DISTANT DISCOVERIES

Planetary scientist William McKinnon provides an inside look at New Horizons’ spectacular flyby of Pluto.
“As exciting as the physical redevelopment of the east end of campus is, we’re doing this for our people, our faculty and students — to give the university capacity to expand key academic programs and create opportunities for greater interdisciplinary interaction.”

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton

FEATURES

12 DISCOVERING NEW HORIZONS
Nearly 10 years ago, planetary scientist Bill McKinnon, PhD, and a team of scientists launched a spacecraft on a 3-billion-mile journey to explore the limits of our solar system.

20 FROM CHARITY TO CHANGE
The Civic Scholars Program exemplifies the renewed mission of the Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement: to develop engaged citizens and build strong communities.

26 CAMPUS NEXT
In 2017, the university will begin the largest capital project in the recent history of the Danforth Campus, transforming the east end to align with the university’s core academic missions.

32 FIRST IN CLASS
Alumnus James L. Sweatt III, MD ’62, was the first African American to graduate from the medical school.

DEPARTMENTS

2 Letter From the Chancellor
3 First Look
4 Frontrunners: News, Three Questions, Quoted, Digital, Six Tips
36 Classnotes: Profiles, In Memoriam, In Remembrance
54 Alumni Activities
56 Leading Together: Campaign Update, My Washington
60 Lasting Impression

COVER FEATURE: On Jan. 19, 2006, Professor William McKinnon and a team of scientists launched a spacecraft, New Horizons, from Cape Canaveral, Florida. On July 14, 2015, after nine and a half years, New Horizons reached its destination — Pluto — some 3 billion miles away. Over the next year, the spacecraft will continue sending data collected during the 22-hour flyby back to Earth. So far, the much-anticipated information has been worth the wait, pg. 12. (Cover image & above: James Byard, shot at the James S. McDonnell Planetaryarium, courtesy of Saint Louis Science Center; projected image of blue haze around Pluto, collected during the 22-hour flyby back to Earth.)

CONCEPTUAL VIEW:
East end of Danforth Campus redevelopment, pg. 26 (Michael Vergason Landscape Architects)

Civic Scholar Pia Marcus, AB ’13, is a fellow of HIPS, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit, where she works to provide respectful, nonjudgmental harm-reduction services to those impacted by sexual exchange or drug use, pg. 20.
On a Mission

We began the new academic year with a lively Convocation (picture at right) on August 20, when we welcomed 1,734 new students and their parents and family members to the Washington University community. The Class of 2019 is bright, talented and diverse. Members come from 23 countries and all 50 states. And 18 percent are underrepresented minority students, which is up from 11 percent last year.

We are making progress on our commitment to make a Washington University education accessible and affordable, regardless of a student’s financial circumstances. The incoming class this year shows another year-over-year increase in the fraction of students who are Pell Grant-eligible, up to over 11 percent compared to about 8 percent last year. Continued progress in strengthening socioeconomic diversity depends on enhancing financial aid resources and attracting talented students from all segments of society to our applicant pool.

During Convocation, we talked about goals. Our new students join our university not to compete with each other, but to set their own goals as undergraduate, graduate and professional students — and programs as examples of how we bring benefits to our region, nation and world.

In this issue, we showcase a few of our most outstanding people — faculty, students, alumni and friends — and programs as examples of how we bring benefits to our region, nation and world.

Doubtless you have heard about the long-awaited flyby of Pluto by NASA’s New Horizons spacecraft this past summer. But you may not have heard that one of our own faculty, William McKinnon, is a key contributor to the mission. He dreamed of exploring the outer limits of our solar system some 25 years ago, and he has worked in collaboration with other leading scientists to make that dream a reality. Alumni are contributing to the mission, too, including Kelsi Singer, MA ’08, PhD ’13. As a graduate student, Singer was inspired by McKinnon’s dream and made studying Pluto her own life’s work.

Washington University students contribute to society in many ways during their time at the university. The Richard A. Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement provides the infrastructure to support student engagement. At its 10-year anniversary, the Gephardt Institute has a renewed mission, and its Civic Scholars are leading the way, developing into engaged citizens who are helping build strong communities.

Ever focused on our people and programs, the university is planning a two-year project of unprecedented scope that will transform the east end of the Danforth Campus. Set to begin after Commencement in 2017, the plan involves two new academic buildings; two multi-use pavilions; a new entrance to Kemper Art Museum; terraces and courtyards; and an 800-car, two-level underground parking garage. The project will enhance the campus for faculty and students — and give the university capacity to expand key academic programs and create opportunities for greater interdisciplinary education and research.

A recent model highlighting the university’s resolve for greater interdisciplinary interaction is the Thomas and Jennifer Hillman Hall for the Brown School, which we dedicated October 2. Hillman Hall promotes faculty, student and staff interaction and enhances Brown’s ability to engage community partners and stimulate dialogue among social work, public health and policy experts.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Washington. As always, we welcome your comments and ideas; email the editor at wuslmageditor@wustl.edu. Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Wrighton
Chancellor
A New Dean With Old Ties at the School of Medicine

David H. Perlmutter, MD, has been named executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He succeeded Dean Larry Shapiro, MD, on Dec. 1, 2015. Perlmutter previously was the Vira I. Heinz Endowed Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

He also was physician-in-chief and scientific director of Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Under his tenure, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh saw a six-fold increase in NIH funding and hired more than 300 medical faculty members, making it one of the fastest-growing pediatric research programs in the nation.

Perlmutter also has personal experience at Washington University. He was a faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics for 15 years before leaving the university in 2001. “I spent most of my early career as a physician-scientist here and treasured my time.”

Giving Convicts Second Chances

Some 600,000 inmates are released from prison every year across the United States, most returning as societal outcasts. Carrie Pettus-Davis, PhD, assistant professor at the Brown School, is working to help improve their chances of reintegrating into society.

Pettus-Davis was recently appointed the head of the Concordance Institute for Advancing Social Justice, an expansion of the St. Louis-based nonprofit COPE, which will be housed at the Brown School. Her research will focus on reducing recidivism, creating services for criminal-justice-involved adults and writing evidence-based public policy statements.

Pettus-Davis is also the faculty director of the Decarceration Initiative at the Brown School’s Center for Social Development. She spearheaded the Smart Decarceration Initiative Conference, which brought together experts from across the country in September 2015 to discuss how to change the mass-incarceration culture in our country into a more affordable, less racially biased criminal justice system.

Siteman Earns Top Ranking

This summer, the National Cancer Institute ranked Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine “exceptional,” the highest rating. Siteman earned this rating based on a site visit and the cancer teams’ recent innovations, including:

- Clinical trials of vaccines against breast cancer and melanoma
- Community-based research helping eliminate cancer disparities
- Goggles that help surgeons see cancer cells in the operating room

A Link Between Diabetes and Alzheimer’s

A study out of Washington University School of Medicine provides new evidence that Alzheimer’s disease may be linked to elevated blood sugar. The study, published in May in the Journal of Clinical Investigation, showed that elevated glucose in the blood of mice can rapidly increase levels of amyloid beta, a key element of brain plaques in Alzheimer’s patients.

“The results suggest that diabetes, or other conditions that make it hard to control blood-sugar levels, can have harmful effects on brain function and exacerbate neurological conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease,” says lead author Shannon Macauley, PhD, a postdoctoral research scholar. “The link we’ve discovered could lead us to future treatment targets that reduce these effects.”

Shaping Privacy Policy Abroad

Neil Richards, JD, professor of law, a noted expert on data ethics and intellectual freedom, saw his ideas become policy when 50 international organizations and global experts signed The Hague Declaration on Knowledge Discovery in the Digital Age in May 2015. (The number of organizations now exceed 200.)

The declaration is partly based on his work. Richards, along with other experts, consulted with the Association of European Research Libraries to help draft the declaration.

“I’m proud to be a signatory of the Hague Declaration as well as a participant in its creation,” Richards says. “The declaration seeks to give researchers the ability to access facts, data and ideas to help us find answers to the massive social problems that universities around the world are working on.”
A Sensitive Prosthetic

Although the nearly 2 million people in the United States who have lost a limb today have a lot of high-tech prosthetic options, no prosthetic can give back sensation in the hand to individuals who have lost an arm.

“If they’re holding a cup of coffee and they are distracted and look away, they have no idea of the orientation of their hand, and very quickly the hand will tip and coffee will spill all over the floor,” says Daniel Moran, PhD, professor of biomedical engineering in the School of Engineering & Applied Science. Moran, who is also a professor of neurobiology, of physical therapy and of neurological surgery at Washington University School of Medicine, is hoping to remedy the deficiency with help from a $1.9 million grant from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). The DARPA grant will allow Moran to test a micro-sieve peripheral nerve interface, a device he and his team created to allow people wearing a prosthetic arm to feel hot and cold through their prosthetic hands.

The device, called “Luke Arm” after Luke Skywalker, a character from Star Wars who lost his arm in a fight with Darth Vader, will allow amputees to feel six different grips. According to Moran, the technology may be ready for use in as little as five years, giving upper-limb amputees — many of whom are military veterans — greater control over their prosthetic.

Meet Engineering’s New Dean

During his five years as dean of the School of Engineering & Applied Science, Ralph S. Quatrano, PhD, increased student enrollment by 20 percent, expanded graduate education and increased the school’s female faculty. At the end of the 2014-15 academic year, Quatrano stepped down.

Aaron Bobick, PhD, founding chair of the School of Interactive Computing at the Georgia Institute of Technology, took over the engineering school’s deanship July 1. Bobick, who was on sabbatical in Sweden during the school’s search and flew to Washington University twice for interviews, was impressed by the quality of the institution even before he arrived.

“I cannot imagine a more attractive opportunity than becoming the school’s dean,” he says. “I look forward to our continued growth in influence — not only on the university, but also on the country and around the globe, from both the innovations we produce and the student leaders we graduate.”

Here are three things you need to know about the new dean:

- He might build a terminator. Well, not exactly. Bobick’s research focuses on robot perception and human-robot collaboration.
- He knows what students want. At Georgia Tech, he helped develop a computational media bachelor’s degree program that attracted 300 majors in its first five years.
- Big surprise … he’s brilliant. He graduated from MIT, has a doctorate in cognitive science and has authored more than 80 academic papers.
Undergrad Is Missouri’s Youngest Elected Official

Two weeks after he turned 18, James (Jimmy) Loomis, Arts & Sciences Class of ’17, became Missouri’s youngest elected official. As the Clayton Township Democratic committeeman, he serves as a liaison between his township’s voters and the Democratic Party.

Loomis’ political life started in 2006, when he watched the documentary An Inconvenient Truth. “At the end, there was a call to action, and I figured I’m just as responsible as anyone else for doing something to solve this problem,” Loomis says. He was 12 when he successfully petitioned the Ladue City Council to create a recycling program. In high school, Loomis joined political groups like the Missouri Progressive Action Group, helped on re-election campaigns for U.S. Rep. Lacy Clay and Sen. Claire McCaskill, and served as McCaskill’s Senate page in Washington, D.C. In 2014, he served as a campaign organizer for St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger.

Loomis started at Washington University in fall 2013, and he is double-majoring in political science and Mandarin Chinese.

How did you get affiliated with the Democratic Party?
I don’t come from a background of Democrats, but when I was at an age when I could evaluate which political party aligned most with my views on issues, I determined that the Democratic Party came the closest. I proudly stand strong as a Democrat today because I believe in the inherent value of government as a force for good with the power to advance society forward in a way that other ideologies simply cannot.

Do you feel an extra special responsibility or burden in your position because of your youth?
Oh, definitely. First, it’s humbling just being so young and knowing that I represent politically active youth, and that my actions reflect on that greater perception of my cohorts. But I am also proving that I can play in the big leagues and am just as capable as anyone else. Though I might not be as experienced, I am still there for a reason, and it’s because I love what I do just as much as anyone else, young or old.

What do you think had the biggest impact on you politically?
Without a doubt serving as a Senate page. On TV you see so much dysfunction in Washington, with both parties seeming to share a mutual disdain for each other. But in reality, it’s amazing to see them slapping each other on the back, joking, laughing and working together a lot of the time. That’s not what’s reported. But if you go there and see it, there’s a lot that goes on behind the scenes that you really have to appreciate.

Barbara Schaal:
I was in a basic “plants” class that mostly served the needs of non-science majors, but Professor Schaal made the class so engaging and relevant. And she was so representative of the university’s dedication to making research pioneers available to undergraduates.

Joe Loewenstein, AKA J. Loew:
His Shakespeare class was revelatory.

BARRY COMMONER, because you never knew what wild thing he’d say, so you never missed that 8 a.m. lecture. For example, “Pevely milk with the spring onion flavor was laced with Strontium 90 that would rot our bones if we insisted on swilling it.” He had an unforgettable teaching style that I remember clearly even at age 80!

— ALICE MAGOS, AB ’57
How to Improve Learning

1. Provide a road map.

Providing supportive material [such as diagrams and models] in advance can make a big difference in helping students grasp and lock in key concepts presented in a lecture. It shows them the basic framework or model of the concept that will be presented, so they can begin building it in their minds.

— Mark McDaniel, PhD

2. Be open-minded.

Students can have an enormous impact on creating a more inclusive learning environment by questioning assumptions that they may have about who “belongs” at an institution, in a specific discipline or in specific professions and roles. They can also understand that learning often involves a feeling of discomfort or consternation as they consider ideas and perspectives that are widely different from their own. Students can also be aware of their own comfort zones and push themselves to take on new challenges in how they learn and engage with others.

— Beth A. Fisher, PhD

3. Parents as educators.

Parents should remind their children that they are at school to learn from their teachers and their peers. Also, setting regular bedtime hours, reading to children every night and feeding them healthy food will help them shine in the classroom, no matter what the age. And don’t underestimate the importance of the arts. The arts are the other hand that must work together to aid learning. The research shows the connection between music, dance and art strengthening education.

— Institute for School Partnership staff

4. Learn how to learn.

Learning is an academic enterprise. Sitting in a classroom, taking notes and doing all the assigned homework by itself does not mean that students are learning. That becomes the input. It is what they do with that input that moves it into the realm of learning. Students also have to develop an open mindset. Some students go, “This is hard. I must not be ‘smart’ enough to do it.” And that comes out of a fixed mindset. But when they have an open mindset, they realize, “If I put some additional effort into it, then I can begin to break it down and begin to understand it.”

— Harvey Fields, PhD

5. Test yourself.

One of the most important things professors can do in the classroom to help students learning is retrieval practice. This is a broad term for techniques where students are required to “retrieve” information from their memory. This practice requires effort by the student. It is a form of self-testing that shows the student what he or she does not know or understand. To be more effective, this self-testing should be followed by discussion among the students to justify or explain their answers.

— Regina F. Frey, PhD

6. Connect with your teachers.

Communication with professors is essential. Were it not for my fantastic WashU faculty support system, I would not have enjoyed one-on-one experience with individuals who were clearly much more knowledgeable than I was in their respective areas. After making myself available to my professors, I realized they made themselves much more available to me.

— Lauren Henley, AB ’15

FACULTY EXPERTS

— Mark McDaniel, PhD, is a professor of psychology in Arts & Sciences and co-director of the university’s Center for Integrative Research on Cognition, Learning and Education.

— Beth A. Fisher, PhD, is director of academic services at the Teaching Center.

— The Institute for School Partnership helps improve teaching and learning in the local K–12 education community.

— Harvey Fields, PhD, is assistant director for academic programs at Cornerstone. The Center for Advanced Learning. He also directs the TRIO Student Support Services program.

— Regina F. Frey, PhD, is executive director of the Teaching Center, the Florence E. Moeg Professor of STEM Education and associate professor of chemistry in Arts & Sciences.

— Lauren Henley, AB ’15, is a former Ervin Scholar whose archival and primary source scholarship at Washington University earned her a competitive Binbeck Scholarship for graduate study. She is currently in a doctoral program in history at the University of Texas at Austin.

Storytelling Meets Research in Podcast Series by Arts & Sciences

“Heart of Texas” shows the connection between music, dance and memory and attraction. This year there will be series on global challenges, cognitive science and more.

“Hold That Thought,” a podcast series from Arts & Sciences at Washington University produced by Sean Garcia, Rebecca King, Claire Navarro and Ebba Segerberg, editor of publications and digital outreach for Arts & Sciences, also acts as a host for “Hold That Thought.” She describes the series as “TED Talks” meets “This American Life.” “We take one academic idea and try to make it accessible and exciting for a wide range of listeners,” Navarro says. Each episode allows researchers and professors to describe their work in their own words, typically in 15 minutes or less. “They’re so passionate about what they do, and they want to explain these ideas and make it interesting for everyone,” Navarro says.

Wisessor’s episode was part of a series called “Into the Earth,” which dealt with climate change and underground mysteries. A series might include six or more episodes on one topic. Past topics have included language, William Shakespeare, American identities, and memory and attraction. This year there will be series on global challenges, cognitive science and more.

The podcasts, which can be found at holdthatthought.wustl.edu, as well as on iTunes, Stitcher, PRX and SoundCloud, offer a way to stay connected to research activities on campus and remain intellectually engaged.

“There’s such an amazing variety of research happening every day in Arts & Sciences,” Navarro says. “I can talk to a physicist one day and an anthropologist the next. It’s a real pleasure to bring these ideas to the university community and beyond.”
NEARLY TEN YEARS AGO, planetary scientist William McKinnon, PhD, and a team of scientists launched a spacecraft on a 3-billion-mile journey to explore the limits of our solar system. Here, he provides an inside look at New Horizons’ spectacular flyby of Pluto and its first discoveries coming into focus.

On July 4, 2015, at 1:54 p.m. EDT, the New Horizons spacecraft suddenly fell silent. It was a heart-stopping moment. The spacecraft, having spent more than nine years barreling through space, was only 10 days out from its flyby of the Pluto system.

New Horizons was carrying seven scientific instruments; a pinch of the ashes of Pluto’s discoverer, Clyde Tombaugh; a CD with the names of 430,000 Pluto fans — and the hopes and dreams of 35 scientists who had been waiting nearly half a lifetime to lay eyes on the ninth planet in the classical solar system.

Since plans for the mission had been originally made in 1989, planetary scientist William McKinnon, PhD, had married and raised three children, the youngest of whom is now a senior in high school, and bought and sold more than one home. Planetary scientists, commentators pointed out, are people who will work for delayed — very delayed — gratification.
“On Independence Day, the science team had the day off and was basically in barbecue land with the rest of America,” says McKinnon, professor of earth and planetary sciences in Arts & Sciences. “I was at my sister’s in Pennsylvania when I got the call that the spacecraft had ‘safed.’”

The spacecraft had fallen silent while it was loading the “core encounter program,” the all-important sequence of maneuvers it would execute as it zipped through the Pluto system at 30,000 miles per hour. What had gone wrong?

Within 30 minutes, an engineer at mission control at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland, not panicking, said, “I think I know what happened.” The primary computer had been uploading the core encounter, which was being radioed from Earth, at 30,000 miles per hour. What had gone wrong?

“It was just one little digit. But it was just one little digit. But...”

The clock slowed a little, because there was too much going on, an “autonomy rule” tripped, and the spacecraft safed — meaning it started spinning so that it could maintain its orientation in inertial space and point its antenna at Earth.

But this was supposition. If it were true, the “A-side” computer would switch control to the “B-side” computer, and the spacecraft would call home in 30 minutes or so. “And that’s exactly what happened,” McKinnon says. “All of a sudden it radioed, in effect, ‘Hello? What should I do?’”

So by the time McKinnon knew there was a crisis, the immediate crisis was over. “But we weren’t exactly sure what had happened. So we had an anxious evening and light sleep. But nothing indicated disaster — yet,” he says.

“Nevertheless, nothing was taken for granted from that point on.”

It took three days to write new code that would allow the spacecraft to rejoin the original timeline, to rigorously test the code on hardware simulators and to upload the core program again — tasks made more nerve-racking because of the 4.5-hour one-way travel time to Pluto at the speed of light.

The timeline was important because the spacecraft was about to attempt an elaborate series of rapid-fire pirouettes across the dance floor of the Pluto system. If it was off the mark, the instruments would be snapping photos and taking measurements of empty space rather than of Pluto and its moons.

So there was much rejoicing in Maryland when the screens at the Applied Physics Laboratory showed a zero turning over to a one, indicating that the core sequence had loaded and was beginning to execute.

“We were watching a whole bunch of numbers and words on a screen,” McKinnon says. “And there was one digit that was going to turn from a zero to a one. It was just one little digit. But it was going to say that the core sequence was now running. It was a great moment when that digit flipped.”

Seven days later, the signal dropped again — but this time it was by design. For the 22 hours on July 14 when New Horizons flew through the Pluto system, the spacecraft ran itself in order to upload data and images without interruptions.

As the big “Closest Approach Countdown Clock” ticked down to zero at the Applied Physics Laboratory, people were cheering and waving flags. But it was an “existential celebration,” McKinnon says, “because we had no idea whether the spacecraft had survived or was doing anything properly.”

In the evening, folks gathered as closely as they could to mission control because at 9 p.m. EDT the spacecraft was supposed to turn toward Earth and send back some engineering data saying it was alive, it had survived.

At 8:52 p.m. EDT, Alice Bowman, the missions operations manager (otherwise known as MOM), took a call coming in over the Deep Space Network, listened intently as various subsystems reported in (such and such was “nominal”), and then turned...
Above: Pluto’s surface sports a remarkable range of colors, enhanced in this view to a rainbow of pale hues.

“...Pluto really cooperated as well. ‘It could have been just a dead, craters ball, but no. Not only is it living, it is unlike anything we’ve seen anywhere else in the solar system.’

— William McKinnon

Scientists knew Pluto’s size (roughly), its density (also roughly) and that it had a nitrogen atmosphere. The Hubble telescope had taken some very fuzzy photographs of the object, which had been turned into a GIF that showed off Pluto’s strong colors and albedo patterns.

Together, this wasn’t much to go on. But McKinnon had made the icy bodies of the outer solar system his special field of study.

He had begun as a student of the rocky inner worlds, none like the others and none boring. In fact, many scientists expected Pluto to be a dead, cratered ball, but no. Not only is it living, it is unlike anything we’ve seen anywhere else in the solar system.

‘The sheer strangeness of these places, which became real worlds once we could see them, was fascinating to me. So I moved or less left the rocky inner worlds of the solar system behind and focused on the icy satellites of the outer solar system.’

Thirty years later, having studied Io, Europa, Ganymede, Callisto, Enceladus, Iapetus, Titan and Triton, among others, he had seen a lot of exotic ice worlds, none like the others and none boring.

When the website Astronomy Picture of the Day published a ‘last guess’ of what Pluto would look like a month before the flyby, McKinnon took one look and said he would be very disappointed if the guess was right.

The problem was there were so many craters everywhere, he says, which means that a planet is most likely dead, a scarred relict of early periods of heavy bombardment.

In fact, many scientists expected Pluto to be (mostly) dead. NASA press releases going into the future: ‘Pluto is geologically active, and Sputnik Planum is the source of the nitrogen.

Singer had always liked the icy satellites because the geology of ice, she says, ‘is a quirky version of geology,’ so she became McKinnon’s graduate student.

Under his direction, she studied many exotic features found on icy surfaces, including giant avalanches, jumbled crazy-quilt landscapes called chaos terrain, and circular trenches, called ring graben, that appear around large impact craters on Europa.

‘It’s amazing how much you can deduce about a planet from surface features like these,’ she says.

After Singer graduated from Washington University in 2013, she took a postdoctoral appointment at the Southwest Research Institute, home to Alan Stern, the principal investigator on the New Horizons mission, and she became part of the mission team. ‘I got one of those bumper stickers for myself then,’ she says.

With New Horizons still en route to Pluto, Singer and Stern took a moment to contemplate one of the biggest mysteries about Pluto: why it has an atmosphere.

Pluto has a thin nitrogen atmosphere, but it has barely enough mass to hang onto one and, in fact, continually loses it to space. Singer and Stern calculated that Pluto loses hundreds of tons of atmospheric nitrogen each hour.

That’s a lot of nitrogen. So the obvious question is, what resupplies the atmosphere? Singer and Stern looked carefully at several possibilities and concluded that the nitrogen must be coming from inside the planet, expelled by some kind of internal activity.

This was a big, risky prediction to make — especially right before the flyby, which would immediately prove or disprove their contention.

The two submitted their paper to Astrophysical Journal Letters and prayed for a quick turnaround. The planets and the editors aligned, and during the NASA press briefing July 15, the day after the flyby, Stern announced that the paper had been accepted for publication.

The images, as we now know, showed that Singer and Stern were right. Pluto is geologically active, and Sputnik Planum is the source of the nitrogen.

I now have a new bumper sticker, Singer says: ‘It states, ‘My other vehicle explored Pluto.”

A bumper sticker inspires

When Kelsi Singer, MA ’08, PhD ’13, arrived in St. Louis as a new graduate student, she noticed a car with the bumper sticker “My other vehicle is on its way to Pluto” outside the geology building. It was Bill McKinnon’s.

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NASA/JHUAPL/SwRI

ABOVE: Pluto’s surface sports a remarkable range of colors, enhanced in this view to a rainbow of pale hues.

2007 / JUPITER SLINGSHOTS NEW HORIZONS TOWARD PLUTO

3,463 days / TO REACH PLUTO... DISTANCE FROM EARTH: 4.87 BILLION MILES

7,800 miles / CLOSEST DISTANCE NEW HORIZONS GOT TO PLUTO

70 meters / SMALLEST SIZE NEW HORIZONS COULD SEE ON PLUTO
encounter called Pluto a “time capsule from the early solar system,” implying the dwarf planet died 4 billion years ago and was sort of a space mummy.

The argument was that Pluto was so small that it should have lost the primordial heat from its accretion, and the heat given off by radioactive elements in its interior would be feeble. No heat = no activity = no interesting geology.

But McKinnon was on record predicting Pluto would be a living planet. “Anybody who thinks that when we go to Pluto, we’re going to find a cold, dead ice ball either.

“Triton has volcanic calderas, geyser-like eruptions and mysterious cantaloupe terrain. We think Triton is a captured Kuiper Belt Object like Pluto,” McKinnon says. “It has the same density, the same bulk composition, the same surface ices as Pluto. They’re — well, not twins, not siblings — maybe kissing cousins.”

So the bets had been placed. *Rien ne va plus*, as the croupier says. And then July 13, just before beginning the flyby, New Horizons sent down the last “fail-safe” image of Pluto in case something adverse happened during the 22-hour close encounter.

The data showed it wasn’t Triton, but it wasn’t a cold, dead ice ball either.

The feature that drew all eyes was the “heart,” the left side of which was spectacularly uncratered. To be so smooth, this terrain had to be very young, at most 100 million years old, which meant that Pluto was geologically active or, at the very least, had been recently.

On July 15, the first detailed images of the heart — the heart of the heart — came down. At the next NASA news briefing, McKinnon put up an image (see photo directly above) of the edge of the “left ventricle” of the heart, provisionally called Sputnik Planum.

“We think the heart is a basin filled with solid — probably mostly solid — nitrogen and other volatile ices that are maybe miles thick,” McKinnon says. “The streamlines, which I’ve marked with curved arrows, look just like glacial flows on the Earth. Water ice at Pluto’s temperatures [surface temperature averages minus 380 degrees Fahrenheit] is immobile and brittle; it’s not moving anywhere. But the nitrogen ice, carbon monoxide ice and methane ice that make up the Planum are geologically soft and malleable, and will flow in the same way that glaciers do on Earth.”

What are the polygonal cells? “Our leading model is that there is internal convection; the nitrogen ice slowly rises in the centers of the polygons as it warms and sinks along their boundaries as it cools. As long as the ice is at least a half mile deep, we think that process can operate.”

But what is driving the convection? “No need to invoke special mechanisms,” McKinnon says. “Pluto contains a lot of rock, more rock by mass than ice. And if you have rock, you have radioactive decay, and the heat will leak out.” He explains that it may not be a vast amount of heat, but it doesn’t take a lot of heat to mobilize nitrogen ice.

Despite the glitch on July 4, the spacecraft performed spectacularly, and Pluto really cooperated as well. “It could have been just a dead, cratered ball, but no. Not only is it living, it is unlike anything we’ve seen anywhere else in the solar system,” McKinnon says.

“So nature once again has trumped us with its cleverness. That’s the lesson we learn over and over again as we explore the solar system: Nature’s imagination exceeds our own.”

Diana Lutz is the senior news director of science in Public Affairs.
When junior Lucy Chin arrived at Washington University in St. Louis, she set a Google reminder to apply for the Civic Scholars Program in 17 months. “That’s how much I knew I wanted to join this community,” says Chin, who is studying global health and the environment and American culture in the College of Arts & Sciences. “The Civic Scholars I met were so impressive. They were learning about social issues in the classroom, but they were also immersed in the community, doing the hard work.”

The Civic Scholars Program is one of the many ways the Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement develops engaged citizens and builds strong communities. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the Gephardt Institute serves as a resource both to community organizations that seek university partnership and to faculty, staff and students who want to collaborate with community organizations for teaching, research and service — to address critical social, economic and other issues.

Amanda Moore McBride, executive director of the Gephardt Institute, says she is particularly proud of the Civic Scholars Program, which just graduated its third cohort. “When I look at them, I see integrated individuals,” says McBride, the Bettie Bofinger Brown Associate Professor at the Brown School. “None of them say, ‘This is my work; this is my service.’ Rather it’s, ‘This is who I am in the world.’”

Thanks to a recent gift from business and civic leaders Maxine Clark and Bob Fox, the annual cohort of Civic Scholars will expand from eight to 20 students, including a subset of students who will study abroad. As part of the program, Civic Scholars complete two years of related academic course work, receive two years of intensive leadership training and carry out a civic project between their junior and senior year.

For next summer’s project, Chin will work to improve health-care literacy among low-income St./ uni00A0Louisans. In 2015, she coordinated 34 half-day experiences for Meet St. Louis, a new Gephardt Institute program that introduces freshmen to St. Louis’ neighborhoods, people and issues. Each experience, whether it was a visit to a St. Louis shelter for teenage moms or a tour of the rapidly
changing Forest Park Southeast neighborhood, included conversations with civic leaders and time for discussion and dialogue. “Those parts were key,” Chin says. “We didn’t want students to do a service project and just go back to their dorms; we wanted them to really think about this place that is now their home. What they do next is up to them; engagement can take a lot of different forms.”

To learn about what a few Civic Scholars “do next,” Washington magazine checked in with three members of the inaugural cohort to learn what civic and community engagement means to them.

Andreas Mitchell: Building meaningful relationships to make change

Andreas Mitchell, AB ’13 (anthropology), didn’t want to be a Civic Scholar.

“That’s not how I thought of myself,” Mitchell recalls. “To me, the word civic has always had this really boring connotation of bureaucrats and politicians. I didn’t want to be either of those things.”

Friends pushed Mitchell to apply anyway. Mitchell already was a leader in a number of student groups, including the Association of Mixed Students and Connect, that promote diversity and dialogue on campus.

Still, he was surprised to be accepted.

“When they interviewed me, they asked me, ‘How will you know if this program has been successful for you?’ Apparently I said, ‘Well, if I read the newspaper every day, that would be a win,’” Mitchell says. “I set the bar pretty low. But that’s different things civic engagement can take a lot of different form.”

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Today, Mitchell is a third-year medical student at Harvard Medical School where he is training to be a primary care physician. He does not, in fact, read the paper every day, but he stays informed through a variety of digital media, including daily feeds from NextDraft and the Marshall Project. He has organized a symposium on mass incarceration, has joined advocacy groups that address disparities in health care and has marched in “Black Lives Matter” protests. He considers these so-called extracurricular activities essential to his medical education.

“As a future doctor, I want to learn more about the populations I will be caring for. … I also want to build meaningful relationships.”

— ANDREAS MITCHELL

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“I want to be a primary care physician, but I also want to build meaningful relationships wherever I live and get involved in city or state government,” Mitchell says. “I think that would be a meaningful way to make change not only in my patients’ lives but also in the community.”

Pia Marcus: Supporting people where they are

Pia Marcus, AB ’13 (international studies and public health), has changed diapers at an orphanage in Morocco, facilitated sexual health education for youth in Uganda and worked with family farmers with malnourished children in Rwanda. But as protests erupted in Ferguson, Missouri, and beyond, Marcus wondered about conducting social justice work in America.

“The issue that I care about most were being debated miles and miles away,” says Marcus, then in Rwanda. “It made me think very hard about my role in my own country.”

So Marcus, a native of New York City, returned this summer to work as a Global Health Corps Fellow at HIP, which provides clinical and social services to sex workers and injection drug users in Washington, D.C. She coordinates the efforts of some 100 volunteers and travels day and night across the city in the HIP vans, distributing condoms, syringes and other safe-sex and injection equipment.

“We are focused on harm reduction, which is very different from a lot of international work where success is measured in lives saved,” Marcus says. “We take a nonjudgmental approach — people are going to do what people are going to do. So we support them where they are, whether that’s providing a condom or counseling. We can also be that first entry point into more supportive care, whether that’s connecting them to our in-house case management team or to another organization that can help them find a home or enter a rehab program. But our primary goal is to provide individuals with the resources and knowledge to reduce the risk of their behaviors.”

Marcus calls her HIP fellowship a crash course in our nation’s failure to address inequities in our
“We learned that you have to have that intellectual curiosity and eagerness to learn from others. That is one thing that unified all of us, no matter our background or interests.” — PETER BIRKE

Birke says that all sorts of interesting tensions exist. “Our job is to study the economic indicators and then talk with the stakeholders to see what sort of levers we have at our disposal to make an intervention,” Birke explains. His studies in economics prepared Birke to analyze the data. But his tenure as a Civic Scholar working with the St. Louis County government taught him the value of talking face-to-face with community members.

“We learned that you have to have that intellectual curiosity and eagerness to learn from others,” Birke says. “That is one thing that unified all of us, no matter our background or interests.”

After graduating from Washington University, Birke was selected as a New York City Urban Fellow where he studied the history and challenges of New York. He then worked at the city’s parks department before joining the newly created Innovation and Strategy office. Birke says New York City is a great laboratory to test innovative ideas. “I pursued this job in part because I wanted to understand how the same dynamics that I thought about while working in St. Louis County played out in a very different metropolis,” Birke says. Because New York is at the forefront of a lot of policy issues, we have the chance to really explore what a progressive city looks like, says Birke, who is from Madison, Wisconsin. “And because this city is such a bellwether in urban policy, a lot of the work we do here can help other cities.”

Birke says he plans to stay in New York for now. He supports Mayor Bill de Blasio’s vision for what a progressive city looks like. “I pursued this job in part because I wanted to understand how the same dynamics that I thought about while working in St. Louis County played out in a very different metropolis,” Birke says. Because New York is at the forefront of a lot of policy issues, we have the chance to really explore what a progressive city looks like, says Birke, who is from Madison, Wisconsin. “And because this city is such a bellwether in urban policy, a lot of the work we do here can help other cities.”

Peter Birke: Exploring ‘what a progressive city looks like’

Peter Birke, AB ’13 (economics), works in the Innovation and Strategy office of New York City’s Department of Small Business Services, which studies emerging economic development issues for the city. He is part of a strategic planning team that conducts research on challenges facing job seekers, small businesses and neighborhoods.

“You are looking at difficult puzzles with no clear answers; I think that’s the nature of policy work and government,” Birke says. “It is hard, but also very, very rewarding because you are impacting people’s lives.”

As a scholar of civic and community engagement, I have watched over the last five years as the mission of higher education has been challenged, and it has come at the same time that our communities have been challenged. From Ferguson to New York, Cleveland to Baltimore, we have been asked as institutions and as individuals to act toward a more just and equitable society. At Washington University, we recognize these challenges, acting on this moment to renew the charge of the newly constituted Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement.

Washington University has a rich legacy of community engagement, due in large part to the initiative and leadership of individual faculty, staff, students and alumni. The institute, originally founded as the Gephardt Institute for Public Service a decade ago, initially focused on developing the next generation of civic leaders. Today, we will still do this; however, the manner in which we do our work has shifted.

Crossing higher education, colleges and universities refer to a tripartite mission of teaching, research and service. The service mission has historically emphasized a charitable orientation, a focus on service. The shift occurring in higher education and at Washington University is toward a “civic mission” that embraces a problem-solving, partnership-based approach. A civic mission seeks to understand and benefit societal conditions by leveraging expertise and capacity across the university and does so in partnership with the community.

The renewed Gephardt Institute signals that civic and community engagement is valued across the entire institution — not just at the institute proper. We have been charged to sponsor a range of initiatives that catalyze connections between the community and the entire campus. All will have a mission of catalyzing informed and actively engaged citizens.

Our initiatives will include:

• Connecting community groups with Washington University students, staff and faculty who, through dialogue, can help expand capacity and solve problems.

• Emphasizing education and critical analysis before action through the new “Meet St. Louis,” student group advising and support to staff working with students across campus.

“Toward a Civic Mission: Involve, Evolve”

“Amanda Moore McBride, PhD

Executive Director, Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement

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“We have been charged to sponsor … initiatives that catalyze connections between the community and the entire campus … cultivating … actively engaged citizens.”

— AMANDA MOORE McBRIDE, PHD

• Growing resources and technical assistance for faculty who want to connect their classroom content to the community to promote students’ real-world learning.

• Assessing the impacts of Washington University’s community engagement through research efforts involving both faculty and community partners.

The renewed institute underscores the larger difference in approach — across a continuum from charity to change, from “for” to “with,” from quantity of engagements to quality, from short-term to long-term.

This work is not easy, but it is work well worth doing. It will require us all. We believe that by partnering with community, the civic involvement of Washington University students, faculty, staff and alumni can evolve stronger communities. As a member of the Washington University community, consider how you can become involved. — Amanda Moore McBride, PhD
Campus Next
Enhancing the east end of the Danforth Campus

In 2017, Washington University in St. Louis will begin the largest capital project in the recent history of the Danforth Campus, transforming the east end to align with the university’s core academic mission of groundbreaking discovery, research and teaching.

The east end is the last major area of the Danforth Campus available for significant development. This project will create two new academic buildings, two multi-use pavilions, an underground parking garage and a transformative landscape. These enhancements will give the university capacity to expand key academic programs, create opportunities for greater interdisciplinary interaction and transform the entrance to campus — fostering a deeper programmatic and physical link with the rest of the campus and Forest Park.

Through this project, the university is converting an area that has been dominated by parking lots into a hub for state-of-the-art research and academic facilities and a vibrant green space.

The Danforth Campus is integral to our 162-year history and intertwined with the history of St. Louis. Since 1905, its east end — topped by iconic Brookings Hall — has been the university’s front door.

In May 2017, a comprehensive landscape and architectural plan will spring into action, with particular focus on academic expansion and the overall campus experience.

With its planning history as a foundation, the enhancements to the east end of the Danforth Campus will include a focus on improved physical connections to Forest Park, inspired by the 1895 Olmsted plan. This east end plan also maintains the ceremonial entry of the Brookings Allée created by the 1900 Cope & Stewardson plan.

“For many years, we have envisioned ways to harness the potential of this prominent part of the Danforth Campus. The comprehensive plan approved by the Board of Trustees not only embraces our history and tradition — with roots grounded in the original concept design from the 1900s — it also has an eye toward the future, furthering our role as a world-class teaching and research institution. We are excited to see this vision become a reality.”

— Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton
The east end plan will include new major buildings for the School of Engineering & Applied Science and the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, providing capacity to meet evolving needs and cultivating more collaboration between disciplines.

A WELCOME CENTER AND THE HUB: Two New Interdisciplinary Pavilions Framing Brookings Hall

The Welcome Center and the Hub multi-use pavilions will allow people to get to know Washington University and make important connections, whether on a first visit to campus or at lunch with classmates and colleagues. Both facilities will welcome visitors throughout the day.

The Welcome Center will offer all visitors a home base for their campus experience, and it will house Undergraduate Admissions for assisting prospective students and their families.

The Hub, open to the campus and broader community, will bring together dining, an outdoor café, alternative transportation support and academic programming, which will likely include the environmental studies program and the Office of Sustainability.

B HENRY A. AND ELVIRA H. JUBEL HALL: A New Building for the School of Engineering & Applied Science

Set to house the Department of Mechanical Engineering & Materials Science in the School of Engineering & Applied Science, Jubel Hall will offer infrastructure and research facilities that are key to fostering the interdisciplinary nature of engineering. At Washington University, engineering faculty and students collaborate across converging disciplines to focus on medicine and health, energy and the environment, and security: In this building, mechanical engineers will work closely with physicists, chemists, biologists, and chemical and biomedical engineers to promote the convergence of mechanics, materials science and nanotechnology.

C ANABETH AND JOHN WEIL HALL: A New Building for the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts

Weil Hall will be a symbol of the university’s commitment to creativity in the 21st century and identify the Sam Fox School as a leader in design practice and education. This new front door to the Sam Fox School will express the important roles for art and architecture in a research university and will help guide the future of these disciplines. Beautifully crafted and fundamentally sustainable, Weil Hall will be an inspiring place for advanced scholarship, creative activity, innovative research and bold experimentation as faculty and students seek solutions to critical social and environmental challenges.

D MILDRED LANE KEMPER ART MUSEUM: A New Lobby & Additional Gallery Space

An addition on the north side of the Kemper Art Museum will establish a transparent and welcoming entry for the community as well as create additional gallery space to showcase a larger portion of the museum’s world-class collection. The project will include renovations integrating the Florence Steinberg Weil Sculpture Garden into the landscape of the east end of the Danforth Campus.
A WELCOMING ENTRANCE
Landscaping will honor the historical design of the Danforth Campus and reflect the character of Forest Park, offering an enhanced, tree-lined frame of Brookings Hall. Pedestrian access will be improved into and across the Danforth Campus. The landscape design will bring nearly all of the east end to the same elevation, offering a more accessible entrance to the university. It also will offer enhanced visibility of the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum and public programs at the Brown School and other campus venues.

A nearly 800-space underground parking garage will include two campus circulator shuttle stops. This garage, which will allow for the removal of surface parking and vehicular traffic from the east end, will make it possible for the building and landscaping projects to proceed and will ensure a safer and more pleasant pedestrian experience across campus. Vehicles will be able to enter the new underground garage from Forsyth Boulevard and Forest Park Parkway, and a vehicular drop-off area will be accessible from Skinker Boulevard.

PLACES TO GATHER, CELEBRATE
At the heart of the development of the east end of the Danforth Campus will be a beautiful and inviting new gathering place, the Central Green. New terraces near the School of Engineering & Applied Science and the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts will connect to the Central Green. This expanded green space will offer a tree-framed view of Brookings Hall and easy connections between the engineering and Sam Fox schools. Art and sculpture will be thoughtfully integrated into the landscape design. Buildings facing the Central Green will have “active edges,” blurring the line between indoor and outdoor spaces through window-filled, ground-level floors and the placement of shade trees and movable furniture.

The east end will truly be transformatively, creating a more collaborative, welcoming space. Stay tuned for more in the months to come.
THOUGH he doesn’t consider himself a pathfinder, James L. Sweatt helped integrate some of the country’s top institutions, including Washington University School of Medicine.

BY ROSALIND EARLY

First in Class

Though he doesn’t consider himself a pathfinder, James L. Sweatt helped integrate some of the country’s top institutions, including Washington University School of Medicine.

JAMES L. SWEATT III, MD ’62, a trim man with cotton-white hair and a deep voice, laughs as he thinks back to his admission interview with Washington University’s School of Medicine. “I had the impression for years that it was routine for all the professors of the departments in the medical school to sit around and quiz applicants for admission,” he says. “I think it was the 25th or 50th Reunion when I found out that everyone else had been seen by one person and that was that.”

The year was 1958, and though the School of Medicine had been integrated since 1947 (several months before President Truman’s Commission on Higher Education called on states to repeal laws requiring segregation in education), only one African American had previously matriculated there, and he had dropped out.

Sweatt didn’t know that he could potentially become the school’s only black student and first black to graduate. No medical school had interviewed him before, so when he arrived and saw all the professors, he took it in stride.

When he found out years later that he’d gone through a more rigorous interview than his white classmates, he took that in stride too. “I was the first one through, so I guess they were just trying to make certain that I was going to use the King’s English,” he says. “They accepted me before my holiday break was over. They sent me a telegram.”

When Harvard Medical School asked him to come in for an interview, Sweatt politely declined, saying he was going to Washington University.

Growing up in segregated schools

James L. Sweatt was born in 1937 and grew up in North Dallas on Thomas Avenue, the main drag for North Dallas’ black community. His family later moved to the newly built Southern Terrace apartments in South Dallas.

“I was behind the move. My mother was a teacher in the school I was attending, and I caught hell from the other kids,” Sweatt chuckles. “She taught eighth grade, and I was scheduled to go there. I told her ‘uh-uh, I am not going to be taught by you.’”

Sweatt’s parents were divorced, and he lived with his mother while his father worked as a high school principal in Galveston, Texas.

Dallas was still a segregated city. “Whites Only” signs peppered the landscape well into the 1950s. Downtown, blacks were allowed to buy clothes in the department store, but they weren’t allowed to try them on.

When Sweatt was in elementary school, his uncle, Heman Marion Sweatt, integrated the University of Texas Law School. Heman had applied to UT but was denied entry. The university’s president, Theophilus Painter, told Heman privately that his credentials should have gained him admission. The school cited segregation laws as the basis for denying him entry, and Heman (with the help of the NAACP) filed suit against Painter in the spring of 1946.

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Sweatt vs. Painter made it all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which decided in June 1950 that students were not given an equal quality law education in the state of Texas, and, therefore, UT would have to admit qualified black applicants. That fall, Heman registered for classes.

“I was proud,” Sweatt says. But his uncle, who died in 1982, struggled at UT. The court cases had taken a toll on Heman’s health, and his marriage broke up while he was in school. Largely ostracized, and with external pressure mounting, Heman dropped out in 1952. (Later, Heman’s heroism was recognized. The courthouse where he filed his suit was named in his honor.)

Despite his uncle’s efforts, Sweatt still went to segregated schools, first interacting with whites when he was in high school and got a job as a dishwasher at a medical facility.

After graduation, Sweatt was planning on attending Lincoln University, an all-black school in Pennsylvania. But that changed when a representative from the National Negro Scholarship Society and Fund (NNSSF) traveled through the South testing black high school students to see if they could compete in integrated East Coast schools. Sweatt and two of his friends took the test; all three passed.
“I was the only one who took advantage of it,” Sweatt says, “though I can’t say that I looked upon myself as someone doing the same thing as Uncle Heman.”

Sweatt was handed a list of colleges where the NNSSF offered scholarships, and he got into Middlebury College. Middlebury also offered a scholarship, so he decided to go, sight unseen, to the small liberal arts school in Vermont.

“I felt out of place; it was all so different,” Sweatt recalls. Though there were two African-American upperclassmen, Sweatt didn’t have much interaction with them. Plus, Sweatt was behind academically. In one math course, “the professor started talking when I first walked in the room about the function of x. I’d had algebra, but this was calculus. I was lost.”

He flunked the first round of exams because he hadn’t studied. So, Sweatt buckled down and found study partners to help him.

“The whole purpose [of the NNSSF] was to integrate the schools on the East Coast and to prove that kids from down South could come up North and compete with kids from the prep schools,” Sweatt says. “Lord only knows that first year I had help from some of those kids from the prep schools.

Studying paid off. “I have been drunk exactly one time in my life, and that was after I took the second round of exams,” Sweatt says. “I walked out of there, and I knew I had aced every one of those doggone things. And I drank 12 cans of malt liquor.”

“It didn’t affect me much, because by that time I had learned that study is required. So I was determined to study hard.”

Deciding to become a surgeon

Sweatt doesn’t remember who recommended Washington University to him, but he applied and was asked to interview. Since money was tight, he made St. Louis a stop on his way home for Christmas break. He didn’t stay to see the city during the visit, he was trying to get home to see a girl — his future wife, Mary Lois Hudson, whom he was escorting to a debutante ball.

When he arrived in St. Louis the following fall, he realized that he was the only black student in the medical school and that St. Louis was still a segregated city.

“It didn’t affect me much, because by that time I had learned that study is required. So most of my time was spent on the campus or in the buildings affiliated with it, which weren’t segregated,” he says.

Washington University School of Medicine integrated in spring 1947 when Lawrence Post, MD, an ophthalmology professor, discovered that he had inadvertently admitted an African American to a three-week postgraduate course. Since the university’s trustees were worried about the nation’s shortage of black physicians at the time, they announced the School of Medicine was desegregated. The School of Work desegregated that December, and the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences followed in May 1948.

But the medical school was slow to admit blacks. Only two matriculated in a 10-year span.

“I think there was much goodwill in the school,” Sweatt said in a 1983 Outlook article. “More impetus was added later, certainly by the catalyst of Martin Luther King Jr. and the School of Medicine was certainly trying to become integrated.”

Sweatt remembers encountering bigotry only twice: once, when he and his friends went to a movie, and he wasn’t let in; another time when they went to a restaurant that refused to serve him.

Though he was the only black student, Sweatt did interact with black doctors. His uncle connected him with a black surgeon in St. Louis, William Sinkler, MD, who worked at Homer G. Phillips, the public black public hospital in St. Louis, where Sweatt had rounds.

“I thought they were sending me over to Homer G. Phillips because I am black,” Sweatt says. “That might have been why. I’m not certain. But it certainly helped to know that there were people around who were black and doing well.”

During this time, Sweatt decided to become a surgeon, though specializing in cardiothoracic surgery came later. He remembers being inspired by Harvey Butcher, MD, who told his class not to be intimidated about going into surgery because it was mostly about mastering the techniques and being good with your hands.

“I thought, ‘Yeah, that sounds pretty good,’” Sweatt remembers, “and so I went into surgery.”

When Sweatt graduated in 1962, he was still the only black student at the school. It would be 10 years before another black student, Julian James L. Sweatt III, became the first African-American to graduate from the Washington University medical school.

Breaking down barriers

Sweatt continued his medical career, completing an internship at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital followed by two years of required service as a flight surgeon in the U.S. Air Force. After the service, Sweatt became a resident at the University of Colorado Medical Center. As a third-year resident, Sweatt conducted research on heart valve replacement and did mitral valve surgeries in the tuberculosis unit at Colorado’s National Jewish Hospital. Sweatt enjoyed the work and decided to go into cardiothoracic surgery.

Throughout his programs after Washington University were integrated, Sweatt didn’t seem to be breaking down barriers. He completed his residency at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and then opened a private practice. In 1975, early in his career, Sweatt was the first black to be appointed to the board of directors of Dallas’ Parkland Memorial Hospital.

Sweatt shuns off the appointment, saying that it came through a golfing buddy. He also explains away his joining the Dallas County Medical Society. “I went out just so I’d know how best to set up my practice and how best to submit my statements for payment to the insurance company or to Medicare or Medicaid,” he says.

However, in 1995, he became the first African-American president of the Dallas County Medical Society. He went on, in 2000, to be appointed to the Texas State University System Board of Regents by then Gov. George W. Bush.

Sweatt enjoys talking about the medicine more than his accomplishments, explaining the challenges and changes in thoracic surgery well enough that even a layperson can follow along. Throughout his career, Sweatt made a point of staying up to date on best practices, completing more than 40 medical continuing education classes.

As for breaking down barriers, “I never got into it for any of that,” Sweatt says reflectively. He pauses and smiles. “But I wouldn’t change it.”
animal shelter and gardening. She recently joined the Manchester (VT) Garden Club to meet others with a passion for gardening.

New to the area, Emma, 70, is busily watching his two children initiate their lives. His daughter, Emma, 70, is pursuing an MFA at the University of New Mexico. His son, Joe Madison, is completing a PhD in mathematics at Louisiana State University and preparing for his wedding in 2016.

Julie Weok, 11, is the author of My Fair Ladies: FemaleRobots, Androids, and Other Artificial Eves (Rutgers University Press, 2015) and Women and the Machine: Representations From the Spinning Wheel to the Electronic Age (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003). She teaches English, art history and studio painting at the State University of New York.


Charles B. (“Chuck”) Otniel, 67, was named to Hollywood Reporter’s Power 100 list of entertainment lawyers. He was cited for his representation of Lady Gaga, Lil’ Kim and other artists.

Jim Steinberg, 67, launched a blog post about reading and writing fiction on his website. Read his ideas and questions, and engage in his book club discussions, which views on his favorite authors and commentary on his own work at followyouunconf@com.

Robbin G. Rumbach, 69, was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2015. A Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Irvine, in 2014 he received the Distinguished Career Award from the American Sociological Association (International Migration Section).

Marjorie (Mintz) Rosenbaum, 70, and her husband, Robert, 70, are enjoying their medical careers and their children. One of their sons teaches college chemistry, their daughter is an intern, and their other son is studying economics at WashU and is co-editor of the crew team. Joe Madison, 71, to SiriusXM radio host, made history when on June 11, 2015, he broadcast the first radio talk broadcast from Coney Island for 50 years.

Peyton Gaunt III, MD, 72, was honored for 25 years of volunteer service as medical director of the Pediatric Interim Care Center in Kent, Wash. A pioneer program, the center has treated nearly 3,000 babies whose mothers used drugs during their pregnancies.

Dale Smith, ‘72, retired and completed his first novel, The Iguana Project. The mystery thriller tells the story of a lawyer who becomes involved with the mafia.

Patti (Heller) Adler, 73, and her husband, Peter, ‘73, are emeritus professors of sociology at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and the University of Denver, respectively. They reside in Boulder, Colorado.

John Chalots, 74, reports that his son, Taylor, attends Rutgers University and his daughter, Livyia, is studying in high school.

Alan Bender, ‘75, was tapped for the Father of the Year award by the American Diabetes Association. The award recognizes men who have made family a priority while making outstanding contributions to their professions and communities.

Darlene Eyster, 75, HS 95, and her husband, Jeffrey Dreyer, SW 83, relocated to Colorado to be near their two sons, daughter-in-law, and four young grandchildren.

Eyster works for Good Samaritan Hospice in Longview, Wash. Kenneth F. Berg, ‘76, an attorney with Ulmer & Berne LLP, was recognized as a top lawyer in Illinois by Illinois Super Lawyer. Allise C. Camazine, ‘76, was named chair of the board of Pauls, Camazine & Blumenthal PC.

James Mendelson, ‘76, launched a boutique financial group offering personalized services.

Lawrence Barry Schwartz, GR 76, MD 76, was honored by the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, which tapped him for its Distinguished Scientist Award for his contributions to the understanding of mast cells in allergic disease.

Dan Redwood, 66, is the author of Words of Purpose: A Tribute to Leadership (Three Bean Press, 2014). The book is a tribute to African Americans and their allies of all races who have worked for social change in the Boston area. Emily (Parker) Castle, AR 79, managing principal of Castlegov Design, St. Louis, and a teammate

have earned 29 All-America awards under Edwards, along with eight Academic All-America honors.

*What a great honor for Nancy and me to be recognized in the naming of the court. Although we are basketball coaches, I feel that we will be representing all of the student-athletes who have achieved so much success on the Field House court,* Edwards says. *The coach that makes this honor so special is that our names will forever be linked to future athletic successes and not just those of the past. Every time a net is cut down or a banner hung in the rafters, we will be a part of it. I can think of no greater honor.*

Fahey, who enters her 30th season, has led the Bears to a 688-124 (.847) overall record. She is the only coach in NCAA Division III history to win five national championships, including a stretch of four consecutive titles from 1999-2001. During the 2011-12 season, she became the fastest coach in NCAA women’s basketball history to reach 600 wins. Her teams have won 21 UAA titles and have made 27 NCAA Division III Tournament appearances, including a Division III-record 10 Final Four appearances.

Fahey achieved another pinnacle in 2012, becoming the first NCAA Division III representative to be inducted into the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, Tenn. *I am incredibly humbled by this honor, but this is truly about the WashU basketball family. That means every assistant coach, trainer, manager, administrator, sports information director and professor who has helped make this such a fantastic journey,* Fahey says. *My special thanks go to the players! They are the ones who have given all for the past 30 years. This is a Bear family honor.*

Washington University announced Oct. 8 that the university will name the playing court in the Field House for Mark Edwards, AR ’69, and Nancy Fahey, during the 2013-14 and 30th anniversaries as WashU’s men’s and women’s basketball coaches, respectively.

The Edwards-Fahey Court will be officially dedicated during a ceremony held between the women’s and men’s basketball games against Case Western Reserve University on Friday, Feb. 12, 2016. On that special night, the athletic program also will honor the 2016 induction class into Washington University’s Sports Hall of Fame.

*The coaching legacies of Nancy Fahey and Mark Edwards are nearly unparalleled in the history of NCAA Division III athletics,* Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton says. *Their longevity and winning percentages put them in a very rare group of athletic leaders in the history of American collegiate sports. They have changed the lives of generations of student-athletes by the way they lead and the spirit of competition they have instilled. They have nurtured the development of great athletes and even greater individuals, and I could not be more pleased with the designation of our home court in their honor.*

*For more than three decades, Mark Edwards and Nancy Fahey have left an indelible imprint on the face of our athletics program,* says Josh Whitman, the John M. Schieff Director of Athletics. *Not only have they enjoyed remarkable success, but they have done it with grace, humility and a collaborative spirit. They have been tremendous campus citizens, with a reach that far transcends the walls of the Field House. We are excited to celebrate this shared milestone in such a significant way.*

*Edward C. Steinberg, 67, is a retired member of the WashU basketball family. That means every coach, assistant coach, trainer, manager, administrator, sports information director and professor who has helped make this such a fantastic journey,* Fahey says. *My special thanks go to the players! They are the ones who have given all for the past 30 years. This is a Bear family honor.*

Ken Cooper, LA 77, coauthored a photo book, Portraits of Purpose (Three Bean Press, 2014). The book is a tribute to African Americans and their allies of all races who have worked for social change in the Boston area. Emily (Parker) Castle, AR 79, managing principal of Castlegov Design, St. Louis, and a teammate
Advancing Affordable Care

In 2005, Dora Hughes, BS ’92, MD, MPH, was working as deputy director of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions in the U.S. Senate for the late Sen. Edward Kennedy when she met the then-junior senator from Illinois named Barack Obama. “I was intrigued,” Hughes says. “He’s very charismatic, and he’s a visionary.” She interviewed with him and was invited to become his health policy advisor.

“I was able to help draft the first genomics bill,” she says. “He was the first (in the Congress) to focus on personalized medicine. He was the first to focus on avian flu. Sen. Obama was generally always on the cutting edge.”

Though she expected to work with him only a year to help establish his health policy platform — Hughes wanted to get back to clinical medicine — she stayed on for two. In 2007, when Obama announced his run for president, Hughes helped shape his campaign health platform and really thinking critically about how as a nation we could achieve universal health coverage,” Hughes says.

When Obama won the presidency, she was named counselor for science and public health to Secretary Kathleen Sebelius in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). “It was a tremendous experience,” Hughes recalls. During her time at HHS, Hughes worked on implementing health reform and providing policy direction for other issues as they arose, like H1N1, outbreaks of foodborne illnesses and the BP oil spill.

Hughes assisted with the development and early implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and she held leadership roles on several White House groups, including the president’s Food Safety Working Group; the Committee on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Health Education; and the Childhood Obesity Task Force.

“This involvement really helped me understand the power of the federal government and how it could impact the everyday lives of Americans,” Hughes says.

At HHS, Hughes remembers scheduling first calls at 5:45 a.m. and having conference calls that started at 9:30 p.m. “There was a lot of sacrifice across the board for everyone,” Hughes says. “But we were very willing to serve for the common good. In some ways, I would say it was the same as working in residency.”

After getting married in 2009 and having her first child in 2010, though, Hughes’ packed schedule was suddenly coming at the expense of her family. So in 2012, before Obama’s second term began, Hughes left HHS.

Today, she is a senior health policy advisor in Sidney Austin’s Government Strategies practice, a part of a bipartisan law firm on K Street. She provides advice to clients on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, including access and quality provisions. And she has helped organizations with federal health initiatives, such as those focused on the Ebola response, antimicrobial resistance and precision medicine.

“Sidley has allowed me to work across a number of areas,” Hughes says. “I’m still able to work on health-care quality issues, access issues and regulatory issues. And in some cases I’ve continued to work on issues that I started to work on while in the federal government. Though the hours are still long, Hughes’ schedule is more flexible, allowing her more time for her family. Hughes credits some of her becoming a D.C. policy-insider to her start at Washington University. “As much as I enjoy clinical medicine, I’ve continued to pursue health and public policy issues as they pertain to medicine,” Hughes says. And I’ve found that my early years at WashU and exposure to so many different subjects as part of the engineering and policy major really shaped my eventual career direction 20-some years later.”

Hughes was moved to start looking more closely at healthcare inequalities. She found a mentor in attending physician Donald R. Lassman, LA 80, who was awarded the inaugural District of Massachusetts Award at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts Pro Bono Awards. He was recognized for his work on behalf of members of the military and their families in the state.

Sheila Lewis, BU 80, launched Ashtonz12, a consulting firm that places mid- to senior-level talent in interim positions in Fortune 500 mid-cap and startup firms, in 2012. Earlier, she founded Flyin’ West, a strategic marketing firm.

Irene Aguilar, LA 82, is a Colorado physician and a state senator. Among her community service activities, she serves as president of Health Care for All Colorado, advocating for a comprehensive, affordable, high-quality health-care system for all.

David B. Balter, MA 81, is president-elect of Missouri Health Executives Group, the state chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

David B. Banerct, SI 81, was named executive director of the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, responsible for the organization’s growth and development. Previously, he was president of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, an environmental partnership organization in the mid-Atlantic region.

Joseph McAlary, AR 91, is president of newly formed Gerucham Commercial Equities. The firm acquires and repositions office, industrial, retail and mixed-use properties in St. Louis and the surrounding area.

Patrick McKenna, LW 81, and Carolyn Mussio, LW 83, recently married.

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CLASSNOTES

Dora Hughes, BS ’92, MD, MPH

PROFILE

FALL 2015

three children and one grandson.

board-certified teacher, she has

ence in the city and guidance from

nects accredited investors with

crowdfunding platform that con-

an online commercial real estate

GR 95, is a found-

a long hiatus. He first served the

Benefits Council for 2015. The

Association of Metropolitan St.

Healthcare Executives.

As president of Health Care for

All Colorado, advocating for a

comprehensive, affordable, high-

quality health-care system.

Science and policy intersect

Getting the right training started early, when Hughes entered Washington University in the fall of 1988 as a John B. Ervin Scholar. Hughes had excelled in math and science in high school and decided to study engineering.

“After about two years, I started to think that medicine might be a better fit,” Hughes says. “I preferred the human application [of science].” So, Hughes got on the pre-med track and switched her major from chemical engineering to engineering and policy.

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In 1990, Hughes began work on the medical school. She earned her medical degree in 1996 and was named executive director of the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, responsible for the organization’s growth and development. Previously, he was president of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, an environmental partnership organization in the mid-Atlantic region.

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Steven Talb, LA 82, joined the firm of Archer & Buchanan & Grigby PC, as a director.

Alan F. Freed, LW 83, was named vice president of Paulie, Cameron, Poochell, and South, a St. Louis firm.

Sandra Marks, GR 83, joined Clayco as senior vice president in its Chicago office.

Jeanette Meyer, LA 82, of Meyer and Associates, Fort Collins, Colo., was a recipient of the 2015 Five Star Real Estate Agent Award based on customer evaluations of her professionalism and commitment to service. Earlier, she was inducted into the REAL/MAX Hall of Fame for her consistent year-after-year productivity.

Devarati Randegi, EN 83, joined Lockwood, Andrews & Newman as managing director of the transportation business group. She previously was a vice president with URS Corp., responsible for the company’s North Texas and Oklahoma operations.

Michael Rogovin, LA 83, assistant professor of history at Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, obtained a ground-breaking trial victory in Cook County, Ill. For the first time in Illinois history, a court found that a labor union could be held liable as the legal successor of a prior, dissolved union.

Conrad “Shaun” Kee, LA 84, LW 87, a shareholder of Jackson Lewis PC, relocated to Salt Lake City to open the firm’s SALT office. Kee, recognized in a leader in his field by Chambers USA, is also a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve.

The Waterland, LA 84, and LA 89, earned the Thomas Jefferson Award for Public Architecture from The American Institute of Architects for his leadership of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts during a time of unprecedented change and for his commitment to public architecture as an integral part of the nation’s cultural heritage.

John Louie Go, LA 85, was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Radiology. Go is director of head and neck imaging and an assistant professor of diagnostic and therapeutic radiology. She worked as in-house counsel for large national corporations based in St. Louis before establishing her Waterland, LA 84, and LA 89, a partner in the law firm of ShuffieldLowman, was named a 2015 Florida Super Lawyer. In 2014, Charles Schwuckschulig, GR 89, GR 94, was awarded a fellowship in fiction from the New York Foundation for the Arts.

Richard Bridge, SI 90, an attorney with Armstrong Teasdale in the intellectual property group, was featured in the 2015 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business.

Dawn Beck Gilman, LL 88, is executive director of the Emergency Services & Homeland Coalition of Massachusetts, an organization that serves members in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Fred Abraham, LA 89, published Modern Babylon: A History of the Monarch district to history of the Monarch district to attain an officer’s rank in fire suppression. Dana and her husband, Gary, reside in St. Louis.

Anne Elliott, FA 89, had her work, The Beginning of the End of the Beginning, released by Ploughshares Solos series. Plotghosts publishes long-form stories and essays digitally.

Stephen Kazak, LA 88, SW 90, was appointed director of the School of Social Services and downtown religious leaders. The agency and the Jacksnville, Fla., area were selected to participate in Zero: 2016 national campaign to end veteran and chronic homelessness.

Gillian Harper Ice, LA 89, published a book, with co-author Disasters in Field Research. Preparing for and Coping with Unplanned Events (Rowman & Littlefield, 2015). She is an associate professor at the University of Social Medicine, Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Heather Rosen, LA 90, left the practice of law after a health crisis and opened a consulting business to help people get their own fresh insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

Daniel D. Doyle, LL 89, joined Lashly & Barb PC, as counsel. He also was selected for inclusion in Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers, 2015.

Bradley Gould, LA 89, an attorney with GrayRobinson, was named to the 2016 Best Lawyers in America, a time of unprecedented change and a period of opportunity.

Steven Pan, GR 90, received a promotion to fire captain at Monarch Fire Protection District for more than 20 years, he has specialized in historic preservation, restoration and renovation projects in the Philadelphia area.

Kathleen Saunders, UC 92, of South Technical High School (St. Louis), received an Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award for her work and dedication and her vital role in shaping students’ lives. Recipients are selected by the chiefs administrators of the school districts or educational institutions.

Eric Schnaft, LA 92, producer and marketing director of Broadway shows, won a Musical Revival Tony Award in 2014 for producing Hedwig and the Angry Inch. He says he loved his years at WashU and is happy and proud to represent the university on Broadway.

Amor Bilvedt, GR 94, published in the 10th Annual Paladone ArtWalk, the city’s first art fair. Bilvedt displayed his abstract expressionist paintings, which are tied to the narrative and cultural development of his home country.

Josh B. Gordon, LA 94, was promoted to counsel at Irwin & Manella LLP. Gordon represents individuals and corporations in intellectual property and other commercial disputes. He was recognized as a Rising Star by Super lawyers magazine in 2014.

Brenda (Wolkstein) Lowenberg, GR 94, and her husband, Martin, are the proud parents of Hannah Yael, born Nov. 3, 2014. The family are the proud parents of Hannah Yael, born Nov. 3, 2014. The family

cessations and head volleyball coach on Dec. 17, 2014. She joined the 14th International Society for Tryptophan Research, an annual conference in Grand Rapids, Mich., in September.

Mary Jo Gorman, EMBA 96, earned a Distinguished Alumni Award from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield. A spokesperson and advocate for the intensively ill, she is the founder of three critical-care companies.

Lena Hooper, GM 96, was elected to the National Academy of Sciences as a fellow for understanding how resilient tectonic influence the biology of mammalian hosts. She is a proponent in the departments of immunology and microbiology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

Achyut Kantawala, AR 96, is working on the design and construction of a two-story complex that includes aHit Carlson in Mumbai, India.

Bridge T. (Glynn) Manning, EN 96, married Matthew W. Manning in La Grange, Ill., in September 2014. The wedding was attended by Glynn Manning, EN 95, the bride’s brother; Claire Pluard, LA 12, the bride’s cousin; and Jennifer Goaring, EN 96, and Kalpana Bodavala, LA 96. Manning works as a privacy and data protection manager for General Electric.

Kevin L. Center, LA 97, started a new business, PostNet-Alanta, Ga., which focuses on business printing and shipping. As the Atlanta area developer for PostNet, he is also involved in recruiting franchises. Center and his wife, Melissa, welcomed Lillian Elaine to their family in May 2014. She joined sister Emily, 5, and brother Luke, 3.

Nimrod T. Chapel Jr., GR 97, was recognized in the Best ofCLE Spotlight, which acknowledges local attorneys who have demonstrated outstanding leadership
and dedication in upholding the principles of the Missouri State Bar. Chapell is a trial lawyer at Chapell Law Group LLC. Brian Kurewski, EN 97, and Rebecca (Fishman) Kurewski, EN 97, SI 98, welcomed Jonathan Otto to their family in February 2014. He joined big brother Sam and big sister Yeal. Brian is a product manager at Aspen Technologies, and Rebecca is an attorney for the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Amy Levitz, SI 97, received an Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award for her achievements and dedication to the field of education and her vital role in shaping students’ lives. Recipients are selected by the chief administration of their school districts or educational institutions. Lizett is a social worker at Whiteside Elementary School in Ballwin, Ill.

Josh Dorkin, LA 98, found BiggerPockets, a social network real estate website that provides real estate investors with information and education, including how-to guides, podcasts, blog posts and software tools.

Stephanie Linn, BU 98, her husband, Seth Krantz, GM 15, and their son, Samuel, 4, have returned to Chicago. Stephanie continues her role as a senior manager for Deloitte Tax LLP, and Seth works as an attendant thoracic surgeon with NorthShore University Health System. The family resides in Wilmette.

James McCarthy McGarr, GM 98, MD 98, is a senior entrepreneur in residence (EIR) with BioGenerator and an adjunct professor of genetics at WashU. Previously, he was EIR with Monsanto Growth Ventures and the founder of Divergence, which applies agrobotics to agriculture and infectious disease.

Lee (Mills) McGrath, LA 98, was named from Chicago Business as one of the Chicago area’s 40 Under 40. McGrath is the first president of Illinois Health Partners, a three-year-old health network.

Scott Bank, EN 98, SI 98, became a partner in Alper Aud Inc., a St. Louis structural engineering firm that provides consulting for architects, contractors, developers, owners, industry and government.

Isa Heha Hurepale, BU 98, married Sachin Seth, DDS, on May 9, 2015, in Columbus, Ohio. They reside in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where Seth has a private dental practice and is a professor of dentistry at Dalhousie University.

Jennifer (Simczak) Anderson, LA 01, teaches high school literature and composition at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill. Her twin boys, Aiden and Kalen, celebrated their third birthdays in July.

Jovita Foster, BU 00, an attorney in Armstrong Teasdale’s labor employment group, was featured in the 2015 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business.

Jenni (Simczak) Anderson, LA 01, teaches high school English literature and composition at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill. Her twin boys, Aiden and Kalen, celebrated their third birthday in July.

Deepak Srivathsan Gupta, SI 01, SI 02, is a director of applied research, innovation and entrepreneurship at Centennial College in Toronto, Ontario. At the college, he was the Board of Governors Award of Excellence: Distinguished Administrative Employee Award, the IIT Alumni Canada Young Achiever Award, and the Board of Governors Award of Excellence: Community Partnership Team Award. Greg Klimek, EN 01, SI 03, recently became a partner in Alper Aud Inc., a St. Louis structural engineering firm that provides consulting for architects, contractors, developers, owners, industry and government.

Vasmin Miyati, FA 01, BU 01, used her film and animation talents to create a film, Wives with Vision: Affecting Change in Foster Core. The film profiles the journeys of young people through the foster care system to find permanence and survival.

Michael Castro, MA ’71, PhD ’81

Michael Castro, MA ’71, PhD ’81
Composing a City

In 2006, poet Rodney Jones wrote, “a poet is as anachronistic as a blacksmith.” Although poet might suggest to some an old way of doing things, Michael Castro, MA ’71, PhD ’81, knows that the job of the poet is to tell the truth, to bear witness and to have the courage to say and write what he feels and sees now. Named poet laureate of St. Louis on Jan. 1, 2015, Castro’s truthful and compassionate voice could be timely and necessary, as the city needs to heal from the turbulence in Ferguson. There is nothing outdated about this need — and nothing anachronistic in wanting a poet to summon his powers and words to help make sense of things. Castro has stepped in just in time.

Before his nomination, Castro may have been best known in St. Louis as the founding editor of River Styx, a magazine and reading venue for poets and musicians begun in 1975. The magazine has won many prestigious awards, and it has received grants and support from the National Endowment for the Arts. The list of poets published over the years in River Styx is staggering. The magazine has featured works by Charles Simic, Czeslaw Milosz, Mona Van Duy, Robert Hass and Derek Walcott, to name just a few.

Growing up in New York City, Castro was always interested in language and poetry. The poets who first grabbed his attention were diverse. It was his mother’s copy of Khalil Gibran’s The Prophet that quickly caught Castro’s ear, then later, Federico Garcia Lorca’s Poet in New York.

“Lorca’s poetry was like music, and it made me want to write,” Castro says. In New York, Castro listened to jazz at nightclubs and read voraciously. It wasn’t just Lorca who drew him to poetry. Walt Whitman and Allen Ginsberg inspired him as well, with their wild sentences and disdain of traditional verse.

Castro began developing his own style when he moved to St. Louis in 1967. “I started writing poems in the form of songs,” Castro recalls. “I met some St. Louis poets, and we used to meet several times a week at Dan Spell’s apartment. And we would read what we were writing and poets who turned us on. It was a shaping period.”

Four members of the group published Rippie, a book of poems printed on rice paper. “When the book was published, we distributed it to St. Louis and sent several copies to Gary Snyder, an influential Beat poet. One reached Allen Ginsberg,” Castro says. “Over the next few years, I ran into people who had seen my poem ‘Brown Rice’ on Ginsberg’s wall. The news that Ginsberg had put the poem up was affirmation. I admired him, and he had truly published my poem.”

Ever multicultural, Castro wanted to read more than the usual poets and writers. Native American literature also called him to listen and to give attention, and he attended Washington University to study American culture and Native American mythology.

“Actually, I was interested in Native American literature as a poet more than as a scholar,” Castro says. “As a wannabe American poet with an urban background, I was interested in Native American lit in order to cultivate a relationship with the natural world. I felt I was closer to the continent on which I actually lived when studying Native American mythology.”

Over his career, Castro has published 10 collections of poetry and has had poems appear in more than 100 magazines. His poems exhibit a keen ear and a fearless eye, which may be why he was selected from a pool of 64 candidates to be St. Louis’ first poet laureate. Castro came ready with a rich background in literature, the word and justice.

As Castro said during his inauguration on Jan. 31, 2015. “Time for St. Louis, truly, to become / St. Louis Us. All of us — one poly/ with mutual R-E-S-P-E-C-T, / a unity community, / less liturgy — / with mutual R-E-S-P-E-C-T, / a unity community, / less liturgy.”

— Raphael Mourice

Michael Castro, MA ’71, PhD ’81

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— Raphael Mourice
strengths-oriented, ethical and competent practitioners.

Pamela Leeba, BU’03, was appointed general counsel of Chestnut Health Systems, a behavioral health care organization, and Chestnut Global Partners, a global provider of employee-assistance-program services that operates in more than 140 countries—both based in Bloomington, Ill.

Daniel R. Peterson, EN’03, EN’05, joined Milanे Rrome LLP as an associate in the intellectual property and technology group.

Elizabeth O’Keefe Moslis, LA’04, GB’14, married Daniel Moslis in January at Gospel Chapel, celebrating the event with many of her undergraduate and graduate classmates at the reception following the ceremony. The couple live in Austin, Texas, where Liz has a consulting company, and Daniel is pursuing a master’s degree in accounting.

Cathay (Chopra) Carey, GB’10, attended their 20tℎ and Emeritus (beyond the 50th) Reunion.

Tej Azad, LA’12, and Colin Dominguez, LA’16, visited St Louis Metropark, a non-profit mobile farmers market that sells fresh, healthy, locally sourced fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy and staple goods in low-income areas on a sliding-pay-scale basis.

Amanda Q. Brunt, MSW’12, was honored as an emerging leader in the nonprofit sector.

Michael J. Carter, LA’10, was named a fellow of the 2016 class of the National Academy of Medicine.

Rachita Bhatt, PMBA’12, helped found Bhatti’s, a mobile farmers market that sells fresh, healthy, locally sourced fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy and staple goods in low-income areas on a sliding-pay-scale basis.

James E. Corbin, LA’11, was honored as an emerging leader in the nonprofit sector.

Andrew S. Zimmerman, LA’12, and Colleen Conley, LA’16, attended the event. The couple reside in Washington, D.C.
In Memoriam

1930s

Adèle (Dwyer) Fordyce, LA 33; Sept. 14 • Helen (Hoerl) Kurtz, FA 34; Feb. 15 • Annie (Burnett) Ward, LA 25; Oct. 14 • Julius M. Friedlich, LA 37; LV 40; Aug. 14 • Martha (Millman) Jones, LA 37; Nov. 14 • Delight (Mead) Seaman, LA 37; Jan. 15 • Harriet (Gronemeyer) Decker, LA 38; Jan. 15 • Birkle Eck, LA 38, MD 42; Sept. 14 • Louise (Kraus) Lyehle, LA 38; March 30 • John M. Forreving, LA 38; Oct. 14 • Mary (Geiler) Walsh, LA 38; Jan. 15 • Natalie (Forschaw) Dublois, LA 39; Feb. 15 • Jane (Pechmann) Lewis, LA 39; Sept. 14 • Ruth (Forshatz) Beckmore, LA 39; Aug. 14

1940s

Emilie (Pickering) Brandhorst, LA 40; Sept. 14 • Lillian (Kreinerhoud) Crew, UC 40; Jan. 15 • Victor A. Ellman, BU 42, GR 50; Nov. 14 • Marian (Thoms) Harvey, LA 40; Oct. 14 • Ada (Glazer) Kramer, LA 40; Feb. 15 • Betty (Jablonski) Martin, UC 40; Oct. 14 • Pauline (Pence) Armstrong, NU 41; Nov. 14 •

“Everything comes back to this,” Douglas says. “Not that the structure has to be that regimented, but I like to know what I am saying. Country writers are really good at that, and I try to apply that lyrical discipline to pop music.” Though Douglas’ songs are as sonically diverse as the artists who record them, his lyrics shake a cheeky wit.

“I’m a big fan of R. Kelly and Randy Newman, who are united in that they can both write a very funny song that is not a joke, which is a very fine line to walk,” Douglas says. “‘Wiggle’ and ‘Talk Dirty’ are fun exercises in that. People may describe the lyrics as dumb, but there are thoughtful layers there that many people probably haven’t noticed. It makes me feel a little better about corrupting our youth.”

And what does Douglas think about his bawdy lyrics?

“‘He’s happy for hits,’” Douglas says. “‘A couple songs down the line, he might be like, ‘Let’s refine that.’ But right now, he’s just happy I’m working. He was maybe sweating it a couple years ago. “It was super weird,” Douglas says. “I was shocked and amused by the response, but mostly I was overwhelmed by pride in my dad. I was so happy for him.”

Douglas says his father and his mother, Caroline McWilliams, who died in 2010, shared their passion for music with him. He grew up listening to Stevie Wonder’s Songs in the Key of Life, Billy Joel’s Cold Spring Harbor and Michael Jackson’s Bad on the stereo and taking piano lessons. Douglas drifted away from music, but when his best friend in high school started a band, Douglas was all in.

“I couldn’t play anything so I was the DJ,” Douglas says. “This was back when scratching was still a thing.”

By the time Douglas arrived at Washington University, he was determined to be a musician. He analyzed albums like the Beatles’ Rubber Soul and Elton John’s Tumbleweed Connection and practiced scales in campus rehearsal rooms. Later, he formed the band The Hatch with classmates Jess Macht, AB 05 (anthro- pology); Todd Rubin, AB 05 (environmental studies); and Austin Schumacher, AB 06 (psychology).

“This was my goal: If someone came to Washington University and asked, ‘Are there any bands on campus?’ I wanted people to say, ‘The Hatch,’” Douglas says. “Of course, they might follow it up with, ‘And they suck,’ but at least they would have thought of us.”

The band, named after a line in a Tenacious D song, played dozens of student parties, campus events and gigs at Cicero’s and the now-defunct Red Sea. Meanwhile, Douglas decided to major in anthropology because, well, why not? Maybe there is a better major for aspiring songwriters, but Douglas couldn’t think of one. He certainly didn’t want to major in music.

“I know a lot of people who have a classical education in music, and there are good reasons to make that choice,” Douglas says.

“But I love that I was an anthropology major and got this broad liberal arts education. It informs how I think about people and cultures. It gives me points of reference that maybe other writers don’t have. I think that matters when you are trying to write songs that appeal to a broad spectrum of the population.”

After graduation, The Hatch moved to New York, appeared on the Fox flop The Next Great American Band and produced an album. No one cared — fortunately.

“We were slightly delusional. ‘Hey, labels, we’re ready for you now. Just give us the budget and marketing,’” Douglas recalls. “The songs got attention, but there was this, ‘Well, we’re not sure you’re the greatest frontman in the world.’ In the midst of this, my manager, to keep me busy, gave me some writing to do. A week or two into that I was like, ‘This is me.’ I’d write an R&B song one day and then write a country song the next. I loved it.”

Funny without being a joke

To Douglas, a good song is a lot like a high school essay. There’s a thesis, i.e., the chorus, and subtopics with supporting examples, i.e., the verses.
In January 2011, she was asked to lead the Insurance University Programs, which oversaw Founders Day and undergraduate class reunions. She and her team successfully transitioned the first 40th reunions to Thurner Court, with many groups participating. During weekend reunions and class reunions, she continued to work on her book, which is expected to be published in the near future.

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Ernst K. Zinner
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Zinner grew up in Austria and came to the United States in the mid-1960s to attend Washington University. He earned his PhD in 1972 in high-energy particle physics.

In 1987, Zinner was the first to identify material in a laboratory that predated the formation of the solar system 4.6 billion years ago. The work involved a measurement technique called secondary-ion mass spectrometry (SIMS), which Zinner became an expert in.

Zinner received the J. Lawrence Smith Medal of the National Academy of Sciences, the top award in this field from that body, and the Leonard Medal from the Meteoritical Society, an international scientific group.

In 2007, colleagues organized a symposium in his honor, called “SIMS in the Space Sciences: The Zinner Impact.”

Zinner is survived by his wife, Brigitte; son, Max Giacobini Zinner; and four younger siblings in Austria.

William Jay Smith
William Jay Smith, a poet and former poetry consultant to the Library of Congress, died Aug. 18, 2015, from pneumonia. He was 97.

As a college professor, poet and writer, Smith published dozens of volumes of poetry over his 70-year career, as well as children’s verse, memoirs, translations and essays. From 1968 to 1970, he was the poetry consultant to the Library of Congress, a position now called poet laureate of the United States.

Smith grew up near St. Louis and attended Washington University for both his bachelor’s degrees, awarded in 1939, and his master’s degree, awarded in 1941, both in French literature. He was a good friend of fellow classmate Tennessee Williams and later wrote a memoir about him.

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Why are scholarships such an important priority of the Leading Together campaign?

The steadily growing quality of students at Washington University has greatly contributed to its rise among leading institutions of learning and discovery. However, the high cost of higher education has put top universities out of reach for many students and their families. Scholarships are crucial to help exceptional young people achieve their aspirations — but, unfortunately, Washington University’s endowment for scholarships lags behind many of its peers.

Why should we invest in students at Washington University?

We have the responsibility to keep Washington University open to qualified students of all socioeconomic backgrounds. These young people will become leaders of tomorrow — if they have the opportunity to realize their extraordinary potential. And that depends on scholarship support.

A talented and diverse student body is the hallmark of a great university. As a former teacher and dean, I find it wonderful to see so many of my students going on to accomplish great things. Many exceptional students are eager to experience a Washington University education, but we lack the resources to admit them all. That has to change — and together, we can make it happen.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering on behalf of the university?

When I travel across the country to visit with alumni on behalf of the scholarship initiative, I always enjoy seeing old friends and former students. For my wife, Gerry, and me, Washington University has been the major force in our lives, after our family. We appreciate the opportunity to return a little for all that Washington University has meant for us.

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INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Leading Together benefits our community, our nation and our global society.

FROM THE CAMPAIGN CHAIR

As of June 30, 2015, Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University had secured $1.95 billion in gifts and commitments toward our goal to raise a minimum of $2.2 billion by June 30, 2018.

Our wonderful progress is made possible by the generosity and leadership of our alumni, parents, friends, faculty and staff. Together, we set a number of records in the past fiscal year, including 61,550 donors, 30,133 alumni donors, $329.6 million in new commitments and gifts (including bequests), and $28.1 million in support for the Annual Fund.

This unprecedented support enables Washington University to discover new knowledge and expedite its application to complex problems, such as new treatments for devastating diseases, new sources of sustainable energy, the challenges of aging and greater economic prosperity. The campaign fosters scholarship and innovations that enhance human lives.

Preparing the leaders of tomorrow is one of the most important priorities of Leading Together. We ended the year with a total of $306.8 million toward a minimum goal of $400 million in new support for scholarships and fellowships. We are working to make a top-tier education accessible and affordable for every qualified undergraduate and graduate student who aspires to graduate from Washington University.

In addition to financial aid, generous donors helped the university recruit and retain outstanding faculty, advance scholarly research and creative potential, and enhance the teaching, research and living environments on our campuses.

Washington University is driven by a passion for excellence and a mission to discover knowledge and innovations with lasting impact.

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR ST. LOUIS AND THE WORLD

An extraordinary commitment from Thomas Hillman, AB ’78, and Jennifer Miller Hillman, BFA ’79, is leading the way for the expansion of social work, public health and public policy programs at the Brown School. Hillman Hall, named in their honor, will foster new and innovative ways to address critical social and public health challenges and more than doubles the Brown School’s space for teaching, research and community engagement.

The Hillmans are dedicated philanthropists, civic leaders and engaged alumni volunteers. Tom Hillman serves on the university’s Board of Trustees and the medical school finance committee. He and Jennifer both serve on the Brown School National Council, and Tom also is a member of the National Council of the Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement. Jennifer serves on the National Council of the Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement. The couple also committed $540,000 to advance the initiatives of the Gephardt Institute and its Civic Scholars Program.

THE MCDONNELL GENOME INSTITUTE: REVOLUTIONIZING THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE

A transformative $25 million commitment from Elizabeth and James McDonnell and the JSM Charitable Trust will provide ongoing support for pioneering research at the Genome Institute at Washington University School of Medicine, which has been named the Elizabeth H. and James S. McDonnell III Genome Institute in recognition of their generosity. Discoveries in genomics by Washington University scientists have fundamentally changed the understanding of cancer and how best to classify and treat patients. The McDonnells are dedicated champions of medical research at the School of Medicine, and their philanthropy has led to scientific discoveries in nearly every pediatric discipline. James is a long-time leader at the medical school, where he is a member of the National Council and serves on the boards of the Children’s Discovery Institute and St. Louis Children’s Hospital.

Clark is a member of the Brown School National Council, and Fox is a founding member of the National Council of the Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement. The couple also committed $540,000 to advance the initiatives of the Gephardt Institute and its Civic Scholars Program.

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