WUSTL program in national spotlight

By Rachel Schuman

Washington University is in the spotlight for its pivotal role in the Genomics Education Partnership (GEP), a collaborative effort to provide research experience in genomics to undergraduate classrooms across the country.

Genomics, the study of an organism's entire genome, is an exciting area in which students get involved in research. The GEP consists of more than 40 faculty members from a variety of colleges and universities, including historically black and Hispanic-serving institutions and schools with a high proportion of first-generation college students.

By making it easy for undergraduate institutions to incorporate research into their regular, academic-year curricula, the GEP can reach underserved students who otherwise have limited opportunities to learn to think like scientists.

At the helm of this mission is Sarah C.R. Elgin, Ph.D., the Viktoria Hamburger Distinguished Professor in Arts & Sciences and professor of biology and of education in Arts & Sciences as well as professor of biochemistry and molecular biology and of genetics in the School of Medicine.

In 2001, Elgin was one of 20 professors awarded $1 million from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) to bring research into the undergraduate classroom. Over the next four years, Elgin and her colleagues developed and implemented a research-based genomics course for juniors and seniors at WUSTL to polish and interpret their own portion of raw DNA sequence.

The course, "Research Explorations in Genomics," is a collaborative effort. Elgin co-teaches with Elaine Murdis, Ph.D., as associate professor of genetics and co-director of the Genome Sequencing Center, and Jeremy Babler, Ph.D., associate professor of computer science and engineering. Several graduate students also participate in the research.

Elgin, an evolutionary biologist, has received $10 million from the Danforth Foundation to continue expanding the GEP, which will also continue to prioritize opportunities for minority students.

Danforth Foundation donates $10 million for neurodegenerative research

By Michael C. Purdy

The Danforth Foundation has granted the Hope Center for Neurological Disorders at the School of Medicine a $10 million endowed gift for research into a range of conditions that cause injury and impairment to the brain and central nervous system.

The funds will be used to support innovative and groundbreaking new ideas for research with clear potential to improve diagnosis and treatment of patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Parkinson's disease, stroke, Huntington's disease, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy and other disorders.

The endowment created by the gift will be named after the late Donald Danforth Jr., a 1955 graduate of the Ohio Business School who was executive vice president of Ralston-Purina Co. Danforth was the brother of Chancellor Emeritus William H. Danforth, M.D., former U.S. Senator John Danforth and St. Louisan Dorothy Danforth Miller.

WUSTL and Hope Happens have committed to raising additional matching endowed funds of $10 million for the same research programs over the next five years. The Hope Center was created in 2004 as a partnership between WUSTL and Hope Happens, a public charity started by Christopher Hobler, who lost his life to ALS in 2005.

"This gift is an outstanding example of how Washington University, Hope Happens and the St. Louis community continue to benefit from the generosity and leadership of the Danforths and the Danforth Foundation," Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said. "As science develops a new generation of treatments for some of society's most devastating disorders, this donation and the mandate for additional fundraising that comes with it help ensure that Washington University and the Hope Center remain at the forefront of the field in research that will alleviate suffering and find solutions for earlier diagnosis and treatment."

"The support of the Danforth family has been at the forefront of this mission," Danforth said.

Board names Brauer chair

New members appointed at winter meeting

BY GWEN ERICSON

Camilla T. Brauer Hall, which will house the Department of Energy, Environmental & Chemical Engineering and the International Center for Advanced Renewable Energy & Sustainability (I-CARES), is currently under construction.

The Board of Trustees named Stephen F. Brauer chair of the Board, effective July 1, 2009, and elected six new trustees, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton announced at the Board's winter meeting Dec. 5.

"In the interest of moving the Board in 1991 and has been the chair of the School of Engineering & Applied Science's national council. The board also recommended the goal of accelerating Washington University's ascent among the world's premier universities and building a leading engineering school. In late October ground was broken for the Stephen F.

Camilla T. Brauer Hall, which will house the Department of Energy, Environmental & Chemical Engineering and the International Center for Advanced Renewable Energy & Sustainability (I-CARES). He currently serves as a member of the Board.

Brauer, former U.S. ambassador to Belgium, is chairman of Hunter Engineering Co., a leading manufacturer of computer-based, automotive service equipment for the global market and headquartered in St. Louis.

Wrighton recognized and thanked the Brauer family for its support of Washington University, particularly for its leadership in helping the University raise $1 billion in new commitments since 2003.

Other ailments can affect survival of head and neck cancer

By Gwen Ericson

Current estimates for head and neck cancer survival are largely inaccurate because they widely disregard many of the most common diseases such as prostate, breast, lung and colorectal cancers, which affect a much larger number of patients than head and neck cancers.

It is essential for physicians to have accurate estimates of how long patients are likely to survive their cancers.

Some past studies of head and neck cancer have investigated the effect of comorbidities present at diagnosis, but this study shows that comorbidities grow in severity and frequency in about a third of head and neck cancer patients after their primary cancer treatment.

The outcomes for patients with head and neck cancer who survive the initial period after diagnosis and treatment are heavily dependent on their comorbidities, Piccirillo said.

Survival estimates have an impact on the care of cancer patients such as selection of initial treatment and evaluation of treatment allocation.

For example, a study also emphasizes the importance of cancer-staging system based on disease extent at diagnosis.

For decades, we have used a cancer system based on disease extent at diagnosis.

Do you think patients should be discouraged from quitting smoking?" Piccirillo said. "In fact, many patients who quit smoking have not been discouraged from quitting smoking."

In the United States, an estimated 35,310 new cases of oral cavity and throat cancer are expected in 2008. People with head and neck cancer have nearly the highest rate of comorbidities — only lung and colorectal cancer patients have more concurrent health problems.
Xia becomes first McKelvey Professor

McDonnell gift honors former engineering dean

By Barbara Rea

Yuming Xia, Ph.D., professor of biological engineering, was installed as the inaugural James M. McKelvey Professor in the School of Engineering & Applied Science in a Sept. 2 ceremony in Watsco A. While delivering the keynote address, Xia noted the McKelvey professorship is named in honor of the school's deans from 1964-1991 and is one of three professorships established in 2003 by a gift from the James S. McDonnell Foundation and the David and Anne Macelwany Trust.

"Washington University is fortunate to have an abundance of great friends, and among the most notable of them is John J. McDonnell," Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said. "His support for endowed professorships, academic leadership positions, including his board chairman, and faculty in the interdisciplinary research of the Center for Materials Innovation. This extraordinary gift to the center demonstrates his strong commitment to the great promise of both basic and applied materials research at Washington University.

Widely recognized as one of the world's preeminent material scientists, Xia has authored more than 300 scholarly articles and holds 10 patents. Among his most distinguished awards are fellowships from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the NIH Director's Pioneer Award in 2003. He joined the School of Engineering & Applied Science and senior professor of biological engineering.

"Professor Xia is a renowned scientist," Jim McKelvey led the school to national prominence in engineering research and education; and John McDonnell shaped one of the greatest aerospace companies in the world," he said. "I'm very proud to have these three remarkable persons associated with the School of Engineering. McKelvey earned a masters and a doctoral degree in chemical engineering from Washington University in 1952. After a career in industry with DuPont, he began his academic career in 1954 at Johns Hopkins University. He returned to WUSTL in 1957, was named chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering in 1962, and in 1964, embarked on a 27-year tenure as dean of the engineering school.

Although officially retired since 1996 after 39 years of service, McKelvey continued teaching in the chemical engineering department through the 2007-08 academic year. Under his leadership, the school rose to national prominence in engineering education. McKelvey was responsible for many innovations, including the Engineers' Scholarship Program, the DuPont Degree Program and the Cooperative Education Program. In addition, he is known for being an early pioneer in the field of polymer processing.

McDonnell is the retired chairman of McDonnell Douglas Corp. After retiring, he and his wife, Anne, are Life Members of the Institute for Advanced Studies and the David and Anne Macelwany Trust. The gift to the school demonstrates his strong commitment to the great promise of both basic and applied materials research at Washington University.

Architecture graduate student wins design prizes

By Liam Otten

Assembled in empty lots across Chicago, the structure would serve as a kind of modular, movable building. The design of the building would include reusable wall and adjacent gathering space could be used for films, presentations, lectures, demonstrations, and other community information, which could be accessed and updated through an integrated Wi-Fi zone.

Each section could be fitted with recycled cardboard tubes, which the designers note are lightweight, affordable, easily transported, fire resistant, durable and biodegradable. The tubes would be mounted on a grounded track system and cabled by thin wiring and recycled aluminum. Covering the surface would be a photovoltaic array, which could adjust to seasons, climates or other conditions. The energy produced would power the media wall, with any excess funneled to the city grid.

In addition to Lang, the tran/spot team included students from Harvard's Graduate School of Design, the Illinois Institute of Technology, Kansas State University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The project, which co-sponsored the competition. The architecture and design of the building would include modular, movable building, with any excess funneled to the city grid.

The jury was chaired by Brad Guy, president of the Building Design Competition featured judging in three categories: The Building Category examined the construction of an entire structure, from foundation to roof, While the Innovation Category focused on a particular building component, tool, policy or strategy. The Best Residential Design, the Illinois Institute of Technology, Kansas State University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The project, which co-sponsored the competition. The architecture and design of the building would include modular, movable building, with any excess funneled to the city grid.

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Brain cooling prevents cell death in mice exposed to anesthesia

By Jim Dryden

New School of Medicine research suggests cooling can prevent the death of nerve cells that has been observed in infant mice exposed to anesthesia.

The effects of anesthesia on human infants and young children have been debated among neuroscientists, but growing evidence suggests anesthetic drugs during brain development may contribute to behavioral and developmental delays.

The researchers previously had reported that when young rodents were exposed to alcohol, anesthetics or anticonvulsants, large numbers of their brain cells died through a process known as neuroapoptosis. This latest work suggests such damage may be preventable.

The new findings were reported in 2001 in the journal Neurosciences.

Olney said it's likely to demonstrate links between developmental deficits and exposure to anesthetic drugs because the type of deficit can vary depending upon the developmental age at which exposure occurs.

BETH MILLER

Mark Manary, M.D., has been named the first Helene B. Roberson Professor of Pediatrics at Washington University in St. Louis.

Manary has spent several years devoted to researching the effectiveness of a simple yet revolutionary peanut-based food developed in the 1990s.

Olney said, "This innovative partnership between The Washington University Medical Center Redevelopment Program and the School of Medicine's Department of Pediatrics is an outstanding example of how the two schools can work together to improve the health and well-being of children in the St. Louis area and beyond."
Civil rights classic ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ at Edison Jan. 9-18

By Liam Otten

Since its publication in 1960, Harper Lee’s ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ has become the best-selling novel of all time and continues to be a widely read book exploring race in the United States.

In January, Edison Theatre will hold a special Metro-Telecommunications Company, St. Louis’ foremost professional troupe for young people, to stage an all-ages theatrical production of the civil rights classic.

“As we anticipate our new national leadership and cope with difficult local issues, ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ strikes home with renewed relevance,” says Charles E. Rubin, executive director of Edison Theatre. “It’s a story that resonates with ever deeper meaning and strength. Seeing it brought to the stage will unlock nuances in a way that only theater can.”

Performances, which take place at Edison Theatre Jan. 9-18, will be held in conjunction with the Big Read, a national program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts designed to encourage reading and discussion of a single book.

Set in 1930s fictional Maycomb, Ala., ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ is the story of a young girl coming of age and discovering moral decision-making.

Harper Lee called her book ‘a story about children,'” said Artistic Director Carol North, who directs the cast of 19. “It’s that and much, much more. The enduring power of ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ is its ability to touch the heart as well as awaken the conscience of readers.

‘For me, it’s a call to action,’ North said. ‘We need only look at our own community to see how social inequality, racism and fear of the ‘other’ continues to divide us. I’m so grateful for the partnership with Edison Theatre that makes it possible for Metro Theater Company to bring this powerful story to the stage for St. Louis.’

The cast is led by Nicholas Kryah as Atticus and Emily Jacksonow as Scout in ‘To Kill a Mockingbird.’

“Harper Lee wrote in ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ that ‘Children are a birthright and the world is the best classroom.”’

In addition, Metro and Edison will co-host a postshow reception Jan. 9, and with actress Mary Badham, who played Scout in the Academy Award-winning 1962 film. Badham will also participate in postshow Q&A discussions following both the 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. performances Jan. 10.

Tickets are $20 for adults, $10 for seniors and students. Group rates of 10 or more can purchase blocks of tickets at $8 each.

For more information, visit metrophotitheatercompany.org or odysseytheatredistrict.edu or call 935-0453.

Freedom From Smoking * First Glass * Neuronal Migration

Exhibits


Lectures

Thursday, Dec. 11

Human Genetics Seminar. "Lymphophagocytic Lymphomas: Neoplastic or Stem Cell Disorders?" Tony Shimizu-Daikoku, chief of the unit of intestinal lymphomas, U. of Cal., San Francisco; Conv. Ref.: 400 McKinley Ave. 10-290

Film

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The Bears fall to tournament host Whitworth University, 73-68, Dec. 5 and then lost to Whitman College, 72-66, Dec. 6. Senior guard Harley Ward led WUSTL in the first loss with a season-high 17 points and led her career-high with four three-point baskets. In the second game, junior Zoe Uhrich led the Bears with a season-high 17 points and was named to the all-tournament team.

The Bears (4-3) return to action at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at the WU Field House, hosting Fontbonne University, and then travel to Hanover, Ind., Dec. 18-20 to play in the Hanover College Eau Claire-Moyer Classic before the break. Their season resumes at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 5 against Webster University.

Swim teams have productive meet

A total of five school records were broken as the WUSTL men’s and women’s swim teams both grabbed a second-place finish at the Wheaton Invitational Dec. 5-6 in Wheaton, Ill. Junior Alex Beyer was the star for the men’s team, breaking three school records, setting three automatic NCAA qualifying times and four provisional marks. Freshman Karina Stridh broke a pair of school records for the women’s team, also making three NCAA “A” cuts and four provisional marks.

Beyer broke the WUSTL record in the 500-yard Freestyle (4:54.73) and the 200-yard Freestyle (1:46.08) and the 400-yard individual medley (3:57.79). Stridh’s school-record-breaking performances came in the 100-yard Freestyle (51.19) and the 50-yard Freestyle (23.56). She also set an automatic NCAA time of 57.32 in the 100-yard backstroke.

The men’s third-place qualifying tally for the weekend was six automatic times and 30 provisional cuts. Both the men’s and women’s teams had three automatic qualifying times, with the men posting 10 NCAA “A” cuts and the women submitting three NCAA “A” cuts and four provisional marks.

The Wheaton Invitational was the last competition for the fall semester. Both teams return to action Jan. 9, when they host Lindenwood University at the Millstone Pool.

Fun times

From left to right, junior Mitchell Shenskin, freshman Brian Duddy and junior Matt Barker play Super Smash Brothers Brawl during a video game tournament as part of the grand opening of the Fun Room in the Danforth University Center Dec. 6. Duddy took first place and Shenskin second.

More than 20 students took part in the opening-night activities. The Fun Room, located on the building’s second floor, features comfortable furniture and several video game consoles that will be accessible to students.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction Update is published periodically and provides information about the progress of major building and renovation projects. Information is provided to the Record by facilities management.

Danforth Campus

Brauer Hall

The building will receive a LEED silver rating. Monthly LEED meetings will be held.

Busch Hall renovation

Work continues on the rough-architecture, plumbing, fire protection, and the HVAC.

South 40 Umphre House replacement

The reconfiguration of the project scope and budget has been concluded. The trench drain was installed; fire-rated vinyl panels will be starting on installation in mid-December.

South 40 utilities

The contractor has completed the excavation of the chiller site and is cutting in footings. The north and west side footing excavation was completed in November. Final plans for the chiller plant must now be reestimated for bid to subcontractors. New boilers are in operation to provide heat to the South 40 residence halls.

Wohl Campus

The reconstruction of the project scope and budget has been concluded. Concrete work continues. The LEED team is working to achieve a target silver LEED rating.

GEP

Students gain sense of ownership in research - from Page 1

other members of the WUSTL community provide guest lectures to illustrate how they have used genomic approaches to answer diverse questions in their own research.

Elgin’s course was so successful that he became one of eight professors to have their original HHMI grant funding renewed in 2006. With that support, she set out to make the course available to undergraduates at institutions across the country.

Widespread usage at WUSTL often begins their research by using a summer in the laboratory under the guidance of a faculty, graduate student or post-doctoral researcher mentor. However, the privilege of a summer research experience is unusual at many institutions due to inadequate facilities, limited funding, high student-to-faculty ratios and a lack of experienced research-active mentors.

Elgin’s course overcomes these barriers by providing students with computer-based research opportunities. This strategy minimizes the cost of research materials because the necessary data is freely available on the Web, and most institutions already possess adequate computer facilities.

Mentoring is also emphasized by teaching students the same electronic tools and strategies in a group setting and by relying on former students to serve as undergraduate teaching assistants (TAs).

Thus, one dedicated faculty member can provide research opportunities for a much larger number of students than would be possible in traditional, one-on-one mentoring relationships. GEP faculty and TAs learn the relevant software during summer workshops at WUSTL.

“Our GEP faculty is an impressive group,” Elgin said. “Each member has taken the basic format and adapted it to the requirements of their institution and the needs of their students. Their energy and enthusiasm are terrific.”

The GEP approach makes offering a research-based course a viable option for a wide variety of institutions. Students in the program are currently working on a comparative genomics problem that focuses on genes in a heterogeneous, or tightly linked, region of the genome.

In the future, students might participate in research ranging from regulation of gene expression to the evolution of a species. To sum up the philosophy of the GEP, Elgin references an ancient Chinese proverb that states, “I hear and I forget, I do and I understand.” In other words, Elgin maintains that students can’t truly understand the scientific method until they have conducted their own research.

This assertion is supported by an article recently published in the Oct. 31 issue of Science in which Elgin and her colleagues present results from an exit survey of students who participated in the GEP course without research experience in the summer of 2005 and 2006.

Elgin refers to this as a summer research experience in terms of its capacity to help students prepare for a career in science.

According to Elgin, the success of the GEP can be partially attributed to students’ sense of ownership.

“It makes a huge difference when you tell them, ‘You’re responsible for this. This is your project. It’s up to you to go in the databases. This is going to be used by different scientists. Do it right.’”

SARAH C.R. ELGIN

IN Bastrop, Texas

The top-ranked men’s basketball team won the 25th Annual Lopata Classic with two victories and a win in the third-place game at home. The Bears have now won 20 straight Lopata Classic games and 15 overall tournament titles.

Five Bears scored in double figures to lead the team to an 85-75 victory over Hamilton College in the first game Dec. 5. Senior Tyler Nading recorded his second double-double of the season with 16 points and 10 rebounds and moved into third place on the all-time steals list with 115. Freshman Dylan Richter pumped in a career-high 11 points, while sophomore Caleb Knepper also added 11 off the bench. Senior Sean Wallis added 10 points, while freshman Alex Trinh had career-best 10 points.

Toth had career-best 10 points. Senior Sean Wallis added 10 points, while sophomore Caleb Knepper (1954-57) into 11th on the WUSTL record book with 155.
**Board**

Kemper, McDonnell

named vice chairs from Page 1

thanked David W. Kemper for his efforts as pro-chancellor of Washi ngton University as Board chair. Kemper was appointed vice chair, and John L. McDonnell was appointed vice chair.

**Better connections**

Forty-eight students in art, architecture, landscape design and transportation at Washington University in St. Louis presented the results of their summer work at the opening of the School of the Environment's annual student exhibition on Aug. 8. The event included tours of student work and a reception.

**Cancer**

Alcohol, tobacco use risk— from Page 1

The use of smoke and smokeless tobacco products and excessive alcohol consumption increases the patient's chances of head and neck cancer, and some studies show that cigarette smoking and alcohol use increase risk by more than 30 times. Recently, head and neck cancer specialists have noted an increase in the total and back of the throat are increasingly linked to human papilloma virus, the same virus responsible for nearly all cervical cancers. The researchers reviewed the medical records of 185 patients with squamous cell carcinomas of the oral cavity, throat and larynx who were treated in 1997 and '98 at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

Comorbid ailments in these patients included heart attack, coronary artery disease, tumors other than the primary tumor, psychiatric disease, lung disease, stroke, diabetes and alcohol abuse. Many of these disorders can be traced to smoking or alcohol consumption— the same behaviors that may contribute to the occurrence of head and neck cancer.

**Gift**

Bench-to-bedside research model—best hope— from Page 1

The center of so much that is good in Washington University, said Mark P. Baldwin, professor of neurology, of neurobiology and of medicine through our BioMed Scripts in 1998 as senior vice president and chief financial officer.

He became president in 2003 and chief executive officer in 2005.

Previously, he was a partner at Coopers and Lybrand, managing partner of the firm's financial practice, and was executive vice president and chief financial officer for Life Partners Group. He joined the Board of the University of Missouri.

**Health and longevity**

Larry J. Shapiro, M.D., executive vice chancellor of medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine through our BioMed Scripts in 1998 as senior vice president and chief financial officer.

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**Board of Directors**

The Board also heard reports from the University's faculty on research, development, educational policy, University-wide initiatives for 2009-2010 were appointed and is composed of chair Stephen F. O'Connor, vice chair David W. Kemper, vice chair Kenneth T. McDonnell, vice chair John L. McDonnell and chief executive officer of GPB.

Six trustees named, 10 others re-elected

Six new members were elected to the Board of Directors.

George P. Bauer is president and chief executive officer of Washington University in St. Louis, the nation's first liberal arts institution founded in 1853.

He has served on the boards of directors of several major universities, including the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Texas at Austin.

He is also a member of the Council of Presidents of the Association of American Universities and a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of American Universities.

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By Gerry Eversing

McDonnell grant funds collaborative research to improve learning

The following are among the new faculty members at the University. Others will be announced periodically in this space.

Kelly Bishop, Ph.D., joins the Olin College School of Business as assistant professor of economics. Bishop received a doctorate from Duke University by completing an undergraduate degree at Columbia University and a graduate degree at University College Dublin. Her research interests include environmental economics, public economics, labor economics and applied econometrics.

Chad Larson, Ph.D., joins Olin Business School as assistant professor of marketing. Larson earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Brigham Young University's Marriott School of Management before pursuing a doctorate at the University of Michigan. His research interests range from accounting measurement, manipulation and fraud to institutional investors, earnings announcements and financial statement analysis.

Obituary

Barry, first-year student in Arts & Sciences, 19

Elizabeth K. Barry, a first-year student in Arts & Sciences, died Dec. 8 in her room in Rebelein-Mallinckrodt Residence Hall. Barry, of Homewood, Ill., was 19.

The St. Louis County Medical Examiner's Office reported that an autopsy and toxicology examinations performed Dec. 9 were inconclusive, and there were no signs of foul play and no signs of meningitis or other life-threatening infectious diseases. Further tests will be performed, and it may take up to six weeks before a final determination.

Barry, a 2009 graduate of Flossmoor Community High School, was a member of the University's swim team and had participated in Leadership Through Service, a program that involves community service, leadership training and workshops. She recently signed up to take part in sorority recruitment.

"The University extends its deepest sympathy to her family, friends and classmates," said James E. McLeod, vice chancellor for students and dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. "The death of a member of the University community is a tragic loss, and the University is offering parking and counseling to those affected by her passing."

For assistance, students may contact their resident advisor or make an appointment with the Office of Health and Wellness Center during the daylight hours at 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Visitation for Barry will be from 3-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at Ryun Funeral Home, 18022 Dixie Highway, Flossmoor, Ill., 60439. A Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at St. Joseph Church, 1795 N. Dixie Highway, in Flossmoor.

"The family requests memorials to "Operation Snowball," care of Homewood- Flossmoor Community High School, 999 Kedzie Ave., Flossmoor, Ill., 60439. The University will hold a memorial service on campus when students return in January.

As President-elect Barack Obama continues to fill key cabinet positions from the ranks of Washington-based public policy think tanks, a new book by longtime policy adviser Murray Weidenbaum, Ph.D., examines how the nation's top think tanks came to play such critical roles in U.S. policy. Suggesting that America's leading policymakers are often "more tank than think," Weidenbaum, the Edward Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor, argues in his book, <i>The Competition of Ideas: The World of the Washington Think Tanks.</i>

The book, which was released last week in this space at the University of Washington Washington, D.C., by the University Press, the Edward Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor, argues in his book, <i>The Competition of Ideas: The World of the Washington Think Tanks.</i> It discusses the ways that the nation's top think tanks came to play such critical roles in U.S. policy.

Eversing's comment about think tanks is often too predictable in the positions they take on public policy. A member of the Department of Economic and Social Policy at Washington University from 1959 to 1964, Weidenbaum has been a visiting scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and the Center for Strategic and International Studies and a speaker at the Brookings Institution, the Heritage Foundation and the Cato Institute, among others.

His book offers an insider's view of all five of these think tanks, highlighting their accomplishments as well as shortcomings.

The book is a must-read for anyone interested in understanding think tanks and their role in shaping public policy.

"The Competition of Ideas" is a fair-minded and well-researched book that offers a comprehensive overview of the world of think tanks and their role in shaping public policy. Weidenbaum's analysis is thorough and well-researched, and he provides a clear and balanced assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of these organizations.

Overall, "The Competition of Ideas" is an important contribution to the ongoing debate about the role of think tanks in shaping public policy. Weidenbaum's analysis is thoughtful and well-researched, and he provides a clear and balanced assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of these organizations. It is a must-read for anyone interested in understanding think tanks and their role in shaping public policy.
Washington People

Salvatore P. Sutera, Ph.D., interim dean of the School of Engineering & Applied Science and senior professor of biomedical engineering, began his long, distinguished career at Washington University as chair of mechanical engineering in August 1968.

As the nation raged with revolutionary fury that month, Sutera, sitting in the tranquility of his office in Cupples II Hall, could have had little inkling that, 40 years later, he would be heading the school that brought him from Brown University to establish a research linkage between mechanical engineering and the WUSTL School of Medicine.

"When I came here, I was working on some fluid mechanics problems related to blood flow in the capillaries that I did start at Brown, which then didn't have a medical school," Sutera says.

"Washington University was very attractive to me because of its fine medical school. It wasn't long after arriving here that I was part of joint grants with professors in chemical engineering and radiologic surgery. Later on, I found great interests in hematology, internal medicine and pathology."

"I enjoyed a really good, long, 25-year run in research funded mostly by the National Institutes of Health," he says. "Most of my collaborators are now retired from research, as I am, but I sure am keeping active as an administrator."

Sutera retired from the duties of chair of mechanical engineering in 1985, but, after a hiatus of three years, he returned as permanent chair in 1988, remaining in that capacity until 1996, that is, a total of 23 years in that post.

When the announcement was made of the formation of the new Department of Biomedical Engineering in 1986, Sutera served as acting chair of that department. At the same time, he ran the search committee for a permanent chair. The committee's quest was successful and short. In the summer of 1997, the current chair, Frank C. Y. Yin, M.D., Ph.D., took over and was soon installed as the Stephen F. and Camilla T. Brauer Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Engineering.

Sutera has long been recognized as a force in biomedical research, with particular emphasis on the degradation of blood and artificial organs, including flow-induced thrombosis and the physiology of red blood cells and platelets. Before becoming associate dean, Sutera researched interests dealt with fluid drag reduction by boundary-layer control and the effects of turbulence on heat transfer, among other topics.

Before coming to WUSTL, Sutera was a member of the Brown University engineering faculty from 1966-68. During his last two years at Brown, he was executive officer of its Division of Engineering.

Sutera had several industrial experiences from 1953-57, including working with the Gil Martin L. Martin Co., Baltimore; North American Aviation, Downey, Calif.; E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Newark, N.J.; and Wilmington, Del.; and Electro-Optical Systems Inc., Pasadena, Calif.

He earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1954 from John Hopkins University and a master's degree and doctorate in mechanical engineering from the California Institute of Technology in 1955 and 1960, respectively.

Planting the seed

A native of Baltimore, Sutera's father emigrated from Sicily in 1918, and his mother was born in Baltimore. He was the first Sutera to attend college. At Hopkins, he met a couple of professors who had degrees from the California Institute of Technology, and they got him interested in the famous school.

"Working on my master's degree, I met a professor who became my dissertation mentor, and he got me involved in biological questions and planted the first seed," Sutera says.

Sutera insists at DuPont put him in contact with many researchers who had earned doctorates, and they inspired him to go back to Cal Tech in 1957. His doctoral research, he says, "focused on the optical properties of flowing suspensions of particles, in particular tobacco mosaic virus. From there I had a small jump upscale to blood cells.

While many lay people struggle to see a connection between mechanical engineering and biomedical engineering, Sutera found it all logical.

"One of the traditional areas of biomedical engineering is fluid flow," he says. "There are lots of fluids circulating in the body," he continues. "I became fascinated by the movement of blood through capillary vessels whose internal diameters were often narrower than the diameter of the red cells. Further down the road, I worked on mechanical devices, like artificial heart valves, blood pumps and blood gas analyzers; all of these mammalian devices where blood cells can be damaged or activated in adverse ways. Fluid mechanics was the connection for me between mechanical engineering and biomedical science."

The right time

At WUSTL Sutera was on the ground floor of establishing a biomedical engineering department from the beginning, an accomplishment that took a long time before serious consideration was given to the venture.

"Originally, we were very convinced he says. "We didn't know if industry was ready for an industrial engineering credit in biomedical. We established a four-year curriculum, and we had lots of graduate students writing important dissertation that were actually biomedical based, but they were receiving their degrees from the traditional engineering departments. Finally, in the early 1990s, under the impetus of Project 21, the medical and engineering schools were in agreement that the time was right."

Yin came to Washington University in 1997 to head the department, and, in less than 10 years, was recognized as one of the best in the nation.

"As interim dean, I plan to be around for one or two years, but I am committed to the vision formulated over the past two years, which we call the 'Plan for Excellence,'" Sutera says. "We have a new building, the Stephen F. and Camilla T. Brauer Hall, full of equipment.

"In addition to the school's outstanding strengths in biomechanics and information technology, there are a lot of exciting things ahead of us in alternative energy and sustainability research," he says. "Sustainability is a major new thrust of engineering at Washington University."

David A. Peters, Ph.D., the McDonald Douglas Professor of Engineering, has known Sutera since 1968, when he was a junior in mechanical engineering, and he says Sutera encouraged him to become a professor and hired him back to WUSTL.

"He is a gentleman and a scholar, a man who mentored me when I was a young faculty member, and one who always supported me." Peters says. "He nominated me for awards, even though he knew that once I received those rewards this would increase both my visibility and the efforts of other schools to lure me away. He always thought of my career first before worrying about more parochial matters."

"When I found out that he was going to be the dean of engineer- ing, my heart sank within me," Peters says. "I know that he would be the perfect one to take our school onto new levels. He is that perfect knight."

Italian Francophile

Sutera's wife, Celia, met at Cal Tech and have three daughters: Maria, 13; Annette, 18; and Clayton, 20. Annette of Hollywood, Calif., assistant director for the popular TV drama, "Grey's Anatomy," and Michelle, a social worker who lives in Rhode Island.

Their four grandchildren are all WUSTL alums. "It is nice to have a family member in show business," Sutera says. The Suteras were out visiting Annette some years ago when they were pushed into service as extra cast members of "Chicago Hope," a popular hospital drama of the 1990s, Sutera was instantly transformed into chief of cardiology, white coat and all.

Sutera has interesting hobbies. He paints, though he never had formal training. His No. 1 hobby is the French language and culture. He is president of Saint Louis-Lyon Sister Cities Inc. for eight years, and, during his tenure, he helped establish an adult exchange program with citizens of Lyon, the second city of France. St. Louis members would spend a week being hosted by Lyon member in their homes, and vice versa. He also is a member of the board of the Saint Louis Club of St. Louis.

"I hate to admit it, but my French is a lot better than my Italian right now," Sutera says. "I'm working to improve the latter."

Sutera finds the life of a dean to be challenging, exhilarating and interesting.

"Celia and I are enjoying getting to know so many distinguished and interesting people, colleagues, alumni and, of course, so many talented students and their parents," he says.