Diabetes ‘Showdown’

Kenneth S. Polonsky and a multitude of researchers, spanning 19 clinical and basic science departments, battle the complexities of diabetes.
Structuring Collaboration  The $235 million BJC Institute of Health at Washington University School of Medicine opened in late January. The institute serves as the hub for the University's BioMed 21 initiative to speed scientific discovery and rapidly apply breakthroughs to patient care. “This building is a beacon for innovative and potentially lifesaving research conducted at Washington University,” says Larry J. Shapiro, executive vice chancellor of medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. “Having our researchers in a central location will enhance the spirit of collaboration and lead to new advances in important research areas.” Built to be environmentally sustainable, the 11-story building is seeking Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold designation. A two-story lobby (above) with a glass entryway leads into the building at the corner of Euclid Avenue and Children's Place. For more information, see Frontrunners item on page 6, and visit http://news.wustl.edu/news/Pages/20160.aspx.
Richard Franklin, AB '70, MAUD '74, and Donna Blackwell, MA '76, PhD '83, designed a life of service, one that impacts the world community (page 28).

**FEATURES**

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Alumnus Stanley Proctor has spent 50-plus years working in the chemical engineering field, either as an esteemed employee for Monsanto or as a consultant.

28 In Step: Working Toward Social Transformations
Alumni Donna Blackwell and Richard Franklin focus on peace and social justice in their respective fields: as CEO of the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation and as an associate partner for Davis Brody Bond Aedas.
Growing up in Chicago, LiaFaith Reed, Arts & Sciences Class of 2011, fought an uphill battle her entire life. Her father abandoned the family, and her mother could not provide a stable home for her children due to her drug addiction.

At age 15, Reed decided to move out and live on her own. Working full time to support herself, she got home from work at 2 a.m. then headed to school four hours later. Despite the obstacles, Reed graduated first in her high school class.

After touring Washington University during Multicultural Weekend, Reed chose to attend the University for several reasons.

"The University placed an emphasis on direct student-professor interaction," Reed says. "It also offered me a generous scholarship package [an Enterprise Rent-A-Car Scholarship and a Lawrence Thomas Scholarship] that would allow me to work less and focus more on my course work."

Reed acknowledges that she would not have been able to attend Washington University without the aid of these scholarships.

"I truly appreciate my scholarship providers for giving me the means to get a quality education and reach my full potential," she says.

In addition to studying psychology and political science, Reed serves as a residential advisor, a student ambassador, and a student assistant at the Danforth University Center. She is the executive producer of a WUTV mock news/variety show and a member of international business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi. Reed also volunteers at Barbara Jordan Elementary School through the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program.

She hopes to pursue a master's in social work degree and work on programs for the Chicago Park District to improve conditions for the children of the city. After a few years, Reed would like to go back to school for a law degree.

"If given the opportunity in the future, I would like to financially help as many students as I possibly could," Reed says. "I feel as if I owe it to the people that helped me to do the same for someone else."
Asthma Symptoms Alleviated with Catheter

In an international study of patients with severe, uncontrolled asthma, researchers at the School of Medicine found that a new drug-free treatment is effective. The results showed statistically significant improvements in quality of life and reductions in asthma attacks and emergency room visits for patients who underwent the treatment.

Although drugs can lessen the constriction of the breathing passages in many patients, some patients cannot control their asthma even with high doses of medications.

The new treatment uses the Alair Bronchial Thermoplasty System to heat the walls of the lung's air passages to reduce muscle tissue and potentially inhibit narrowing of the airways. Researchers inserted the catheter of the Alair device into the lungs. The catheter contains an expandable wire array at its tip. When deployed, the wires touch the airway walls and deliver heat.

"Many patients with severe asthma are already taking the best drug therapy we have and are still experiencing debilitating symptoms," says the study's lead U.S. investigator, Mario Castro, professor of medicine and of pediatrics. "This device provides a meaningful new treatment for such patients."

Obama Taps Beachy to Lead New Federal Agriculture Agency

President Barack Obama appointed Roger Beachy, founding president of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center and professor of biology in Arts & Sciences, to lead a new federal agency that will transform the way plant science research is funded in the United States.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture, or NIFA, a newly named agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will manage the external grants of the Department of Agriculture, including the competitive grant program now called the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.

South 40 Gets ‘Urban Feel’

The South 40 boasts two impressive new buildings, South 40 House (pictured) and Umrath House, as part of a two-phase construction project designed to give the area a new urban feel.

In addition to the new residence halls, the first phase of construction includes a fitness center, several stations of food service, a convenience store, and a temporary dining area.

The second phase of construction, including the completion of the dining area and College Hall, an assembly space for the residential colleges, will be completed in August 2010.

Law School Expands Executive Education

In summer 2010, the law school is launching a new Executive Master of Laws (LLM) Program co-taught by Washington University and Korea University law faculty.

Kent Syverud (see article pg. 48), dean of the law school, announced this new degree program as part of the School’s international outreach efforts that focus on the McDonnell International Scholars Academy partner universities.

"The Executive LLM is exclusively for foreign practitioners who would like to learn more about U.S. law and to think like a U.S. lawyer," says Michele Shoresman, associate dean of graduate programs at the law school. "The course work will prepare practitioners for today's global legal and business environment. This intense program minimizes the opportunity costs and maximizes learning for high achievers eager to continue in their careers."

The program's curriculum offers students a thorough grounding in U.S. business law and business-oriented topics. Students can take two courses at Korea University prior to attending the 12-week, 20-credit session at Washington University.
Freshman Emily Gosch outmaneuvers a Messiah player in the 2009 NCAA Division III National Championship game.

Athletics at a Glance

2. Final ranking of the women's soccer team in the 2009 NCAA Division III Women's Soccer National Championships. This was the team's highest finish ever.

3. Number of soccer student-athletes to earn ESPN honors. Seniors Libby Held and Becca Heymann of the women's soccer team and junior Alex Neumann of the men's soccer team earned ESPN the Magazine second-team Academic All-District VII honors.

5. Ranking of the women's golf team in the Golf World/National Golf Coaches Association Division III Coaches' Poll. This marks the highest ranking in school history for the Bears.

10. Number of NCAA Division III National Championships the volleyball team has won. In 2009, the team defeated No. 1 Juniata College.

163. Career-high yards for junior running back Jim O'Brien. He helped the Bears regain possession of the Founders Cup in 2009, which commemorates the first football game played between Washington University and the University of Chicago. Since the inception of the Founders Cup in 1987, WUSTL has won 17 of the past 23 games.

Art, Architecture Blended at Conference

"Economies: Art + Architecture," the first joint conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) and the National Council of Art Administrators (NCAA), took place at Washington University in fall 2009.

"Bringing top academic leaders to St. Louis for 'Economies: Art + Architecture' was indeed a terrific honor," says Carmon Colangelo, dean of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts and the E. Desmond Lee Professor for Collaboration in the Arts.

"This promoted camaraderie and collaboration between architects, designers, educators, and visual artists from across North America while also facilitating a unique exchange of ideas about creative entrepreneurship and leadership," he says. "Hopefully, it will serve as an important catalyst for interdisciplinary discussions within and between the professions."

Colangelo co-chaired the conference, hosted by the Sam Fox School, with Peter MacKeith, associate dean of the School and associate professor of architecture.

"The conference aligns precisely with the mission of the Sam Fox School in its emphasis on collaboration, social and environmental responsibility, and the interdisciplinary relationship between architecture, design, and art," MacKeith says. "In effect, a creative 'economy of means' may well be the most productive and necessary emphasis across our disciplines in meeting the challenges of the near future."

Young Scholars Gain Exposure to the Medical Field

The Ferring Scholars Program at the School of Medicine offers St. Louis–area high school students a unique opportunity to work alongside medical professionals at the University.

In 2009, 25 students took part in the three-year summer program.

Lizzie Sextro (left), of Rosati-Kain High School, and David Ayeka, of Saint Louis University High School, work in the lab during the 2009 Ferring Scholars Program. Students worked with DNA and E. coli bacteria.
Biodiversity Decreasing in Frog Communities

Under pressure from a fungal disease, Central American frogs are undergoing “a vast homogenization” that is leaving behind impoverished communities that are increasingly similar.

“We’re witnessing the McDonaldization of the frog communities,” says Kevin G. Smith, associate director of the Tyson Research Center at Washington University.

Earlier research by Jonathan M. Chase, associate professor of biology in Arts & Sciences and director of the Tyson Research Center, revealed that when predatory fish were introduced into artificial ponds at the research center, not only did the fish reduce diversity within each pond, but they also made the species composition of the ponds more similar.

In this study, Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis, or Bd, played the role of the predatory fish. A microscopic fungus that lives in water and moist soil, Bd sickens or kills frogs.

The fungus is devastating to frogs because it infects the skin, a much more important organ in amphibians than in other vertebrates. Many frogs breathe and drink through their skin. As frogs sicken, their skin peels or sloughs off.

“Before the fungus, we observed an average 45 species at each study site; after the fungus, the average was only 23,” Smith says.

The loss of rare species drove regional extinctions higher than expected. “This strongly suggests that these species are gone not just from the region but from the planet,” he says.

Homogenization also knocked out ecological diversity. The primarily aquatic fungus killed most of the water-loving frog species in the region.

Prevention Initiative Aims to Reduce Chronic Disease

A new Saint Louis University and Washington University initiative studies innovative ways to prevent chronic disease. The Prevention Research Center in St. Louis recently received a five-year, $8 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

One of 35 programs at academic institutions in 25 states, the Prevention Research Center examines how people and their communities can avoid or counter the risks of chronic illnesses such as heart disease, asthma, and diabetes.

The collaboration between Saint Louis University School of Public Health and Washington University’s School of Medicine and George Warren Brown School of Social Work is Missouri’s only CDC-funded Prevention Research Center.

The center partners with community-based coalitions, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, and a variety of academic collaborators to reduce obesity and prevent chronic diseases in low-income, rural parts of the state.

Elizabeth Baker, professor of community health at Saint Louis University, and Ross Brownson, professor of epidemiology at Washington University, are the co-directors.

“Our center brings together the unique talents of faculty and staff at both universities along with a wide variety of community partners,” Brownson says. “We believe that the Prevention Research Center will create a model of academic-community-practice partnership that will lead to improvements in population health.”
Tumors Feel Deadly Sting of Nanobees

When bees sting, they pump poison into their victims. The toxin in bee venom now is being harnessed to kill tumor cells by researchers at the School of Medicine. The researchers attached the major component of bee venom to nano-sized spheres that they call “nanobees.”

In mice, nanobees delivered the bee toxin melittin to tumors while protecting other tissues from the toxin’s destructive power. The mice’s tumors stopped growing or shrank.

“The nanobees fly in, land on the surface of cells, and deposit their cargo of melittin, which rapidly merges with the target cells,” says Samuel Wickline, who heads the Siteman Center of Cancer Nanotechnology Excellence at Washington University. “We’ve shown that the bee toxin gets taken into the cells where it pokes holes in their internal structures.”

A small protein, or peptide, melittin is strongly attracted to cell membranes, where it can form pores that break up cells and kill them.

“Melittin can destroy any cell it comes into contact with, making it an effective antibacterial and antifungal agent and potentially an anticancer agent,” says Paul Schlesinger, associate professor of cell biology and physiology. “Cancer cells can adapt and develop resistance to many anticancer agents that alter gene function or target a cell’s DNA, but it is hard for cells to find a way around the mechanism that melittin uses to kill.”

Overall, the results suggest that nanobees could not only lessen the growth and size of established cancerous tumors but also act at early stages to prevent cancer from developing.

“Nanobees effectively package melittin, sequestering it so that it neither harms normal cells nor gets degraded before it reaches its target,” Schlesinger says.

Hub for BioMed 21 Opens

In January 2010, the BJC Institute of Health opened. Researchers from the Center for Women’s Infectious Disease Research and Diabetic Cardiovascular Disease Center were among the first to move in. Others from the Department of Pathology and Immunology, Center for the Investigation of Membrane Excitability Diseases, Hope Center Program on Protein Aggregation and Neurodegeneration, and Women’s Reproductive Sciences were to follow.

“The BJC Institute of Health is a new model of how we do research,” says Jennifer Lodge, associate dean for research. “The layout provides unique opportunities for people from different departments to work side by side, and enhance collaboration.”
Students StEP Out as Entrepreneurs

The Student Entrepreneurial Program (StEP) positions students to get hands-on experience as entrepreneurs while they are still in school. Through the program, students create, purchase, and sell on-campus businesses.

To open a new business, students must present a business plan. Those interested in purchasing an existing StEP business are required to attend a “Buying a Business” workshop, taught by Clifford Holekamp, senior lecturer in entrepreneurship at Olin Business School and a member of the StEP advisory board.

Currently, nine student-run businesses operate on the Danforth Campus; seven of them have storefronts in the main level of Gregg House on the South 40. Businesses include a bicycle rental shop, a store for Greek goods and custom apparel, water cooler rental and monthly water delivery, and a laundry service.

Senior Olin student Ross Kelley founded Sharing with a Purpose (SWAP) last year with five of his friends. SWAP is WUSTL’s first and only nonprofit student-run business. It aims to provide affordable and convenient dormitory essentials to students during fall move-in week. All items are slightly used and recycled from the previous year’s move-out.

SWAP donates all profits to Lydia’s House, a local nonprofit organization that helps victims of domestic abuse.

“Making your own decisions and bearing all the responsibility for a real business is a powerful experience,” Kelley says.

For more information on the program, visit step.wustl.edu.

New Planet Rains Pebbles

The atmosphere of newly discovered planet COROT-7b contains rock ingredients, according to scientists at Washington University. The exoplanet is close enough to its star that its “day-face” is hot enough to melt rock. When “a front moves in,” pebbles condense out of the air and rain into lakes of molten lava.

Laura Schaefer, research assistant in the Planetary Chemistry Laboratory, and Bruce Fegley, Jr., professor of earth and planetary sciences in Arts & Sciences, studied COROT-7b using models.

“The only atmosphere this planet has is produced from vapor arising from hot molten silicates in a lava lake or lava ocean—in other words, boiling rocks,” Fegley says.

The peculiar atmosphere produces its own singular weather. “As you go higher, the atmosphere gets cooler and you get saturated with different types of ‘rock’ the way you get saturated with water in the Earth’s atmosphere,” he says. “But instead of a water cloud forming and raining water droplets, you get a ‘rock cloud’ that rains little pebbles of different types of rock.”

Honors

MICHAEL R. DEBAUN, the Ferring Family Professor in Pediatric Cancer and Related Disorders, was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He also is professor of pediatrics, biostatistics, and neurology and is a pediatrician at St. Louis Children’s Hospital.

SARAH GEHLERT, professor of social work, was named the E. Desmond Lee Professor of Racial and Ethnic Diversity.

TIM HOLY, associate professor of neurobiology, received the National Institutes of Health Pioneer Award.

BRYAN F. MEYERS, professor of surgery, chief of the General Thoracic Surgery section of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, and a lung cancer specialist with the Siteman Cancer Center, was named the Patrick and Joy Williamson Endowed Professor in Cardiothoracic Surgery.

JEFFREY D. MILBRANDT, professor of pathology and of medicine, was named head of the Department of Genetics and the James S. McDonnell Professor.

A. PETER MUTHARIKA, professor of law, was named the Charles Nagel Professor of International and Comparative Law.

BARRY P. SLECKMAN, chief of the Division of Laboratory and Genomic Medicine, was named the Conan Professor of Laboratory and Genomic Medicine.

GARY S. WIHL, dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, was named the Hortense and Tobias Lewin Distinguished Professor in the Humanities.

YOUAN XIA, the James M. McKelvey Professor of Biomedical Engineering, is ranked worldwide as the No. 5 chemist of the decade by Times Higher Education. Xia was featured in the winter 2009 magazine: magazine.wustl.edu/Winter09/Xia.html
Solving America’s energy crisis over the next decade is possible but will require immediate investment in clean energy technologies, says Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, who serves as vice chair of a National Resource Council (NRC) report on America’s energy challenges.

Titled “America’s Energy Future: Technology and Transformation,” the capstone report summarizes findings from the America’s Energy Future project, a research effort sponsored by the National Research Council, the operating arm of the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering, represented by vice president Maxine L. Savitz.

The project’s committee of advisers, led by Harold T. Shapiro, president emeritus and professor of economics and public affairs at Princeton University, included more than two dozen leading academic and government science experts.

According to the report, what happens in the next decade will determine our energy future. “Actions taken—or not taken—between now and 2020 to develop and demonstrate several key technologies will largely determine the nation’s energy options for many decades to come,” the report says.

The report also served as the topic of a symposium held November 2, 2009, at Washington University. Wrighton delivered the opening speech summarizing the report’s findings. “The United States needs abundant, affordable energy to assure sustained economic growth and development,” he says.

“Global growth in use of energy raises serious concerns regarding supply of energy. Scientists have come to the consensus that the Earth’s future is threatened by the accumulation of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) leading to global warming from use of fossil fuels including coal, oil, gasoline, and natural gas. Adverse consequences of this are difficult to assess quantitatively, but the risk is so great that we must succeed in meeting this challenge.”

According to the report, existing energy-efficiency technologies offer the quickest and cheapest solutions to the energy crisis. The potential energy savings from accelerated deployment of existing technologies in the building, industry, and transportation sectors could more than offset projected increases in energy consumption through 2030.

For generating electricity, the NRC recommends a mix of coal and natural-gas plants with carbon capture and storage (CCS) and nuclear power plants.

The committee foresees little chance of replacing petroleum as a transportation fuel before 2020, although there are more promising longer-term options.

Achieving substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from electrical power plants will require “a portfolio approach” that includes all of the improvements mentioned previously, as well as biomass with CCS and other types of renewable energy.

Research and development opportunities for public and private sectors during the next decade include advanced batteries and fuel cells, advanced large-scale storage of electrical load management, and enhanced geothermal power and solar photovoltaic technologies.

A strong advocate for research on clean energy technologies, Washington University invested more than $80 million to create the new International Center for Advanced Renewable Energy and Sustainability (I-CARES). Now in its third year, I-CARES encourages and coordinates University-wide and external collaborative research in the areas of renewable energy and sustainability.
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The Danforth Foundation endows $30 million to the University to establish a new center that will focus on the complex relationships between religion and politics.

BY STEVE GIVENS

Washington University in St. Louis is establishing a scholarly and educational center that will focus on the role of religion in politics in the United States, according to Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton.

"The establishment of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion & Politics reflects the legacy of Jack Danforth and his belief in the importance of a civil discourse that treats differences with respect," Wrighton said in making the announcement December 16, 2009, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

"The center will serve as an ideologically neutral place that will foster rigorous, unbiased scholarship and encourage conversations between diverse and even conflicting points of view," Wrighton said.

"Knowing that religious values and beliefs can either encourage or undermine civility, the center and its educational programs and scholarly research can provide a bridge between religious and political communities and will inform new kinds of academic explorations focusing on the relationships between the two. We think that's a worthy goal."
The creation of the center, which includes the recruitment of five new faculty members, is being made possible by a $30 million endowment gift from the St. Louis-based Danforth Foundation.

It is believed to be the largest gift of its kind made to a university to fund such an academic center.

The center, which opened in January 2010, will convene public conferences and lectures to address local, state, and national issues related to religion and politics and will offer an educational program in religion and politics, including an interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in religion and public life.

The new faculty appointments will be in the area of American religion and politics and will complement the work of scholars already on the Washington University faculty. The new faculty members will hold joint appointments between the new center and existing academic departments.

The center will attract visiting scholars to St. Louis and create opportunities for interaction with Washington University faculty, students, and members of the St. Louis community. It also plans to publish and disseminate proceedings of conferences and results of studies by faculty, visiting scholars, and students of the center.

"Historically, the responsibility for this kind of dialogue has most often been left to universities with religious connections," Danforth said. "But great non-sectarian institutions like Washington University combine rigorous academic standards with traditions of civil conversation, and that's why this is the perfect place for such a center.

"Few issues are more critical to the well-being of a democracy than how religious beliefs—or the denial of such beliefs—coexist with civil virtue and of how the 'truths' of the one are made compatible with the tolerance and good will required by the other," Danforth said.

The founding director of the center is Wayne Fields, the Lynne Cooper Harvey Distinguished Professor of English in Arts & Sciences, a search for his successor commenced in January 2010. The newly recruited director will be named the John C. Danforth Distinguished Professor.

"Most leading scholars—and increasingly more and more of the general public—recognize the profound and complicated relationship between religion and politics in America," said Fields, also a professor of American culture studies and an expert on political rhetoric.

"This relationship was acknowledged by America's founders as both an enormous advantage to a democratic republic and a challenge to a society committed to individual rights of conscience and belief. Institutions of higher learning are ideally situated to use their special status as places of intellectual rigor and openness to help identify and negotiate the tensions that the relationship between religion and politics often generates," Fields said.

While most of the center's activities and conferences will be located in St. Louis, the center will draw upon Washington University's growing presence in Washington, D.C., including its renewed partnership with the Brookings Institution, which was announced last April.

"Both religion and politics revolve around an effort to find wholeness. Scholars ... experiment in whether individuals can be at once independent and yet part of something larger," Fields said.

"Our center should build on these yearnings even as it brings together profoundly different cultures and commitments," he continued. "It joins a number of other distinguished programs across the country that are engaged in some aspect of the study of religion and politics. We hope to complement their work while contributing to a growing academic and public conversation."

Danforth, Fields, and Wrighton also took part in a second news conference in St. Louis at the Alumni House on the Danforth Campus later that same day.

"At least from the moment that the founders suggested that we had inalienable rights that were the gift of a creator, our politics and our religion have been bound together in American democracy in unique and complicating ways," Fields said at the afternoon news conference.

"Part of what we are hoping to do with this extraordinary opportunity is to contribute both to the ways in which, as scholars and as students, we understand how these things have worked in America's past and how they are working in America's present, but also how we begin to create a kind of place in which an ongoing civil conversation in this area can be sustained," Fields said.

"The more light that's shed on a subject, the healthier we are. That is what this center is intended to do. It's intended to shed light on a subject that can be very, very difficult," Danforth reiterated at the afternoon news conference.

"I think the more light the better, and I can't think of a better place to shed light than at a university."

Steve Givens is the associate vice chancellor and executive director of University News Service.

SPRING 2010 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS 11
Artist Evokes Mysteries

Professor Patricia Olynyk explores the wonders of life—the body, mind, and spirit—in her acclaimed and innovative art installations.

BY CANDACE O’CONNOR

At the venerable National Academy of Sciences (NAS) building in Washington, D.C., the 2006 installation, Sensing Terrains, showed as a breathtaking surprise. Along one corridor floated 10-foot-high prints: billowing taste buds that looked like blooming cacti; shrunken tree roots resembling the human vascular system. Suspended from the dome in the rotunda hung giant prints on Chinese silk, gathered into the shape of an undulating sea anemone. In the background, a throbbing soundscape of garden sounds, pealing Shinto bells, and Buddhist chants evoked the pulsing rhythm of blood coursing through the body.

Patricia Olynyk created this mix of sensory stimuli—gleaned from Japanese gardens and microscopic views of human and animal tissue. Olynyk, named the inaugural Florence and Frank Bush Professor of Art in 2007, intends her work to be challenging, provocative. In her installations, she often works at the intersection of art, culture, and life sciences, nudging viewers to consider relationships in the world, while immersing themselves in its mystery.

_In the NAS series, I wanted viewers to think about what it means to focus on our bodies and environment in this digitally mediated world,_” says Olynyk, who is director of the Graduate School of Art. “I hope they also will remember the fragility and complexity of nature. With my use of light and shadow, these pieces have a kind of drama, perhaps a macabre quality. I’ve always had a fascination with mysteries—the larger mysteries of life.”

Her installations, described by some critics as “sublime,” have appeared around the world in such venues as the Brooklyn Museum, the Museo del Corso in Rome, the Saitama Modern Art Museum in Japan, and the American University in Cairo. Her talent has garnered prestigious fellowships and research grants, including the 2005-06 Wood Fellowship from the Francis C. Wood Institute for the History of Medicine at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia and residencies at the Banff Center for the Arts in Alberta, Canada.

Carmon Colangelo, dean of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, eagerly recruited Olynyk, who was previously on the art faculty at the University of Michigan and the first non-scientist appointed to the research faculty of its Life Sciences Institute. In part, he wanted her talents as an administrator to lead his School’s growing graduate program, building collaborative ties with other academic disciplines.

He also was charmed by her art, he says, which is “adventurous and ambitious in scale and concept. Trained as a printmaker, she uses medical
of Nature
As director of the Graduate School of Art, Patricia Olynyk manages a dynamic, interdisciplinary program and advises students, such as Christopher Ottinger (far left), a first-year MFA student and Danforth Scholar. (Below) Olynyk’s interest in biology translates into a large-scale public work, a labyrinth garden for the University of Michigan (construction pending).

her passionate interest in art, arranged for her to take private lessons from age 9. As an undergraduate, she studied art at the Alberta College of Art and Design.

But the dark side of life always existed on the edge of her passion for imaging technologies, time-based media, and digital and photo processes to produce innovative works, often visualizing the senses of the body as a metaphor in her work."

Mapping a path to art

During her Philadelphia fellowship, Olynyk spent some time at the Mütter Museum, which showcases medical anomalies, among them old instruments and prosthetic devices. Her stark photographs of these antique tools and prosthetic limbs turned into an exhibit, Probe, shown in 2008 at the Bruno David Gallery in St. Louis.

Among the curiosities at the museum was a collection of skulls, collected as part of a long-ago effort to see whether criminal anthropologists and physiognomists could predict criminal behavior on the basis of skull shape. In some cases, the skulls are matched with an identity, like the Viennese prostitute who died young of meningitis. But in other cases, they are marked simply with a postmortem tattoo, most often the chilling term “child murderer.”

“It was disturbing because people’s entire lives were reduced to those tattoos,” says Olynyk, who photographed the skulls and had just begun work on a project to construct fictionalized biographies for these forgotten individuals, when she left Michigan. “This was also the beginning of eugenics—the plan to use skull shape to categorize and ultimately victimize people.”

During her happy childhood in Calgary, where her father was an engineer and her mother a real estate agent, Olynyk knew little of the macabre. Her parents, noting

consciousness. At home, her mother began reading Gothic fiction to her, including Edgar Allen Poe stories when she was 6: a favorite, she says, is still the haunting narrative poem The Raven. And she always had the nagging sense that, in the nearby mountains, nature could swallow her up.

“Curious stories emerged of ski parties going missing, in one case because of a whiteout blizzard, which caused 14 people to freeze to death within a quarter mile of the Banff Springs Hotel,” she says. “I think that, for artists who have grown up in cold, remote places, this sense of remoteness gives rise to a certain kind of psychological profile in the way our work develops.”

After college, she moved to sunnier California for a master’s degree at the California College of the Arts, where she focused on printmaking and sculpture. In that Pacific-rim area, she came under the spell of Asian art and won two prestigious scholarships—the Monbusho, through the Japanese Embassy in Canada, and a Tokyu Foundation grant—that allowed her to spend four years in Japan as a visiting scholar.

That experience powerfully influenced her art and her life, she says. During her stay, she staged five solo shows in two years and taught studio art courses at a university in Kyoto. She also became proficient at kendo, or Japanese fencing, taught by the head of the security force for the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, and earned a second-degree black belt. Her instructors wanted her to open her own kendo school after she returned to the United States.

“One night, I was summoned to my teacher’s house for dinner and saw adoption papers lying on the table, so that I could be adopted into the family and continue to raise my ranking,” she says. “What prompted my return was the recognition that my commitment to the martial arts would eventually compete with my life as an artist.”
Stateside again, she returned to California and teaching, also serving for a time as a production manager collaborating with feminist performance artist Suzanne Lacy on projects that engaged social and situated practices. Then in 1999, the Michigan job came her way, and she stayed eight years, taking her art in new directions. Because of her interest in growth patterns in nature, the University of Michigan’s Matthaei Botanical Gardens commissioned her to design a 6,500-square-foot labyrinth—which she did, in the shape of an angel-wing begonia leaf (see facing page).

Today, she believes that many forms of creative work exist and no material or strategy used by an artist is superior to any other, so long as it reflects the content well. “The point is that there has been a flattening of the hierarchies in the art world,” she says. “Any medium goes.”

Washington University and the future

During a residency at the Banff Center, Olynyk began a new art project, in consultation with particle physicists and cosmo logists. She was fascinated by the notion of clusters that form in nature and in human society. Why are we drawn to likeness, biologically, socially, and culturally?

In fall 2009, she screened a portion of a new work, based on these questions and loosely inspired by Poe’s prose poem Eureka. Set in the 50-foot-wide astronomy dome at the University of Notre Dame, the piece, Because Nothing Was, Therefore All Things Are, consisted of five projected video vignettes (see photo on table of contents). In one, a swirling black-and-white image gradually goes into motion, its smoky lines dissolving into pollen-like points that cluster fleetingly into a biohazard sign before fading away.

“The work suggests that nature exists as one substance or reality,” says Olynyk, who plans to complete the piece next year, “and that complex patterns of formation and movement found in it reveal a multitude of hidden or embedded codes and implied narratives.”

In her continuing work at Washington University, she plans to make use of its extraordinary scientific resources to enrich her art. She also is inspired by her partner, artist and philosopher Robert Gero, who teaches and advises in the graduate program. Together, they are transforming an 8,000-square-foot St. Louis church complex into a living space, complete with a studio and gallery, where they will play tag with their pet chinchilla.

“We are anything but conventional,” Olynyk says.

Candace O’Connor is a freelance writer based in St. Louis.

See online magazine for more of Olynyk’s work, or visit her Web site:
http://samfoxschool.wustl.edu/portfolios/faculty/patricia_olynyk

“I wanted viewers to think about what it means to focus on our bodies and environment in this digitally mediated world. I hope they also will remember the fragility and complexity of nature.”

Cenesthesia Sight (above) was among Olynyk’s 10-foot-high prints in the Sensing Terrains installation at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C.
Clay Semenovich, the Herbert S. Gasser Professor, professor of medicine and of cell biology and physiology, and chief of the endocrinology, metabolism, and lipid research division at the School of Medicine, focuses on trying to answer the fundamental question of why people with diabetes develop heart disease early in life. He's driven by the notion that diabetes is first and foremost a disorder of lipid (or fat) metabolism.
World-renowned researchers within the University's diabetes community collaborate to build a comprehensive understanding of this complex and proliferating disease.

BY TERRI MCCLAIN

Diabetes mellitus, or simply diabetes, is a complex disease characterized by the body's inability to regulate insulin production and control blood glucose. The Centers for Disease Control estimate that nearly 8 percent of the U.S. population (approximately 26 million people) has diabetes, with more than a million new cases diagnosed annually. Further, more than 23 percent of adults aged 60 and older have the disease. Less than 1 percent of Americans under the age of 20 have diabetes, but that number is rising alarmingly in conjunction with a steady increase in the rate of childhood obesity. Potential severe complications from diabetes include heart disease, blindness, nerve damage, and kidney failure.

Two principal types of diabetes exist: type 2, associated primarily with overweight adults and children, and type 1, an autoimmune disease once known as juvenile diabetes, which can cluster with certain other autoimmune disorders, most notably thyroid disease and celiac disease. In type 1, the death of pancreatic beta-cells—the cells in the pancreas that produce insulin—occurs suddenly and requires insulin therapy. In contrast, type 2 diabetes is a progressive disorder associated with numerous risk factors. The two main abnormalities in type 2 diabetes are that pancreatic beta-cells don't produce sufficient insulin and that the body is resistant to the insulin produced, making the insulin less effective and allowing glucose to accumulate in the blood.

A third type, gestational diabetes, occurs in pregnant women when the placenta produces hormones that antagonize the action of insulin, making the mother more insulin resistant. Although it usually disappears immediately after birth, women with gestational diabetes have a 50 percent risk of developing type 2 diabetes later in life. Rare forms of diabetes have been associated with certain genetic abnormalities, and studies of these monogenic (or single gene) forms are yielding important insights into disease mechanisms that may in turn help researchers produce therapies to treat and slow the progression of the more common forms.

Diabetes and metabolic syndrome

The death of a beloved teacher from diabetes complications inspired an early passion for diabetes research in Clay Semenovich, the Herbert S. Gasser Professor; professor of medicine and of cell biology and physiology; and chief of the endocrinology, metabolism, and lipid research division at the School of Medicine.
Nearly 8% of the U.S. population (approximately 26 million people) has diabetes.

More than 23% of adults aged 60 and older have the disease.

Women with gestational diabetes have a 50% risk of developing type 2 diabetes later in life.

“We stumbled on the possibility that it may be appropriate to treat forms of diabetes with a simple drug called chloroquine, which is used to treat malaria,” Semenkovich says. “We found that mice with this particular defect in DNA repair developed diabetes and atherosclerosis, and that you could increase the level of expression of certain proteins that protect the DNA by giving chloroquine, which has been around forever and is generically available. It’s at least a possibility that using drugs like this could be a completely novel way of decreasing the suffering of people with diabetes.”

Depression also can play a significant role in diabetes and metabolic syndrome. Studies led by Patrick Lustman, professor of psychiatry, show that not only is depression a risk factor for diabetes, but also that diabetics suffering from depression are twice as likely to develop serious complications, including heart disease. In addition, diabetics are twice as likely to suffer depression as the general population.

The hallmark symptoms of depression—fatigue, physical inactivity, weight and appetite changes, social withdrawal—all increase the risk for diabetes and poor outcomes.

Lustman is co-founder and co-director of the University’s Center for Mind-Body Research, an online resource for investigators from different disciplines interested in the interaction between psychological and medical disorders. He also is senior investigator in a five-year National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded study of overweight people with depression who are also insulin resistant, or pre-diabetic. The study will compare outcomes in patients who receive an antidepressant and a placebo.

Patrick Lustman (right), professor of psychiatry, is co-director of the University’s Center for Mind-Body Research. At the center, he collaborates with other faculty, such as Gregory Sayuk (left), assistant professor of medicine, on the interaction between mental health and medical disorders. Lustman’s research shows that depression can play a significant role in diabetes.
together with diet and exercise advice, to those who also receive a diabetes drug to help manage glucose.

"It's a very circular problem," says Lustman, who has been trying to unravel the connections between mental health and medical disorders for more than two decades. "Depression can contribute to obesity, hyperglycemia, and insulin resistance, which in turn can interfere with the treatment of depression. The hyperglycemia that is superimposed with depression adds to the risk of developing coronary heart disease. Add obesity to the equation—it's easy to see how gaining 10 pounds during a depression episode could adversely affect your diabetes—and the situation becomes even worse," he says.

"About 25 percent of the cases of obesity in the population are attributable to mood disorders, so that's a very strong linkage. In people with established diabetes and difficulties with weight and weight loss, depression can further contribute to that, impairing one's ability to respond to lifestyle interventions and worsening outcomes for all treatable problems."

Collaborative approach

The Center for Mind-Body Research typifies the interdisciplinary approach that distinguishes research at Washington University. Spanning 19 different clinical and basic science departments, collaboration within the University's diabetes community is vital to building a more comprehensive understanding of this complex disease.

The Diabetes Research and Training Center (DRTC), established in 1977, facilitates research in diabetes and in related areas of endocrinology and metabolism, fosters interdisciplinary collaborations, catalyzes new ideas and scientific approaches, and promotes the translation of scientific discoveries to patient treatments and public outreach initiatives. One of only five such centers in the country, the DRTC offers expertise and training, and provides support to researchers and mentoring to new investigators in diabetes-related studies through its highly successful Pilot & Feasibility Program.

One major DRTC initiative is the Washington University Diabetes Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, which opened in 2006. This comprehensive center offers the latest in treatment and technology, as well as access to clinical trials and research, diabetes education, and nutrition counseling.

Although not specific to diabetes research, the Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences (ICTS) offers an extensive infrastructure for research across disciplinary and institutional boundaries. Established through an NIH grant and directed by Kenneth Polonsky, chairman of the Department of Medicine, ICTS provides expanded opportunities for community-based research studies and assistance with the administrative and regulatory requirements of clinical research.

Monogenic studies and beta-cell death

"The hardest part of research is designing an experiment so that the results are easy to interpret," Semenkovich says. "The best and most brilliant scientists are creative to the point of being artistic, able to set up an experimental condition so that the answer becomes obvious. Doing that and controlling the variables in people is the hardest thing in the world, because people are so amazingly complex."

Semenkovich's promising research on the possible treatment of diabetes with anti-malarial drugs stems from the study of a rare disease. Such narrowly focused experiments help limit variables in the study of disease mechanisms to produce unambiguous findings that often can have a broad application.

M. Alan Permutt, professor of medicine and of cell biology and physiology, has been studying the genetics of type 2 diabetes for more than 25 years. The former director and principal investigator at DRTC, Permutt now serves as associate director in charge of Pilot & Feasibility for new diabetes investigations.
“We’ve made significant contributions to understanding the genetic basis of diabetes, which are complex genetic diseases,” says Permutt, “but I think we’ve made the most progress by studying monogenic, or single gene, forms of diabetes.”

Permutt’s lab was the first to isolate a single gene for type 2 diabetes when he and his researchers discovered the role of the glucokinase gene in the early 1990s. This discovery became the model for using monogenic forms to better understand the disease.

“What we’re undertaking is very exciting,” Permutt says of his breakthrough research on Wolfram syndrome, a rare and devastating genetic disorder that causes diabetes, followed by blindness, deafness, widespread neural degeneration, and premature death. “We isolated the Wolfram gene and published that in 1998,” Permutt says. “That enabled us to create an animal model of the disease and begin to define the cellular abnormalities.”

Now he works to fund an international registry of Wolfram’s patients to build a database of clinical information and collect patient samples for studies. His lab will collaborate with other labs around the world to study presumes mechanisms, and screen for compounds to treat what they believe is the underlying disease mechanism.

“At present there is no medical treatment to slow the progression of the disease. So what we’re doing is positioning ourselves to have the patients ready for clinical trials when the medications become available,” Permutt says. He believes it is feasible they will come up with agents to treat this disease.

“We are also working in collaboration with pediatric endocrinologists, neuroradiologists, and neuroophthalmologists to establish a Wolfram Clinic at St. Louis Children’s Hospital. This will establish a baseline from which we can evaluate effectiveness of therapy,” he says.

Permutt believes researchers are really moving on the genetics front, though the focus on this particular monogenic form of diabetes is narrow. He also believes the basic disease mechanism is undoubtedly typical to the more common type 2 diabetes and maybe even type 1.

“Because the more common forms of diabetes are multifactorial, involving many different genes and environmental factors, scientifically, Wolfram patients are the kinds of patients to use to prove that a medication would be beneficial,” Permutt says.

“We hope to slow the progression of disease in these children—which would be wonderful in itself—but also to find that the medication could be used for more common type 2 diabetes.”

ICTS director Polonsky also studies monogenic forms of diabetes in the hope of discovering the processes behind beta-cell death.

“We focus a lot on the death of beta-cells, because ultimately we believe that’s one of the final common mechanisms,” says Polonsky, the Adolphus Busch Professor of Medicine and professor of cell biology and physiology. “If we could inhibit the death of beta-cells, we would have a big impact on diabetes. The inciting events are different in type 1 and type 2, because one is an immune reaction that leads to the death of the cells, the other is a metabolic disease. But at the molecular and biochemical level, it’s likely that the final mechanisms that kill the cells are going to be very similar.”

Beta-cells, it turns out, are remarkably similar to nerve cells, which suggests that the mechanism of neuronal death in degenerative neurological diseases like ALS and Alzheimer’s probably has a lot of similarities to what happens to the beta-cell in type 2 diabetes, Polonsky says. Likewise, beta-cell death is the “opposite end of the same pathway” as the cell proliferation that causes cancer.

“In most cells there are pathways that allow the cell to divide and survive and grow, and then there are pathways that make the cells die,” he says. “And in a perfectly regulated situation, there is this match between the amount of proliferation and the amount of death, and they come into balance. And if you have too little death, then cells that shouldn’t be proliferating become cancer, and if you have too much death, then cells that should be doing well die—and you get deficiency diseases like diabetes and Alzheimer’s and certain forms of heart disease.”

Polonsky recently found that cardiologist Gerald Dorn, the Philip and Sima K. Needleman Professor of Medicine, had published data on a genetic disorder that caused death in heart cells. The same pathway is important in stimulating death in beta-cells, so Polonsky is now linking with Dorn to adapt the heart disease experiments to beta-cells.

“Whether there will be treatments that are similar, involving the same drugs, I don’t know,” Polonsky says. “But we can certainly learn from each other.”

Kenneth S. Polonsky (standing), director of the Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences, works with postdoctoral physician Kei Fujimoto. Polonsky’s lab studies monogenic forms of diabetes in hopes of discovering the processes behind beta-cell death.
At-risk populations and treatment

Helping children with diabetes is the focus of Neil H. White, professor of pediatrics and former director of the pediatric endocrinology and metabolism division. In both his practice and his research, White’s efforts center on treatment and prevention. Among his numerous research projects over the past 25 years is the landmark Diabetes Control and Complications Trial, which continues to follow patients two decades after the project began. White also works on two NIH-funded, multicenter studies. One is Treatment Options for Type 2 Diabetes in Adolescents and Youth (TODAY). He is national chair of the other, the Diabetes Research in Children Network (DirecNet), which looks at new technologies and drugs in the treatment of type 1 diabetes in children and adolescents.

“Do we know what triggers type 1 diabetes? No,” says White, whose clinic serves about 1,200 diabetic kids. “But genetics plays a part. Out of four potential solutions—prevention; methodologies for prolonging the beta-cell function; beta-cell replacement therapy, either transplantation or implantation; and devices or drug technology that will better control the blood sugar—technology has the most potential at the moment. We’ve come a long way with technology. We have new insulins. We have insulin pumps and now glucose sensors. Next comes developing a glucose sensor pump where the sensor actually controls the pump independently to create a so-called artificial pancreas.”

In the case of type 2 diabetes, he says, weight management is the key issue. “Exercise burns calories, so it lowers your blood sugar. But it also improves insulin sensitivity and makes insulin work better in the body,” White says. “Kids today aren’t getting enough exercise. Almost every child with type 2 diabetes is overweight, some of them quite substantially. They derive the most benefit when we implement a multidisciplinary intervention—diet, exercise, behavior—but the best marker of success is weight loss.”

For reasons unknown, minorities are at higher risk for developing type 2 diabetes. Most of the children White sees at his clinic with type 2 diabetes are African American.
Focus on Latin America Expands

Professor Mabel Moraña's research and teaching add groundbreaking contributions to the development of postcolonial perspectives on Latin American society and culture.

BY GRETCHEN LEE

For Mabel Moraña (left), the William H. Gass Professor in Arts & Sciences, violence is not just an act or series of events but a language that can be understood through its expression in literature and the arts, and by its impact on history and culture. "Violence always tries to say something using an encoded and symbolic language, usually with very perverse means or through a strategy that we cannot agree with and have to condemn," Moraña explains. "It is a truly interdisciplinary topic.

Highly regarded as a scholar of Latin American colonial and contemporary literature and culture, Moraña's current book project analyzes the language of violence in Latin America. In it, she uses literary works and visual representations for understanding the role of violence in society—a topic she also explored with Washington University graduate students and undergraduates in a course she taught in spring 2009.

Moraña serves as director of the Latin American Studies program. She also is a professor in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and in International and Area Studies, all in Arts & Sciences. She created and directs Washington University's Summer Institutes in Quito, Ecuador, and Puebla, Mexico—six-week programs that offer Spanish-language immersion experiences for 15 to 25 students each year.

James V. Wertsch, the Marshall S. Snow Professor in Arts & Sciences and director of the International and Area Studies program, credits Moraña with rejuvenating and re-energizing Latin American studies. "She is a force of nature," he says. "She merges a well-deserved high-profile research status with a personal enthusiasm for students around lecture issues—it is a powerful combination."
"Professor Moraña’s leadership and scholarly activities have played a pivotal role in making Latin America a significant presence on our campus," says Elzbieta Sklodowska, the Randolph Family Professor of Spanish.

As director of Latin American Studies, Professor Moraña collaborates with other faculty, including Ignacio Sanchez Prado (left), assistant professor of Spanish, on publications and study abroad programs. (Sanchez Prado is a former student of Moraña’s at the University of Pittsburgh.)

During the four years she’s been teaching at the University, Moraña has never taught the same course more than once. Instead she prefers to create new curricula each time to connect research interests with pedagogical projects and intellectual debates that are current in her field of study.

“I love teaching, at all levels,” she says. “It is, in a way, like going to the lab, if you are a scientist. It’s where you put your ideas to work—trying to see if they function or if they need refinement or to be changed. Students bring to class different experiences of the world, and they challenge your ideas and theories in a way that other scholars cannot.”

Moraña is also a prolific researcher, having written, co-authored, or edited nearly 30 books and contributed more than 60 articles to academic journals. She is frequently invited to deliver lectures and papers, having visited more than 50 educational institutions and organizations worldwide. Outside the University, she has served for 10 years as director of publications for Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana, an organization that produced under her coordination the quarterly Revista Iberoamericana along with five series of books on Latin American literary and cultural studies.

“Professor Moraña is held in high esteem worldwide for her original re-readings of canonical texts of Latin American literature—from the colonial period through the 21st century—and for her groundbreaking contributions to the development of postcolonial perspectives on Latin America,” says Elzbieta Sklodowska, the Randolph Family Professor of Spanish and chair of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. “Professor Moraña’s leadership and scholarly activities have played a pivotal role in making Latin America a significant presence on our campus.”

A bold start

Moraña recalls herself as a lively student: “very consistently rebellious from high school to the university,” she says, laughing. “I always knew I wanted to study literature and philosophy and very stubbornly continued on that path. I was very passionate and interested in the political side of culture—and I liked to argue a lot with my professors.”

She began her academic career in Montevideo, Uruguay, the city of her birth, where she earned a bachelor’s degree. She then earned a graduate degree in literature in 1973 followed by a second graduate degree in philosophy in 1975. After a series of political changes in Uruguay that led to the military seizing power in 1975, the outspoken Moraña found herself forced out of work as a teacher. She decided to emigrate with her husband and her young daughter, Rosalia, to Caracas, Venezuela, where she studied for a master’s degree in philosophy at Universidad Simón Bolívar and began working at the Centro de Estudios Latinoamericanos Rómulo Gallegos, a research institute.
In Uruguay, she'd focused her attention on European literature, and her first book analyzed Kafka’s *Metamorphosis*. But as an expatriate in close contact with Latin American scholars who were also in exile, Moraña’s work shifted. She found herself working collaboratively on projects that focused on Latin American cultures, and the cultural connections between politics, literature, aesthetics, and ethics.

“Scholars grappled with understanding Latin America, and authoritarian regimes, in the late 1970s and the 1980s. We explored historical situations, cultural problems, and social inequalities. Academics from different countries and from different disciplines provided fruitful dialogue and insight,” she recalls.

“I started to travel a lot and to establish connections with intellectuals and scholars in other countries—in Latin America and in Europe, too, which furthered my perspectives and understanding.”

**A major move**

Shortly after her second daughter, Juliana, was born, Moraña received an invitation to study for a doctorate at the University of Minnesota.

Over the years, family always loomed large in Moraña’s life story. She cites her father, Juan José Moraña, among those who have had the greatest influence on her career. “My father was a blue-collar worker in Uruguay and had very limited formal instruction, but he was an incredible man,” Moraña says. “A self-educated man, he read absolutely everything and could discuss topics of literature with absolutely anybody. He suggested topics that I pursued, for instance, in my doctoral dissertation. He was a wise man, although he only completed four or five years of elementary school.”

Now grown up, Moraña’s younger daughter, Juliana, is a psychologist and social worker who lives nearby with her husband and their daughters, ages 4 and 2. Moraña’s older daughter, Rosalia, is a conceptual artist living in San Francisco and New York. “She does installations and printmaking, and in many cases topics we are exploring coincide,” Moraña says. “For instance, she worked a lot on collective memory and produced a lot of pieces on that topic, and I worked on those issues as well, from a theoretical prospective.”

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**Expansive interests**

Mabel Moraña is the inaugural recipient of the William H. Gass Professorship in Arts & Sciences, named for one of the most critically acclaimed American writers of fiction and critical prose today. (Gass is now the David May Distinguished University Professor Emeritus in the Humanities at Washington University.) Moraña’s research, both past and present, spans an expansive range: baroque/neo-baroque literature, gender and ideology in Latin America, the so-called “peripheral modernity,” post-colonialism, identity and violence, and national and post-national cultures. Serving as director of Latin American Studies, Moraña is building visibility for and depth in the program through her expertise and energy.

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**Creating a dialogue**

It was Rosalia who suggested the name for the conference on Latin American cultural studies that Moraña organizes at the University: “South by Midwest.”

Moraña organized the first of the “South by Midwest” conferences in 2006, successfully importing to Washington University a model that she had previously implemented at the University of Pittsburgh, where she was chair of the Hispanic languages and literatures department.

For the second “South by Midwest” conference, held in 2008, she teamed with Bret D. Gustafson, assistant professor of anthropology in Arts & Sciences. The two are working together again to coordinate a third conference, to take place at Washington University in spring 2011.

The first “South by Midwest” conference dealt with issues of social change in Latin America. The second theme was “Rethinking Intellectuals in Latin America.” By targeting polemic issues at the center of academic and ideological debate in the Latin American field of study, these conferences have attracted the attention of many scholars in the United States and abroad, and have helped to bring visibility to the University’s Latin American Studies program.

With the conferences and throughout her life, Moraña’s work has offered a meaningful reflection of the themes that have shaped Latin American culture and, to some degree, her own life.

“These topics are very touchy and interesting, and they are crucial for the understanding of both national cultures and transnational relations,” she says. “It’s important to bring scholars together from different countries and open up discussions at Washington University, an institution that supports original, cutting-edge research in my field of study.”

Gretchen Lee, AB ’86, is a freelance writer based in San Francisco.
In the early days of alumnus Stanley Proctor's distinguished, 50-year chemical-engineering career, Monsanto's computer would fill a small auditorium and deliver less computing power than today's Palm Pilot. Further, writing groundbreaking computer programs proved arduous.

"My area of expertise was chemical reaction engineering. Back then, we accomplished a few things that I felt very good about—simulating chemical processes on the computer, helping design chemical processes, and writing generalized computer programs for reactor design," Proctor says. "The first computer programs I wrote, even as a student, were in machine language, not Fortran or any of the computer languages of today. The machine recognized only ones and zeros, and was coded so that a combination of ones and zeros meant something."

As a result, Proctor became part of a pioneering team in computer applications in the chemical industry.

"I had the advantage of being involved with computers very early on, and Monsanto was a leader in computer program development," Proctor says. "We led the country—or even the world—in computer applications for the chemical industry."

Just as the growth in computing power revolutionized the chemical industry over Proctor's half-century of service, so has the environmental movement. "Thinking green" was in its infancy, at best, when Proctor joined Monsanto, which in recent years has spun off its chemical business.

Environmental issues were not as prevalent as they are today, and the whole environmental movement developed over time, says Proctor. "When I started, we thought we were being responsible. Today people would look at what we did and say, 'Well, no, you weren't being responsible at all,'" he says. "But we did what we knew how to do and what we felt was right. We know a lot more today about the impact of chemicals, in the short- and long-term."

Sustainable development—meaning more than just the environmental aspect—has impacted the chemical industry in important ways. "Whatever you make, you need to be concerned about how it's used and the final impact of those products and the byproducts," Proctor says.

Help along the way

Over the years, Proctor assumed numerous leadership positions at Monsanto. Recognizing his efforts there and in professional societies, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) named him one of the "One Hundred Chemical Engineers of the Modern Era." During Proctor's successful career, however, he had to overcome several challenges.

After studying two years at an area community college, Proctor won a full-tuition scholarship to Washington University. He earned his bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering, with honors, in 1957. After some graduate study, Proctor began his career with Monsanto in 1959 and returned to study while working full time. He earned a master's degree in 1962 and his doctorate in 1972.

"I owe a lot to Jim McKelvey, who was dean of the School of Engineering at the time," Proctor says, "because he helped me a lot when I was struggling with juggling both work and school. Overall, faculty supported students and in some cases went out of their way to be helpful."

That help was vital to Proctor, whose Monsanto responsibilities continued to grow.

Over a 20-year span, Proctor moved from chemical reaction engineering to engineering-computations management to process-simulation management to assuming managerial responsibility for Monsanto's primary petrochemical complex, in Chocolate Bayou, Texas.

By 1979 he was back at Monsanto's St. Louis headquarters as director of engineering technology, in the company's Corporate Engineering Department, overseeing a consulting organization primarily in process engineering. That led to two-year stints as director of applied sciences in Monsanto's Central Research Laboratories and as director of biotechnology projects.

Then, he was promoted to Monsanto Chemical Company's director of engineering technology and services, leading a group of technical experts with emphasis in process and environmental engineering. He retired from Monsanto in 1993 to begin his own consulting business, Proctor Consulting Services, which specializes in technology and people management, organizational
and staffing issues, leadership and more for industrial, academic, and government clients.

People management and leadership skills played an important part in Proctor's success; he was one of the leaders in helping introduce diversity concerns at Monsanto.

"It's important to recognize that you don't have to be a manager to be a leader," Proctor says. "You can lead by example, you can lead through teamwork, you can lead through interactions with other people. I have known many people who were great leaders, yet they didn't manage people."

**Giving back**

Proctor himself has led by example when it comes to serving the institutions that nurtured his career.

"I have a philosophy that the true professional has to be willing to give back in two primary areas. First, to the alma mater that gave him professional birth, if you will, and second, to the organizations that sustained his or her technical growth," he says.

Proctor's service to the School of Engineering & Applied Science, which extends back nearly 20 years, includes current positions on the Alumni Advisory Council Executive Committee, the Scholarship Committee, and the National Council. In addition, he and his late wife, Carol, established two ongoing scholarships, one of them endowed.

Proctor's University-wide activities included serving on the Alumni Board of Governors and as a member of the Endowed Scholarship Committee.

While his contributions to Washington University have come in the form of both financial support and service, he emphasizes the importance of the latter.

Proctor particularly stresses volunteerism for younger alumni who may not be able to make significant financial contributions but can give their time and energy.

While Proctor appreciates the importance of financial contributions, he also feels strongly that individuals should commit themselves to service. "It's not easy to take hours out of your month to do something for the University or for your technical society or whatever charitable activity," he says. "We need more of our younger alumni to be involved in University activities."

Proctor also devoted his time and expertise to his profession. He served on several committees for the National Science Foundation. He held numerous positions for the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology—including president and fellow—and served as a program evaluator and as a visitor to international institutions. He is a past president and fellow of the AIChE. Other organizations include the American Chemical Society, the American Association of Engineering Societies, and the National Society of Professional Engineers.

In addition to being named by the AIChE in 2008 as one of the "One Hundred Chemical Engineers of the Modern Era," he received their Founders Award in 1989 and their F.J. & Dorothy Van Antwerpen Award in 1993. He also received the Society of Women Engineers' Rodney D. Chipp Memorial Award that same year. And coming full circle, the School of Engineering honored Proctor with an Alumni Achievement Award in 1995, and the University honored him with its Distinguished Alumni Award at Founders Day in 2005.

Rick Skiwiot is a freelance writer based in Key West, Florida.
In Step: Working Toward Social Transformations

Alumni Donna Blackwell and Richard Franklin design spaces and places for building relationships and social justice.

BY JAN GARDEN CASTRO

Just as husband-and-wife team Donna Blackwell and Richard Franklin devote themselves to each other, they dedicate themselves to their work and to assisting others.

Blackwell, MA '76, PhD '83, serves as CEO of the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation. A seasoned executive, she leads efforts "to advance human and women's rights and make resources available to vulnerable people and communities around the world."

Franklin, AB '70, MAUD '74, is an associate partner at Davis Brody Bond Aedas, LLP, and one of the architects responsible for the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center. Formerly assistant chief architect with the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, he has overseen large-scale, multi-million-dollar projects his entire career.

Modest about their accomplishments, Blackwell and Franklin nonetheless hold high-profile positions with transformative impact.

Creating a peace movement

Blackwell and the Peace Foundation strive toward two main missions: raising funds to build a nonsectarian peace center in Cape Town, South Africa, and developing interactive programs called YPeace. YPeace organizes conceptually around peace within (inner peace), peace between people, and peace among nations. Blackwell expects to see a lot of growth in these programs in 2010.

"We are in preliminary conversations with the United Nations International School, the nationally acclaimed Harlem Children's Zone, the New School University, and the Girl Scouts of the USA," she says. Grants, to date, have come from the Novo Foundation, the Seattle International Foundation, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "Oprah is committed to helping us, and the same is true of the Dalai Lama," Blackwell continues.

Of the Peace Foundation, Archbishop Desmond Tutu says: "I gave my name to the foundation because truth, forgiveness, reconciliation, and other transformative methods must be institutionalized and become part of cultures around the world. This will make it possible for the human family to be as one, and that is ultimately the solution to poverty, violence, disease, and war." Of Blackwell's efforts, Tutu continues, "Donna Blackwell is a very capable executive who is deeply committed to developing new strategies and initiatives that make transformative methods accessible to people around the world who wish to participate in the peace movement."

Building relationships through architecture

Since 2007, Franklin's huge workload at Davis Brody Bond Aedas, LLP, has included the construction phase of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the former World Trade Center site.

"This is one of the most interesting and complex projects I've ever worked on," Franklin says. "I've always prided myself on working on projects that have social relevance. It's an honor and privilege if architecture can bring people together to understand how small this world is and how important our relationship is to it and to each other."

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University as starting point

Blackwell met Franklin about 30 years ago as part of her field research for a dissertation in counseling psychology. "My research was designed to define why less than 1 percent of women and African Americans entered math-centered professions and to get some answers from people in 'math and science-based careers,'" Blackwell says. "A friend suggested that I interview an 'older architect,' one highly respected for his community planning, rehabbing, and designs."

Blackwell discovered that Franklin was only slightly older. She admits, shyly, that it was love at first sight. Franklin is more circumspect, yet his eyes sparkle when he recalls: "She wore a blue skirt and a blue-and-white blouse. Then we met again later, and one thing led to another." The couple married in 1982.

Education as foundation

Blackwell, whose family roots in New York date back to the 1700s, moved to St. Louis in 1965 when her father, Charles R. Blackwell, MD, HS '68, became the first black resident in anesthesiology at Barnes Hospital. After earning a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Missouri, and studying law there for a year, Donna Blackwell became coordinator of student affairs at Washington University in 1972.
This assignment led to her becoming director of housing and residential life in 1974.

"The University wanted students to have a rich experience in and out of class," Blackwell recalls. "I was encouraged to remake the residential life program. I worked with the Graduate Institute of Education to design a staff training program. We developed peer counseling techniques and taught the importance of diversity without using that word."

Becoming a student again was Blackwell's next step. As she completed the master's and doctoral programs in counseling psychology, she became skilled at counseling women facing domestic violence, sexual harassment, and low-paying jobs. Though not much older than her clients, Blackwell realized these women lacked resources and faced systemic gender barriers that counseling could not "fix." That's when she made a career change.

Blackwell did not own a suit when she began to work for attorney Wayman F. Smith III in a new department at Anheuser-Busch.

"Wayman and I started small," she says, "and by the time I left (as director of corporate affairs in 1986), our corporate affairs department had regional managers and programs in all communities where Anheuser-Busch had breweries."

Blackwell spent some 30 years working for and being a management consultant for corporate and nonprofit organizations, including American Express, Avon Products, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, and now the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation.

In her office at the foundation, Blackwell shares a photo of a young Muslim girl raising her hand in a field classroom (a gift from UNICEF).

"My goal as head of the foundation is to ensure that every child has an opportunity to get a good education—that my experience is not unique," Blackwell says.

Succeeding through adversity

Richard Franklin recalls being the first African American to study architecture in the day program at Washington University in 1959. At age 14, living in a segregated St. Louis neighborhood, he decided to become an architect partly due to his admiration for musician Lester Young.

"As a Boy Scout, I needed three merit badges, but I couldn't swim," Franklin says. "While at Scruggs-Vandervoot-Barney, a local department store and the only place in 1955 where blacks could shop openly, I saw a pamphlet showing a guy dressed like Lester Young—wearing a pork pie hat and a black cape. It was Frank Lloyd Wright."

After reading about Wright's work, Franklin desired to be an architect. "I never got the merit badge, though, for no white architect would mentor me."

Yet Franklin studied drafting, math, and other subjects geared toward becoming an architect. His father, a history, political science, and English teacher, doubted his son would be able to get a job in architecture and secretly voiced this concern to the University's architecture dean, Joseph Passonneau.

"At the time, there was only one practicing black architect in Missouri," Franklin recalls. "I did well in the architecture courses, and that was what kept me in school. Had it not been for Dean Passonneau, though, I would not be here. Two other influential teachers were Leslie Laskey, who changed the way I looked
"I've always prided myself on working on projects that have social relevance. It's an honor and privilege if architecture can bring people together."

As associate partner of Davis Brody Bond Aedas, Richard Franklin (left) has been integrally involved in the construction administration of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. During his tenure at the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, Franklin worked on the design of the World Financial Center Ferry Terminal (below) in New York City, and he directed a team that included Risa Honig, AB ’82, MArch ’85. An extension of the promenade along the Hudson River, the terminal is open not only to ferry passengers but to residential, office, and casual pedestrians. It provides for social interaction and displays the relevance of architecture as a place.

At the world, and Constantine E. Michaelides, who literally bumped into me in Chicago and convinced me to go back to school.”

In 1963, Franklin had run out of tuition money and moved to Chicago. Although he faced racism in the profession, his hard work, excellent draftsmanship, and easy personality won him many lifelong friends.

“I look at my work in terms of four distinct periods,” Franklin says. “The first is project-focused, working in Chicago (1963–70) with great architects, such as Stanley Tigerman and Andrew Heard, whose office began across my kitchen table.” An early career highlight was working with Bruno Cantarano, the lead designer for the Mies van der Rohe Federal Center Project.

In the second period, starting in 1970, Franklin concentrated on community development back in St. Louis as a planner, both while a graduate student in urban design and later as a practicing architect. “As a student, I worked with Barry Commoner’s Center for the Biology of Natural Systems to deal with lead poisoning and rat control issues. We assisted community activist Ivory Perry in developing the first lead poisoning laws in St. Louis,” Franklin says. (During this time, Franklin met J. Max Bond, who was implementing some of the earliest community rebuilding concepts in New York.)

Franklin and Blackwell moved to New York in 1985. During Franklin’s third period, 1985 to 2001, he spent 17 years working in senior positions for the Port Authority, where he managed the design of portals into and around New York City, such as the Lincoln Tunnel Toll Plaza, the Battery Park City Ferry Terminal, and the Kennedy and Newark airports, to name a few.

His fourth, most recent period began in 2001, when he became managing principal of Davis Brody Bond (2001–03), vice president of aviation/transportation architecture for STV (2003–07), and then associate partner at Davis Brody Bond Aedas (2007–present).

One of Franklin’s top priorities is creating a place of commemoration and reverence at the former World Trade Center site for all the world to experience. Similarly engaged, Blackwell works to build peace for all the world.

Jan Garden Castro, MA ’74, MA ’94, is a New York–based, award-winning author/editor with an archive in Washington University’s Special Collections.
Two events during Raymond Nadaskay's senior year at Hillside High School in New Jersey profoundly impacted the next five decades of his life. He met fellow senior and future wife, Nancy, in chemistry class one day. And during drafting class, the beginnings of his professional life took shape, when his teacher suggested he consider studying architecture—a field that has brought him much success and satisfaction.

As co-founder and principal emeritus of NK Architects in New Jersey, Nadaskay spent his career developing his firm's reputation as a leader in educational, health-care, corporate, and residential buildings.

"Architecture is so appealing because it allows me to try new things," says Nadaskay. "I can use my creative abilities to come up with wonderful solutions that have never been done or to put a different twist on something that has already been done. Creating better places for people to live, work, and learn has always been exciting to me."

An accomplished architect

After graduating from high school in 1956, Nadaskay entered the Institute of Design and Construction in Brooklyn, New York. "It was there that I discovered this was something I really enjoyed. After completing my studies, I got a job in an architect's office in Newark, and I was thoroughly convinced that this was the profession I wanted to pursue."

Nadaskay learned about Washington University's architecture program from a co-worker, who was an alumnus. He enrolled as an undergraduate in 1958 and relished his education. In addition to being a member of Kappa Alpha, Nadaskay remembers spending many long nights studying and preparing for his future.

The summer before his senior year, Nadaskay worked for Rotwein & Blake, a small architectural firm in New Jersey. He returned to the firm as a full-time designer after receiving his bachelor's degree in architecture from the University in 1962. That same year, he and Nancy were married.
Nadaskay wanted to try his hand designing for a larger, international firm, so he moved to New York to work for world-renowned I.M. Pei & Associates in 1963. During his two-year tenure, Nadaskay worked on several high-level projects, including the Federal Aviation Agency control towers and the O'Hare Airport tower.

He then returned to New Jersey to work for a mid-size firm, McDowell Goldstein, where he met fellow architect Allen Kopelson. In 1972, the duo ventured out and founded NK Architects.

“We acquired some residential projects and a day-care center, and we began to build a reputation,” says Nadaskay. “Then we won a competition for student housing on multiple college campuses in New Jersey, and we skyrocketed to another level. Soon universities began hiring us, and we began doing health-care projects, too.”

During this time, Nancy Nadaskay also enjoyed a successful career. After graduating from Rutgers University with a degree in biology, she worked in medical research for Hoffman-LaRoche and Johnson & Johnson, helping to develop new drugs. In 1977, she started her own consulting laboratory, which she led for almost 20 years.

Meanwhile, NK Architects branched off into other areas and grew significantly. Nadaskay himself managed projects for such clients as Rutgers University, the New Jersey Department of Military Affairs, East Orange General Hospital, and Caldwell College. In 2001, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Newark Suburban Chapter presented him with the Herman Litwak Award for his achievements. Nadaskay served as a lecturer and panelist for numerous architect organizations and held leadership positions with AIA Newark during his 43-year career.

Today NK Architects boasts about 70 employees in offices in New York City and Morristown, New Jersey. “When we started NK, one of the goals was to have our firm continue to thrive long after we retired. Even though I stepped down three years ago, NK is still growing and moving in a direction we had always envisioned,” he says.

**A venue change**

In addition to managing his firm, Nadaskay worked tirelessly to help preserve New Jersey’s historic past—work that continues today. “I don’t say that I’m retired. I’ve simply made a venue change,” quips Nadaskay. “Although my education focused on modern and contemporary architecture, over the years I’ve seen a need to preserve the older architecture we have in this country. I’ve been active in the historic preservation of my town for about 15 years.”

As chairman of the Historic Preservation Committee in Mendham, New Jersey, Nadaskay was instrumental in renovating the Ralston Cider Mill into a working museum. He also helped to refurbish the building of the Visiting Nurse Association of Northern New Jersey (VNANNJ), a nonprofit organization that serves 1,000 patients each day. (Nancy serves as chair of the VNANNJ board of trustees.)

The Nadaskays are making a difference to the Washington University community as well. As Brookings Partners and Fellows of the William Greenleaf Eliot Society, they are steadfast benefactors of the College of Architecture through their planned and annual gifts.

Nadaskay established a gift through his estate plan that will support an endowed scholarship for future generations of students.

Bruce Lindsey, the E. Desmond Lee Professor for Community Collaboration and dean of the College of Architecture and the Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design, says: “Ray and Nancy are helping us attract top scholars who may not otherwise be able to attend the University without such generous scholarship support. These outstanding students will help shape our world by generating meaningful responses to social and environmental challenges.”

The Nadaskay’s estate gift also will benefit the Raymond Nadaskay Endowment Fund for capital improvements on campus. “I’ve always been a big believer in having enough resources to adequately take care of buildings,” he says. “I also believe in giving talented students the opportunity to succeed, no matter where they come from. I thought those two areas—facilities and scholarships—would benefit young people and the University as a whole.”

Nadaskay also gives of his time as a current member and former chair of the North Jersey Regional Cabinet. From 2003 to 2004, he was a key member of the North Jersey Regional Campaign Committee, which successfully raised local support for the Campaign for Washington University: A Partnership for the 21st Century.

“It has always meant a lot to me that I graduated from one of the best architecture schools in the country, and it just keeps on getting better,” says Nadaskay. “We think the best way to leave a legacy is to give to institutions that will benefit society and mankind at large, and Washington University is definitely one of them.”

—Donna Robinson
It's a Celebration!
Young alumni return to campus for Reunion.

Undergraduate alumni from the classes of 2009, 2005, and 2000 will come together April 23-25, 2010, for their 1st, 5th, and 10th Reunions. The fun-filled weekend gives alumni the opportunity to catch up with old friends and see what's new on campus. Each class will have its own special events, but everyone can tour the Danforth Campus, enjoy brunch with classmates, and have fun at Thurtene Carnival.

For more information on all the Reunion festivities, visit the Alumni Association Web site at alumni.wustl.edu.

Young alumni, such as (from left) Revocat Murayi, BSBA '08; Eric Hsu, BSBA '08; Amber Barkley, BSBA '08; and Ashley Williams, AB '08, enjoy learning what their classmates have been up to since graduation.

Top: Reunion offers the opportunity to renew old friendships. From left: Rafii Nazarian, BSBA '04; Aminat Danmoh, BSME '04; and Adam Marcus, BSBA '04; enjoy their 5th Reunion party last year.

Right top: Coming back to campus brings big smiles to alumni, such as Lisa Cynamon Mayers, AB '99; and Josh Mayers, AB '98, MBA '02.

Right bottom: Young Alumni Reunion gives you the chance to reminisce with classmates. From left: Walter Currin, AB '99; Bob Zaegel, BSBA '99, MBA '00; Melissa Zaegel, BSME '01; and Mark Ruggiero, AB '99; gather together.

Right background: Young alumni join students and the entire University community at Thurtene Carnival.
Dental School Alumni Gather for Annual Reunion

The Washington University School of Dental Medicine trained more than 5,000 dentists during its 125 years. Although the dental school closed its doors in 1991, that has not hindered the enthusiasm alumni have for their alma mater.

On September 25-26, 2009, nearly 200 dental school alumni and their guests returned to the University to commemorate their Reunions. A complimentary wine and hors d’oeuvre reception at Alumni House kicked off the celebration. Alumni enjoyed a number of activities including a luncheon, professional continuing education programs, and a banquet. The Washington University Dental Alumni Association sponsors the Reunion annually.

Washington University Dental Alumni Association President Gil Hart (lower left), DMD '82, presented the 2009 Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award to Hiram Fry, DDS '59. Jackie Miller (top) accepted a 2009 Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award on behalf of her late husband, Francis J. Miller, MS '64.

2010 Reunion Leadership

CLASS OF 2000
Sara Bleiberg Klein, AB ’00, Executive Co-Chair
Joel Patrick Schroeder, AB ’00, Executive Co-Chair
Gabe Jay Greenbaum, AB ’00, Gift Chair

CLASS OF 2005
Joshua Graham Gantz, BSBA ’05, Executive Co-Chair
Taylor Lewis Guthrie, AB ’05, Executive Co-Chair
Erin Paige Harkless, BSBA ’05, Gift Co-Chair
James Mourey, BSBA ’05, Gift Co-Chair

CLASS OF 2009
Lee Harris Cordova, BSBE ’09
Brittany Ann Perez, AB ’09
David Aaron Ross, BSBA ’09

Commemorate, Participate, Celebrate

April 23–25, 2010
Young Alumni Reunion
Classes of 2000, 2005, and 2009
Reconnecting with friends makes Alumni Weekend special. From left: Debbie Freund, BSCE '79, MSChE '82; Douglas White, BSCE '80; Marlon Twyman, AB '79; and Deborah Twyman catch up on old times during last year's Reunion.

Reconnecting to the Past

The 20th-70th Reunion classes will assemble on the Danforth Campus May 20-23, 2010. Hundreds of undergraduate alumni and their guests will reconnect with their classmates and their alma mater. The weekend promises to be an exciting one as many activities are planned, including class parties and the Great Bear Parade.

For a complete listing of Alumni Weekend events, visit the Alumni Association Web site at alumni.wustl.edu.
CLASS OF 1940
Sarah Karraker Babington, AB '40, Committee Member
Bud Barbee, AB '40, MA '49, Committee Member
Richard Compton, AB '40, MD '43, Committee Member
Rudy Freedman, BSChE '40, MS '52, Committee Member
Bruce Higginbotham, BSBA '40, Committee Member
Sally Alexander Higginbotham, AI3 '40, Committee Member
Harold Schreiber, AB '40, DMD '47, Committee Member

CLASS OF 1945
Roma Milder Witcoff, BSBA '45, Executive Chair

CLASS OF 1950
Carl J. Deutsch, BSME '50, Executive Co-Chair
Janet Schubert Turley, AB '50, Executive Co-Chair
Turk Turley, BSCE '50, Executive Co-Chair

CLASS OF 1955
Buzzy Schukar, BSBA '55, Executive Co-Chair
Keith D. Shaw, BSBA '55, Executive Co-Chair
Jane Bridges Evans, AB '55, Co-Chair

CLASS OF 1960
Elaine Wache Greenbaum, AB '60, Executive Co-Chair
John L. Gianoulakis, AB '60, Co-Chair
Rochelle Albert Hicks, BSBA '60, Co-Chair
Barbara Deutsch Newmark, AB '60, Co-Chair
Michael N. Newmark, AB '60, JD '62, Co-Chair
Marydel Harrison Neumann, BSBA '60, Gift Co-Chair
Robert O. Piening, AB '60, BSBA '60, MBA '61, Gift Co-Chair

CLASS OF 1965
Barbara Golder Bindler, AB '65, Executive Co-Chair
Daniel H. Bindler, BSBA '65, Executive Co-Chair
Brian C. Cunningham, BSES '65, JD '70, Gift Co-Chair
Martha Kerr Cunningham, AB '65, Gift Co-Chair
Robert E. Wagoner, BSChE '65, Gift Co-Chair

CLASS OF 1970
David C. Beckmann, AB '70, MBA '72, Executive Co-Chair
Fred Mark Kuhlmann, AB '70, Executive Co-Chair
Jeffrey Hunt Mantel, AB '70, Gift Co-Chair
William B. Pollard III, AB '70, Gift Co-Chair

CLASS OF 1975
Douglas Jay Steinberg, AB '75, Gift Chair

CLASS OF 1980
Jill Ferguson Wilkis, AB '80, Executive Chair
Anna Apanel, BSCE '80, Gift Chair

CLASS OF 1985
Thomas Willard Bassett, AB '85, MBA '91, JD '91, MSBA '96, Executive Chair
Jeffrey H. Mishkin, BSSE '85, Gift Chair

CLASS OF 1990
Stephanie Lynn Herdrich, AB '90, Executive Chair
Christopher Manzo, AB '90, Gift Chair

Founders Day 2009

Founders Day honors Washington University’s rich history and promising future. This year’s celebration took place at the Hyatt Regency-St. Louis Riverfront on November 7, 2009. At the dinner, distinguished alumni, faculty, and friends were recognized for their contributions to the University:

Robert S. Brookings Awards
John H. (PhD '83) and Penelope Parkman (MA '68, PhD '74) Biggs

Will (PhD '50) and Ann Lee Konneker

Distinguished Alumni Awards
John D. Beuerlein, MBA '77, General Principal, Edward Jones
Anita Diamant, AB '73, Writer
Mary Ann Lazarus, MA '78, Firmwide Director of Sustainable Design, HOK
Lewis A. Levey, MBA '67, Chairman, Enhanced Value Strategies, Inc.

Ronald M. Rettner, AB '72, President, Rettner Management/Baron Associates
Gary M. Sumers, AB '75, Senior Managing Director, The Blackstone Group

Distinguished Faculty Awards
Laura Jean Bierut, MD '87, Professor of Psychiatry, School of Medicine
Michael R. DeBaun, Ferring Family Chair in Biostatistics and Neurology, School of Medicine

Elzbieta Sklodowska, PhD '83, Randolph Family Professor and Chair of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Arts & Sciences

Frank C-P Yin, The Stephen F. and Camilla T. Brauer Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering, School of Engineering & Applied Science

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Stephen Irving Max Schwab, LA 64, GR 66, published Guantanamoo, U.S.A.: The Untold History of America's Cuban Outpost (University Press of Kansas, 2009). He is assistant professor of history at the University of Alabama.

Joan Tatelbaum Erber, LA 65, published the second edition of her textbook Aging and Older Adulthood (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010). She is a professor of psychology at Florida International University in Miami.

Alan Hurwitz, EN 65, is president of Gallaudet University, which is touted as the world leader in liberal education and career development for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Carla (Buser) Lane-Johnson, UC 67, UC 69, UC 71, is the executive director of the Education Coalition, where she works exclusively in distance learning. Her company trains probation and parole agents in 38 states. She has written three textbooks and hundreds of articles about distance learning.

Lane-Johnson was inducted into the USDLA Teleconferencing and Distance Learning Hall of Fame, and named AAF Advertising Woman of St. Louis, as well as Advertising Woman of the AAF 9th District. She has been awarded Emmys and Addies and was president of the Mid-America Chapter of NATAS as well as a national trustee. She teaches for several online universities, including UCLA. She also has served as the national evaluator of several technology projects funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

Toby Baccharradan Newman, LA 67, was promoted to chief program officer at Jewish Family Service in Houston, where she has worked as a clinical social worker for the past nine years.

Pepper Schwartz, LA 67, GR 69, is the new love and relationships expert for the AARP. She will guide AARP's members through the emotional, physical, and practical sides of love, dating, and sexuality as you age. She also will author "The Naked Truth," a new weekly online column covering various topics related to love, sexuality, and relationships. Web site: www.aarp.org/nakedtruth

Kathleen (Feldman) Sitzer, LA 67, is the artistic director of New Jewish Theatre, a program of the JCC in St. Louis. The theatre has received a Kevin Kline Award.

Jacob W. Reby, BU 68, was elected Regent of the prestigious American College of Mortgage Attorneys (ACMA). He currently serves as Missouri State Chair of ACMA. Reby is chairman of the real estate group at Lewis, Rice & Fingers, L.C. in St. Louis.

Sisters Jane Klimisch, GR 71, and her twin, Jeanette, received honorary doctorates from Mount Marty College (MMC). The two nuns were recognized for their lifetime commitment to MMC and the arts.

Joe Madison, LA 71, was named the top radio talk show host by Black Talkers, a Web site that covers the black talk media industry. Madison is a veteran morning host heard nationwide on XMP 69 and WOL-AM in Washington, D.C.


Barry B. Burdick, LA 73, joined the Dayton office of Barge Waggoner Carter & Cabot, Inc., as a project manager/architect. He is responsible for project management of federal and military projects.

Douglas Lowenstein, LA 73, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences (AIAS). The award recognizes contributions from those who have dedicated their lives to the advancement of video games who had the belief and vision to build the interactive entertainment industry. Lowenstein is president and CEO of the Private Equity Council. In 1994, he was tapped to launch the Entertainment Software Association (ESA). Lowenstein became the first president of the Interactive Digital Software Association in 1994. In 1996, he played an instrumental role in encouraging the ESA board to create the Academy of Interactive Arts and Sciences.

Todd Meier, LA 73, joined the Dallas law firm of Shackelford, Melton & McKinley LLP. He counsels clients in the technology, manufacturing, financial services, commodities, and service industries on transactional and operational matters, as well as providing litigation expertise in courtroom trials. He is a former assistant Dallas County district attorney and worked for more than 10 years at Todd Meier & Associates.

A. John Yoggerst, BU 73, GB 73, was appointed by the
governor of Texas and continued by the senate to the Texas Credit Union Commission. The commission regulates state chartered credit unions throughout Texas.

Ronald B. Ziman, MD 73, is now board certified in internal medicine, neurology, and vascular neurology.

Jan Garden Castro, GR 74, GR 94, published her 16th cover story in Sculpture Magazine in September 2009. Also in September, she donated 40 more boxes of her archives and writings to Washington University Special Collections. In December 2009, Art and Living Magazine published her profiles on 12 innovative American museum directors and 12 artists who represent "American Art Now." Castro has also published six books, including the bestselling The Art & Life of Georgia O’Keeffe. She resides in New York and is reachable on Facebook.

Mario G. Fiorilli, HS 75, was recognized by the city council of Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, for his 30 years of service and for the important role he has played as a member of the community and as a member of the health profession. Fiorilli is a practicing internist and infectious disease specialist with an interest in public health.

Carl R. Schwartz, EN 75, LA 75, was selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2010. He works in the Milwaukee office of Quarles & Brady in the area of biotechnology law/intellectual property law.

Carole (Rambach) Breen, SW 76, is a licensed clinical social worker in private practice. For more than 20 years, she has been a docent at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

Leslie McKinney, LA 76, GM 82, reports that her daughter, Ariel, is a junior at Washington University. Ariel is a third-generation Washington University student. Her grandfather, Gary McKinney, graduated from University College in 1960.

James L. Cobb, GB 77, is the owner of COBBCO, an independent contractor for the state of California. He has extensive hands-on management and information technology experience.

Arnold W. Donald, EN 77, is the chair of the Missouri Botanical Garden's board of trustees. He is the first African American to hold this position.

John Barnes, LA 78, GR 81, will publish his 28th novel, a political thriller titled

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ACROSS
1. Wharf
2. Coca
3. Helix
4. Huge
5. Tilt
6. Towering tree in California
7. Translator
8. Dorothy’s dog
9. Personal choice
10. 1968 Student Life editor
11. Inside Ear part
12. Glove material
13. “That’s disgusting!”
14. 1985 Student Life editor who is now a Newsday reporter
15. “I care!”
16. Biblical twin
17. Ars, usually
18. Recognize with gratitude
19. “Cogito, sum”
20. Ending for space or witch
21. Assistance
22. 1955 Student Life editor who was a political writer for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (full name)
23. “American ___”
24. Ad ___
25. 1989
26. Driver ___ sum
27. Ancient Asian land
28. Huge
29. Fossil fuel
30. That’s disgusting!”
31. Ill-gotten gains
32. Illusory gains
33. Female relative
34. 1988 Student Life editor who is an Associated Press reporter and author of several books on baseball
35. Wither away
36. 2007 Student Life editor (and Newsweek reporter) Sarah and her family
37. 1977 classic Steely Dan album
38. Dying craft
39. Drive forward
40. Utensil
41. Letter opener
42. Cambodian currency
43. Fritter, e.g.
44. Oungle
45. Ozone, once
46. Constitute bear
47. Used a firehouse pole
49. Lifeless, old-style
50. Pulitizer Prize-winning cartoonist Mike who worked at Student Life in the 1960s
51. 1980 Student Life editor
52. 1980 Student Life editor
53. 1980 Student Life editor
54. Nauman who is the author of Scorch and several award-winning short stories
55. Wombs
56. Brooklyn’s ___ Island
57. Give a darn
58. Mother-of-pearl
59. Brindled
60. Father of 16 Across
61. Trick
62. Easy gait
63. 1977 classic Steely Dan album
64. Nourished
65. Fire
66. And so on: Abbr.
67. 1980 Student Life editor
68. Hibernia
69. Take care of
70. Constellation bear
71. Used a firehouse pole
72. In ___ (harmonious)
73. Hammer’s end

DOWN
1. Frisbee, e.g.
2. Smell
3. Coca ___
4. 2007 Student Life editor (and Newsweek reporter) Sarah and her family
5. 1977 classic Steely Dan album
6. Drain
7. Drive forward
8. Relating to iron
9. Luau souvenir
10. Father of 16 Across
11. Dying craft
12. Glove material
13. Musical notation
14. Musical notation
15. Musical notation
16. Musical notation
17. Musical notation
18. Musical notation
19. Musical notation
20. Musical notation
21. Musical notation
22. Musical notation
23. Musical notation
24. Musical notation
25. Musical notation
26. Musical notation
27. Ancient Asian land
28. Bungle
29. Taj Mahal city
30. Get rid of
31. CBS overseer
32. Inner ear part
33. Fiddling emperor
34. Walked on
35. Letter opener
36. Utensil
37. Lifeless, old-style
38. Pulitizer Prize-winning cartoonist Mike who worked at Student Life in the 1960s
39. Conclude
40. Easy gait
41. 1980 Student Life editor
42. Nauman who is the author of Scorch and several award-winning short stories
43. Wombs
44. Brooklyn’s ___ Island
45. Give a darn
46. Trick
47. Easy gait
48. Nourished
49. Fire
50. Lifeless, old-style
51. 1980 Student Life editor
52. 1980 Student Life editor
53. 1980 Student Life editor
54. Nauman who is the author of Scorch and several award-winning short stories
55. Wombs
56. Brooklyn’s ___ Island
57. Give a darn
58. Trick
59. Easy gait
60. Nourished
61. Fire
62. And so on: Abbr.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 44
First Chinese Alumnus Celebrates Centenary

Xianyu Xu, PhD ’38, the first Chinese alumnus of Washington University, is celebrating his 100th birthday. While a student at the University, Xu studied mathematics with world-renowned scholar and former Professor Gabor Szego. “Both the University and Professor Szego helped me develop the capability to think critically and to approach problems in a rigorous and scientific way,” says Xu, one of the founders of computational mathematics in China.

During his career, Xu taught mathematics at Yenching University and Peking University and served as a senior fellow at the Institute of Computational Mathematics under the Chinese Academy of Science.

His daughter, Wan Xu, and son-in-law, Jiashu "Josh" Cheng, recently named a mathematics scholarship at Washington University for him. They established the gift to honor Xu’s many achievements and to recognize the important role the University played in his life.

“Washington University made a great difference in my life and, in a small way, made [an] important impact on China and Chinese people,” Xu says.

Carol Sklenicka, GR 78, GR 86, published Raymond Carver: A Writer’s Life (Scribner, 2009). The biography earned critical praise and was named one of the best nonfiction books of the year by The Chronicle and The New York Times.

Stephen R. Woodley, LA 78, DE 82, was named a 2009 Super Lawyer by Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers magazine. He is a principal in the St. Louis law firm of Gray, Ritter & Graham, PC.

Jim Holliman, MD 79, received the Humanitarian Award from the International Federation for Emergency Medicine for his career work in developing the specialty of emergency medicine in disadvantaged countries.

Debbie (Levy) Vickman, LA 79, completed her 30th year of teaching (28 years in kindergarten). Her husband, Sandy, completed his 27th year in his optometry practice. The couple recently celebrated their 27th anniversary. They have two children: Andi, 15, and Adam, 12.

Cate (Blum) Wirth, SW 79, moved to Vermont more than 10 years ago and has been working on an in-patient psychiatric unit of the local community hospital. She lives with her partner, her 16-year-old daughter, and her 10-year-old son.

80s

George J. Nassar, Jr., GL 80, was selected for inclusion in Mid South SuperLawyers. He is an attorney at Glankler Brown, PLLC in Memphis, where he focuses on estate planning and probate.

Merilyn Greenblatt Robbins, BU 80, is a regional credit manager with Armstrong Cabinet Products in Plano, Texas. She has two children: Joshua, 22, and Scott, 19. Both of her sons attend the University of Texas at Austin; Josh is studying economics, and Scott is studying finance and marketing. E-mail: mrobbins@armstrong.com

Justin B. Starren, LA 80, GR 87, MD 87, received the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) Leadership Award for outstanding volunteer leadership and service to the organization. He also was re-elected to serve on AMIA’s board of directors. Starren is director of Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation’s Biomedical Informatics Research Center. He also is associate medical director for informatics at the Marshfield Clinic. He serves as visiting associate professor of biomedical informatics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and adjunct associate professor of biomedicinal informatics and radiology at Columbia University.

Cecelia Urban, LW 80, HA 82, has handled criminal appeals for the New Jersey public defender for the past 15 years. She previously worked several years representing people with disabilities in government jobs, private practice, and nonprofit organizations.

Barbara Blaine, SW 81, received a Leadership Award from Call to Action, a national lay Catholic organization. Blaine is founder and president of SNAP, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests. SNAP is the nation’s oldest and largest support group for victims of clergy sexual abuse with 9,000 members.


Kathy (Miller) Evans, OT 82, is the owner of Write for You Life Stories, L.L.C. She writes life stories and personal memoirs based on weekly in-depth interviews at the client’s home. Evans has written nearly 20 life stories and is now expanding her business by adding freelance writers to help meet demand.

David D. Levine, LA 83, received the Endevour Award at OryCon for his collection Space Magic (Wheatland Press, 2008). The award is for “a distinguished science fiction or fantasy book written by a Pacific Northwest author or authors.”

Jeanette Meyer, LA 83, joined RE/MAX Alliance as a broker associate in Fort Collins, Colo. She has been in real estate for eight years and was voted “Best in Business” for the last three years. She also earned the designation of Distressed Property Expert and has specific underst­anding of affordable home­ownership and new homes available to homeowners to avoid foreclos­ure. E-mail: jmeyer@remax.net

Paul Obrock, DE 83, was awarded fellowship from the American College of Dentists. He is the immediate past-president of the Central Illinois Academy of General Dentistry; past-president of the T.L. Gilmer Dental Society; a Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry, Pierre Fauchard Academy, and the Academy of Dentistry International. Obrock also is a volunteer with the Illinois Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped and is on the executive board and is a volunteer for the T.L. Gilmer Give Kids a Smile program. He is a family dentist and senior partner at Cornerstone Dental Health.

Pearl M. Johnson, SW 84, is a coordinator of religious educa­tion and outreach services.

Alexander P. Aucbus, MD 85, is the Professor and McCarty
Opening Doors to the Future
The Scholarship Initiative for Washington University

(See page 9.)
Plan today to support the University and our students.

(See page 9.)
Christopher Clinton Conway, JD ’96
Attorney Aims to Advance Art Appreciation

Christopher Clinton Conway, JD ’96, hopes to promote the arts internationally through his work with art museums and ballets around the country and in Mexico. As executive director of the prestigious Joffrey Ballet in Chicago, Conway oversees all aspects of the company—seeking out new talent, fundraising, marketing, and logo merchandise development and sales. Further, he tours with the company and with artistic director Ashley C. Wheater.

“The Joffrey travels to all 50 states and more than 60 countries. Weekly, I am in New York or London or Los Angeles or Rio de Janeiro,” Conway says. (In December 2009, the company performed the Nutcracker at the Fox Theatre in St. Louis.)

With the most extensive touring schedule of any dance company in history, the Joffrey Ballet is one of the most revered and recognizable arts organizations in America and one of the top dance companies in the world. Founded in 1956, the company boasts an impressive history. Hailed as “America’s Company of Firsts,” the Joffrey’s long list includes: first dance company to perform at the White House at Jacqueline Kennedy’s invitation; first to appear on television; first American company to visit Russia; first and only dance company to appear on the cover of Time magazine; and first to have had a major motion picture based on it, Robert Altman’s The Company.

The Joffrey operates the Academy of Dance, a renowned school that teaches ballet, hip hop, jazz, modern, tap, African, and Latin dance to talented students, including the late Patrick Swayze. Further, the Joffrey promotes the arts through its Community Engagement Program, which serves more than 4,000 young people each year.

“We aim to develop life skills through creative and educational programming while strengthening ties within Chicago’s communities,” Conway says. “Our programs inspire a greater appreciation for dance while introducing participants to the benefits this art form offers.”

Area young people shine at the Middle School Dance Clubs (MSDC), a weekly classroom learning and dance education experience and the longest-standing Joffrey program. Participants attend three Joffrey performances and work with Joffrey teaching artists to create original dances. MSDC culminates with two major performances. “To date, more than 4,700 Chicago youths take part in MSDC, and thousands more attend Joffrey performances associated with the program,” Conway says.

Other community programs focus on American square dancing, the Nutcracker ballet, and African and Latin dance. The Exelon Strobel Step-Up Program offers a rigorous scholarship opportunity to promising high school students who want to develop their dance skills and showcase their talents.

Conway credits his legal education at Washington University with giving him “a succinct writing style, contract review skills, and the general fearlessness that comes from being an attorney.” He further developed his leadership skills when he co-founded the gay and lesbian student group at the law school. “During an initial planning meeting, the first two people to arrive were Chancellor Emeritus William H. Danforth and his wife, the late Elizabeth Gray Danforth,” he says.

After graduation, Conway served as senior associate director and general counsel for the Carter Center of Emory University. He worked closely with President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, on their post-presidential initiatives relating to peace and health. Conway then became director of development at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. From there, he went to Joffrey first as vice president for development and then executive director. In addition, he advocates for the arts and consults with several groups, including Telfair Museum of Art in Savannah, Georgia; Edward Villella’s Miami City Ballet; and Museo de Arte y Cultura Popular in Colima, Mexico.

When not traveling, working, or proving that “attorneys can dance,” Conway enjoys spending time with his three nephews: Miles Christopher, J. Wiley, and Garrett Donegan.

For more information on the Joffrey Ballet, visit joffrey.org.

—Blaine Leible Garwitz
Artist's Work Appears in Times Square

New York City artist Josh Goldstein, AB '93, designed three billboards for Target in Times Square that were on display from September 4 to October 31, 2009. In January 2010, fashion designer Anna Sui recycled the vinyl into one-of-a-kind limited edition totes for Target.

"I try to create art that encourages the viewer to engage with the chaos and density of New York City," Goldstein says. "Those menus slipped under the door; the tags and graffiti covering the local deli; the newspapers left behind on the train and littering the sidewalk; and the daily bombardment of storefront signs all inspire my work."

To view more of Goldstein's work, visit his Web site: www.bodeganyc.com.
Marianne Bellino, MArch ’05

Architect Designs a Life of Hard Work and Play

Marianne Bellino, MArch ’05, often ponders different spaces: their history, aesthetics, and meaning. No mere philosopher, however, Bellino possesses an uncanny ability to pause and appreciate the poetics of the spaces she encounters—then focus herself like a laser on how she can best succeed within them.

At age 29, Bellino is a world-class triathlete and a successful architect who teaches courses at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

She says, “but the warmth of the students and faculty really won me over.”

In one memorable week, Bellino learned that she was valedictorian at Holy Cross and had been accepted to Washington University’s Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design as an Olin Fellow.

Bellino shone again as a graduate student, winning the 2004 Steedman II Traveling Fellowship to conduct research in Kenya for five weeks. There, she experienced sacred spaces including a Massai volcano, Islamic ruins, and the site of a Kikuyu wedding ceremony.

In 2003, Bellino began to pursue her other vocation—competing in triathlons—when she and another graduate student entered a St. Louis race for fun. Bellino excelled in her first race and was hooked.

Post-graduation, Bellino increased the intensity of her triathlon training while working in New York City at Robert Kahn Architect PC. In 2006, she joined Team USA as an elite amateur and raced in the International Triathlon Union Long Course World Championships in Australia.

In 2008, Bellino decided to leave New York City’s dense urban environment. “I missed nature and sought a more sustainable lifestyle,” she says. “My goals and interests shifted, and when I received a job offer in Boulder—the central location for Olympians and world champions—I moved.”

Bellino thrives in Colorado, enjoying architectural consulting and teaching at the university. She is on the cusp of earning elite/professional status in the half-Ironman triathlon distance, which consists of a 1.2-mile swim, 56-mile ride, and 13.1-mile run.

“The combination of training, teaching, and design work creates an amazing internal balance of body, mind, and spirit,” she says. “It’s a peaceful space for me.”

—Lisa Cary

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Gensler. Some of his recent assignments include the Barneys New York store in Chicago; the Johnson Controls Headquarters in Milwaukee; an award-winning conceptual design for a pedestrian bridge in Pittsburgh; and First Federal Savings Bank in Mishawaka, Ind. Vitale's professional work includes founding the program VOLUME: Creating New Libraries for Chicago Public Schools, that matches designers, architects, and engineers with builders and corporate partners to redesign school libraries at no cost to the school.

Liz Wattenberg, LA 95, is the vice president of business development for Lanier Parking Solutions. She previously managed Zipcar Atlanta for four years. Wattenberg recently earned her LEED Green Associate accreditation and is looking forward to "greening" the parking industry.

Dina (Baladin) Berdy, SW 96, is a therapist at Birmingham Maple Clinic. She is building her private practice working with children, adolescents, and adults.

Bob Heider, SI 96, was elected a fellow of the International Society of Automation "in recognition of contributions to the simulation, development, and implementation of advanced control strategies." He is an adjunct faculty member in chemical engineering at Washington University.

Justin Kim, LA 96, finished his fellowship and is a colorectal surgeon at Kaiser Permanente. He resides in Napa, Calif., with his wife and children.

Mark Klapow, LA 96, and his wife, Kelly, announce the birth of Jeremy Alan on Aug. 11, 2009. He joins big siblings: Emily, Zachary, and Avery. The family resides in Somerset, Md. Mark is a partner at Howrey, specializing in complex commercial litigation. E-mail: klapowm@howrey.com

Avaya (Weiner) Ustin, LA 96, and her husband, Ken, announce the birth of Jordan Matthew on Nov. 10, 2009. He joins big sister, Ellie Rebecca. The family resides in New York City, where Avaya is a physical therapist.

Priscilla F. Welikala, SW 96, is a social worker with Does Consultancies in Sri Lanka. She lectures at the National Institute of Social Development (NISD) in both the graduate and undergraduate programs. Welikala also is a member of the NISD governing council.

Anne Baecker Duncan, BU 97, GR 05, and her husband, Judson Duncan, EN 97, announce the birth of Ruby Caroline on Oct. 9, 2009. She joins big sisters, Martha Elizabeth, 4, and Sarah Marie, 2. The family resides in Singapore, where Judson works for Emerson Process Management.

E-mail: annie_duncan@yahoo.com and judson_duncan@yahoo.com


David Dimoplon, SW 98, is a school-based counselor working with children and families at WabaShak Valley Hospital.

Stephanie Linn, BU 98, and Seth Krantz were married on Oct. 3, 2009, in Chicago. The couple resides in Chicago, where Stephanie is a senior manager at Deloitte Tax LLP and Seth is a resident in general surgery at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Amy (Hoger) Ramsey, OT 98, works part time as a school-based occupational therapist and stays home part time with her two kids: Mason, 5, and Natalie, 2.

Jen Chierek, LA 99, LA 99, and Brent Znosko were married on Apr. 1, 2009 in Crystal City, Mo. The wedding guests included many University alumni. The couple resides in St. Louis, where Jen is an employment attorney at Specker Jane Britt & Brown; and Brent is an assistant professor of chemistry at Saint Louis University.


Shannon (Lyons) Green, LA 99, and her husband, Chris Green, announce the birth of Gracyn Mia on Oct. 1, 2009. The couple resides in Crozet, Va. where Shannon is an employment attorney at Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC.


Hao Zhang, EN 00, EN 00, SI 02, earned accreditation by the U.S. Green Buildings Council as a LEED Accredited Professional. He is a project manager at Kvaused Building Group in St. Louis.

Sarah Johnson, LA 01, was selected as a 2009-10 White House fellow. She is one of 15 people selected this year for the White House Fellows Program, one of the nation’s most prestigious leadership and public service programs.

Ken Mitchell, LA 01, was promoted from senior teacher to academic director of EF International Languages Schools in San Francisco in August 2009.

Heather (Brouillet) Navarro, LA 01, LW 08, and her husband, Diego Navarro, EN 98, live in the Central West End of St. Louis with their two children: Lucas and Maria. Heather is an associate at the Law Offices of Thomas E. Kennedy, III, LC, and Diego is a teacher at Saint Louis University High School. In January, (Shafer) Altham, BU 02, and her husband, Adam, announce the birth of Rebecca Sophie and Leah Ella on Oct. 1, 2009.

Sarah Lipman, BU 02, and Adam D. Sherman, BU 02, GB 03, were married on July 26, 2009.

Lindsay M. Phillips, BU 02, received an MBA from Northwestern University.

Hedvig Berry Wibskov, LA 99, and her husband, Michael Schack Balle Jensen, announce the birth of Storm on Oct. 12, 2009. He joins big brother, Gregers, 3. The family resides in Copenhagen, Denmark.
Kellogg School of Management in June 2009. She is a senior manager of public affairs at CME Group in Chicago.

Beth (Goldsmith) Russell, LA 02, received a doctorate in genetics from Yale in December 2009. She and her husband, John T. Russell, LA 02, have been married since September 2005. Elizabeth T. Bernard, LW 03, is a partner in the intellectual property department at Kirkland & Ellis LLP.

Daniel Blaser, LA 03, was honored at the Sanctuary for Families Above & Beyond Pro Bono Awards and Benefit in November 2009. As an associate at Paul Hastings, Blaser has gone “above and beyond” in providing outstanding pro bono representation and advocacy on behalf of victims of domestic violence.

Nicole Blicher, LA 03, and Charles Paloux were married recently. Nicole launched her own PR firm, Red Balloon in June 2009. She is a senior vice president and general counsel. The two have a 6-year-old daughter and live in Philadelphia.

Kyu Young Lee, GL 03, is director of corporate affairs for Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama, a subsidiary of Hyundai Motor Company.

Alicia McDonald, LA 03, LW 09, is an associate at Bryan Cave LLP.

Marisa Wegryn, LA 03, won the 2009 Wasserstein Prize for her play Hickorydickory. The award is given annually to an emerging female playwright. She developed Hickorydickory at Washington University while under the tutelage of Carter Lewis, playwright-in-residence. Bill Whittaker, senior lecturer in drama, directed the play’s world premiere in St. Louis. Hickorydickory was an A.E. Hotchner Playwriting Festival and Competition winner.

Sarah K. Chenault, FA 04, is pursuing a Master of Arts in Latin American studies at UCLA. She is focusing on fine arts. Brian Golden, LA 04, is artistic director of Chicago’s Theatre Seven, a three-year-old company that is staging Coopertown, the third play he has written. Web site: www.TheatreSeven.org.

Jessica K. Jackson, LA 04, is a merchandise planner for Polo Ralph Lauren. She is pursuing a master’s degree in global fashion management at the Fashion Institute of Technology.

Jason Klein, LA 04, is a case manager/project manager and research assistant at Envirotoxicity. He spearheads

### Alumni Efforts Empower Rwandan Women

A s a boy, Matt Mitro, AB ’00, lived in Nigeria for six years while his dad worked for Chevron. Some of his memories involve the chaos of the era, like the military roadblocks and how his family would put green leaves on their car to show they were sympathetic with rioters.

But equally vivid are his memories of the hard-working locals, people stuck in poverty but possessing strong entrepreneurial spirits. “Some would cut people’s toenails on the street for five cents, like a shoeshine,” he remembers. “Women with babies on their backs sold pineapples and mangoes that they carried around on their heads, ten at a time.”

With these images still fresh in his mind, Mitro began formulating the idea for Indego Africa, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that would help African women deliver themselves out of poverty. He made a good salary as a lawyer working on developing world finance projects for a firm in Washington, D.C., but “didn’t feel passionate” about the work, he says. And so, in late 2006, Mitro left his job to make Indego Africa a reality.

Unlike traditional exporters or charities, Indego empowers Rwandan artisans by linking access to fair trade export markets with business skills, with the hope of creating a new generation of independent African businesswomen. The Rwandan women receive fair trade prices for their handicrafts—including traditional baskets, yoga bags, and wine coasters—which are then sold on Indego Africa’s Web store (shop.indegoafrica.org) and at stores across the United States. Indego Africa returns 100 percent of the profits, plus donations and grants, back to the cooperatives of women for groundbreaking training programs in financial management, entrepreneurship, computers, and literacy, which are taught by Rwanda’s top university students. After garnering considerable attention, Indego Africa’s social enterprise business model is currently the subject of a Harvard Business School case study.

Mitro’s right-hand man, Ben Stone, AB ’00, also practiced law—corporate litigation in New York—before making the jump to Indego Africa. The two men remained close friends since their days playing pingpong together at Washington University. “I loved law school and practicing law,” says Stone, “but I found Matt’s idea extremely compelling, and I wanted to help.” His trip with Mitro to Rwanda in July 2008 was not glamorous, but he fell in love with the project. “Meeting the artisans really changed the way I looked at a lot of things,” Stone remembers. “I knew immediately that this was what I was meant to do.”

After asking his bosses at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe for six months of unpaid leave to help get Indego off the ground, Stone was stunned when they offered him the opportunity to devote all of his time to Indego Africa, but still receive a portion of his salary.

Mitro now serves as Indego’s board chairman and president, while Stone works as senior vice president and general counsel. The two put together a vast volunteer network that currently includes more than 35 Washington University graduates, including Indego Africa’s regional board chairs in Chicago (Josh Lebowitz, AB ’02), San Francisco (William Craven, AB ’00), and Los Angeles (Lindsay McAulister, BSBA ’02).

The stories of the women helped by Indego Africa prove inspiring. For instance, Daphrose Mukamugema, a 56-year-old master weaver at Indego Africa’s partner cooperative Covanya, lost her husband and seven children in the 1994 genocide. “Many of the women are shy, but Daphrose is so fearless and bright-spirited,” Mitro says. “I often wonder where she draws her strength.”

A proud member of the Fair Trade Federation, Indego Africa won the 2008 Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Competition conducted by Washington University’s Skandalakis Center for Entrepreneurial Studies. Mitro and Stone lecture at a variety of academic institutions and conferences about social enterprise, Africa, law, and Indego Africa.

“Women are the backbone of a lot of these societies,” Mitro says. “The role of Indego Africa is to provide them with the opportunities and tools to succeed.”

For more information on Indego Africa, visit indegoafrica.org.

—Ben Westhoff, AB ’94
projects by leading cross-functional teams in nationwide scientific studies of health effects caused by exposure to environmental pollution. Klein has presented at international conferences, and he has written and published a paper on residential exposure to benzene and Hodkin’s disease.

Jared Macke, EN 04, is online marketing manager at Scottrade. He is responsible for a team that oversees Scottrade’s Internet display advertising, search marketing, and online media analytics.

Lorri (Iehlker) Martin, LA 04, and her husband, Drew Martin, LA 06, reside in Columbia, Mo. Lorri recently completed her doctorate degree in physical therapy through Saint Louis University. Drew is pursuing a degree in veterinary medicine. They have a daughter, Ella Rose, 1.

Emily J. Tetzlaff, LA 04, is an associate at Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP. Julie M. Thompson, GB 04, is the business operations manager in the Department of Anesthesiology at Washington University School of Medicine. Betty E. Winters, GR 04, is vice president of commercial lending at Midwest BankCentre in St. Louis. She serves commercial and industrial loan and treasury management businesses.

Almut Becker, GB 05, and Oliver Falk, GB 05, were married in July 2009. The couple resides in Germany with their son, Noah Anand. Almut works at DB Mobility Logistics AG, the company that runs the German train system. Jami Crespo, LA 05, and Aaron Seligman, LA 05, were married on Aug. 30, 2009.

Lauren B. Kaczmar, LA 05, lives in Washington, D.C., and works at Strayer University as a student support representative. She is hoping to begin a doctorate program in education in the near future.

Thomas Kim, GB 05, is a global procurement manager at HNI. He manages purchasing of raw material, freight, and inventory.

Timothy (Ward) Murphy, LA 05, is pursuing a master’s degree in school counseling. She has two sons: a 4-year-old and a 2-year-old.

Ellen Clifford, LA 06, presented her one-act comedy, FLAT, in St. Louis on Nov. 15, 2009. FLAT challenges society’s standards of beauty and its dangerous quest for perfection. Clifford performs the lead role, and Lora Ivanova, LA 03, directs.

JACQUELINE GRAVES, GB 06, is a first-year law student at Saint Louis University.

Seth Greenberg, LA 06, is working for a microfinance institution in New Delhi, India. His position is through a fellowship with Lok Capital, a social venture capital fund based in New Delhi.

ALEX REICH, LA 06, graduated summa cum laude from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University. During his law school career, Reich served as chairperson of Cleveland-Marshall’s nationally ranked moot court team. Individually, he received national awards for appellate advocacy. He is an associate at the Cleveland law firm Calfee, Halter & Grissold, and he works in the firm’s litigation and labor and employment groups.

ASHLEY (JOHNSON) SCHER, LA 06, moved to London in January 2009.

LINDSEY R. GLUCKSMAN, LA 07, is in her second year of medical school at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

NICOLE HUELS, LA 07, is a first-grade teacher with Teach for America.

RYOTARO KATO, LW 07, received the Clinical Teacher of the Year Award at the Distinguished Service Teaching Awards ceremony in 2009 at Washington University’s School of Medicine. Kato is a physician at the St. Louis VA Medical Center.

Bill H. Maas, LA 07, is stationed at Fort Still in Oklahoma. He is pursuing a master’s degree in psychology at Cameron University.

TEDDY WAYNE, GR 07, published KAPITOLL (Harper Perennial, 2010).

JUSTIN A. WILKE, EN 07, SI 07, and Holly Smith were married on Oct. 24, 2009, in Nashville, Ill. Justin is a construction estimator in Jacksonville, and Holly is a nurse at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in the cardio-thoracic ICU.

JOSEPH A. FICEK, LA 08, pursuing a master’s degree in political psychology with a certificate in animal behavior and conservation at the City University of New York Hunter College.

RACHEL A. LYONS, LA 08, is serving in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Syracuse, N.Y. The yearlong service program focuses on outreach to those in poverty. Lyons lives in community with other volunteers who all practice the four values of the corps: community, spirituality, social justice, and simple living.

JESSICA LANE, BU 09, is a junior associate at E3 Consulting Group, a select group of financial professionals providing comprehensive wealth and risk management services focused on income tax minimization strategies. Web site: www.e3wealth.com

SHENEH W. SAMARAYAKE, GB 09, is the manager of strategy and corporate development at Gresham.

MISLA L. SHAW, LW 09, is an associate at Glankler Brown, PLLC in Memphis. She concentrates her practice in the area of civil litigation, including family law, personal injury law, employment law, and business law.

TRISHA A. WOLF, LA 09, worked at a hospital in Montana through the AmeriCorps VISTA program.

In Memoriam

1930s

Helen-Marie Fruth, LA 31; March '09 • W. Vernon Tietjen, LA 31; Nov. '08 • Esther (Beck) Deppong, LA 33; Oct. '09 • Earl C. Peters, EN 33; Sept. '09 • Louise (Kunz) Lockwood, LA 34; April '09 • Elizabeth (Conrad) Robinson, LA 34; Sept. '09 • Wilbur A. Rehm, DE 35; Oct. '09 • Robert G. Hillman, LA 36; Nov. '09 • Leon U. Jameton, JR, EN 36; Oct. '09 • Ernest W. Cooper, Jr., EN 37, Oct. '09 • Julian P. Levinson, MD 37; June '09 • Virginia (Boropenholt) Meyer, LA 37; Aug. '09 • Katherine Barlow Savage, SW 38; Sept. '09 • Robert T. Schwartz, EN 38; July '09 • Cathryn (Lang) Jameton, LA 39; Dec. '09 • Lois (Keller) Scherry, LA 39; Nov. '09 • Walter C. Stern, LA 39; Nov. '09.

1950s

Doris (Losch) Bannick, LA 40, GR 42; Nov. '09 • Mary (Sanboeuf) Halloran, LA 40; Nov. '09 • Russell W. Kraus, FA 40; Nov. '09 • Nicholas D. Matsakas, DE 40; Dec. '09 • Doris L. Ahrens, LA 41, GR 43; Oct. '09 • Alice (Lloyd) Bastian, LA 41; Nov. '09 • John J. Bailey, Jr., EN 42; Nov. '09 • Marjorie (Beetham) Driscoll, LA 43; Dec. '09 • Margaret (Stoeker) Hill, UC 42; Oct. '09 • Edward N. Schweickhardt, BU 42; Oct. '09 • Virginia (Stewart) Boyd, LA 43; Dec. '09 • H. King Carter, BU 43; July '09 • June (Wilkinson) Dahl, LA 43; GR 57; Dec. '09 • Harvey L. Franzel, EN 43; Nov. '09 • Rose (Stephens) Mundy, NU 43; July '09 • Eric Chaston, BU 44; Oct. '09 • Alice (Wides) Ficke, LA 44; Sept. '09 • Sedelle (Liebeman) Katz, LA 44; Oct. '09 • Mary M. Streamer-March, BU 44; Nov. '09 • Warren F. Streck, DE 45; April '09 • John R. Conley, BU 46; April '09 • Boyd E. Hayward, MD 46, HS 48; Sept. '09 • Ruth (Turley) Hetzler, LA 46; Dec. '09 • Edward G. Hewitt, BU 46; May '09 • Carolyn (Balph) Holekamp, FA 46; May '09 • Frederica Stratmeyer, BU 46, GR 62, LW 84; Nov. '09 • Melvin L. Becker, DE 47; Oct. '09 • Mary (Aschinger) Biggs, BU 47, GR 70; Oct. '09 • Rosemary (Voegeli) Clarke, BU 47; Oct. '09 • Clarence M. Stapp, GR 47, GR 51; Sept. '09 • Robert Murstein, MD 48; Nov. '09 • Christopher W. Kowalski, LA 48; Nov. '09 • William R. Hart, LA 48; July '09 • Doris (Heilig) Hayhurst, BU 48; July '09 • William (Heckroth) Martin, LA 48; Nov. '09 • Richard W. O’Donnell, LA 48; Oct. '09 • Mary Kathryn (Clark) Olivers, LA 48; Oct. '09 • Patricia (Nettle) Peters-Watkins, NU 48; Aug. '09 • Albert S. Wong, BU 48; March '09 • Earl R. Blackwell, LA 49, LW 51; Dec. '09 • Richard W. Burke, LA 49, GR 51; Nov. '09 • Robert H. Enskat, EN 49; Nov. '09 • Rosalyn (Robertson) Fryhoff, NU 49; Oct. '09 • Wallace A. Geipel, FA 49; Sept. '09 • Vernon A. Kneese, EN 49; June '09 • Henry F. Laslo, LA 49; Oct. '09 • Robert F. Shea, LA 49; Sept. '09 • William H. Schwartz, BU 49; May '09 • Virginia (Jacobson) Winter, AR 49; June '09.

1940s

C. Richard Beard, LA 50, LW 55; Sept. '09 • George L. Cralle, EN 50; Aug. '09 • Fred C. Czufin, FA 50; Nov. '09 • Erastus W. Foster, JR, DE 50; Oct. '09 • Taney (Hargus) German, NU 50; May '09 • Thomas A. Ginos, BU 50; Nov. '09 • Koko A. Koko, DE 50; July '09 • John J. Minarch, BU 50; Oct. '09 • O. Ray Moss, JR, BU 50; Oct. '09 • Lino P. Balioni, BU 51; Oct. '09 • Richard A. Conrad, EN 51; Oct. '09 • Frank E. De Paula, LA 51; Sept. '09 • Ruth (Harkness) Glahn, NU 51; Nov. '09 • Frederick C. Hinz, GR 51; April '09 • Vincent I. Morgan, MD 51; Nov. '09 • Lewis M. Nettleton, LA 51; Feb. '09 • Sallie (Steargeant) Swabb, LA 51; Nov. '09 • Yvonne L. Tung, LA 51; April '09 • Selma Buchsbaum, FA 52; Oct. '09 • Helen M. Coleman, NU 52.
In Remembrance

Mildred Cohn

Mildred Cohn, former research associate in biological chemistry, died Monday, October 12, 2009.

Over the course of her career, Cohn overcame discrimination to make major advances in biochemistry. While attending Columbia University, she was not allowed to study chemical engineering because that program was only open to men.

In 1946, she moved to Washington University, where her husband, theoretical physicist Henry Primakoff, had joined the faculty. Cohn worked in the laboratory of Carl and Gerty Cori, who shared the Nobel Prize in Medicine for 1947. After Cohn performed pioneering work in nuclear magnetic resonance. She also made major advances in identifying the structure of adenosine triphosphate.

In 1966, Cohn was named a member of the National Academy of Sciences. She died on April 25, 2009.

Morris Kenton King

Morris Kenton King, HS '55, former dean of the School of Medicine, died Thursday, October 15, 2009.

In 1943, King joined the U.S. Navy in World War II and participated in the Battle of Okinawa. He was promoted to lieutenant before his discharge in 1946. He completed his residency at Washington University in 1957 before becoming professor of preventive medicine and public health. King served as dean from 1965 until 1989 and was one of the longest-serving medical deans in the United States. He also championed a dramatic change in the composition of the student body, in favor of more minority and female students.

After leaving the university, King remained on the faculty. The medical school later recognized him with the Second Century Award.

Edwin G. Krebs

Edwin G. Krebs, MD '43, a Nobel Prize-winning scientist, died Monday, December 21, 2009.

After graduating from Washington University's School of Medicine, Krebs became a medical officer with the U.S. Army during World War II. When he returned, he joined the faculty of the University of Washington's School of Medicine in 1948.

In the 1950s, Krebs and a colleague, Edmond Fisher, discovered that enzymes that help release energy from cells can be inhibited and deactivated by the presence of phosphate. Their findings did not receive much attention until years later when more scientists discovered that phosphates are a key regulator of many cellular activities and the human body's metabolic processes.

Scientists now know that problems with regulatory processes are partly the source of disorders like cancer, diabetes, nerve diseases, and heart conditions.

Krebs received the 1992 Nobel Prize in Medicine for his work. In 1995, he received an honorary doctorate from Washington University.

E. Desmond Lee

E. Desmond Lee, BSBA '40, St. Louis businessman, civic leader, and philanthropist, died Tuesday, January 12, 2010.

While attending Washington University, Lee was captain of the basketball team. He then joined the U.S. Army during World War II and served as a captain. After returning to St. Louis, Lee co-founded Lee-Rowan Co. The manufacturing company later evolved into a wire-shelving business.

In 1993, Lee sold the firm and created the E. Desmond Lee Foundation. Through his foundation, he donated to and served on the boards of numerous civic organizations, including the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, the St. Louis Zoo, and the Missouri Botanical Garden. He also funded scholarships at a number of local universities.

Lee founded the Des Lee Collaborative Vision, a program that endows professorships at three universities in St. Louis, including Washington University. These professors must spend a significant amount of their time working within the community.


Morris D. Marcus

Morris D. Marcus, MD '34, former chief of dermatology at the old Jewish Hospital, died Sunday, August 23, 2009.

At the age of 99, Marcus was the last surviving member of the School of Medicine Class of 1934. He served as chief of dermatology for 51 years. He also was a clinical professor of medicine.

At the University, Marcus established the Morris D. Marcus Lecture in Dermatology, the Margaret Marcus Dance Fund in memory of his wife, and the Annelise Metz Dance Studio in the Edison Theatre complex.

In 1999, the Washington University Medical Center Alumni Association presented Marcus with the Alumni/Faculty Award in recognition of his distinguished record of teaching and service.

Warren M. Shapleigh

Warren M. Shapleigh, a longtime member of the Board of Trustees, died Sunday, November 1, 2009.

Shapleigh served in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1946. He then joined his family's business, Shapleigh Hardware, where he became vice president of buying and merchandising. He joined Ralston Purina in 1961 and served as president from 1972 to 1978. Elected to Washington University's Board of Trustees in 1966, Shapleigh served for 14 years before becoming emeritus in 1980. His involvement at the University extended beyond being a trustee, however. In 1987, he joined the School of Architecture's National Council and served as its chair from 1989 to 1998. He received the Dean's Medal from the School of Architecture in 1998.

He also helped spearhead the fundraising initiative for what would become the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, serving in early 2000 as a leadership chair for the School of Architecture in the Campaign for Washington University.
When Washington University began searching for a law school dean five years ago, Kent Syverud began to re-establish himself as a full-time teacher. Syverud stepped down as dean of Vanderbilt University's law school in 2005, and he looked forward to focusing solely on his professorial duties. Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, however, envisioned something entirely different.

Syverud had served with Wrighton on an accreditation panel for another university earlier that year, and the two developed a good rapport. Wrighton says the timing was perfect. "Kent Syverud emerged as the finest leader in legal education in America at the time of our need for a new dean," Wrighton says. The chancellor urged Syverud to apply for the position, and by summer 2005, Syverud welcomed the possibility. He took office as dean and the Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor the following January.

Four years into the job, Syverud and the School exemplify progress. Keeping atop national rankings, the School now features unique programs in Europe and Asia, impressive new faculty hires (15 tenured or tenure-track to date), and a revamped career office. Outside the law school, Syverud ushered a multifaceted partnership with the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., and developed University-wide academic programs in the nation's capital.

What convinced Syverud to take the job? "From my knowledge of Mark Wrighton, I was willing at least to talk to them," Syverud remembers. The more he learned, the more Syverud says he became impressed by the dramatic ascent of the School of Law and of the University as a whole in recent years. He also saw an opportunity to drive real change. "It felt as if I wouldn't be going to a place where I would be presiding, but rather where I'd be making a difference," Syverud says.

Syverud came to St. Louis looking for challenges. He found plenty. The School of Law had briefly broken into *U.S. News & World Report*'s list of the nation's top 20 programs but fell to 24th before he arrived. Syverud needed to get the School back into the top 20 and keep it there—and to do so in the midst of a historic recession. He quickly built a reputation as a hands-on leader with an ambitious agenda. (Syverud's wife, Ruth Chen, found challenges at the University as well. A professor of practice in the Department of Energy, Environmental, & Chemical Engineering in the School of Engineering & Applied Science, Chen also helps lead international..."
exchange programs to enhance the global experience of undergraduate engineering students.)

Colleagues say Syverud, who continues to publish regularly on the topic of legal education, stood out early for his commitment to excellence in teaching. "Dean Syverud brought to this school literally a reverence for teaching, and that reflects in everything from faculty hires and retention to his own teaching," says David Becker, the Joseph H. Zumbalen Professor Emeritus of the Law of Property. Syverud, who expects to teach negotiation, civil procedure, and insurance law to 250 students during the 2009–10 academic year, admits he is "notorious" for how much he teaches as dean.

He approaches his administrative duties in much the same way. Syverud has overseen a dramatic expansion of international programs. In 2008, for example, a transnational law program launched in which students split their education between Washington University and Utrecht University. This arrangement allows them to stand for licensure in both the United States and Europe. The law school also deepened ties with Asian institutions, such as Shanghai's Fudan University, and developed an Executive LLM Program in collaboration with Korea University.

At home, the School expanded both clinical education and empirical research—notably through the founding in 2006 of the Center for Empirical Research in the Law. The center is a joint venture with the Department of Political Science in Arts & Sciences, under Professor Andrew Martin. Syverud led an aggressive transformation of the law school's career office. The goal is to provide students with a robust resource, especially during the current economic situation when finding a job is an even greater challenge. To that end, faculty and staff devote more time to seeking opportunities for soon-to-be graduates, and Syverud himself spends a day each week building connections on their behalf. "We try to network individual students into positions rather than just emphasize career counseling," he says.

For Syverud, the recession has meant tough choices. "It's easy to be a dean in a time of plenty, because it's easier to say yes to everything and just see what succeeds," he says. But Syverud stresses the recession hasn't tempered the School's commitment to excellence and to expanding its offerings. Instead, it forced a greater focus on programs like clinical education that can give students a tangible advantage in the job market.

As part of his dedication to expanding opportunities for students, Syverud led efforts to establish a greater presence in Washington, D.C., for the law school and the University. In spring 2009, Chancellor Wrighton named Syverud associate vice chancellor for Washington, D.C., Programs, asking him to ensure a sustained commitment to Washington.

"The University allows autonomy for its really first-rate scholars; that's a great strength of the place," Syverud says. "Inspiring them to work together, though, sometimes presents a challenge, but it really happens here."

Last year, Syverud and his team secured a partnership between the University and Washington's Brookings Institution under which the two institutions jointly fund research, conferences, faculty exchanges, and student fellowships. Separately, Syverud helped with negotiations to have the University's Olin Business School begin managing Brookings' Center for Executive Education. "Kent has the right sensibility in terms of how to create value for students," says Jackson Nickerson, the business school's Frahm Family Professor of Organization and Strategy, who directs the new Brookings executive education partnership. "He has been a tireless champion for the entire University," adds Mahendra Gupta, Olin's dean.

Finally, Syverud is expanding existing opportunities for law students in the capital and helping to develop year-round academic programs in Washington for the entire University beginning in fall 2010. Syverud, who also credits Pamela Lokken, vice chancellor for government and community relations, and Torna Mersmann, associate dean of the law school, with leading the D.C. effort, says he hopes to have 100 students placed in government agencies, the White House, and advocacy groups each semester within three years. "We'd like for this to be a bridge for students looking for permanent careers in Washington," he says.

From the start, Syverud's career has been punctuated by happy accidents. A scholarship to study economics required him to attend law school, where he discovered his passion for the law. That led to a clerkship with Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and a coveted position at Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering. Later, prodding from mentors—and a month as a litigator during which he never saw his two young children awake—convinced Syverud to pursue an academic career.

Syverud never expected to be a lawyer or a law professor, much less to become one of the country's best-respected law school deans. He nearly left his career as a university leader behind before coming to Washington University. Luckily for the School of Law, Syverud keeps defying his own expectations. 

David Bario is a freelance writer based in St. Louis and a former staff reporter for The American Lawyer magazine.
Over the Moon  Researchers from Earth & Planetary Sciences in Arts & Sciences are leading an effort to return to the Moon (seen over Ridgley Hall above) for samples that could unlock secrets of the early Solar System. The proposed Moon mission, known as MoonRise, is one of three finalists now bidding to become NASA's next big space science venture in its ongoing New Frontiers program. In 2011, after detailed mission implementation, feasibility, cost, and management and technical plans are completed and reviewed, NASA will select one proposal for full development and launch. For more information, visit http://news-info.wustl.edu/news/page/normal/15260.html.