Book Award. Glück has taught at Wesleyan University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Bennington College, and the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

The reading will take place in Olin Library, Rm. 301, on the WashU campus.

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Tener Dominic Armstrong to present Liederabend at Graham Chapel

Dominic Armstrong will perform an intimate Liederabend for the Performing Arts in Vienna, Va., performing to raise his “library fund” under the patronage of Stephen Leon. Armstrong was a grand finalist in the 2008 Metropolitan National Council Auditions.

Other honors include prizes at the 2008 George London Foundation Awards competition; the 2000-01 National Association of Teachers of Singing Midwest District and Regional competitions; and the 1998 and 2001 Trumbauer Grand Gold Medal AriA Competition.

The performing arts program is sponsored in association with the Department of German Languages & Literatures in Arts & Sciences. For more information, call 935-5566 or e-mail kschulz@wustl.edu.

International climate change conference to examine roles of China, United States

The following incidents were reported to University Police Oct. 5. Students who have information concerning these incidents are urged to call 935-5555.

Oct. 8
10:27 a.m. — A person reported that his bicycle had been stolen while it was left unattended in the Library Annex, Main Quadrangle.

Oct. 9
8:12 a.m. — While investigating occupancy concerns, property had been taken that was located on a different burglar.

12:45 p.m. — During the course of a climate-related investigation, property was left from Danforth House. The suspect in this matter was later apprehended and the missing computer recovered and returned to the victim.

Oct. 10
5:24 p.m. — A person reported that someone entered a vehicle and took outside of Danforth Hall, where it had been secured to a bike rack.

Oct. 21, 2008
The St. Francis de Sales church, built in 1888, houses the theater that was the centerpiece of the architecture competition.

**St. Francis**

*from Page 1*

will be restored and would certainly be great if we could use one of the students' designs," St. Francis de Sales parish was formed in 1867 by seven German immigrant families and named, in honor of St. Francis de Sales, a French Jesuit missionary who served as bishop of Geneva and was canonized in 1665.

The original church was dedicated in 1868; the current structure — the second-largest church in St. Louis and the only one built in the German Gothic style — was dedicated in 1908. In 1869, the parish opened as an elementary school and, in 1939, added a junior high school; the latter was later expanded to include a high school, with the first class graduating in 1947. Yet in the 1950s and '60s, developing suburbs drew population away from St. Louis city neighborhood, and the parish's numbers began to decline.

In January 2005, the parish was closed, and the church and school were scheduled for demolition. The parish was saved thanks to the intervention of former archbishop of St. Louis Raymond Burke and the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest, which took possession in July 2005. Currently the Institute is raising funds to restore the building's 300-foot steeple — the tallest in St. Louis.

Other planned renovations include roof repairs and conserva- tion of the church's frescoes and stained glass windows, the latter created by Emil Frei Sr., a German immigrant widely considered to be St. Louis' premier stained glass artist.

The Sam Fox School launched the Community Service Com- mittee on Aug. 23 as a one-day design charrette (a sort of archi- tectural brainstorming session). After a brief history and tour of the site, 55 architectural students spent five hours developing initial design concepts, which were then presented to the competition jury.

The jury short-listed four teams, with the fifth team added in mid-September. Over the next eight weeks, each team expanded its ideas into workable schematic designs — detailed on a pair of 24- by 36-inch presentation boards — culminating in a pre- sentation Oct. 17 to the St. Francis faithful, local architects and inter- ested community members. Following the presentation, a competition jury composed of faculty, local architects and church leaders convened for final judging.

The first-place prize of $300 was awarded to a team led by graduate teaching assistant Ellen Leuenberger, which included students Dennis Burke, Alexander Harroz, Michael Heller, Rachel Kerr and June Kim.

Their design focused on the theater's entry, creating a large exterior courtyard filled with organic gardens and meeting areas. Pathways would direct worshippers to the church and theatergoers to a pair of reconfig- urablefixed seating and large win- dows that create a visual and implied connection back to the church and the greater com- munity.

"The city of St. Louis has an extremely rich architectural heri- tage, one that still has much to ouch," said Bruce Lindsey, dean of the Sam Fox School's College of Architecture and Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design, who sat on the jury. "As a society, I think we sometimes forget how much architecture matters — how it expressed and spiritual aspects can inspire us, connect us and enhance people's lives."

"As architects, I think we have a responsibility to help build communitie as well as building," Lindsey said.

**Men's tennis has two third-place finishes**

Junior John Watts and the doubles team of seniors Charlie Cuddihy and Chris Hosaluk placed third at the 2008 Wilson/ITA National Small College Championship ten- nis and third-place match. Watts is the top seed and for the women, freshman Amrit Bupsangih and Ben Stein of Bates College.

**Football drops third straight game**

The football team gave up 489 yards of total offense en route to its third consecutive loss in a 38-33 defeat to the College of Wooster Oct. 18 in Wooster, Ohio. WUSTL offense struggled, compiling just 237 yards and 17 first downs. The Bears (9-7) return home Saturday, Oct. 25, to play Ohio Wesleyan University at Francis Field.

**Cross country races in Wisconsin meet**

The men's and No. 26 women's cross country teams ran in the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Invitational in Oshkosh, Wis., Oct. 18, placing 12th and fourth, respectively. Between the two meets, there were more than 141 runners representing 35 colleges or universities, marking the largest meet in U.W.-Oshkosh history.

Sophomore Taryn Surtees placed the women's team in the top 10 of the 6K course in 21:44.10 to place 26th overall in a field of 41 runners. Sophomore Dave Spanderlor was the men's finisher, coming in 4th with a time of 25:18.28 in the 8K race.

**Women's golf third at Maryville Invitational**

The women's golf team shot a 36-hole score of 346 to finish in third place at the 2008 Maryville University Fall Invitational Oct. 18 at the Missouri Club in Eureka, Mo. Sophomore Kathleen Pettinato shot a 36 in the final round to finish seventh place with a 36-hole score of 184 (79-83). Freshman Katie Homa followed her career best round of 83 with an 84 to finish the event in 10th place with a 165.

Freshman Lee Ann Felder had the game-winner in the Bears' Oct. 19 win over Brandeis University.

**Record Online Preview: Women's tennis**

Executive Editor Susan Killenberg McGinn

Women's tennis has two third-place finishes at the 2008 Wilson/ITA National Small College Championship. Watts and Cuddihy placed third at the 2008 Wilson/ITA National Small College Championship.

**Record Online Preview: Football**

Executive Editor Susan Killenberg McGinn

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Introducing new faculty members

Raymond E. Arvidson, Ph.D., the James B. Beam Distinguished University Professor, will deliver the inaugural Robert M. Walker Distinguished Lecture at 7 p.m. Oct. 30 in Room 100, Bow Hall.

Arvidson, who has played key roles in NASA missions both large and small, including the current Phoenix Mars Mission, will discuss "Mars. Environments. Habitations. Implications."
The lecture is free and open to the public.

WUSTLARTHUR ALAN WALKER LECTURE SERIES is sponsoring the lecture as part of the inaugural Walker lecture series. Professors Wayne Arvidson to discuss Mars missions to Mars, including the current Phoenix Mars Mission, will discuss "Mars. Environments. Habitations. Implications." The lecture is free and open to the public.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS Oct. 23, 2008

Arisdon to discuss Mars missions in inaugural Walker lecture series

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Arvidson, who has played key roles in NASA missions both large and small, including the current Phoenix Mars Mission, will discuss "Mars. Environments. Habitations. Implications." The lecture is free and open to the public.

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Power of collaboration

Sawyer helps foster creativity in the classroom and workplace

By Neil Schoenherr

Start a company designing car-tridge adaptations of video arcade games for Atari.

"He said when I got back to Boston I should come in for an interview," Sawyer says. "But I said I was going to go on vacation, which I did."

Though he got an offer from Hewlett-Packard, he ended up taking the video game design job, staying in Boston, which "I never thought I'd do," he says.

Sawyer said working for General Computer Corp. was "an almostCadillac experience at the University with his close attention to the curriculum," James E. McLeod, vice chancellor for student and dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, "Keith's background in creativity and innovation have helped him bring fresh and interesting ideas to our committee."

When Sawyer isn't teaching and writing, he still finds time to play piano. He also enjoys mountain biking, camping, hiking and canoeing.

Sawyer and his wife, Barbara, enjoy cooking and are members of the faculty club. Sawyer has a son, Graham, 5, and a stepdaughter, Nina Valdez, 17; and son, Graham, 5; and a stepdaughter, Nina Valdez, 17.

"Keith is a great colleague, always ready to help out in any way," says Henry L. "Robby" Rodgeril III, Ph.D., the James S. McDonnell Distinguished Professor of Psychology at WUSTL. "We are trying to replicate which peer leaders are doing a good job and specifically what they are doing to help students learn more effectively."

After working on several Atari cartridge adaptations of arcade games, two original arcade games were designed and worked on the Atari 7800 gaming console.

While in Chicago, Sawyer discovered jazz music in high school, a discovery that would greatly influence his life and career.

"I've been drawn to music," he says. "In high school, I was shy and introverted, and music was a way for me to have a more open access to people. People always needed a pianist, so it really became a social as well as creative outlet for me."

Back to school

After working for the consulting firm Kenan Systems Corps, for six years, Sawyer decided to go back to class and graduate school in 1990, hoping to fulfill a dream of becoming a professor.

He earned a doctorate in psychology from the University of Chicago in 1994. His doctoral thesis was on children's pretend play, and it became his first book, "Pretend Play as Imagination," which came out in 1997. He spent one year in a preschool classroom with 4- to 5-year-old children, recording their imaginary play scenarios to gain an understanding of the mechanisms and processes of effective collaboration in conversation.

While in Chicago, Sawyer discovered improvisational theater.

"While I was at the University of Chicago, a friend introduced me to improvisational theater, which is very different," he says. "I started to get excited about it because it was conversational, but it was like jazz. It was the missing link between my interest in jazz and my interest in collaborative conversation."

He found that a local improv group called Off Off Campus would have open auditions and played with them for two years, taking the opportunity to videotape practices and performances. He also taped many other groups during that time.

"I spent about 10 years analyzing those tapes," he says. "There was more than 36 hours of performance data, and I was fascinated by the collaborative verbal creativity that improvising actors use to generate spontaneous dialogue."

The study resulted in a book called "Improvised Dialogues," published in 2003. It was the first social scientific study of Chicago improvisational theater.

"I'm trying to mesh my creative research with research in the learning sciences to identify what schools should look like if we want to produce more creative graduates in an innovation-type economy," he says.

He is also working on a National Science Foundation grant-funded study with regional faculty, Ph.D., senior lecturer in psychology at Arts & Sciences and director of the Teaching Center, on peer-led learning.

"We have videotaped a peer-led learning study group in which an upperelement leads a study group of freshmen," Sawyer says. "We are trying to replicate which peer leaders are doing a good job and specifically what they are doing to help students learn more effectively."

Sawyer has been working with the computer science program in the School of Engineering to transform the undergraduate computer science program to make it more collaborative and hands-on.

Sawyer says WUSTL has been very supportive of serious scholarly work. "I think that's one reason professors enjoy it so much here and tried to stay here for a long time. Faculty members value the space to do their scholarly and academic work. We also value the synergy between teaching and research," says Sawyer, who adds that WUSTL students are "top-notch."

Fresh ideas

Sawyer is in his second year as chair of the Arts & Sciences Committee.

"Keith has made a great contribution in terms of his experience here at the University with his close attention to the curriculum," James E. McLeod, vice chancellor for student and dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, "Keith's background in creativity and innovation have helped him bring fresh and interesting ideas to our committee."

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