Social Work's Influence Spreads

The School of Social Work educates students from Central Asia and the Caucasus, so they can return home to build social services in their developing countries.
Thurtene Thanks 'Coach'

With a theme “Let Your Imagination Ride,” Thurtene Carnival brought together students, faculty, staff, and the community to celebrate once again the spirit of Washington University. Proceeds went to St. Louis Scores, an after-school program where children in St. Louis learn soccer and practice their literary skills through poetry. During the awards ceremony at the carnival’s conclusion, former Thurtene adviser Jim Burmeister (white shirt), executive director of University Relations and a.k.a. “Coach,” was honored for his 35 years of advising the Thurtene Junior Honorary.
Jane Wolff is an assistant professor of architecture and an authority on the challenges facing the California Delta and its levee system (page 76).

DEPARTMENTS

2 FrontRunners
Short takes provide a glimpse of WUSTL’s community of great minds and great ideas.

10 Helping Hands
University members dedicate themselves to serving others.

32 My Washington
Georgia Van Cleve, A.B. ’51, continues a family tradition of service to the University.

34 Alumni Activities
Alumni offerings include shopping for University items online and traveling to the Southern Hemisphere.

36 ClassMates
Catch up on news of fellow classmates and alumni profiles.

48 Washington Spirit
Associate Vice Chancellor James P. Crane reinforces clinical care at the School of Medicine.

For Professor Carl Phillips, the challenge is to get others to see that poetry is all about human emotions they can relate to (page 12).

FEATURES

12 Poetry Is His Perfect Expression
Carl Phillips’ award-winning writing reflects the complexities of being human—being flawed and struggling.

16 California’s Delta Blues
Some say the California Delta is destined for Katrina-style flooding along its massive but antiquated system of levees, and Jane Wolff, assistant professor of architecture, is among those fearing the worst.

20 Shaping Social Development Around the Globe
The School of Social Work partners with Columbia University and the Open Society Institute to educate students from Central Asia, so they can help build the policy and social service infrastructure their homelands need.

25 Knocked Over, but Not Out
New Orleans residents Jarvis DeBerry and Oscar Donahue, both English majors, survived Hurricane Katrina, yet their stories provide a glimpse of a permanent watermark.

29 Enriching the Lives of Older People
As executive director of the AARP Foundation, alumna Robin Talbert leads the nationwide effort to assist seniors with financial, legal, housing, and health issues.
Plant Compounds Reduce ‘Bad’ Cholesterol

A pill containing plant substances called sterols can help lower cholesterol, according to researchers at the School of Medicine.

The researchers studied patients who already were eating a heart-healthy diet and taking statin drugs to control cholesterol. The addition of plant sterols helped further lower total cholesterol and contributed to a nearly 10 percent reduction in low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, the so-called “bad” cholesterol.

Results of the study were published in the American Journal of Cardiology.

The National Cholesterol Education Program recommends that those with elevated cholesterol eat foods containing plant sterols as a way to lower cardiovascular risk, but many sterol-containing foods are inconvenient for some patients. Structurally similar to cholesterol, plant sterols can reduce the absorption of cholesterol in the gut by competing with cholesterol to get absorbed and transported into the body. However, sterols are not bioactive in the intestine unless they have first been solubilized or emulsified. Because sterols are not water-soluble, past strategies have involved dissolving them in fat.

Most sterol-containing foods studied so far have been brands of margarine. Studies have found that a daily intake of one or two tablespoons of sterol-containing margarine could significantly lower LDL cholesterol. Some juices and puddings also contain plant sterols.

“One problem is that many of our patients already have lowered their intake of fats and calories and do not use products like margarine on a regular basis,” says Anne Carol Goldberg, associate professor of medicine and lead author of the new study.

To deliver the sterols in pill form, the plant compounds were combined with a substance called lecithin and compressed into tablets. When mixed with lecithin, the normally insoluble sterols are able to dissolve in water and act in the intestine to affect cholesterol absorption.

Goldberg’s team studied 26 patients who were following the American Heart Association Heart Healthy Diet and taking statin drugs to control cholesterol.

Over six weeks, half were randomly assigned to take placebo pills while the rest took sterol tablets. All patients ingested four tablets, twice daily with meals, while continuing to take statin drugs. “Those who started with higher LDL got a bigger response, a bigger drop in their LDL, when they added plant sterols to their regimen,” Goldberg says.

Goldberg said it would be useful to try and replicate these findings in larger studies.
Gaming Is a Gamble

Of the more than 80 percent of the U.S. population that gambles in one form or another, most never need treatment for problem gambling. But about 1.8 percent of them do meet at least five of the American Psychiatric Association's criteria linked to pathological gambling. Criteria include preoccupation with betting, the need to gamble more often or make larger bets to obtain the same level of excitement, lying to conceal gambling involvement, and chasing losses with more substantial bets.

Investigators from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work and from the Department of Psychiatry in the School of Medicine have developed a tool known as the Gambling Assessment Module (GAM©), which can help determine whether a person is a pathological gambler and what particular type of gambling triggers problems for that individual.

"The assumption is that different people have problems with different types of gambling," says Renee M. Cunningham-Williams, visiting associate professor at the social work school and principal investigator on several gambling studies. "As researchers, we feel it's better not to lump football betting, slot machines, bingo, and craps under a single umbrella, just as we wouldn't lump together marijuana, cocaine, and heroin when it comes to drug addiction."

Cunningham-Williams explains that much of her research involves using the GAM to learn who is at risk to become a problem gambler—someone who meets four of the APA criteria—and who might progress to pathological gambling. One of her recent studies with C. Robert Cloninger, the Wallace Renard Professor of Psychiatry and director of the Center for Psychobiology of Personality, points to two activities that potentially could indicate a risk for crossing over: betting on stock options or commodities markets and betting on bingo. However, more research is needed on the specific role of gambling types as a risk factor for developing gambling problems.

In making business investment decisions, potential investors show bias against women chief executives and women business owners, according to research by two faculty in the University's Olin School of Business. Lyda Bigelow, assistant professor of organization and strategy, and Judi McLean Parks, the Reuben C. and Anne Carpenter Taylor Professor of Organizational Behavior, found that investors were overwhelmingly inclined to favor firms run by males.

"What we found is that the CEO's gender affected just about everything," McLean Parks says. "Participants were willing to invest 300 percent more in a firm run by a male, and when it came to compensation, they would pay the male 14 percent more than the female."

Respondents also said, among other things, that the female CEO had significantly less leadership experience, would be less able to handle a crisis, and was less competent. "We found that participants' latent biases were not based on reality," Bigelow says. "Research suggests that when there are many women in senior management, firms tend to do better."

The findings may appear bleak at first blush, says McLean Parks, "but the good news is that women are continuing to work in organizations and pursue entrepreneurial ventures. Sooner or later, the evidence of their success may start changing people's latent biases."
Frontrunners

Sports News Is Good News

Take a look at the headlines and you can quickly see that the Bears athletic teams are continuing to excel outside and inside the classroom. The women's basketball team finished the season with a 25-3 overall record and earned a trip to the Sweet 16 before losing to Hope College. Senior Kelly Manning was named First-Team All America, and Shanna-Lei Dacanay was named to the All-Freshman Team. On the men's side, sophomore Troy Ruths was named to the 2006 ESPN the Magazine Second-Team Academic All-America College Division Men's Basketball Team. The men finished with a 17-8 record.

In the pool, the men's swimming and diving team took sixth place at the NCAA Championships, which is their best NCAA finish in program history. Seniors Michael Slavik and Eric Triebe closed out their careers on top: Slavik (50 free champion) and Triebe (200 free champion) won the first and second national championships, respectively, in school swimming and diving history. Out of the pool, the men's swimming team ranked No. 1 in the nation in team grade-point average (3.49 combined) in Division III for the fall 2005 semester.

The women's swimming and diving team also had a program-best finish—fifth-place at the NCAA Championships. In track and field, four Bears earned All-America honors at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships: juniors Delaina Martin (weight throw), Cameron Williams (high jump), Karl Zelik (triple jump), and sophomore Morgen Leonard-Fleckman (pole vault). And, for the second-consecutive year, the men's and women's track and field teams swept the UAA Outdoor Championships. The Bears secured both titles with 13 individual crowns on the day.

The eighth-ranked men's tennis team had a strong season at 18-3, but the Bears lost to Kalamazoo College in the first round of the NCAA Division III Tournament. The 19th-ranked women's tennis team, 14-9, also lost in the NCAA first round. The red-hot baseball team fell to Mount St. Joseph in the NCAA Central Regionals, but at 34-7, the team set the school single-season record for wins. The women's softball team won the UAA for the third straight year. In post-season, the team lost to Wartburg College in the NCAA Midwest Regionals and finished with a 37-7 record.

Linguistic Differences Can Lead to Discrimination

It's long been known that when someone hears a voice without knowing or seeing the speaker, such as during a phone conversation, he or she makes assumptions about the other, based on speaking style. But research by John Baugh, the Margaret Bush Wilson Professor and director of African and African American Studies in Arts & Sciences, has shown that "linguistic profiling," a term he coined, is being used to deny minorities equal opportunity in terms of jobs and housing.

Baugh, who also is a professor of psychology and holds appointments in anthropology, education, and English—all in Arts & Sciences—has studied this phenomenon through hundreds of test phone calls responding to ads for jobs or apartment rentals. He tests ads by using a series of three calls. First someone speaking with an African-American dialect responds to an ad. Then, a researcher with a Mexican-style Spanish-English dialect calls. A third caller uses what most people regard as standard English.

"Many people made racist, snap judgments about callers using minority dialects," Baugh says. "Some potential employees, real estate agents, loan officers, and service providers did it repeatedly. Long before they could evaluate callers' abilities, accomplishments, credit rating, work ethic, or good works, they blocked callers based solely on linguistics."

Such racist reactions frequently break federal and state fair housing and equal employment opportunity laws. When challenged in lawsuits, many businesses deny that they can determine race or ethnicity over the phone.

However, Baugh's ongoing study, backed by a three-year $500,000 grant from the Ford Foundation, shows that, over the phone, many Americans are able to accurately guess the age, race, gender, ethnicity, region of heritage, and other social demographics based on a few sentences, even just a "Hello."

"I, myself, was discriminated against in seeking a new apartment in 1987, and that led to some early experiments and subsequent studies," Baugh says. "I want our work to reinforce equality for people from diverse linguistic backgrounds. If people have worked hard enough to earn the money to live in a neighborhood of their choice, then their speech patterns should not exclude them from consideration."

Helping raise public awareness of the issue, the University hosted a major conference, titled Linguistic Profiling and Linguistic Human Rights, in April 2006.

Student Team Excels in Computer Programming

Adam Norberg (left) and James Aguilar (standing), both Engineering Class of '07, and Albert Mao, a student in the M.D./Ph.D. combined degree program, placed 39th among 83 teams in an international collegiate programming contest sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery. The team qualified for the competition, held in April 2006.
Asthma and Marriage

Current treatments for asthma and chronic bronchitis can only alleviate symptoms, but School of Medicine researchers have gone to the root of these disorders and found a two-drug treatment that could potentially restore patients' troubled airways to healthy functioning.

Michael J. Holtzman, the Selma and Herman Seldin Professor of Medicine, and colleagues discovered that in mice and humans with these disorders some cells that line the air passages of the lung transform into another cell type. This cellular transformation, which had never before been recognized, is responsible for overproducing mucus in the airways.

"In these disorders, shortness of breath and cough are related to hypersecretion of mucus in the airway," Holtzman says. "Physicians prescribe anti-inflammatory steroids and bronchodilators to ease breathing difficulties, but these medications don't specifically reduce mucus production or secretion. Our research showed that the use of two inhibitors can block the excess of mucus-producing cells."

One inhibitor prevents the buildup of ciliated cells. The other, by interfering with the transformation of ciliated cells into goblet cells, prevents the buildup of goblet cells, which produce mucus.

"We've shown that if you combine the two inhibitors in a rational way, you can restore the normal architecture of the airway lining," Holtzman says, "but you have to use the combination to fully correct the abnormalities."

Holtzman says he believes the study's findings could readily translate into clinical treatments for asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and other chronic airway diseases.

Drugs May Block Asthma and Bronchitis

in San Antonio, by winning the Mid-Central Regional Contest at Webster University in St. Louis last fall. In regionals, they bested 122 teams from Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee.

Working against the clock in both competitions, teams had to solve difficult programming problems, such as writing a program that can determine who wins a complicated board game after a certain set of moves. Each team worked from a single computer, so decisions about who should actually type in the solution to a particular problem and who should be thinking about the next problem were crucial.

"Our team did a particularly good job in coordinating their efforts," says team coach William-Smart. assistant professor of computer science. "Using the competitions to enhance their abilities to think quickly and accurately and to perform so well is a real feather in their cap."

SUMMER 2006 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS
Joining a group of children to kick off St. Louis Children's Hospital’s $125 million “Building for Care, Searching for Cures” campaign on January 25, 2006, were (from left) Joe Buck of FOX Sports and a trustee of Children’s Hospital; Jonathan D. Gitlin (kneeling), the Helene B. Roberson Professor of Pediatrics and professor of genetics and of pathology and immunology; Lee Fetter, president of Children’s Hospital; and Larry J. Shapiro, executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine.

Curing Childhood Diseases Is Focus of New Institute

St. Louis Children’s Hospital and the School of Medicine have launched the Children’s Discovery Institute (CDI), a unique and bold partnership aimed at curing some of the deadliest diseases attacking our nation’s children.

The collaboration will focus on accelerating cures for childhood disease in four areas: cancer, congenital heart disease, lung and respiratory disorders, and musculoskeletal diseases.

Research teams, including scientists from pediatrics, nanotechnology, bioengineering, genetics, computational biology, developmental biology, and other areas, will work closely with the medical school’s Genome Sequencing Center to decode the diseases’ genetic blueprints.

“The CDI offers a unique plan to build a high-speed connection between the fundamental knowledge of our genetic code and the patient’s bedside, so the knowledge can flow and translate into cures for disease,” says Alan L. Schwartz, the Harriet B. Spoehr Professor of Pediatrics, head of pediatrics, and pediatrician-in-chief at Children’s Hospital. “This isn’t being done anywhere else.”

The CDI is the major target of a $125 million capital campaign and the capstone of a $355 million investment in St. Louis Children’s Hospital over seven years (2001–07), including the addition of seven stories to the hospital.

Also, to accommodate additional physician and faculty offices, the medical school will add seven stories atop the hospital’s parking facility as part of the initiative.

“The CDI is a very promising venture,” says Lee Fetter, president of Children’s Hospital. “Its groundbreaking discoveries could allow thousands of children to lead healthier, happier lives.”

Alumnus’ Gift Will Support Engineering

A commitment from the late Preston Green, B.S. (electrical engineering) ’36, who, in a 45-year career with Southwest Steel Supply Co., rose to become its president and chairman, will benefit engineering students and faculty for generations to come.

In honor of an $8 million commitment from the estate of Green, who died in 2003, the Department of Electrical and Systems Engineering in the School of Engineering & Applied Science (SEAS) will become the Preston M. Green Department of Electrical and Systems Engineering as of July 1, 2006. In addition, funds from the estate will be used to support a future SEAS building, also to be named after Green.

Although construction of the new building is a few years away, plans call for it to house SEAS’ Department of Electrical and Systems Engineering and Department of Computer Science and Engineering. The new building will allow the faculty, students, and staff to work together in one facility, a much more efficient way to conduct teaching and research.

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton announced the gift and related plans at a tribute dinner attended by Nancy Green, Preston’s widow, and many of his friends and associates on February 27, 2006.


The University’s Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design, part of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, has tied for 10th in the nation, according to DesignIntelligence, a monthly journal published by the Design Futures Council.

For 2006, its seventh annual survey ranked 114 programs accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board. Results were based on polling of more than 400 leaders—directors of design, managing principals, and human resource directors—of top U.S. architecture firms. They were asked which programs had produced the most professional, best-prepared graduates over the last five years.

“This recognition represents the outstanding accomplishments of our students and faculty and reflects the vigor of the School’s teaching and learning mission,” says Peter MacKeith, associate dean of the College of Architecture and the Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design.

The graduate school, ranked 13th in 2005, tied with the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign for 10th place this year. For more information, visit www.di.net.
Event to Celebrate 
“Danforth Campus”

An event marking and celebrating the renaming of the Hilltop Campus as the Danforth Campus will be held at 3:30 p.m., Sunday, September 17, 2006, in Graham Chapel, and the public is invited to attend. The ceremony will be followed by a reception at 5 p.m.

The name was chosen to honor William H. Danforth, life trustee and chancellor emeritus; his late wife, Elizabeth Gray Danforth; his family; and the Danforth Foundation for the role they have played in the transformation of Washington University.

“Bill Danforth has been one of the most respected leaders in higher education,” says Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. “To many alumni he will always be dearly remembered simply as ‘Chan Dan’ or as ‘Uncle Bill.’”

“To all members of the University community over the past half-century, he will be remembered as the man who, together with his late wife, Elizabeth, loved the University and worked hand-in-hand with faculty, staff, students, and alumni to increase its strength and the contributions that only a university can make to modern society.”

In 1951, Danforth joined the University community as an instructor at the medical school. He rose to become a professor of internal medicine, and in 1965, at age 39, he was named vice chancellor for medical affairs and president of the Washington University Medical Center. He was named chancellor of the University when Thomas Eliot retired in 1971.

During his 24 years as chancellor, Danforth oversaw the establishment of 70 new faculty professorships, built a $1.72 billion endowment, and tripled the number of scholarships for students. Nearly 60,000 students graduated during his chancellorship, and the retention of undergraduates and the recruitment of minority students increased significantly.

The Danforth family’s connections to the University are long and varied. Bill Danforth’s grandfather, William Danforth, who founded Ralston Purina Company and established the Danforth Foundation, graduated from the School of Engineering in 1892 and served as a University trustee for 25 years. William’s son Donald was a key builder of the company and foundation, and his four children were William (Bill); Dorothy Danforth Miller, mother and St. Louis citizen; Donald, Jr., B.S.B.A. ’55, a businessman and entrepreneur; and John (Jack), former U.S. senator from Missouri, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and current chairman of the board of the Danforth Foundation.

“Washington University is grateful to the trustees of the Danforth Foundation, which included Bill, Donald, Jr., and Jack, as well as their father and grandparents, for important financial support,” Wrighton says. “The foundation’s trustees and staff helped build in St. Louis ‘a world-class university’ that continues to grow in strength, reputation, and—most of all—service to its students and to the world.”

For details on the campus dedication event, please visit www.wustl.edu online.

Samuel R. Bagenstos, professor of law, recently earned a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court victory in arguing a case on behalf of a Georgia inmate in the disability rights case United States v. Georgia.

The Ford Foundation, a longtime supporter of the University’s Center for Social Development (CSD), has offered a $2.5 million grant, which the University must match on a one-to-one basis, to support the creation of a permanent endowment for the CSD. The Center aims to address the root causes of poverty and to find solutions to its problems.

Piloting his aircraft around the world and then some on February 11, 2006, trustee Steve Fossett, M.B.A. ’68, set the record for the longest solo, nonstop, nonrefueled flight in terms of distance.

John C. Morris, the Harvey A. and Dorisnae Hacker Friedman Distinguished Professor of Neurology, professor of pathology and immunology, and director of the University’s Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center and of Washington University’s Center for Aging, was appointed to the National Advisory Council on Aging.

Rich O’Donnell, director of the University’s Sachs Electronic Music Studio and applied music technology for percussion in the Department of Music in Arts & Sciences, performs as part of the group Leroy Jenkins’ Driftwood on its recently released CD titled The Art of Improvisation: Leroy Jenkins’ Driftwood, on the Mutablemusic label.

Three faculty members have been named to endowed professorships:

Robert Hegel, professor of Chinese in the Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages & Literatures in Arts & Sciences, as the first Lislottie Dieckmann Professor in Comparative Literature; William J. Powers, professor of neurological surgery and of radiology, as the Charlotte and Paul Hagemann Professor of Neurology; and Gregory A. Storch, professor of pediatrics, of medicine, and of molecular microbiology, as the first Ruth L. Siteman Professor of Pediatrics. Storch also was named director of the Division of Infectious Diseases in the Department of Pediatrics.

Mary J. Sansalone, professor of structural engineering and a renowned inventor, administrator, and author at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, will become dean of the School of Engineering & Applied Science on July 1, 2006. Sansalone earned a Ph.D. degree in structural engineering at the University of Cincinnati. In 1999, she earned a master’s in public administration from Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Samuel L. Stanley, Jr., professor of medicine and of molecular microbiology, will become vice chancellor for research, effective July 1, 2006.

Steven L. Teitelbaum, the Wilma and Roswell Messing Professor of Pathology, received the Rous-Whipple Award for 2006 from the American Society for Investigative Pathology. He was honored for his research into bone diseases.

Margaret Bush Wilson, trustee emerita, received the Rosa L. Parks Memorial Award for Meritorious Service to the Community from the Hilltop Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemoration Committee.

A University delegation led by Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton joined with St. Louis Mayor Francis G. Slay and Barry Rosenberg, executive vice president of the St. Louis Jewish Federation, in a visit to Israel in January 2006. The visit reflects the University’s ongoing interest in learning more about higher education around the world.

Ken Yamaguchi, professor of orthopaedic surgery, has been elected to the board of directors of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.
Scientists Study First Samples of Stardust

Comet dust particles, which may yield clues as to how the solar system was formed 4.6 billion years ago, are the star attraction in Frank J. Stadermann’s lab. Stadermann, senior research scientist in physics at Arts & Sciences, and three colleagues were first at the University and among the first in the world to analyze the microscopic specks, each of which is 10 times smaller than the width of a human hair and is invisible to the naked eye. NASA's Stardust probe collected the specks in 2004 as part of a seven-year mission begun in 1999 to capture dust from a comet and interstellar space. As the comet “Wild 2” sped past at four miles a second, the probe extended a tennis-racket-sized collector filled with aerogel—a light, silicon-based material described as a foamy glass—to trap and preserve the dust. After traveling billions of miles over seven years, the Stardust space capsule, including the canister containing dust, parachuted onto the Utah salt flats on January 15, 2006. The canister was opened two days later at Johnson Space Center in Houston, with Stadermann among those looking on.

Thousands of pieces of comet dust stuck in the collector, and receiving samples in early February was Stadermann’s lab. Since then, the group has been using WUSTL's NanoSIMS (Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometer), a van-sized instrument, to analyze slices of the specks. (Stadermann, director of the NanoSIMS Laboratory, helped develop and evaluate the $2 million instrument, which can analyze sub-components 100 times smaller than the dust particles themselves.)

The group is working in the physics department’s Laboratory for Space Sciences, which is affiliated with the University’s McDonnell Center for Space Sciences. It is one of some 50 labs worldwide that are analyzing the dust, which is as old as the solar system. Early results show that the dust specks include glassy materials, crystals, and trace elements.

Also to receive samples in coming months are Charles Hohenberg, professor of physics, who heads a group that will analyze the particles’ noble gases, and Brigitte Wopenka, senior research scientist in earth & planetary sciences, who will use Raman spectroscopy to determine the mineralogical composition of the stardust.

“As much as eight tons of space dust falls on Earth every day,” Stadermann says. “It is presumed to be mostly comet debris, but no one knows for sure because Stardust is the first mission to bring comet samples back to Earth.”

Alumni Play Major Roles in Stardust Mission

Washington University alumni have been leading three of six sub-teams of the Preliminary Examination Team for NASA’s Stardust mission. Leading the “isotopes” sub-team is Kevin McKeegan, M.A. ’82, Ph.D. ’87, professor of geochemistry at the University of California in Los Angeles. This sub-team includes senior research scientist Frank Stadermann’s group, which is using the NanoSIMS instrument to analyze dust samples. (See article at lower left.) This group includes two alumni—Christine Floss, Ph.D. ’91, senior research scientist at the University’s McDonnell Center for Space Sciences, and Ernst Zinner, Ph.D. ’72, research professor of physics in Arts & Sciences. Also working on the “isotopes” sub-team, as well as other sub-teams, is Rhonda Stroud, Ph.D. ’96, scientist at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory’s main campus in Washington, D.C.

Leading the “organics” sub-team is Scott Sandford, M.A. ’81, Ph.D. ’85, who works at NASA’s Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, California. As part of his responsibilities, he also helped recover the capsule, transport it to Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston, and remove samples in a special clean room there.

Leading the “bulk composition” sub-team is George Flynn, Ph.D. ’82, professor of physics at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh. Also working on analyses of the comet samples are Yunbin Guan, Ph.D. ’98, scientist at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena; Scott Messenger, Ph.D. ’97, scientist in cosmochemistry and astrophysics at JSC; and Larry Nittler, Ph.D. ’96, cosmochemist at the Carnegie Institution in Washington, D.C.
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"It's a win-win-win situation. The University wins, the students win, and the donors win. I'm proud to be a small part of the University. I think it's going to continue in the same dynamic direction it's been going."

—Jerry Brasch, B.S.Ch.E. '44, M.S.Ch.E. '47, Emeritus Trustee
At 4:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 5, 2006, rain was pouring down onto Francis Field. At that hour, in that weather, nearly 2,000 people could be found on the track. Those members of the Washington University community were close to completing 12 hours of walking as part of one of the University's biggest student-run events, Relay For Life®—a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

"The chance to help people with cancer—a disease that can be so crippling—is so powerful," says Frank Bergh, Engineering Class of '08. "Relay For Life is something that not only raises money, it raises awareness of the causes and effects of cancer on people's lives."

Over the last 20 years, Relay has grown into a major worldwide event with participation by businesses, churches, colleges and universities, and other schools and groups. At every event, there are teams, and each team member must raise a minimum of $100 to participate. During the event, at least one member of each team has to be walking at all times.

At Washington University, Relay For Life was held March 4–5 from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. In its fourth-consecutive year, the University had more than 160 teams, with 1,700 participants, who—along with visitors—raised more than $262,000. This year's effort surpassed last year's, both in number of participants and money raised. This was no small feat, since last year's Relay was the No. 1 Collegiate Relay in the nation. All money raised goes to the American Cancer Society to fund research—leading to better ways to prevent, detect, and treat cancer—and the society's educational/awareness programs.

"I hadn't heard of Relay For Life before Stephanie Kash of the American Cancer Society contacted me," says Stephanie Kurtzman, director of community service at the University. "However, after watching a single video about Relay, I was moved and couldn't help but see the possibility of what it could be on our campus.

"The American Cancer Society was specifically interested in Washington University because of its strong ties to researchers at our medical school," continues Kurtzman. "However, as with all community service programs, interest must be driven by the students. We held an information session in spring 2002, and about 20 people attended. That was the start of Relay For Life at Washington University—a few students got engaged, and it has grown from there."
Each year, the Relay For Life Steering Committee leads the effort. This year’s Steering Committee co-chairs, Diana Black, Arts & Sciences Class of ’06, and Matt Zinter, Arts & Sciences Class of ’07, worked with a group of 45 students on 11 subcommittees to put on Relay.

“Everybody on the Steering Committee is in charge of a specific aspect of the event,” says Dan Lauf, Arts & Sciences Class of ’06. “For example, the subcommittee I’m on, Logistics, is in charge of making sure everything at the event follows code, and we are in charge of behind-the-scenes work, such as getting tents for resting participants and setting up the stage for the ongoing entertainment. It’s such a dedicated committee, and we all want to see this event be the best it can be.”

What’s more, Lauf continues: “We all get along so well, and we have a great time together. I’ve met people through Relay I otherwise would never have known.”

Members of the different subcommittees may spend five to six hours a week on event planning. At the beginning of the year, they work tirelessly to recruit volunteers. By staffing tables in Mallinckrodt and posting fliers over both the Hilltop and Medical campuses, the members work to spread their enthusiasm for the event, and to promote consciousness of issues surrounding cancer throughout the entire University community.

“During my freshman year, I was very eager to reach out, and I joined the Recruitment subcommittee,” says Bergh. “I think raising awareness has been a tremendous part of why Relay is so important to me—helping keep others mindful that there are people for whom every day is a struggle.”

On the night of the event during Opening Ceremonies, participants listen to speeches by members of the University community who have volunteered to share their stories of how cancer has affected their lives—whether they have lost a family member or friend to cancer, or whether they are a survivor. The Opening Ceremonies conclude with a Survivors’ Lap, in which cancer survivors walk the initial lap around the track.

After the Survivors’ Lap, all participants are invited to walk. As hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, and even St. Louis families fill the track, some team members sell baked goods, scarves, and massages to participants. Entertainment is offered continuously on a corner stage, featuring musical groups and dance ensembles. Recognizing community support, the Color Guard from a local urban middle school for at-risk youth, Lift for Life Academy, was among the groups.

The highlight of the evening, however, is the Luminaria Ceremony.

“The Luminaria Ceremony takes place at 10 p.m.,” says Lauf. “We turn off all the lights around the track and line the entire track with bags—white bags with a candle inside—that participants have purchased in memory or in honor of a loved one. Seeing the entire track rimmed with candles, seeing how many people have been affected by this disease, is very emotional.”

The American Cancer Society has recognized the achievements of the Washington University’s Relay For Life Steering Committee on both a regional and national level. While the Steering Committee propels the campus event, members acknowledge that it is the participation and collaborative efforts of hundreds at the University that make it so successful.

“The American Cancer Society has acknowledged that Washington University is really a leader in running a great Relay,” says Kurtzman. “This event shows the positive impact college students can have. The event is not just about the money; it’s about a group of people united toward a common cause, doing something about it, celebrating each other, honoring each other.”
Poetry
Is His
Perfect Expression

Carl Phillips' award-winning writing reflects the complexities of being human—being flawed and struggling.

BY KRISTIN TENNANT

Poet Carl Phillips has always felt a certain magnetic pull to difficult topics: desire ... loss ... morality ... belief ... sexuality ... transgression.

But Phillips faces these realities armed with his skills as a writer, making an art of seeking and wrestling with them. Although the process can be arduous, the resulting poems and their readers clearly benefit. With eight published books of poetry and a prestigious collection of awards and recognitions, Phillips, professor of English and of African and African American studies, is clearly doing something right.

As critic Carol Muske-Dukes wrote for the Los Angeles Times Book Review, "Phillips' poems argue for unsparing, inspired examination of that tethered falcon, the soul." John Palattella of Newsday describes Phillips' 2004 National Book Award Finalist collection, The Rest of Love (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), as "...the scintillating record of a poet struggling to understand desire and to find a pattern of understanding within the struggle itself."

Phillips says this willingness to struggle is the central theme not only to his poetry but his life.

"If I have a mission at all—as a teacher, a poet, a human being—I would like people to think more openly about what it means to be human, rather than just falling in line with what's expected," Phillips says. "If I want people to get any single thought or message from my poetry, it's that it's not only okay to be flawed and struggling—it just is a fact of a life on Earth."

The inner struggles began early for Phillips, but so did the relief that came through reading and writing. Not only is he of mixed ethnicity, his father was in the Air Force so the family moved frequently. Phillips believes these factors played a significant role in his becoming a writer.

"I think I began to understand, as much as a child can, that a book is a portable world—something familiar you can return to," says Phillips. "I also began doing a lot of journaling. I think a child in a family that moves a lot, and who experiences prejudice, often builds a rich interior life, which is what I did."

Among Professor Carl Phillips' award-winning collections of poetry are Cortege (Greywolf Press, 1995), a finalist for both the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Lambda Literary Award in poetry, and The Tether (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2001), winner of the prestigious Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award.
Phillis’ other early love, besides the world of books and languages, was animals. When Phillips began his undergraduate studies at Harvard, his only desire was to be a veterinarian. During his freshman year, however, Phillips took an ancient Greek course, wedged in between a slew of pre-med courses. He soon realized it was the only thing he looked forward to during the week. Reading the poetry of Sappho for the first time pushed him over the line. Phillips thought, “Why not major in Greek and Latin and just get a dog if I like dogs?”

If the leap from pre-med to ancient languages seems a stretch, Phillips later shifted again, from eight years as a high school Latin teacher to being a successful poet. The transition was a natural one for Phillips, who sees poetry as the perfect expression of emotions people have been having since the beginning of time.

Open to interpretation

It was as a teenager that Phillips actually began writing poetry. He says he didn’t have a special talent—he was “just another teenager who wrote poetry as a way to work through a variety of emotions and struggles.”

The same impulse drives him to write now. “Somehow, as adults, we’re made to think we need to suppress our emotions,” he says. “Poetry is an opportunity to question ourselves and the world around us. I write because I have to.”

This weaving together of self, life, and writing is a great starting ground for getting students excited about poetry. Poetry tends to scare people away, Phillips says, because it so often addresses difficult topics and isn’t written in conversational prose. For Phillips, as a poet and teacher, the challenge is to get people to see that poetry is in part about human emotions—like love, despair, jealousy, and loss—they can relate to. The challenge for students and readers, he says, is to be willing to do a bit of work, and to take imaginative leaps.

“One way to help students see that poetry isn’t threatening is by showing them that it’s open to a number of interpretations,” Phillips says. “I try to present poems as opportunities to discover something about yourself and the world, not as complicated puzzles students will be lucky to solve.”

Flora Lerenman, Arts & Sciences Class of ’06 with a double major in English and economics and minors in writing, psychology, and humanities, says before she took Phillips’ African-American Poetry course she saw poetry as a difficult genre she was “obligated to at least feel a lukewarm appreciation toward.” Phillips inspired a different opinion in her.

“Something about poetic conventions and strict meter rules once struck me as cumbersome and unnecessarily dogmatic,” Lerenman says. “But Professor Phillips helped me understand how artistically stimulating those restrictions actually are. Every encounter I have with him spurs my desire to know and understand the classical world as well as the everyday current events that color poetry and literature.”

For Phillips, teaching and writing clearly feed one another. When he’s teaching literature classes, his own poems often emerge from the process of preparing and knowing another piece of literature so thoroughly. Teaching the graduate poetry seminar inspires him to produce, too. This interplay came across clearly to Keith Newton, a 2005 M.F.A. graduate now living in Brooklyn, where he works on his own poetry and as an editor.

“The first thing to say about Carl as a teacher and a poet is how inseparable those two things are for him,” Newton says. “Each feeds the other, and he brings to both his psychological insight and his devotion to the idea that poetry has real meaning for us—that its meanings are capable of changing us.”
Professor Phillips (right) treats his students as writing peers. He says he feels an obligation to them to be writing well himself, and to walk along with them as they find their way as writers together. Here, he meets with graduate students Joe Lennon and Jennifer Lyons.

Freedom within a form

While much of the thought process behind his poems is sparked by reading and teaching, Phillips' actual writing process emerges organically from his daily life and tasks. Rather than disciplining himself to write for a certain amount of time each day, he waits until a phrase or idea comes, then he sequesters himself for three to six hours to write through an entire draft of a new poem.

"My best ideas come from very mundane experiences and moments, like while I'm vacuuming or going to the market or walking the dogs," Phillips says. "Then I need concentrated time to write—I find it very difficult to go back and continue working on a poem the next day or later."

One issue Phillips is particularly drawn to is the mind and body in conflict, and how that conflict challenges our conventional ideas about truth. His fascination with the natural world and metaphors like birds and animals emerges from the same source—except in the natural world, there is no tension between the mind and body.

"I'm drawn to difficulty, which is why I'm drawn to suffering and restlessness," he says. "I'm also drawn to write about the body, and how the body's desires can collide with societal expectations. Also, how identity—especially sexuality, race, and gender—affects how we conduct our bodies and how we're expected or allowed to."

In his new book, Riding Westward (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, April 2006), Phillips moves away from themes focusing on reconciling ideas of love, the mind, and the body, and he explores what happens when there are no moral guideposts—a difficult, frightening, yet fascinating look at "rules," why we need them and who gets to decide them.

As for poetry, there aren't rules so much as freedom within a form—both of which Phillips seems to fully embrace and thrive under. His awards include election into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Guggenheim Fellowship, two Pushcart Prizes, and an Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Yet Phillips embodies a true sense of humility and even surprise at his success as a poet, referring to his writing career as a "lifelong apprenticeship." It's difficult, he says, for him to measure success as a poet in any of the usual ways.

"I'm still always a bit surprised to find myself where I am, writing and teaching poetry for a living," Phillips says. "The teaching and the writing both just come from a desire to share something, to express something about the world. Either way, I'm really only trying to help people ask difficult questions."}

Kristin Tennant is a freelance writer based in Urbana, Illinois.

EXCERPTED FROM "TOWER WINDOW":

"Last night, the storm was hours approaching. Too far, still, to be heard. Only the sky, when lit—less flashing than quivering brokenly (a wing, not any wing, a sparrow's)—for a sign.

It seemed exactly the way I've loved you."

—"Tower Window," The Rest of Love (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004)
California's Delta Blues
Assistant Professor Jane Wolff (left) is an authority on the challenges posed by land use in the California Delta, where the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers meet. (Below left) Overdevelopment on floodplains is a major problem in the region.

Some say the California Delta is destined for Katrina-style flooding along its massive but antiquated system of levees, and Washington University's Jane Wolff, assistant professor of architecture, is among those fearing the worst. By Gretchen Lee

One hot, dry summer morning in June 2004, a small section of dirt levee broke at Jones Tract, an island in the California Delta where the powerful San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers meet. In a few short hours, 12,000 acres of fertile farmland lay completely submerged in 10 feet of water. Fields of corn, tomatoes, wheat, and other crops were in ruin, and nearly 300 people were scrambling for higher ground. That no one was killed is a minor miracle.

Now, spurred by population growth in nearby Sacramento and San Francisco, developers want to build new houses on the floodplains of the Delta—including 11,000 homes on Stewart Tract, which, like Jones Tract in 2004, was under 10 feet of water in 1997; 16,000 homes for the Mountain House development; and additional numbers for Stockton, which is one of California's fastest-growing communities.

"That's just madness," says Jane Wolff, assistant professor of architecture at the University's Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts. "The wonder is not that the levee failed, it's that more levees don't fail more often."

Experts like Wolff worry that the next time a levee breaks in the California Delta the human cost will be much higher. By publishing Delta Primer: A Field Guide to the California Delta in 2003, Wolff joined a small, impassioned cadre of scholars, environmentalists, public officials, farmers, and citizens who had been quietly sounding the alarm about a looming disaster for years. But, until recently, it had been difficult to generate much public interest in the problem.
"In the California Delta, a bunch of issues are bundled up together. One is that the levee system is old and fragile. The other is that it's protecting a multitude of things: It's protecting the environment, very productive farmland, more and more suburban housing—and it's also protecting the water supply to Los Angeles."

Then came last year's deadly flood in New Orleans—the result of several levee failures along Lake Pontchartrain in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. "If there's anything good to come from Katrina, it's that it has raised consciousness," says Wolff.

"In the California Delta, a bunch of issues are bundled up together," she continues. "One is that the levee system is old and fragile. The other is that it's protecting a multitude of things: It's protecting the environment, very productive farmland, more and more suburban housing—and it's also protecting the water supply to Los Angeles."

Something big, like a major earthquake along the nearby San Andreas or Hayward faults, could cause the many earthen levees protecting the islands of the Delta to liquefy and fail. Or something small, like a beaver burrowing unnoticed, could compromise the levee structure from underneath. A substantial breach could cause the area to be infiltrated with saltwater from the nearby San Francisco Bay, which would not only render the fields of the Delta inhospitable but also contaminate any water exported from the area. Approximately 23 million people get a substantial part of their water from the Delta.

Though even a single breach could prove costly—the damage from the Jones Tract flood cost the state hundreds of thousands of dollars—shoring up the entire levee system could cost as much as $4 billion.

Shaping the Delta

Currently, about 1,100 miles of levee exist to protect 60 islands in the once-marshy land at the crux of the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers. The area was domesticated in the 1850s as early settlers began farming on land they had reclaimed there.

"When they began to cultivate the region, the peat began to oxidize," Wolff explains, "so the land began to sink. At the same time, the levee system built to protect the islands was causing the water in the rivers to rise, which meant they had to make the levees higher."

Still, the farmers persisted, successfully manipulating the environment to grow such things as asparagus, sugar beets, pears, and hay on a commercial scale in fields that are now 20 feet below sea level.

Beginning in 1951, large amounts of water were taken from the Delta to irrigate California's fertile Central Valley. Later, a huge aqueduct was built to transport water thousands of miles to Los Angeles and San Diego.

In the early 1990s, Senator Patrick Johnston managed to create sufficient consensus among various interests to ensure the passage of the Delta Protection Act of 1992. Among other things, the Delta Protection Act divided the region into a primary zone, where development is restricted, and a secondary zone, where some development is allowed.

"He was quoted as saying: 'We've drawn a line in the peat,'" recalls Margit Aramburu, the now-retired director of the Delta Protection Commission. But, in an obvious concession to politics, the lines that were drawn around the secondary zone included land at the edges of burgeoning cities like Stockton and Sacramento, where residential developments had already been proposed.

"If you look at the geography, you'd say these areas were in the primary zone," Wolff says. "It's the reality of political compromise."
Charting territory

Accepting a teaching position at Washington University was a means of coming home for Wolff, who grew up in Clayton, Missouri, just about a block from the University's South 40. Her mother, who still lives in St. Louis, attended the Washington University School of Law. Her father is a physician who practiced at nearby Barnes and Jewish hospitals.

Trained as a landscape designer, Wolff worked for several years in San Francisco and also spent some time in the Netherlands, where she studied the history of land reclamation.

The first time she visited the California Delta, Wolff recalls, "I had this funny feeling because it was just like something I knew really well, which was the western part of the Netherlands. And yet it was totally different.

"The Delta is right in the middle of all of these forces that are shaping California—agriculture, the passion for development, environmental politics, and what appears to be an endless demand for water," she says. "And, what really knocked me out is that even though it's at the center of California's economy and ecology, most people in the state didn't even know about it—had no idea that it existed."

On subsequent trips to the Delta, Wolff met often with Aramburu and began to collect ideas and stories for what eventually would become the Delta Primer: A Field Guide to the California Delta.

Delta Primer

"If you stood in the middle of one of the islands in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, where the Great Central Valley of California drains into San Francisco Bay, you might not know that you were twenty feet below sea level. You might not realize that the rational agricultural geometry around you ended abruptly at the meandering river on the island's edge. You might not understand that the ditches running through the fields were dug for drainage rather than irrigation. You might not think that there was anything strange about the Delta until you saw an ocean-going freighter cruise by in the distance, eighty miles from the Golden Gate and fifteen feet above your head. If you climbed to the top of the levee that separates the island from the river, though, you would see land and water together, and then you might wonder how the landscape became such a paradox." (Delta Primer, pg. 37)

"Most of the people I saw [at the Delta Protection Commission] were either local landowners, business owners, or other government employees," Aramburu recalls. "Every once in a while, a bright light would come into my life—someone who was interested in the history and the beauty of the environment. Jane was one of those people. She came as an academic, but also as an artist and a designer."

Offering information

Wolff says she created Delta Primer as a means of furthering the conversation about what should happen in the region. Through photographs, drawings, maps, and text, it offers an inventory of the region using an unusual structure—the book is organized as a deck of playing cards with four "suits" of 13 "cards," each offering a different nugget of information.

"I've always loved old maps," explains Wolff. "As I was looking at a book of old maps, I came across an example from the 17th century where a deck of cards represented the 52 counties of England and Wales as the 52 face cards. I thought, 'Oh, that's so brilliant, because a map is the lowest common denominator of spatial description, and a deck of cards is the lowest common denominator for the ranking of things of relative value,'" she says. "It seemed like both of those devices were very useful in trying to explain a landscape whose geography was complicated and that served a wide range of purposes, not all of which could probably be accommodated at the same level."

The paradox of Wolff's Primer is that it doesn't make any particular design recommendations for the Delta.

"There's so much at stake for so many people," Wolff explains. Consequently, the book is not so much a prescription for change as a lexicon for simply understanding the issues.

"That's also what I try to do in school," says Wolff, "to introduce a set of terms that are common to the students I'm working with, and then to figure out how we can all use those terms to move the discussion forward."

It's an approach familiar to Nicole Ostrander, an architecture graduate student who has taken several courses with Wolff and who has also served as a teaching assistant to Wolff's introductory site planning class.

"She had us read primary sources as opposed to reading a critique," recalls Ostrander. "When you're reading the actual documents, you're able to evaluate the authors' points of view and what they're presenting, as opposed to seeing it through someone else's eyes."

All of this is not to say that Wolff herself has no opinion on what should happen next in the Delta.

"What's best for the Delta as a region, I think, is probably to try to limit development, set a limit for water exports, shore up the infrastructure, and take it on as a piece of public infrastructure in a way that accommodates public interests and private uses," she says. "I think you could say that the Delta's problems all stem from a decision 150 years ago to make a clear boundary between wet and dry in a region that was characterized by flux."

With change the only constant, those who live near and love the California Delta are slowly waking up to the fact that what is now may not always be. 

Gretchen Lee, A.B. '86, is a free-lance writer based in San Francisco.
The School of Social Work partners with Columbia University and the Open Society Institute to educate students from Central Asia, so they can help build the policy and social service infrastructure their homelands need.

The scene is Thanksgiving dinner at the home of Gautam N. Yadama, associate professor at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work. Yadama and his wife, Shanta Pandey, also associate professor of social work, have invited 16 international students from Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Mongolia for a traditional turkey dinner. Afterward, the students play the piano and join in songs from distant lands—Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan.

The scene exudes conviviality and warmth. Less visible but much more significant is the powerful purpose binding this group together, which will shape not only their own future but the future of their nations.

These international students, predicts Shanti Khinduka, former School of Social Work dean and now the George Warren Brown Distinguished University Professor, will be “the movers and shakers of social development ... a voice to reckon with in that part of the world.” This select group of young men and women are Open Society Institute Fellows. Their mission is to acquire a top-level social work education and return to their countries to develop, in some cases from scratch, a social service infrastructure to address the daunting human needs pervading their post-Soviet states.

Part of the Soros Foundation Network, the Open Society Institute (OSI) seeks to promote democratic governance, human rights, and reform. It has developed a strong presence in former Soviet republics and supports many initiatives there.

“When these countries emerged as independent, sovereign nations out of the Soviet mold,” Yadama observes, “suddenly they were faced with real tectonic shifts in their societies. They had to re-invent themselves.” Preoccupied with setting up private market economies and creating new governments, he notes, they left human problems unaddressed.

“People were suddenly left to themselves,” he says. “Consequences for the ordinary citizen were terrible. Great social problems began to emerge.” Major unemployment, epidemic disease with no health services to combat it, increasing drug and substance abuse, family dislocation, domestic violence, and neglected and abandoned children are among these problems.

Nor did the challenges stop there. In these countries where the state had been all-powerful, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) had no place. “There were no agencies delivering social services,” Yadama explains.

“Capacity building” is a term Yadama returns to again and again. Though in 1999 the OSI originally envisioned the fellowship program as a means to train social workers and return them to Asia, “we proposed that we should do something much greater,” he says. “The sustainability of a program like this hinges both on what we do with the students here and on the kind of infrastructure that we might develop back in these countries.”

Gautam N. Yadama (left), associate professor of social work, helps select and advise eight new social work students from Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Mongolia each year. These students come to the University for a top-level education in order to address the daunting human needs pervading their post-Soviet states.
IIhom Akobirshoev, M.S.W. '05, is a national program officer for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. He supervises the social sector, which includes health, education, and social protection.

Maria Stefurak, M.S.W. '03, is a media and information specialist with the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Democracy and Conflict Mitigation in Kazakhstan.

Thus from the beginning Yadama and his counterparts at Columbia University—the only other social work school OSI chose for this program—have networked assiduously with NGOs, various nations' development agencies, the World Bank, United Nations organizations, and local community groups to identify needs and opportunities. Yadama continually asks: "What can we do to partner with OSI in building infrastructure for social development and social work?"

Immediately obvious was an urgent need for social work education. Social work as a profession simply did not exist in these countries. But the OSI alumni are beginning to fill that gap. In Mongolia, for instance, Erdenechimeg Tserendorj, M.S.W. '02, is director of the Social Work Education Development Program, funded by OSI's Higher Education Support Program (HESP). She also is coordinator for the new Social Work Information and Resource Center.

She and other OSI alumni work with faculties at 10 Mongolian universities, helping develop an undergraduate social work curriculum. She, together with Oyun-Erdene Namdalagaya (2002 OSI alumna from Columbia University), has initiated an annual research forum for Mongolian social work faculties, students, and practitioners. Through HESP, she offers social work summer courses to university faculty, and she teaches master's-level courses at the Mongolian University for Science and Technology.

"You might be surprised that a person with an M.S.W. teaches M.S.W. courses," she notes. "But because we do not have a single person with a Ph.D. in social work, we do teach in Mongolia."

Tserendorj also wears another hat, serving as a community mobilization team leader with the World Bank's Sustainable Livelihood Program of Mongolia. Working with 148 communities in eight provinces, the program staff members are designing projects to build community development capacity.

IIhom Akobirshoev, M.S.W. '05, now national program officer with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) in Tajikistan, is also working on community mobilization. He supervises the social sector, which includes health, education, and social protection. For instance, he is training social workers to make assessments and referrals in a project to de-institutionalize children. (When economic pressures mounted on families, many children were sent to state orphanages.)

SIDA also operates a program called the Aga Khan Project. "It establishes village organizations in rural areas," Akobirshoev explains, "where the population
Overall, the OSI alumni are engaged in an astonishing variety of initiatives, from health and economic development to disaster management, from legal assistance to protecting children, the environment, and the free flow of information.

“We are serving local journalists who want to improve their journalism skills, media law advocates who are working toward media policy reform, and broadcast managers who are trying to make TV and radio stations sustainable and popular,” she explains. But the chief beneficiaries, she believes, “are the citizens of Central Asian republics who need pluralistic information to be engaged in democratic processes in their home countries.”

The rights and well-being of children are the focus for Guzal Kamalova, M.S.W., national child protection officer with UNICEF in Uzbekistan. “With others at UNICEF, I am working on the development of policies and programs for children in state institutions, children with disabilities, children in conflict with the law, and children living and working on the streets,” she explains.

Though she works at the policy level helping to draft new laws, Kamalova seeks out opportunities to visit orphanages, state boarding schools, and neighborhoods to listen to these vulnerable children. “I have a strong desire to make real change in the lives of those children who need our special protection,” she says.

Overall, the OSI alumni are engaged in an astonishing variety of initiatives, from health and economic development to disaster management, from legal assistance to protecting children, the environment, and the free flow of information. Gulnara Ismankulova, M.S.W., also is a good example; she heads the World Health Organization’s country office for Kazakhstan.

Yadama is thrilled with his former students’ impact in their homelands. He sees the “George Warren Brown School of Social Work stamp” in many places.
“OSI alumni think in very expansive and innovative ways,” he observes. “Rather than merely doing good work, they are doing good work that is systematic—that builds the capacity of community and state systems.”

OSI Fellows are chosen from a highly competitive process. Almost 500 candidates applied for the 2005–06 year. Yadama and Brian Legate, the social work school’s admissions director, along with their counterparts from Columbia, met in New York every November to reduce the number to about a dozen each from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. In the winter they interview candidates in each country. In March they reconvene in New York for final selection of two students from each country and two at large. “It is a tough task,” Yadama acknowledges.

At Washington University, the students pursue the standard M.S.W. program, choosing among five concentrations—children, youth, and families; mental health; health; gerontology; and social and economic development. Many OSI Fellows, Yadama says, choose the last, “because they see that the root of many of these problems is in economic transition, and they want to learn more about what is happening and how they can address these problems.”

Some choose different concentrations. Zarina Mammadova, M.S.W. ’06, chose mental health. With an undergraduate psychology degree, she plans to provide direct client counseling in her native Azerbaijan.

Mammadova readily admits there were challenges when she first arrived in St. Louis. “In the beginning, it was difficult,” she says. “The country is different, and the education is different, with lots of writing assignments in a second language, for example.”

Yadama acknowledges all these adjustments and other issues the School must face. He says helping newly arrived students see the relevance of this American education for post-Soviet conditions requires consistent effort and imagination from him and other faculty. But as the OSI Fellows study the breadth of social work and realize its impact, they begin to appreciate its potential for their struggling nations.

Mammadova sees the implications for Azerbaijan. “Social work has been developing for a long period in the U.S.,” she observes, “and has answers to questions like methods for treating depression or substance abuse.” These answers, she believes, can help people in her country, where years of territorial conflict with Armenia (there are about 800,000 internally displaced persons) and the collapse of human services formerly provided by the state have inflicted profound trauma.

The research enterprise Mammadova has come to value so deeply is part of the capacity that Yadama hopes to build in Central Asia and the Caucasus. “If we are to be about social change, bringing about transformation in the lives of the poor, we not only have to train people in the region, but we also have to do good research that informs this training,” he argues.

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Yadama acknowledges all these adjustments and other issues the School must face. He says helping newly arrived students see the relevance of this American education for post-Soviet conditions requires consistent effort and imagination from him and other faculty. But as the OSI Fellows study the breadth of social work and realize its impact, they begin to appreciate its potential for their struggling nations.

Mammadova sees the implications for Azerbaijan. "Social work has been developing for a long period in the U.S.,” she observes, “and has answers to questions like methods for treating depression or substance abuse.” These answers, she believes, can help people in her country, where years of territorial conflict with Armenia (there are about 800,000 internally displaced persons) and the collapse of human services formerly provided by the state have inflicted profound trauma.

The research enterprise Mammadova has come to value so deeply is part of the capacity that Yadama hopes to build in Central Asia and the Caucasus. “If we are to be about social change, bringing about transformation in the lives of the poor, we not only have to train people in the region, but we also have to do good research that informs this training,” he argues.

Social work is not charity. It is a scientifically based enterprise; therefore, we need to build up educational and research endeavors. I think once governments and universities really begin to do serious analytical work and serious professional training, then we will have moved a step closer to building the policy and social service infrastructure these countries need.”

That Washington University should be engaged in this transformative endeavor on the far side of the globe does not surprise Yadama. He believes the OSI initially approached the George Warren Brown School not only because of its top ranking but because the School, more than other social work institutions, is known for its global focus. "This is a natural for us," he says.

Former Dean Khinduka agrees. When OSI first contacted him in 1999, he grasped immediately the congruence between OSI's intentions and the School's international involvement. Though the program presented a major financial challenge—the OSI wanted the School of Social Work to absorb half the tuition costs—Khinduka agreed. "I believed it was the right thing to do," he recalls.

He has not been disappointed. "It's one of the best things that has happened to this school," Khinduka says. "The students have a range of experience that would be the envy of any program. Many have worked for the U.N. or nongovernmental organizations. Their contributions to class discussion are wonderful for our American students. They have very questioning minds. Some of the most penetrating questions come from them." He marvels at the energy they bring to the classroom.

And, he adds, "they are resolved to make a difference. They will fight for human rights."

When the OSI Fellows gather for turkey and trimmings at the Yadama house, one reason for thanksgiving is the opportunity the fellowships give both them and the School. The alumni feel this gratitude deeply. "The Open Society Institute Fellowship had a great impact on my life, transforming me into a more engaged citizen," says Steturak. "It broadened my horizons to think about roots and causes of social issues and how to resolve them."

Ismailzade also appreciates the tools he acquired. "I learned how to do surveys, how to do research, how to develop programs, how to assess and evaluate programs, how to work with media, how to write proposals," he says. "I use these skills every day in my work and personal life."

"It was," Kamalova agrees simply, "one of the best experiences of my life."
KNOCKED OVER, BUT NOT OUT

New Orleans residents Jarvis DeBerry (below) and Oscar Donahue (page 27), both English majors, survived Hurricane Katrina, yet their stories provide a glimpse of a permanent watermark.

BY C.B. ADAMS
To borrow a title from a Raymond Carver short story, the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina left "so much water so close to home" in New Orleans and other Gulf Coast communities.

In the months since the storm, the maelstrom of controversy concerning how the local, state, and federal government did—or did not—come to the aid of these communities has threatened to dwarf the very real, very human consequences of this disaster. For two Washington University graduates, Katrina has irrevocably altered the paths of their lives—and changed the nature of their work.

Jarvis DeBerry, A.B. '97, and Oscar Donahue III, A.B. '78, both English majors and both residents of New Orleans pre-Katrina, do not know each other. DeBerry is an editorial writer and columnist for The Times-Picayune. Donahue (see page 27) designs and sells artwork jewelry through his company, Oscar's Originals of New Orleans. Yet, the hurricane has forced each of them to forge a new and different relationship with the city that has become not-so-easy to live in.

**Finding a voice**

DeBerry's path took him from his hometown of Holly Springs, Mississippi, to four years at Washington University. He wrote features for Student Life, worked at his hometown newspaper during breaks, and was an intern at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. His senior year, he applied for an internship at The Times-Picayune for what he terms were "...very nonprofessional reasons." He was dating a woman who was going to school in New Orleans.

"The relationship did not work out, but fortunately the job did. I really landed at the right place," DeBerry says.

After a few months, the internship turned into a full-time position, first as a reporter on the police beat in the newspaper's River Parishes Bureau in LaPlace, then covering crime and courts in the St. Tammany Parish Bureau.

A 1998 guest commentary on National Public Radio by writer and storyteller Lorraine Johnson-Coleman prompted DeBerry to begin writing from a more personal perspective. The commentary focused on the decision by Merriam-Webster dictionary editors to continue to include a definition of "nigger." It triggered in DeBerry a memory. He wondered whether the newspaper's editors would allow him to write about the issue. The answer was "yes."

"I recounted an episode when I was seven and a small group of young white boys about my age called me nigger and how I ran back home in tears and felt all the hurt that was communicated in that word. I knew it was meant to hurt, yet I still didn't think it should be removed from the dictionary," DeBerry says.

The piece was well-received by the newspaper's editors, but DeBerry did not feel compelled to write another piece for another six months. As the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday approached, DeBerry pondered how the civil rights leader was being remembered—or perhaps mis-remembered.

"I wrote about how I was going to try and spend the holiday without hearing the 'I Have a Dream' speech, my least favorite Martin Luther King speech because it has been overly simplified," DeBerry says.
Like Jarvis DeBerry, Oscar Donahue survived Hurricane Katrina and emerged from the other side of the storm a changed man. He also gauges his life pre- and post-Katrina.

Pre-Katrina, Donahue was a colorful fixture at the New Orleans French Market, an upscale, sophisticated flea market where he had a kiosk and sold his wearable art. Donahue began his business, Oscar’s Originals, in 1989. He created the business as a way to fulfill his artistic craving while still making a living.

“I make the jewelry from a metallic resin. I chose this medium because I saw someone doing a poor job with this material. It was like ‘Eureka!’ I haven’t looked back since. I am blessed that I am able to be so creative and survive,” he says.

Since then, he has been a regular exhibitor at the Jazz and Heritage Foundation and the Essence Fest. He estimates he has sold more than 250,000 of his handmade pins to people from around the globe.

“‘I was open seven days a week and had pretty much of a cult following of my work. I was very

continued on page 28

Raising a voice

In the fall of 1999, DeBerry was asked to be a full-time editorial writer, a task usually reserved for reporters with more years of experience.

“‘I have had this quite unusual career arc in that I became an editorial writer really, really fast. That’s not a boast. There are many unusual aspects to The Times-Picayune’s editorial page. All of us are much younger and more racially diverse than [those on] the average editorial page,” he says.

In addition to writing editorials on the newspaper’s established positions on issues of the day, DeBerry began writing personal columns. His topics ranged from the crush he has for tennis star Serena Williams to the significance of *Do Your Thing* by Isaac Hayes, what it means to have one’s “nose open,” and a criticism of *Baby Mama*, the song by American Idol winner Fantasia Barrino, which generated the most responses—both positive and negative—of any of his columns.

In a move that now seems prophetic, just before Hurricane Katrina, DeBerry had begun work on a series of columns about people who were intimate observers of New Orleans’ homicide epidemic. He completed only two before the storm—one about a pastor eulogizing a
fortunate that people really loved what I did," Donahue says.

Like many others, Donahue fled New Orleans to avoid the hurricane. He drove to Newnan, Georgia, to stay with his parents.

Donahue's home was located in the Gentilly area, one of the most devastated areas of New Orleans. Yet, his house was one of only 5 percent that survived the storm. Unfortunately, within two months, it was uninhabitable.

"My house experienced only minor damage from the storm, but I had to abandon it because of monster termites. I thought I had gotten away with it only to have my house go under from termites. Talk about a kick in the stomach," Donahue says.

For the first several months after the hurricane, he continued to make a living by selling his jewelry from his Web site (www.oscarofneworleans.com) while staying in Newnan. He created four Katrina tribute pieces that have been popular sellers and a whimsical new "FEMA" pin, poking fun at the 11,000 wasted trailers in Arkansas. By February, Donahue had re-opened his business on weekends only, but he does not plan to move back to New Orleans, although he makes regular visits.

Because the French Quarter did not sustain any damage, he says, it's possible to stay in that area and have the illusion that things are normal.

"If I stay in the French Quarter, I can fool myself that everything is okay. Then I go into the city and see the devastation," he says. "I don’t believe I can go back and live there because I’m an emotional and sensitive artist, and I channel all that sadness and get depressed. It’s gut-wrenching."

Donahue has changed more than his address since the hurricane. He has decided to maintain his jewelry business while pursuing an old love: painting. He wants to take his artwork to a different level and reflect, at least in part, the impact of Katrina.

"My real love is to take the brush and canvas and do the traditional thing. I want to do some paintings to reflect my innermost feelings about Katrina. I don’t want to do anything that is sad, but I do want to do something that will make people think," he says.

30-year-old mother and her 7-year-old daughter who were murdered in their home, the other about a mortician who patches up the dead for their funerals.

DeBerry's experiences before, during, and after Katrina could fill many pages and are worthy of a film adaptation. He weathered the storm at The Times-Picayune office. He fled New Orleans a day later with 27 other reporters, staff members, employees, and their families by riding in the back of one of the newspaper's delivery trucks. All told, 12 Times-Picayune trucks carried away approximately 250 people. DeBerry worked from a makeshift office in Baton Rouge before returning to New Orleans in early October. His home was flooded with eight feet of water and ruined from moisture and mold. His Toyota truck drowned in the newspaper's parking lot. He did manage to salvage a box of photographs.

The first three days after the storm, the newspaper published only internet editions. The Friday after the storm marked the first post-Katrina printed edition of the newspaper. That Sunday, DeBerry was the primary writer for an editorial with the headline "Dear Mr. President." It marked a definitive change in the nature of his writing.

"It allowed me to get out a lot of anger. It ushered in this real fighting spirit. None of us ever imagined that we would be writing and defending our very right to exist. We became the voice for New Orleans," DeBerry says.

DeBerry has become a key contributor to this collective voice. His columns have ranged from harrowing to poignant to a call to arms. The headlines, such as "Chorus of Doubters Won’t Drown Us Out," "Too Bad Our Levees Get No Dam Respect," "Mail Slow, Insurers Grudging—If You’re Lucky," and "When Life’s Haven Turns Deathtrap," exemplify the change in his writing brought about by the storm.

"My writing post-Katrina has become much more serious. There is no shortage of topics. I tell people that even before the storm everybody in New Orleans had a story, but now everybody has a story that is compelling."

C.B. Adams is a free-lance writer based in St. Louis.
As executive director of the AARP Foundation, alumna Robin Talbert leads the nationwide effort to assist seniors with financial, legal, and healthy lifestyle issues.

By Candace O'Connor
Robin Talbert, new executive director of the AARP Foundation, traveled recently to the Gulf Coast to see the hurricane devastation and take a first-hand look at relief efforts that her organization had funded. The charitable arm of the AARP, the AARP Foundation had worked quickly to bring hope to older victims in that area, dispensing some $300,000 in emergency aid. Further, they chose 17 agencies, out of 65 applicants, to receive $1.3 million in grants for longer-term health, housing, and legal assistance.

In New Orleans, Talbert, J.D. '80, toured a vacant senior citizen high-rise where the foundation was supporting the Volunteers of America in their work with displaced residents. Downstairs, she was horrified by "the vastness of the destruction," she says; even in the upstairs apartments—still fully furnished—she could see just how suddenly residents had left. "It was as if time had stood still," she adds, marveling.

Next, in Baton Rouge, she met a husband and wife, retired schoolteachers, who had fled New Orleans and Hurricane Katrina, thinking they would be away only a few days. Unable to go home for months, and finding they could not afford the steep cost of their medications*, they were grateful for the free pharmacy program supported by AARP Foundation funds. (*Their health insurance premiums had become unaffordable because of the near obliteration of the New Orleans school system.)

"They were so relieved to be getting that support," says Talbert. "Everyone we talked with had a veneer of normalcy, but underneath there was emotional despair. You could see it in their faces, hear it in their voices. One of the most rewarding things I've ever done was to have some impact on the enormous need in that area, which will be there for years to come."

Although the AARP Foundation does not usually focus on disaster relief, it got involved particularly because of this "enormous need." Otherwise, its many programs address a range of issues faced by older Americans: their need to re-enter the job market, make sense of complex benefit programs, stay in their own homes, deal with grief and loss, make healthy lifestyle decisions, and find affordable legal help. Altogether, the foundation serves some two million people annually with a staff of 200 and an annual budget of more than $140 million, funded by the AARP, grants, and private contributions.
"A lot of our work falls into the category of financial security, helping older people—particularly those at social or economic risk—acquire and maintain the assets they need for a secure second half of life," says Talbert, who has spent nearly 18 years with AARP in a series of leading roles. "We have, for example, a free tax preparation program that has returned well over $100 million annually to folks who qualify for earned income tax credits."

The foundation also plays a major role in litigating on behalf of older adults, especially in the sophisticated and growing area of consumer fraud. In her job, Talbert's own law degree has come in handy, as she grapples with legal and accounting issues that arise in delineating the respective roles of the foundation, established in 1961, and the 36-million-member AARP. [The AARP Foundation, as a 501(c)(3) organization, can receive federal funds and tax-deductible contributions, while AARP is a 501(c)(4) that serves its members through information, education, and advocacy.]

She grew up far from her current Washington, D.C., office in the hills of North Carolina and the small town of Cliffside, where her mother was a schoolteacher and her father worked in a cotton mill. A graduate of the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill, she worked as a research analyst at a nearby think tank before deciding to become a lawyer. When she asked a UNC faculty member to recommend a law school outside the state, he mentioned Washington University.

While a student here, Talbert did an independent study with Professor Karen Tokarz on equal pay issues for women, and she spent a semester in D.C. working with then-U.S. Congressman James Jeffords. "I loved the law school, the rigor of it, and the people I met," Talbert says. Among those people was her husband, Bruce Goldstein, J.D. '80, who shared her passion for public interest law; today, he is the executive director of the Farmworker Justice Fund in Washington, D.C., and their two sons are students at Purdue and Denison universities.

After law school, she became a Legal Aid lawyer in Alton, Illinois, often working with an older clientele. That experience prepared Talbert well for her new job at the AARP, where she began by tackling consumer issues that affect older adults. Three years ago, she moved over to the AARP Foundation, becoming its managing director, its interim director, and finally, this past February, its new executive director.

Many challenges lie ahead, she says. In partnership with other organizations, the foundation will soon launch a major initiative aimed at helping women become more financially secure and encouraging healthy lifestyles. The foundation also is working with a cohort of other aging-related groups to provide training for elder law advocates. As part of their interest in asset development for low-income people, they have funded research by Washington University faculty member Michael Sherraden, the Benjamin E. Youngdahl Professor of Social Development, on Individual Development Accounts for older adults.

Talbert herself is years away from retirement, though she does daydream occasionally about returning to a rural retreat. Still, she has had plenty of opportunity to think about the mistakes that other baby boomers make in planning for their older years—and she has a key piece of advice: Plan ahead. Do research, just as you did in deciding where to go to college.

"Plan financially and think about how you want to live, what gives you pleasure," she says. "Today, it is not unusual for people to live into their 90s, and few of us think about that. How will you finance your life? What do you want to do with it? There are opportunities for this period to be very rewarding."

In her own immediate future, she plans to further the mission of the AARP—"to serve, and not to be served"—as she works with her own staff and a cadre of 35,000 volunteers to continue enriching the lives of older people.

"This is such an opportunity to make a difference," she says. "It really is a dream job for me. I told one of my sons recently not to expect to get his dream job right away after college—but I certainly have mine now."
Continuing a Family Tradition of Service

Georgia Van Cleve, A.B. '51, and her family have been a vital part of Washington University for three generations. Fellow alumni include her parents; her two sisters; her late husband Bill, J.D. '53; their oldest son Peter, J.D. '86; and assorted nieces, nephews, and in-laws.

In the words of Chancellor Emeritus William Danforth: "Georgia and Bill Van Cleve have been one of the great couples of Washington University. They have given generously of their time, energy, and resources to their university. They attended innumerable activities and made countless friends. Bill chaired the Board of Trustees and the search committee for the chancellor. Georgia serves on the National Council for Arts & Sciences. Neither the University nor my wife and I have had better friends; they have set an example for us all."

Connecting to a commuter campus

Georgia Hess Dunbar grew up in St. Louis and was president of her senior class at Mary Institute. For her 50th college reunion, she wrote, "Washington University was always part of my life. My parents met at the Freshman Mixer in the fall of 1915, and their romance flourished along with my mother's lifelong love of reading and writing and my father's interest in fairness, justice, and the law. As little children, we were taken to homecoming parades and the 4th of July fireworks on the campus, and my sisters were married in Graham Chapel."

Like most of her classmates, Georgia lived at home while attending college, and she walked to school. "Because so few students lived on campus in those days, we didn't have the sense of community there is today," she recalls. She pledged Pi Beta Phi and served as president of the Panhellenic Association. She says: "I was interested in so many things. I kept wondering what I wanted to be when I grew up! I really enjoyed the basic program of study, which was new at that time."

"In my senior year, the two courses I most wanted to take—philosophy with Huston Smith and a special course on Shakespeare—were offered at the same time. Instead of choosing between them, I hastily decided to take advantage of the '3/3 Program' and go directly to law school." She continues: "My father was a lawyer, and my sister Martha graduated from the School of Law in 1950. It was quite a shock to walk in the first day and discover I was the only girl in a class of 60."
Georgia completed the first year of law school and left after earning her undergraduate degree. She married her classmate William Van Cleve in 1953, following his law school graduation, and she attended secretarial school and worked at Fort Bliss, Texas, while Bill was there serving in the Army. When they returned to St. Louis, she worked at the School of Law as a secretary to Professor William Jones, the assistant dean.

Bill Van Cleve grew up in Moberly, Missouri, where his father owned the Moberly Monitor-Index. Bill graduated from Phillips Academy and Princeton University. At the Washington University School of Law, he served as president of the student body. He joined Bryan, Cave, McSheeters & McRoberts in 1958 as the 13th lawyer at the 85-year-old firm, which was renamed Bryan Cave in 1992. He became the firm’s first managing partner in 1973 and was elected chairman in 1988. Under his leadership, Bryan Cave grew into one of the nation’s largest law firms, with a diversified national and international practice. Today the firm has more than 800 lawyers in 13 offices across the United States and abroad.

Setting the highest example

Bill, who died in 2003, and Georgia were extraordinarily generous with their time and support for Washington University. Georgia is a longtime member of the National Council for Arts & Sciences and served as chair for her 50th and 55th reunions, for which she received the Frank Bush Leadership Award. Bill was elected to the Board of Trustees in 1983 and served as chair from 1993–95. He headed the search committee for Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, was the founding chair of the School of Law National Council, and was president of the William Greenleaf Eliot Society. In 1992, he received the School of Law’s Distinguished Alumni Award, and in 1996, he was honored with the Eliot Society’s “Search” Award. The University presented him with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 2001.

In Arts & Sciences, the Van Cleves endowed the Dunbar–Van Cleve Professorship, held by John R. Bowen, and the Virginia Storer Scholarship, named for a dedicated teacher who taught all four of their children. At the School of Law, Bill and Georgia endowed the Dunbar Family Scholarship. The William M. Van Cleve Professorship, held by Jane Harris Aiken, was endowed in Bill’s memory with gifts from Emerson and friends honoring Bill’s service as a director of Emerson. Memorial gifts by family and friends endowed the William M. Van Cleve Scholarship.

Edward S. Macias, executive vice chancellor, dean of Arts & Sciences, and the Barbara and David Thomas Distinguished Professor in Arts & Sciences, says: “Georgia has been one of the most loyal friends of Arts & Sciences and the University. We are stronger for her generosity and involvement.”

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton concurs. He says, “Great people like Georgia Van Cleve contribute to the wonderful traditions of Washington University and assure a bright future for generations of students to come.”

For her 50th Reunion, Georgia wrote: “My real appreciation of Washington University and its significance worldwide came from our travels with Bill and Ibbi Danforth. We visited Greece in 1972, China and Hong Kong in 1982, India in 1987, and Russia in 1989. We were warmly welcomed by alumni and admiring heads of educational institutions everywhere we went.”

In addition to her tireless activities on behalf of the University, Georgia has been active in the St. Louis community. She volunteered for Mid-Town West Meals-on-Wheels for 30 years. An active member and former president of the Ladue Garden Club, she served on the national board of the Garden Club of America. She also served on the board of the Scholarship Foundation, and she is a member of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church. She now has nine grandchildren.

It seems especially appropriate that Georgia helped acquire a statue of George Washington (at left) as part of Washington University’s 150th anniversary celebration. In 1950, as she was passing the spot where the statue stands today, she saw two of her first-year law school classmates walking ahead. She called out to the one she knew, “Hello, Bill!” Both men turned around, and she was introduced to her future husband, Bill Van Cleve.

In 2004, the handsome bronze reproduction of Houdon’s 1788 marble sculpture of Washington was installed at the entrance to Olin Library in memory of William Van Cleve.

—Susan Wooleyhan Caine
The Alumni Association and the Washington University Bookstore have teamed up to offer "Alumni Select," a special Web site offering an exceptional collection of apparel and gifts for alumni, parents, and friends. From class rings to ball caps to books, the collection includes items in every price range. Through Alumni Select, alumni will find a captain’s chair, made of solid maple hardwood in satin black featuring the official Washington University seal engraved into the crown; a classic striped polo, made of 100 percent cotton and featuring the University logo embroidered on the left chest; and a desk clock from Sutters Mill®, featuring a two-tone matte silver finish and an engraving of the Washington University logo, as well as many other great items.

Alumni Select is available online 24 hours a day. To find great gifts for yourself or others online, go to: http://alumni.wustl.edu and click on “New for Alumni, Parents and Friends” or www.wubookstore.com and click on “Alumni Select.”

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This year’s keynote speaker is the Right Honourable Sir John Major, KG, CH, Prime Minister of Great Britain, 1990–97.

Plan now to join us at the Adam’s Mark on Saturday, November 4, 2006, to celebrate the 153rd anniversary of the founding of Washington University.
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PLANS FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Alumni can join Professor Raymond E. Arvidson for a travel/study adventure in the South Pacific Islands, featuring the skies of the Southern Hemisphere and the Leonid meteor shower.

Cruise the South Pacific and stargaze under the brilliant constellations of the Southern Hemisphere on November 9–25, 2006. You will enjoy a front-row seat to observe the spectacular Leonid meteor shower as the Earth crosses the orbit of comet Tempel-Tuttle. Ports-of-call include the beautiful islands of New Caledonia, Vanuatu, and New Zealand, with an optional visit to Sydney, Australia.

Raymond E. Arvidson, the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor in Arts & Sciences and chair of the Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences, will lead the trip. A planetary geologist, Professor Arvidson is deputy principal investigator for NASA’s Mars Exploration Rover Mission and serves on the science teams for several NASA missions. He is a dynamic lecturer and the recipient of many teaching awards.

The Alumni Association has designated this trip “Chairman’s Choice,” in recognition of its limited reservations and the exceptional level of Professor Arvidson’s involvement.

All Alumni Association Travel Programs are open to alumni, parents, and friends of the University, and we encourage you to share them with your friends.

For more information on trips sponsored by the Alumni Association, please call the Alumni Association Travel Office, (866) WUTRIPS or (314) 935-5212; e-mail: travel@wustl.edu; or visit “Alumni Travel” at our Web site, www.alumni.wustl.edu.

LOOKING FORWARD TO REUNION 2007!

May 17–20, 2007: If your class is 1942, ’47, ’52, ’57, ’62, ’67, ’72, ’77, ’82, or ’87, make your plans now to attend undergraduate Reunions for alumni of Arts & Sciences, Business, Engineering, Art, and Architecture. We can make it easy to get involved, get in touch with old friends, and make plans. Call (314) 935-5212 or 1-800-867-ALUM (toll-free), or e-mail: alumniassociation@wustl.edu.


Keep your eye on www.alumni.wustl.edu, and watch for details to come.
We want to hear about recent promotions, honors, appointments, travels, marriages (please report marriages after the fact), and births, so we can keep your classmates informed of important changes in your lives.

Entries may take up to three issues after submission to appear in the Magazine; they are published in the order in which they are received.

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If you want your news to appear also in a separate publication your school may provide, please send your news directly to that publication.

ALUMNI CODES

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Corrine (Griesbaum) Alley, FA 27, celebrated her 101st birthday in March 2006 at the Skilled Nursing Facility at Community Memorial Hospital in Hamilton, N.Y. As a girl, Alley, who was born and reared in St. Louis, excelled in speed skating and tennis. After graduation, she met her future husband, Harold, in Denver, and the couple lived near the oil fields of Oklahoma before moving to Chicago. After being widowed, Alley moved to a small farm, where she learned about chickens and country ways. She also began designing hats. Eventually, the artist moved to New Mexico, where she painted and worked in leather, ceramics, and fiber. She has been a resident of the skilled nursing facility since October 2001 and continues to enjoy art, music, and practicing her Methodist faith.

Harriet Arey Davidson, LA 48, MD 52, HS 55, is the author of Trilogy: A Story of Three Parishes, which covers three Episcopal parishes in St. Louis area from 1843-2003. The 288-page book, illustrated and hard-bound, covers St. George’s Episcopal Parish, the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, and the church resulting from the merger of those two in 1928—the Church of St. Michael and St. George.

Melvin H. Erlinger, GR 48, has had his third book published. It’s titled Who Was Zipporah, Educational Bible Quizzes. He and his wife, Ruth, who have been married 61 years, reside in Seminole, Fla. Both are retired from the Pinellas County, Fla., school system.

Bilky Morrow Jackson, FA 49, and his wife, Siti Marijah Jackson, have authored On This Island: An Artistic View of Martha’s Vineyard. The book contains more than 75 original paintings of Martha’s Vineyard, a 100-square mile island in Massachusetts off the coast of Cape Cod. Both artists graduated from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign (Billy received an M.F.A. in 1954), and Billy retired as an art professor there in 1987. The couple resides in Champaign.

Edward J. Thias, AR 51, and other architecture alumni from St. Louis, planned a 55th luncheon reunion for the Architecture Class of ‘51. The event was held, along with other reunion activities, on May 2006. Highly regarded as the best architectural graduates of the school, Thias is the associate dean of the College of Architecture at Washington University in St. Louis. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the National College of Operating and Migration Patterns of Foreign-Trained Physicians. In February 2006, he delivered a keynote presentation to the Board of Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Thomas E. Eichhorst, LW 61, an attorney and certified association executive, is now executive director of the National Leadership Network, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Brentwood, Mo. The network sponsors the Young Achievers and the Leaders of Tomorrow youth-recognition programs and the LEAP (Leadership/Education/Achievement/Participation) mentoring program. During his career, Eichhorst has been executive director of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, staff legal counsel for the American Optometric Association in St. Louis, assistant attorney general for Missouri, and a former bill drafter for the Missouri legislature.

John L. Roeder, LA 62, now a senior representative for Northwestern Mutual Life, whom he has represented since graduation, has begun a publishing company—History Press. Its first book, The Roots of Tennis: Blue Bloods to Blue Collars, by Eggmann, is to be published in late summer 2006. E-mail: johnlroeder@aol.com

Peggy Kerwin Morrow, BU 63, has authored a new book, Customer Service: How To Do It Right, a detailed strategy to keep your customers loyal, attract new ones and increase your profits, available through Amazon.com. She travels internationally, speaking about customer service and team-building.

Hart stress in the advertising business for 30 years, I have decided to get as far away from this occupation as possible.” Now he is studying to become a certified personal trainer for senior adults.

Robert “Bob” A. Ellis, EN 59, SI 60, and Margery “Margie” (Abbott) Ellis, UC 72, invite their classmates, friends, and colleagues to catch up by visiting their Web site at http://home.ix.netcom.com/~ellbin/. E-mail: ellibell@ix.netcom.com

Mel Hutnick, BU 59, an attorney in Belleville, Ill., recently received the Dean’s Medalist Award from the School in May 2006.

Evan Greenbaum, LA 60, and her husband, Stuart Greenbaum, the Bank of America Professor of Managemental Leadership and former dean of the Olin School of Business, received the Dean’s Medallist Award from the School in May 2006.

Walter L. Metcalfe, Jr., LA 60, a University trustee and partner of Bryan Cave, has been reappointed chair of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis board of directors. He is also a member of the board of trustees of BJC Healthcare, the Danforth Foundation and the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts. Metcalfe is listed in the National Law Journal’s list of the “100 Most Influential Lawyers in America.”

Richard A. “Buzz” Cooper, MD 61, a former dean, executive vice president, and Health Policy Institute director at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from that institution in May 2006. Now a professor of medicine and a senior fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Cooper’s recent research has focused on international graduate and migration patterns of foreign-trained physicians. In February 2006, he delivered a keynote presentation to the board of trustees of A.T. Still University in Mesa, Ariz.

Jack Eggmann, BU 62, received two awards in 2005—the Oscar Riker Foster Award from the Chemistry Teachers Club of New York and first prize in the physics song-writing contest sponsored by Physics Today. His winning entry, The Entanglement Tango, was published in the publication’s December 2005 issue.
Brian H. Gross, MD 65, and his wife, Alice, planned to move to a retirement community in Peabody, Mass., in March 2006. He says, “We look forward to meeting new people, an abundance of activities, and fewer hassles—no more shoveling or raking.” He says downsizing after 30 years is rough but will be worth it.

Menachem Kellner, LA 66, GR 69, GR 73, who was known as “Marc Kellner” while at Washington University, gave the Adam Cherrick Lecture in Jewish Studies in February 2006 at the University. He is the Sir Isaac and Edith Wolfsen Professor at the University of Haifa in Israel.

Lewis A. Levey, GB 67, principal of Enhanced Value Strategies, received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the Olin School of Business in May 2006.

James C. Schwartzman, LA 67, a shareholder in Stevens & Lee, a professional services firm of lawyers and consultants based in Philadelphia, has been re-elected to the board of directors for Independence Blue Cross. A board member since 1991, he will serve a three-year term. He also is a member of the executive and finance committees for the company, which, along with its subsidiaries, is the Philadelphia area’s largest health insurer. Schwartzman, who earned a J.D. degree cum laude from Villanova University in Nashville, Tenn., in 1972, resides in Radnor, Pa.

Leonard Feinberg, GA 68, is vice president, commercial architecture, for the Evans Group in Orlando.

Stefan J. Glynias, LA 68, was included in the Top 100 Missouri/Kansas Super Lawyers for 2005. He was nominated by his peers as being in the top 5 percent of lawyers in the two states.

Robert J. Matlock, BU 68, an attorney who was a member of the first collaborative practice group in Texas, presented lectures at several venues in 2005. Included were seminar presentations at the University of Oxford in Oxford.

Performing with One Voice, Once Again

Alumni of the a cappella group Mosaic Whispers never missed a beat as they returned to the stage on April 1, 2006, in Graham Chapel. As part of the group’s 15th anniversary Splash of Color concert, the singers performed some of their greatest hits of the past 15 years, including The Rose (Bette Midler cover), Big Yellow Taxi (Joni Mitchell cover), Somebody to Love (Queen cover), and Uninvited (Alanis Morissette cover). Of the group’s 78 alumni, some 50 returned from all parts of the United States and, in one case, from China for this special evening.

“I haven’t sung for about seven years, so I’m a bit rusty,” says Sara Bleiberg, A.B. ’00 (psychology and music), who manages a freshman residence hall as a staffer at New York University in New York City. “But it’s amazing how you never forget your part in songs you’ve performed. It’s so ingrained.” No doubt that’s because the group has always practiced about 10 hours per week, with rehearsals usually on two weekdays and on Sundays.

Founded in 1991, Mosaic Whispers is the oldest coed a cappella group at the University, performing everything from pop and hard rock to jazz, oldies, country, soul, and funk. One of the founding members, Josh Einsohn, A.B. ’94 (drama), a casting director, who helped cast The Polar Express movie and The West Wing TV series, organized the entire reunion weekend for the alumni.

Describing how the group began, he says: “Seven of us from the Burmeister Cup–winning South 40 Facade at Thurtene Carnival gathered afterward to create Mosaic Whispers, and Dan Newman (B.S.C.S. ’92, B.S.E.E. ’93) was the one who got the group going. We chose ‘mosaic’ because of the group’s diverse music and members, which has held true throughout its history, and ‘whispers’ because that’s what was left of our voices after performing at Thurtene.”

Over the years, the group has grown in stage presence, and, in addition to producing albums and going on national concert tours, it now is routinely included in the highly selective Best of Collegiate A Cappella album produced annually.

“Being in the group helps you grow in guts and confidence,” Bleiberg says. “And the intensity of performing well together creates a strong bond. That’s why we’re still like family.”
England: Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif.; and Southern Methodist University School of Law in Dallas. Matlock, who maintains offices in Dallas and McKinney, Texas, continues to advocate for methods of dispute resolution that avoid litigation.

Elnida Fishman Kiss, LA 69, was named faculty finalist for the Alan J. Krome Award for Teaching Excellence at the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland in College Park. She has been on the faculty of the school’s finance department since 2003. For the previous five years, she was a faculty member in the finance department of Rutgers University in Newark, N.J., from which she received the Thomas H. Mott Award for Teaching Excellence.

Patricia Brentano Brannick, FA 71, who teaches drawing at the School of Architecture and Design at the University of Arkansas, has received a 2006 Individual Fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. In 2005 she was a Weir Fellow at the American Academy in Rome.

Chung-Kwang (C-K) Chou, SI 71, chief electromechanical engineer and director of the corporate EME research laboratory at Motorola in Plainfield, Ill., has received the 2006 d’Arsonval Award from the Bioelectromagnetics Society. The award, recognizing extraordinary accomplishments in bioelectromagnetics, is presented at the society’s annual meeting in Cancun, Mexico, in June 2006. As part of the award, Chou presented a lecture at the meeting. In addition to his Ph.D. degree he earned from Washington University, Chou earned a B.S.E.E. degree from National Taiwan University in Taipei in 1968 and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Washington in Seattle in 1975.

Lois Hecht Oppenheim, GR 72, GR 80, after serving four years as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Judaism in Bel-Air, Calif., has returned to full-time teaching and research as professor of political science. “While I enjoyed my tenure as an administrator,” she says, “I missed teaching and having time to do substantial research.” Having time for research has resulted in the publication of two books: After Pinochet: The Chilean Road to Democracy and the Market, which Oppenheim co-edited with Silvia Villanek (University Press of Florida, 2006) and the third revision of her book Politics in Chile (Westview Press, due out in November 2006).

Babette Rothschild, LA 72, SW 75, has authored a new book, Help for the Helper (Norton Professional Books, 2006). The book, which challenges current thinking about the ways in which therapists are affected by their clients, offers concrete strategies for mental health professionals who want to maintain their own mental health and overall well-being while maximizing their competency with clients.

Vernon R. Wiehe, SW 72, who earned a doctoral degree from the University’s George Warren Brown School of Social Work, is professor emeritus in the College of Social Work at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, where he continues to teach part time. His research and one of his books on sibling abuse recently was cited in a New York Times article on sibling rivalry.

E. William Gillula, GB 73, president of Clemson University in Clemson, S.C., received the 2006 Chief Executive Leadership Award for the southeastern district from the Institute for Middle Eastern Youth Initiatives for Middle Eastern Youth.

Janina K. Lathrop, GB 84, LW 85, is head of the news media, and assists professors, while maintaining their own mental health, and overall well-being while maximizing their competency with clients.

Mary Ellen (Cohen) Scherl, FA 78, has created Memorial, a multimedia artistic installation and a nonprofit organization focused on raising awareness and funds to help eliminate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease. The public-art installation, which explores the physical and emotional effects of the disease, features life-casts of survivors’ breasts and expressions of their personal experiences. In April 2006, Scherl and this project were to be the focus of an NBC Nightly News “Making a Difference” segment. Also in April 2006, the first 50 life-casts for Memorial were to be exhibited at the gallery in Davis Johnson Park in Tenafly, N.J. The mayor of Tenafly, where Scherl and her family reside, asked that Tenafly be the Memorial’s “focus city.”

Michele Andrea Bowen-Brown, LA 79, SW 81, GR 81, completed her third novel, titled Holy Ghost Corner (Warner Books), which will be in bookstores through the United States on Sept. 20, 2006. Her previous novels, Church Folk and Second Sunday, both published by Warner Books, made Essence Magazine Bestseller’s List. Bowen-Brown now is writing a fourth novel and working with two other novelists on a fiction project. She resides in Durham, N.C., with her husband, Harold Brown, and their three daughters—Lakin, 15, who will be a first-year student at Hampton University in Hampton, Va., in fall 2006; Sydney, 10; and Janina, 8.

Paul DeMuro, LW 79, of Latham & Watkins in San Francisco, has been elected chair-elect of the American Bar Association Health Law Section.

Stephen C. Sheppard, GR 79, GR 84, professor of economics at Williams College in Williamstown, Mass., is in the midst of preparing a report on professional social滑雪. The final report on the project is due in October 2007.

Col. William Vogt, LA 79, now retired from active duty with the U.S. Army, has begun a new career as a contractor with the Phoenix Consulting Group of Alexandria, Va.

Mary L. (Spears) West, BJ 79, GB 73, GR 84, LW 85, recently retired from the U.S. Air Force after 33 years of service and has opened a general practice law office in Sparta, Ill.

B. Tucker Woodson, LA 79, professor of anthropology and communication sciences at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, has been appointed chief of its Division of Sleep Medicine. Woodson, who resides in Menomonee Falls, Wis., with his wife, Shelley, and children—John, 15, and Jenna, 12—says his family thinks sleep is a discipline he should devote more personal time toward.

Dennis J. Hall, GA 80, managing principal of Hall Architects in Charlotte, N.C., has co-authored The Architect’s Guide to the U.S. National CAD Standard (John Wiley & Sons, 2006). He serves on the National Institute of Building Science’s national CAD standard project committee and was instrumental in the development of the standard used by architects, engineers, facility managers, and others in the construction industry. Hall and his wife, Janet, reside in Charlotte.

Clifford W. Ham, GA 80, has been appointed principal architect within the Office of Court
Construction and Management in the Design and Construction Services Unit of the Administrative Office of the Courts of the Judicial Council of California. He is responsible for architectural quality and standards development for the California Judicial Branch buildings as well as for project management of selected court building projects. Ham joined the administrative office in 2002, and for the 22 years prior, he worked in Hellmuth Obata & Kassabaum's San Francisco office, where he was a vice president and senior project manager. Ham and his wife, Laura Billists Ham, GA 80, also an architect, reside in Oakland. Their daughter Andrea earned a bachelor's degree in accounting/finance in May 2006 from the University of Portland, and their daughter Stephanie is contemplating offers of admission from several liberal arts colleges in New England and the Midwest.

David Michael Harris, LW 80, is manager of the litigation practice group of Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale law firm, based in St. Louis. He joined the firm in 1982 and served on the firm's board of directors for eight years and its executive committee for five years.

Tim Thornton, LW 80, has been appointed president of Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, one of St. Louis' oldest law firms. Thornton, who joined the firm in 1981, has served on its board of directors since 2003 and has served as manager of the national construction law practice group for 15 years.

Samuel "Leo" Cooke, EN 81, his wife, Kaye Cooke, LA 84, and their son, Nathan, 16, and daughter, Diane, 13, reside "happily near the rolling hills and lakes of (Madison) Wisconsin." For the past 15 years, Leo, an environmental engineer, has been a principal/senior chemical engineer with Noble Earth Technologies. Prior to that, he worked in industry for 10 years. In 1986 he earned an M.B.A. degree from Loyola University of Chicago. Leo is active in civic groups as well as church, which he serves as a chaplain and recently served as treasurer, sitting on the board of trustees.

Fred Heger, GB 81, has become director of finance for the Lagasse Sweet division of United Stationers, based in the Chicago area. The division distributes food-service, janitorial, and sanitation supplies. Heger has been helping his daughters—Amy, 18, and Beth, 17—a senior and junior, respectively, at Deerfield (III) High School, choose a college to attend.

Christopher O. Jackson, LA 81, who is working on filming a movie in New York, was commissioned by the Missouri Historical Society to create a play about St. Louis' trolley system. It was to premier in May 2006. In addition, Jackson's cabaret show recently has performed It Ain't Pretty Being Easy and The Boy Next Door in San Francisco, San Diego, and Kansas City. He says, "I don't think I would have had a market for Fashionistas without it. I'm grateful for that. But the term is often reductive and dismissive. I should be able to write what I want without my books being considered throw-away."

Long before Chick Lit even existed, Messina was writing novels: as a middle-schooler, as a young college student, and as a junior studying abroad at King's College in London. After graduating from Washington University in St. Louis with a degree in literature, she interned for Avalon Books. In a true heroine-on-a-mission caper, Messina came up with a pseudo-name: "I'd asked her about the spate of fashion-magazine-industry-insider novels that had just been released. She made a few guesses—the way fashion editors are notoriously easy targets for satirizing, the way fashion morphed into entertainment about five years before—but... she really didn't have an answer." With an upcoming fourth book, Petra Swift Saves the World, Messina clearly is having more than just a moment. But she also is having angst about the label "Chick Lit," the genre defined by Bridget Jones and Sex and the City, wherein a clever, stylish career gal transcends the idiocy around her and always gets the guy. "I have a complex relationship with Chick Lit," Messina says. "I don't think I would have had a market for Fashionistas without it. I'm grateful for that. But the term is often reductive and dismissive. I should be able to write what I want without my books being considered throw-away."

Fashioning a Writing Career

When her ultra-hip first novel, Fashionistas, launched her into the spotlight, Lynn Messina's wit never failed her, although she worried her wardrobe might. "It's suddenly very daunting to buy an outfit," she says. "I'm not stylish at all, which is funny considering the title of my book."

Fashionistas (Red Dress Ink, 2003) is about a 20-something editor at a New York City fashion magazine who conspires to overthrow her shrewish boss. Although the heroine has contempt for the celebri-chic she promulgates in the magazine ("This is Jennifer Anniston's Home." and assured (she's read her Coward), and her novel is an avowal that she can't resist poking fun at her coworkers. Writing a fond consideration of name-calling and the easy targets for satirizing, the fashionista's world is a surface she can easily knock down. "They whores themselves, and I can make fun of them to myself, and give them what they want without my books being considered throw-away." With an upcoming fourth book, Petra Swift Saves the World, Messina clearly is having more than just a moment. But she also is having angst about the label "Chick Lit," the genre defined by Bridget Jones and Sex and the City, wherein a clever, stylish career gal transcends the idiocy around her and always gets the guy. "I have a complex relationship with Chick Lit," Messina says. "I don't think I would have had a market for Fashionistas without it. I'm grateful for that. But the term is often reductive and dismissive. I should be able to write what I want without my books being considered throw-away."

Fashionistas, which coincidentally debuted at the same time as The Devil Wears Prada and the Shopaholic series, was Messina's 10th attempt at a novel. "I thought each one would be the one that sells. When you finally have success, you have to decide: Is this a moment, or is this a career?"

With an upcoming fourth book, Petra Swift Saves the World, Messina clearly is having more than just a moment. But she also is having angst about the label "Chick Lit," the genre defined by Bridget Jones and Sex and the City, wherein a clever, stylish career gal transcends the idiocy around her and always gets the guy. "I have a complex relationship with Chick Lit," Messina says. "I don't think I would have had a market for Fashionistas without it. I'm grateful for that. But the term is often reductive and dismissive. I should be able to write what I want without my books being considered throw-away."

Long before Chick Lit even existed, Messina was writing novels: as a middle-schooler, as an undergraduate in favorite professor Madeline Brainard's courses, and as a junior studying abroad at King's College in London. After graduating from Washington University in St. Louis with a degree in literature, she interned for Avalon Books. In a true heroine-on-a-mission caper, Messina came up with a pseudo-name: "I'd asked her about the spate of fashion-magazine-industry-insider novels that had just been released. She made a few guesses—the way fashion editors are notoriously easy targets for satirizing, the way fashion morphed into entertainment about five years before—but... she really didn't have an answer." With an upcoming fourth book, Petra Swift Saves the World, Messina clearly is having more than just a moment. But she also is having angst about the label "Chick Lit," the genre defined by Bridget Jones and Sex and the City, wherein a clever, stylish career gal transcends the idiocy around her and always gets the guy. "I have a complex relationship with Chick Lit," Messina says. "I don't think I would have had a market for Fashionistas without it. I'm grateful for that. But the term is often reductive and dismissive. I should be able to write what I want without my books being considered throw-away."
“I hope to see friends at our reunion.”

Sandra Ford Mendler, LA 81, vice president and sustainable design principal for the San Francisco branch of Helmut Obata & Kassabaum, received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Architecture, Graduate School of Art & Urban Design, part of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, in April 2006.

Edmund Messina, HS 81, a neurologist who is medical director for the M1 Headache Treatment Network, based in Lansing, Mich., and who has been active in the film industry for 30 years, has created a documentary, Life and Migraine. The documentary, about 13 people who suffer from chronic headaches, premiered as a finalist at the Kansas International Film Festival. It is being prepared for viewing on public television and for mass DVD distribution. Web site: www.lifeandmigraine.com

Scott Sandford, GR 81, GR 85, who works in the astrophysics branch at NASA’s Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, Calif., is co-investigator on NASA’s Stardust Comet Sample Return Mission (also see page 8). He was a key member of the team that recovered the capsule containing cometary dust from the Utah desert on Jan. 15, 2006, and attended the sample canister as it was transported new to NASA’s Planetary Science Laboratory and Space Center for opening.

Sandford also participated in the removal of the samples in a special clean room at NASA. His work is leading some of the efforts on the preliminary examinations of the returned samples. In particular, Sandford leads the team of international scientists working on the organic contents of the samples.

Jimmie E. Tucker, GA 81, founding principal of Self Tucker Architects, a full-service Memphis-based architecture, interiors, and planning firm, received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Architecture, Graduate School of Art & Urban Design, part of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, in April 2006.

Carolyn Greenberg, LW 82, and Uwe Schwersky were married on December 31, 2005, in Cambridge, Mass. Schwersky attended and participated in the wedding. The couple resides in Berlin, Germany. E-mail: carygrw@aol.com


Corinna Cotsen, GA 83, SI 83, who has served on the University’s Architecture National Council since 1996 and recently concluded a four-year term on the University’s Board of Trustees, received the Dean’s Medal from the College of Architecture, Graduate School of Art & Urban Design, part of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, in April 2006.

Thomas R. Hoer, GR 83, head of New City School in St. Louis, recently published his latest book, The Art of School Leadership (ASCD Press, 2005). In addition, he says New City School, for 3-year-olds through 6th-graders, recently opened the world’s first Multiple Intelligences Library. Hoer earned a Ph.D. degree in educational policy-making and program development through the University’s Graduate School of Arts & Sciences in 1983.

David D. Levine, LA 83, co-founder and chief technology officer at McAfee, the computer anti-virus company. His science fiction writing also is going well, as he has sold more than 20 stories total, with two of those in the first quarter of 2006. His short story Tk’tk’tk, published in the March 2005 issue of Asimov’s Science Fiction, has been nominated for the Hugo Award, the world’s largest science fiction award.

Randall Rose, EN 83, has moved from St. Louis to Charlotte, N.C. Now, as senior project manager for Clayco, he is managing the two-weeks-a-week relocations. E-mail: roser@clayco.com

Soo Chan, LA 84, received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Architecture, Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design, part of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, in April 2006. He is founding principal and design director of SCDA Architects in Singapore.

Lt. Col. Edwin “Ed” Kuster, Jr., LA 84, retired from the U.S. Army in 2004 after 16 years of service, including tours in Germany, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. Now, as a U.S. government employee, he is developing policy and standards for the U.S. Army in Fort Monroe, Va. He and his wife, and three children enjoy residing in the Yorktown (Va.) area and regularly travel around the world to all his University classmates.

Eileen (Ullman) Rendahl, LA 84, celebrated the release of her latest novel, Un-Bridaled (Downtown Press, 2006), on March 9, 2006, at Sogo’s Restaurant in Davis, Calif. She describes the book as “a hilarious account of how one young woman grapples with learning that sometimes the right path is not down the aisle and that the craziest thing you’ve ever done can somehow turn out to be the sanest.” Rendahl’s previous novels are Do Me, Do My Roots and Balancing in High Heels. E-mail: eileenr@earthlink.net

Angela Cracchiolo Anderson, LA 85, and her husband, Jerry Anderson, announce the birth of Mario Joseph Anderson on April 12, 2005, in Guatemala City. E-mail: angela@aweanderson.com

Barry Hauptman, LA 85, recently retired from veterinary practice and is enjoying the role of a full-time home dad to their 1-year-old son, Theo. Barry, a marathon runner, resides with his wife, Robin, and son in Bethesda, Md.

Luis Lorenzo, SI 85, has joined Freeman-Allen, NA as chief technology officer. He will be responsible for research and development activities of the firm, which supplies automotive sealing products, as well as noise, vibration, and harshness products to all auto makers producing in North America. In addition, he will oversee the technical organization in the operating divisions and will be responsible for developing an advanced manufacturing organization. He is the third generation of the firm’s Plymouth, Mich., facility.

John R. Sachs, Jr., LA 85, says the past two years have been busy for him: “I moved from the East Side to the West Side of New York (more traumatic than it sounds), got married (not as traumatic as it sounds), and changed firms (not traumatic).” Sachs now is a partner in the Manhattan office of Epstein Becker & Green, practicing civil commercial litigation.

Mark Freiman, FA 86, and Julie Shimabukuro, LA 87, were married on Oct. 23, 2005, in Chicago. The two, who were friends as resident advisors, lost touch after graduation and then reconnected 16 years later. Freiman sings opera professionally and is a free-lance graphic designer of children’s books for Scholastic. Shimabukuro is director of international recruitment and assistant dean in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions for Washington University. To join her, he moved from New York City to St. Louis in fall 2005.

Lynn E. Gorgue, GB 86, president, CEO, and founder of Cameron Holdings Corp., received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the Olin School of Business in May 2006.

Yuval Lirov, SI 86, SI 87, is chief executive officer of Affinity Billing, a third-party medical billing service headquartered in Marlboro, N.J. Operating nationally, the company consolidates billing services, tracks payer performance from a single point of control, shares Medicare compliance rules globally, and creates economies of scale. It guarantees improved practice profitability and 100 percent billing transparency.

Martin Saeman, SW 86, and Barbara Freimuth were married in September 2005. He is managing editor of The National Psychologist, a bimonthly newspaper for practicing psychologists. The couple resides in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus.

Richard Andow, LA 87, is chief estimator at Cupertino Electric in San Francisco, which specializes in high-rise commercial/residential, hospital, and data-center installations. He is the father of two boys, Alex, 15; Eric, 12; and Christina, 11—reside in Brentwood, Calif. E-mail: randaow@cupertino.com

David P. Leighly, GA 87, recently was named a shareholder of BWBR Architects, an architectural and interior design firm in the Rice Park area of St. Paul, Minn. A senior project architect, Leighly, who has been with the firm since 1999, focuses primarily on educational and commercial projects. He is interested in local and building-code issues. In his spare time, he enjoys furniture design, roller coasters, and Legos. He and his wife, Carole, and their sons, Ian and Max, reside in Cottage Grove, Minn.

Ntokozo S. Mthembu, EN 87, is fund manager for the innovation and technology unit at Industrial Development Corporation in Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa. He earned a M.Sc. degree in mechanical engineering from Glasgow University in Scotland in 1990 and a Ph.D. degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Cape Town in South Africa, in 2004. He has worked for several industries in South Africa and abroad, including mining, packaging, and management consulting. As a hobby, he is doing research in innovation and competitiveness. Mthembu and his wife, Deborah (Godfrey) Mthembu, have a daughter, Dahnell, 8, and a son, Njula, 3.

Junsoo Hur, SW 88, earned a Ph.D. degree in social welfare from State University of New York in Albany and now is an associate professor in the Department of Social Welfare at Soongsil
Seeking Payments for Life and Tax Savings?

See page 9.

Robert S. Brookings
Help
Washington University
Students and
Receive Payments
for Life.

see page 9
If we had a bird's-eye view of trees, we could see how they pattern their leaves and branches to collect sunlight that fuels their growth. Instead, we usually view them from the ground. To resolve that problem, Mark Olson, Ph.D. '01, studies trees in a paraglider that skims above the treetops at 15 to 20 miles-an-hour.

In retrospect, the idea of studying trees from the air seems obvious. But Olson, now assistant professor of biology at the National University of Mexico, was the first to do it. He was also among the first to realize the paraglider's potential as a vehicle for scientific discovery. Since his first flight six years ago, the paraglider has caught on as a scientific tool, and Olson has been recognized as one of the world's best up-and-coming explorers by the National Geographic Society, which in 2004 named him to its select group of "Emerging Explorers."

Olson realized the potential of aerial surveillance while doing research for his doctorate in evolutionary and population biology. He wanted to travel to remote locations in northeast Africa but found the sites inaccessible by foot or land vehicle. A local rancher offered to fly him in a small plane, which landed in dry riverbeds and other makeshift landing strips.

To and from the sites, Olson began to observe trees from above, and then he had a flash of insight. From the ground looking up, one tree species looks much like another. From the air, the configurations of branches and foliage differ markedly from species to species. "I thought, well, of course, that stands to reason. Trees don't care what they look like from the ground. But they care very much what they look like as they face the sky because that's how they collect light."

Olson returned to St. Louis and learned to fly small prop planes but found they went too fast for research. Then he discovered the paraglider, which lets him putter above the treetops of Mexican forests while snapping digital photographs. He then returns to the lab where computers analyze the photos.

He wants to learn whether plants follow repetitive patterns in their branches and foliage to maximize light gathering and other survival functions. If that's true, every broccoli should look pretty much like every other broccoli, and every tree should look pretty much like every other tree of the same species.

The theory holds with broccoli. But trees are tougher to analyze because storms knock off branches and change the way they look. So with trees, Olson expects to find that they try to grow in repetitive patterns that maximize light gathering but aren't always able to do so because of environmental conditions and the weather.

While much of his research focuses on trees, shrubs, and vines of the world's dry tropical forests, his aerial research focuses on rain forests, where trees are much taller. That lets Olson fly at higher, safer altitudes and still get good photos.

His findings may yield critical insights into how plants work in general, knowledge that could aid efforts to protect endangered forests and to help researchers create better, stronger versions of the plants that feed us.

Olson grew up in California and went to undergraduate school at the University of California at Santa Barbara. He had planned on a career researching California flora, but Washington University opened new vistas. "At Washington University, faculty encouraged us to ask questions with global implications," he says. "With this research, I am trying to learn things about trees that could apply everywhere."

— Doug Mcmis

Washington Profile

Mark Olson, Ph.D. '01

Plant Biologist Is High-Flier

Lisa O. Stump, LW 89, was among the Top 100 Missouri/Kansas Super Lawyers for 2005. She was nominated by her peers as being in the top 5 percent of lawyers in the two states.

Bronwyn Prytherch-Graham, LA 90, and her husband, Colin Graham, announce the birth of their son and daughter, C. Rhys Graham and Brynn P. Graham, on Aug. 15, 2005. The family resides in Fairfield, Conn.

Andrew L. W. Raimist, GA 90, who renovated the 1950s-era residence of Harris Armstrong, a St. Louis modernist architect, was, via images and comments, an integral part of an article on Armstrong in the April 2006 issue of Dwell magazine. Raimist, principal of Raimist Architecture in St. Louis, is focusing on completing a book on Armstrong. His Kirkwood, Mo., home was featured on HGTV's Generation Renovation in April. E-mail: raimist@raimistarchitecture.com. Toivo Rovainen, LA 90, danced in three Seattle Early Dance performances at Benaroya Hall, Seattle's symphony hall, in January 2006. Each performance, part of a celebration of Mozart's 250th birthday, traced European sheet music by presenting Gregorian chants, costumed Renaissance and Baroque dances, and several Mozart pieces. Web site: http://www.seattleearlydance.homestead.com. Regularly, Rovainen dances and plays...
**ClassMates**

The ClassMates editor can be reached by mailing this form and also by fax and electronic mail. By fax: (314) 935-8533. By e-mail: classmates@wustl.edu. Send U.S. mail to: ClassMates, Washington University in St. Louis, Campus Box 1086, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130-4899.

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42 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS SUMMER 2006
Designing a Business That Fits to a 'T'

T-Party Antiques and Tea Room, located in the historic downtown section of Darien, Connecticut, is the brainchild of Susan Borgen, B.F.A. '80. After a successful graphic design career, including seven years with various New York City companies and 17 years at her own firm, Susan Borgen Design in Connecticut, she was ready for a change.

"The bottom line is that I didn't want to be tied to the computer forever: for my work," says Borgen. "Then one day my husband said to me: 'You know, you don't have to do graphic design forever. A lot of people change professions in mid-stream.' And although I had always thought somewhat in the back of my mind about opening an antique shop, I never thought that I could just stop what I was doing and start something new.

"I have an entrepreneurial spirit," she continues. "I have a lot of energy and always like trying new things. That part is not daunting to me. That's exciting. I also knew that I wanted to combine the antiques with something else, and I felt this would be the perfect combination, tea and antiques."

T-Party opened its doors in July 2003. While her business partner, a talented chef, creates the tea time treats, Borgen keeps her creative juices flowing by designing all of the shop's marketing materials, including the Web site and logo, as well as the ever-changing merchandising displays of antiques and collectibles in the 19th-century farm-house T-Party calls home.

"It's extremely satisfying," Borgen says. "I'm working directly with the public now, which I love. Many wonderful people come in, and often they come to celebrate something special in their lives, which makes it a really warm, happy, fun place to work."

Although the tearoom was not designed as an English-style tearoom, British patrons have happily noted the similarities, including the traditional scones and clotted cream. "We consider ourselves to be a quintessentially American tearoom," Borgen says. The "T" in T-Party Antiques and Tea Room harks back to the early 20th century and the Prohibition era, when many women, often supporters of the Temperance Movement (with its trademark stand-alone capital "T"), opened tearooms in their homes.

There is no stereotypical tearoom patron, Borgen notes. She even has many male patrons who love tea and enjoy the generous amount of food offered. Tea is served at set times, with two scheduled seatings four days a week. Frequently larger groups will rent the entire place for special events such as birthday parties, showers, or simply an afternoon outing with friends.

"When you come for tea, you're going to spend at least an hour or more relaxing and enjoying the food and the company. It's a nice respite in the middle of a busy day," says Borgen. "It's something that I think is sorely needed, and most people don't take the time out to do. It's a very civilised and wonderful way to reconnect with family members or cherished friends."

Borgen has no regrets about giving up her successful design business. "It's fun to go to work every day," she says. "My husband and kids are incredibly supportive, and I love the people who come in. Their enthusiasm is just wonderful. It's infectious."

T-Party has also generated attention from the local and national media having received a favorable review in the New York Times as well as a segment on Food Network's Roker on the Road* series.

For more information, please visit tpartyantiques.com. (*Roker on the Road aired in September 2005 and March 2006.)

—Terri McClain

Susan Borgen is owner of T-Party Antiques and Tea Room in Darien, Connecticut.
David, LA 95, announce the birth of Jeffrey Max on Oct. 7, 2005. He joins his sister, Alexia Julia, 2. The family resides in Chappaqua, N.Y.

Eric J. Schaefer, BU 95, and his wife, Nora, announce the birth of Lucas Edan Schaefer on Dec. 30, 2005. The family resides in Scottsdale, where Eric is a principal at the commercial real estate firm Schaefer & Associates, where he works with his father, Donald Schaefer, BU 65. E-mail: eric@scraez.com

Nancy (Lefkowitz) Strassberg, BU 95, and her husband, Keith, announce the birth of Sara on Oct. 18, 2005. They say the family, including Murray, the dog, “are all doing great.” They reside on Long Island. E-mail: n1249@hotmail.com

Brian Vitale, GA 95, senior associate in charge of design for the Chicago office of 4240 Architecture, received the Young Alumni Award from the College of Architecture, where he graduated in 2004, Graduate School of Art & Urban Design, part of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, in April 2006.

Elizabeth Wattenberg, LA 95, was named one of Atlanta’s Top 10 Athletes in the February 2005 issue of Sports & Fitness Magazine, reports her mother, Joan L. Dillon, BU 78. Dillon finished first in the North Georgia Adventure Race and went on to compete in the Nationals in November 2005, finishing that race in 29 hours,” Dillon says. “Liz works for Perimeter Transportation Coalition in Atlanta and strives to interest people in alternative transportation methods.”

Ryl Ashley, LA 96, and her husband, George Papadopoulos, announce the birth of their daughter, Zoe Papadopoulos, on Nov. 8, 2005. Ashley, who lives in Brooklyn, NY, from New York City to Athens, Greece, where Ashley continues to work in equity research as a supervisory analyst on a contract basis. E-mail: ryl.ashley@gmail.com

Lauren Osterwell Fineman, LA 96, and her husband, Steven, announce the birth of their first child, Samatha Leigh, on Sept. 30, 2005. The family resides in Laurel, Md. The wedding party and guests included many University alumni. The Hurleys reside in Royal Oak, Mich., where Scott is the geographic information systems manager for Wade Trim, a civil engineering consulting firm. Tracy, a 1998 graduate of Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, works for the Fenimore Career Center/Michigan Work! agency. E-mail: scott.tracy@wadetrим.com

Thomas Roadhouse, LA 96, and his wife, Ann, announce the birth of their first child, Hannah Elizabeth Roadhouse, on Dec. 10, 2005. The family resides in Mansfield, Mass. Roadhouse is a general surgeon at Morton Hospital, a community-based medical center serving southeastern Massachusetts.

Bob Hardester II, GB 97, and his family—Jennifer; Grace, 5; and Bobby III, 2—recently moved to St. Charles, Ill., near Chicago. Harvard Business School’s chief information officer for GE Commercial Distribution Finance. E-mail: hardesters@bgdglobal.net

Dr. John Katz, LA 97, earned a Ph.D. degree in molecular biology from Princeton University in Princeton, N.J., in August 2005. More importantly, he says, while at Princeton he met Tamara Casparvy, whom he married on May 14, 2004, at Smithgall Woods State Park near Atlanta. Many University alumni attended the wedding, which was held at a postdoctoral fellow at Emory University in Atlanta. The couple resides “happily in Atlanta with three frogs.”

Scott Lipman, LA 97, and Joanna D’Afflitti were married in Mansfield, Mass., on July 10, 2005. The couple resides in Brookline, N.Y., where Scott is director of a public middle school in Sunset Park.

Louis J. Schwartzberg, LW 97, and his wife, Caryn, announce the birth of Lila Rae on March 4, 2006. She joins her sister, Mia.

Jeanie Y. Welker, FA 97, traveled the world for five years as an officer in the U.S. Navy. She was to earn a B.S. degree from the University of Missouri in Rolla in May 2006, and she plans to attend veterinary school at the University of Missouri in Columbia in fall 2006.

Rohini Bajaj, LA 98, and her husband, Rushi, announce the birth of their daughter, Semaya, on March 1, 2006. The family resides in Dallas, where the couple practices dentistry.

Maria Rosaria Mignano Braswell, OT 98, and her husband, James Alton Braswell, who earned a B.S. degree and an M.S. degree from East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., announce the birth of Elisabeth Maria Braswell on May 27, 2005. She joins her sister, Celia Marie, 2. The family resides in Monroe, N.C.

Catherine Fisher, BU 98, LA 98, and Tim Dale, of Kirkwood, Mo., were married on Dec. 28, 2005. Fisher says that, with her two sons from a previous marriage, they are immensely enjoying being a family and “hanging out being ‘married, bored, and tired.’” Fisher owns her own real estate sales and property management company, Fisher & Company, focused on multi-family investment properties. She says, “I’d love to hear from you.” E-mail: cepflsher@gmail.com

Steve Johnston, LW 98, was named general counsel for the Oakland Athletics Baseball Company in January 2006.

Sara (Sperling) Mintz, LA 98, and her husband, Todd Mintz, EN 98, announce the birth of their first child, Hannah on Jan. 6, 2006. He joins his sister, Lily. 2. The family continues to reside in Rockville, Md. E-mail: gr_mintz@comcast.net

Rachel Pase, LA 98, and her husband, David, LA 99, were married on Nov. 12, 2005. Chris stepped up. I’d love to hear from you.” E-mail: ccflsher@gmail.com

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Kelly (Lunt) Chandler, BU 99, and her husband, Kyle, announce the birth of Zachary Joseph on Jan. 6, 2006. He joins his brother, Dylan Michael, 4. Kelly and Mike remain with Express Service & Citigroup, respectively. The family resides in O’Fallon, Mo.

Stephen Daniel Feldman, BU 99, and his wife, Leah, announce the birth of Joseph on July 18, 2005. He joins his brother, Dylan Michael, 4. Kelly and Mike remain with Express Service & Citigroup, respectively. The family resides in O’Fallon, Mo.

Laura Garofalo, BU 99, and Joseph El-Etr, LA 98, were married on Aug. 20, 2005, in Chicago, where the couple resides. The wedding party and guests included many University alumni. Laura earned two degrees—an M.B.A. and a J.D.—from Loyola University in Chicago and practiced labor and employment law in the law firm Holland & Knight. Joe is an options trader at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and is pursuing an M.B.A. degree from Loyola University.

Shoshana Kovac, LA 99, and Gregory Win were married on Sept. 4, 2005, in Rockville, Md. The wedding party and guests included many University alumni. The Paretses reside in New York City, where Shoshana does marketing strategy for the entertainment industry and is practicing respectively in the areas of employment/labor and intellectual property litigation. E-mail: cstaviss1968@yahoo.com

Mike Weckesser, GB 98, and Jim Hoppe have adopted their second child, Grant Weckesser-Hoppe, born June 18, 2005.

Chris (Marchel) Win, LA 98, and Patrick Win, LA 98, announce the birth of their fraternal twin sons, Epi ley William Win and Beckham Htain Win, on Nov. 20, 2005. Chris stepped down from her position as a student health educator at Washington University to become a full-time mother, and Patrick continues his fellowship training in allergy and immunology at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. The family resides in Richmond Heights, Mo. E-mail: chrisji@hotmail.com

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New York University. E-mail: sjkovac@yahoo.com

Sapna (Ravi) Kudchadkar, LA 99, and her husband, Raj, announce the birth of their first child, Ravi Ritesh Kudchadkar, on Dec. 18, 2005. The family resides near Baltimore, where Sapna is completing a pediatric residency at Johns Hopkins University and will begin a combined fellowship in anesthesiology and pediatric critical care medicine in July 2006. Raj is an attorney for the Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education. E-mail: sapna1@gmail.com

Amy (Schaffner) Potter, OT 99, and her husband, Jonathan, OT 99, announce the birth of Isaac Michael on April 9, 2005. In January 2006, the family relocated to Rochester, Minn., where Jon is an occupational therapist and Amy is an occupational therapist, both at the Mayo Clinic.

Dana Rosenfeld, BU 99, and Daniel Levinson were married on Feb. 4, 2006, in Israel. The Levinsons met in Minneapolis after Dana moved there to be a marketing director for General Mills, a position she took after earning an M.B.A. degree from the University of Texas in Austin in 2004. Daniel, who is from Los Angeles, did his undergraduate work at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and earned an M.B.A. degree from the University of California in Los Angeles. He is a marketing director for Best Buy Group.

Hedvig Berry Wibskov, LA 99, and Michael Schack Ille Jensen were married in Copenhagen, Denmark, on May 28, 2004, while Mollie was celebrating her birthday. The couple resides in Copenhagen, where Wibskov works for the European headquarters of the World Health Organization and Jensen is a financial analyst with the Danish Ministry of Defence. E-mail: hedvig.w@hotmail.com

Thomas Fisher, LW 00, has formed the Fisher Patent Group in Hickory, N.C. The firm prepares and prosecutes patent applications. E-mail: tfisher@fisherpatentgroup.com

Deborah Levine, LA 00, and Christopher Timmerman, LA 00, were married July 3, 2005, at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh. The couple resides in Somerville, Mass. Deborah is a Ph.D. candidate in the history of science at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., and Chris earned an M.Arch. degree from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia in 2004. He is a designer with Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott in Boston. E-mail: debbyandchrishris@gmail.com

Kimberly Whitmire, BU 99, and Eric Compton, EN 01, SI 01, announce the birth of their daughter, Raina Compton, on May 4, 2005. The family resides in the St. Louis area, where Whitmire teaches math at Mary Institute Country Day School and Eric is a programmer for Reuters America.

Tracy (Odvody) Figueroa, LW 01, and her husband, Brian, announce the birth of Sabrina Grace Figueroa on Jan. 13, 2006. The family resides in Corpus Christi, Texas, where Tracy is a staff attorney and head of the disaster assistance practice area at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid.

Anaxel Y. Jones, LA 01, completed a two-year abattoir in Jinan, China, where she taught English to master's and Ph.D. students. Now, she is a first-year law student at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. E-mail: ayj2@law.georgetown.edu

Ben Kiel, FA 01, who recently earned an M.A. degree in typeface design from the University of Reading in the United Kingdom, now works for House Industries, a type foundry in Delaware.

Linda Kim, LA 01, and Coveri Koch, LA 01, are celebrating this year as their fifth as roommates in New York City, where both have furthered their formal education. Kim, who teaches 4th grade at a public school, is working toward a master's degree in literacy from Bank Street College of Education. Koch earned her law degree from Fordham University in May 2006 and will be an Equal Justice Works Fellow at the Urban Justice Center, a community development project, in fall 2006.

Julie Nebel, FA 01, and Michael Dooley were married on Oct. 9, 2005, at the Jewel Box in Forest Park in St. Louis. Julie, a developmental editor for Elsevier, a health sciences publisher, continues to do portraits part time. Mike is a senior financial analyst for Correctional Medical Services. They reside in the city of St. Louis.

Grace (Messah) Dean, LA 02, and her husband, Jason Dean, recently moved to Waco, Texas, where Grace is attending Baylor University Graduate School to earn a doctoral degree in psychology. They are happily settled in their first home with their dog, Luther, and two cats, Mishi and Cotton.

Emily Fredrix, LA 02, recently became the business writer for the Milwaukee Bureau of the Associated Press (AP). Previously, she was in AP bureaus in St. Louis, Topeka, Kan.; Washington, D.C.; and Omaha, Neb.

Daniel Rashid, FA 05, has joined McCann Erickson as a junior copywriter in its Birmingham, Mich., office. He had been freelancing for the firm for several months. Previously, he had an internship with the Hughes Group in Clayton, Mo.

In Memoriam

1920s

Lalah Florence (Curry) Runyon, GR 26, GR 28, Jan. '06
Helen (Miller) Costello, GR 27, Oct. '06
Hendrika (Berkenbosch) Gans, LA 28, March '06

1930s

Florence (Austin) Bush, LA 31, Jan. '06
Lawrence M. Aronberg, LA 32, MD 56, Feb. '06
Helen E. Jones, LA 32; Oct. '05
Vladimir Anastasoff, EN 33, Feb. '06
Ruth H. Junkin, NU 33; March '05
Mary E. (Weiss) Barnhart, NU 34, March '06
Paul G. Benignus, GR 34; Dec. '05
Ralph H. Dumbell, LA 34, Feb. '06
Vivian M. (Whitcomb) Speigl, SW 34, SW 41, Feb. '06
Charles J. Crawley, LW 35; April '06
Dorothea (Pulliam) Frank, NU 35; Nov. '05
Virginia Frenzel, LA 35; Nov. '05
Theodore M. Gilmore, LA 35; Dec. '05
Laura Jane (Davis) Nolan, LA 35; May '05
K. Virginia Toedtmann, UC 35; Jan. '06

1940s

John A. Wolf, LW 36; Feb. '06
Francis S. Kleeman, EN 37; Oct. '05
Jane (Chasnoff) Olmer, GR 37, March '06
Audrey H. (Goldstein) Sentuna, LA 37; Jan. '06
Anthony F. Piraino, MD 38; Nov. '05
Elaine Miriam (Nieves) Toelle, LA 38; March '06
Richard Klann, GR 39; Dec. '05
Huston E. Wadlow, EN 39; Feb. '06

1950s

John E. Liner, LW 40; Feb. '06
Lewis F. Lyman, EN 40; Dec. '05
Henry B. Voges, BU 41, Jan. '06
John J. Cole, LA 42, LW 42; March '06
S.E. Freund, LA 42; March '06
In Remembrance

Harish C. Agrawal
Harish C. Agrawal, retired professor of neurology and of pediatrics, died February 3, 2006, in Miami after a long illness. He was 66.

Born in India, Agrawal earned a doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh, India. Prior to arriving at Washington University in 1970, he was a lecturer at Charing Cross Hospital's Department of Biochemistry in London.

Agrawal, whose research interest was in the myelinization and demyelination of the central nervous system, received the Research Career Development Award from the National Institutes of Health from 1974–79. He contributed numerous scientific papers on various aspects of myelin proteins and their role in demyelinating disorders.

He is survived by his wife, Daya; two sons; and two grandchildren.

Jack Botwinick
Jack Botwinick, professor emeritus of neurology in the School of Medicine and of psychology in Arts & Sciences, died February 12, 2006, in St. Louis after a brief illness. He was 83.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Botwinick earned a doctorate from New York University in 1953. He was a research scientist in the laboratory on aging at the National Institute of Mental Health and a faculty member in the Gerontology Center at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, before coming to Washington University as professor of psychology in 1968. His successful psychological textbook, Aging and Behavior, was first published in 1973.

Botwinick played a key role in the development of the Washington University Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC). In 1979, Leonard Berg, now professor emeritus of neurology in the School of Medicine, in collaboration with Botwinick and Martha Storandt, professor of psychology in Arts & Sciences, received a three-year grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to study the natural history of Alzheimer's disease, and the Memory and Aging Project (MAP), the precursor to the ADRC, was born.

"Jack's involvement resulted in immediate credibility. He was widely acknowledged for his expertise in cognitive aging," says John C. Morris, the Harvey A. and Dorosmae Hacker Friedman Distinguished Professor of Neurology.
of pathology and immunology, and director of the ADRC. "It is not an overstatement to say that the ADRC may not have come into being here at Washington University School of Medicine without Jack Botwinick." In 1982, Botwinick earned a joint appointment as professor of neurology. He is survived by his wife, Joan; three daughters; and four granddaughters.

Alexander Calandra
Alexander Calandra, professor emeritus of physical sciences in the physics department in the arts and sciences, died March 8, 2006, at St. Luke's Hospital in Chesterfield, Missouri, from complications of a stroke. He was 95.

Born in New York City and educated at Brooklyn College in New York, Calandra earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1935. He taught at Brooklyn College while working toward a doctorate in statistics, which he earned from New York University in New York City in 1940. He served as a visiting professor of chemistry at the University of Chicago from 1945 until 1947, during which time he also did graduate studies in physics under Enrico Fermi.

Calandra, a resident of Ballwin, Missouri, was a Washington University faculty member from 1948-79. His most popular course was a physics course for nontechnical majors. He also became known as a critic of the "new math" reforms, which were popular in the 1960s. He served as science consultant for the St. Louis Public Schools at that time and was a participant in the 1965 White House Conference on Education.

In 1969, Calandra also joined the faculty of Webster University in St. Louis as chairman of the science department. In 1979, he received the highest honor in physics teaching—the Robert A. Millikin Award from the American Association of Physics Teachers.

Survivors include his wife, Martha Calandra; three daughters; and nine grandchildren.

Sol L. Garfield
Sol L. Garfield, professor emeritus of psychology in Arts & Sciences, who was known as one of the most frequently cited and influential psychologists in America, died August 14, 2004, in Cleveland. He was 86.

Garfield, whose parents were among Jews who immigrated from Russia-Poland to America to escape persecution in the 1890s, grew up in Chicago, where he worked in his father's grocery store. Working diligently to advance from the Society to a professional life, he earned a bachelor's degree, master's degree, and doctoral degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

His contributions became a clinical psychologist in the U.S. Army during World War II. Afterward, from 1946-56, he held various positions with the U.S. Veterans Administration, emerging as a leader in clinical practice, education, and research. In academia, he conducted research, published seminal materials, and directed clinical training for about 30 years, first at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, then at Columbia University in New York City, and finally at Washington University in St. Louis from 1970-86.

The author and editor of many books, he co-edited the first four editions of the Handbook of Psychotherapy and Behavior Change, which became a standard text and reference in the United States and many parts of the world. Garfield earned numerous prestigious awards, including the Distinguished Contribution to Knowledge Award from the American Psychological Association and the Distinguished Research Career Award from the Society for Psychotherapy Research.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Amy Nusbaum Garfield; two sons; two daughters; seven grandchildren; and one niece.

Joseph Klarmann
Cosmic-ray astrophysicist Joseph Klarmann, professor emeritus of physics in Arts & Sciences, died February 21, 2006, at St. Mary's Health Center in Richmond Heights, Missouri, of complications from a bicycle accident in Forest Park in September 2005. He was 78.

As a member of the Washington University cosmic ray research group, Klarmann was involved in some of the world's most successful studies of the composition of galactic cosmic rays, highly energetic atomic nuclei that travel through space at nearly the speed of light. He helped develop innovative instruments that have been used on high-altitude balloons and later on spacecraft.

Born in 1928 in Berlin, his family escaped Nazi Germany, fleeing to Palestine via Italy in late 1939. His university studies were interrupted in 1948 when he served in the Israeli army during the War of Independence. After the war, in which he was injured, he returned to Hebrew University in Jerusalem, from which he earned an M.S. degree in 1954.

He earned a doctorate from the University of Rochester in New York in 1958 and joined the Washington University faculty in 1961 as an assistant professor of physics, working with Michael Friedlander, professor of physics, whose name was used on high-altitude balloons and later on spacecraft. He was named a professor in 1964 and professor in 1974. He attained emeritus rank in 1996.

"Joe was a quiet but outstanding member of our department's faculty," says Friedlander. "He was one of our best lecturers, a gentle and sympathetic advisor to students—both graduate and undergraduate—and a fine researcher."

Klarmann is survived by his wife, Erika, of University City; two sons; and a sister.

Frank W. Miller
Frank W. Miller, the James Carr Professor Emeritus of Criminal Jurisprudence, died March 11, 2006, at his home in St. Louis County after a long illness. He was 84.

Born in Appleton, Wisconsin, he earned a bachelor of arts degree, bachelor of law degree, and a doctorate in law, all from the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

During World War II, Miller served in the U.S. Army. He began his teaching career in 1948 and retired in 1991. During his 43 years at the University, he taught criminal law, criminal procedure, and juvenile law. He also published many books, including Prosecution: The Decision to Charge a Suspect with a Crime and The Test of Factual Causation in Negligence and Strict Liability Cases with Arno C. Becht.

A popular teacher, Miller received a 1965 Founders Day Faculty Award and the Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award in 1991.

Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Lucille R. Miller; two daughters; and a brother.

Charles Newman
Charles Newman, professor of English and avant-garde novelist and critic, died March 15, 2006, at Barnes-Jewish Hospital after a lengthy illness. He was 97.

Newman, who was born in St. Louis and grew up in Chicago, is perhaps best-known for turning a campus publication at Northwestern University into a national magazine, TriQuarterly. He joined Northwestern as a young instructor in the English department in 1946 and is credited as the first official editor of the magazine, which began in 1958 as a student and faculty magazine. For 10 of the 11 years Newman was on the faculty, he was editor of the publication.

It became an international journal showcasing the world's most eminent writers, TriQuarterly, which still appears three times a year, has published such luminaries as Jorge Luis Borges; Carlos Fuentes; William H. Gass, the David May Distinguished University Professor Emeritus in Humanities; Joyce Carol Oates; and Anne Sexton, among others.

Newman wrote several novels, including the Cautionary trilogy, and he wrote two nonfiction books—the autobiographical A Child's History of America (1973) and a critical work, The Post-Modern Awa, The Art of Fiction in an Age of Inflation (1985).

He earned a bachelor's degree in American studies with honors, summa cum laude, from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1949 and studied politics and economics at Oxford University in Oxford, England, as a Fulbright scholar. Newman first came to WUSTL as the Visiting Hurst Professor of Creative Writing in 1984; in 1985, he was visiting professor of English; and in 1986, he became a full professor.

Newman, who was married and divorced five times, is survived by a sister and two nephews.
Reinforcing Clinical Care

Associate Vice Chancellor James P. Crane led the reorganization of the clinical practice, providing improved patient services and long-term sustainability at the medical school.

BY DIANE DUKE WILLIAMS

In the mid-1990s, there was a firestorm brewing in American health care. Managed care kept growing as clinical revenues declined. Cutbacks were on the horizon in clinical care funding from Medicare, research funding from the National Institutes of Health, and Medicare-related graduate medical education payments. Medical schools began losing money, and some were even taking the dramatic step of selling their teaching hospitals.

The Washington University School of Medicine tackled the challenge by tapping James P. Crane, associate vice chancellor for clinical affairs and a key administrator at the medical school, to lead a faculty-oversight committee to assess the rapidly changing health-care forces. After the committee announced its results, the School of Medicine decided in 1997 to create a unified multi-specialty medical group called the Faculty Practice Plan (FPP).

The FPP's primary goals were to make the medical school's clinical practice more efficient and more responsive to the needs of patients, referring physicians, and health-care insurers. It would provide more effective infrastructure and support for clinical services, negotiate contracts with 43 major insurers in the St. Louis area, streamline billing and collections, and establish strategic direction for the School's 13 clinical departments.

The reorganization would enable the School of Medicine to better compete in an increasingly competitive health-care market and provide a clinically diverse patient base in support of the medical school's teaching and research missions.

"A vibrant clinical practice is so important to our teaching and research missions," says Crane, who also was named chief executive officer of the FPP. "Our clinical practice provides an essential platform for bringing new discoveries and the latest medical innovations to the bedside, and it also provides a vital training ground for the next generation of health-care professionals."

Before the FPP was created, 13 clinical departments with 55 divisions were practicing at 32 locations within three city blocks on the Medical Campus. No central location existed for patients to seek outpatient care, despite the fact that many patients had complex medical problems that required the expertise of multiple subspecialists.

Through the FPP, Crane led the effort to implement the Campus Integration Plan, a new vision for the Medical Center. On the North Campus, new buildings house multidisciplinary clusters of outpatient services while others on the South Campus integrate inpatient care in a more rational and cost-effective manner.

As part of the $364-million Campus Integration Plan, a 14-story outpatient care facility called the Center for Advanced Medicine, or CAM, opened in 2000 on the North Campus. The CAM holds 14 multidisciplinary clinical centers with related ancillary and diagnostic testing conveniently located nearby.
"Historically, we were physician-focused in the way we provided medical care," says Crane, who also is a professor of obstetrics and gynecology. "The CAM is patient-focused. We've had a paradigm shift."

Today, the FPP has 979 physicians and ranks as the second-largest academic medical practice in the United States.

As the FPP's chief executive officer, Crane is responsible for establishing strategic direction and coordinating clinical programs across the School of Medicine's now 14 clinical departments, implementing school-wide standards of clinical care, and overseeing key services and infrastructure to help clinical departments provide the best patient care.

He also is focused on new goals for the FPP. These goals include expanding clinical practices in suburban areas of St. Louis, enhancing patient safety, and implementing an enterprise-wide electronic medical record system that will improve productivity and enhance patient care by providing the faculty with instant access to comprehensive outpatient and inpatient medical information.

Additionally, he spends a fair amount of time on public policy. For the past three years, Crane worked with the state medical association and other groups to pass meaningful tort reform legislation in Missouri, and he currently is working to get a tobacco tax initiative passed to discourage cigarette smoking and reduce the burden of tobacco-related disease among Missourians.

His colleagues say Crane has a remarkable talent for bringing people with diverse interests and agendas to a common purpose. "You have to be a good listener and try to put yourself in the other person's shoes," Crane says. "In the end, consensus is about compromise and working toward the common good."

Crane has a long list of accomplishments. When he joined the Washington University faculty in 1977, he established the first prenatal diagnosis program in Missouri in his role as chief of the genetics division within the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. In addition to being revered by his patients, he and his staff pioneered the development of new prenatal diagnostic techniques and established a cytogenetics laboratory for prenatal testing, a screening center for neural tube defects, a genetic counseling service, and a hotline for physicians and patients who have concerns about potential drug exposure during a woman's pregnancy. He also helped start Missouri's first in vitro fertilization program, which led to the birth of the state's first IVF baby in January 1985.

He still sees about 60 to 80 patients per month, which he greatly enjoys for the intellectual challenge and patient contact. "I can't envision ever giving that up," he says.

Crane feels fortunate for the opportunities he has had at the University and says he sometimes has to pinch himself to make sure it's all real.

"It's hard to envision a higher and more compelling mission than improving the health and lives of people. Providing the best and latest in medical care to our patients and training outstanding health-care professionals to serve our community are noble causes," Crane says. "I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to serve the University and our community in this way."
Making a Splash

Each spring, ASHOKA, the Indian student organization, sponsors Holi, a festival of colors. As part of the celebration, hundreds of students tossed 20,000 water balloons (symbolizing the colors of spring) at one another in the Swamp on the South 40. In no time students got wet and muddy at this fun-filled event.