Venture capital firm, WU form partnership

WU and Alafi Capital Co., a Berkeley, Calif., venture capital organization, have announced the formation of a first-of-its-kind partnership designed to create high-tech start-up companies based on University research discoveries, according to Chancellor William H. Danforth. The new partnership is called A/W Co.

In this cooperative venture, the partners will concentrate exclusively on what each does best,” said Danforth. “Washington University will confine its activities to the conduct of faculty-directed scientific research, the early identification of emerging new research discoveries, and transfer of selected new technology to the partnership organization.”

Alafi Capital Co. will manage the partnership, including evaluation of the commercial potential of University technology, preparation of business plans for prospective start-up companies, and incorporation of these companies, according to Moshe Alafi, managing general partner of Alafi Capital Co.

Alafi Capital’s responsibilities also will include recruitment of highly motivated management teams, securing required operating capital, initiating further research on candidate technologies and overseeing progress of start-up management teams in accomplishing company business plans.

The A/W Co. is organized as a California limited partnership with Alafi Capital serving as the managing general partner. WU’s role in this commercial operating entity is that of a limited partner, providing new technology, advice and counsel to Alafi Capital — but not participating directly in management of the partnership.

Proceeds from the partnership will be shared equally by WU and Alafi Capital Co.

“The A/W partnership provides a stable framework for the next ten years for continued close cooperation between Washington University and Alafi Capital Co.,” said Edward L. MacCordy, associate vice chancellor for research. “During development of the partnership arrangement the two organizations gained experience by collaborating to form a new jointly owned start-up company, Field Inversion Technologies Corp., a Missouri corporation which will develop and market a new electrophotographic process,” MacCordy stated.

“Now, through this partnership, we anticipate greater effectiveness in bringing biomedical research discoveries to society that will also provide an opportunity for the University and Alafi Capital to participate to a significant degree in local and regional economic development,” MacCordy added.

A president and chief operating officer for the A/W Co. is presently being recruited by Alafi. The new president will head an office in St. Louis.

Howard Nemerov opens lecture series

Howard Nemerov, prize-winning poet and WU professor of English, will open the University’s fall Assembly Series lectures with “Some Poems In Search of a Sermon” at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 3, in Graham Chapel.

Nemerov received both the Pulitzer Prize for poetry and the National Book Award for The Collected Poems of Howard Nemerov in 1978. His most recent publication is New and Selected Essays, 1965-85.

Other books of verse by Nemerov include Inside the Onion, Sentences and The Western Approaches, Poems 1973-75.

Among his many awards and prizes, Nemerov has received a National Institute of Arts and Letters grant in 1961 and the First Theodore Roethke Memorial Award in 1968, and was a Fellow of the Academy of American Poets in 1971.

He served as a Consultant in poetry to the Library of Congress in 1963-64, was elected a chancellor of the American Academy of Poets in 1976, and has received honorary degrees from 11 colleges and universities.

Nemerov, who writes poetry, fiction and essays, has published more than 20 books, and has taught at universities for 40 years.

He came to WU in 1969 as a Visiting Hurst Professor of English, and was named the Edward Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor of English in 1976. Nemerov received a bachelor’s degree from Harvard University in 1941.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, call 889-4620.
Quad under repair

WU pedestrians who’ve lost their soles in Brookings Quadrangle can now rejoice. Workmen from Pluchinski Stone Contracting Co. in Spanish Lake are placing the bricks closer together. The Pluchinskis, John Jr. and John Sr., began the project in June and hope to complete it sometime in September.

The bricks have separated to the point that almost everyone has experienced difficulty, regardless of their shoe height. Hopefully, the work will get rid of this problem.

Walking through Brookings Quadrangle will be a breeze once the Pluchinskis have finished leveling the bricks and placing them closer together.

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Processing and the Engineering Technology Division. The school also includes the Construction Management Center; the Undergraduate Cooperative Education Program, in which students alternate between full-time employment and full-time academic study; programs in continuing education; and the engineering summer school.

"The school provides an important central resource where the real-life problems of business and industry can be addressed. A full-time faculty now offers the background for students to seek employment opportunities," Mohrman said. "Interaction between the University and private companies allows us to combine our efforts to keep abreast of rapidly changing technology. The new program in engineering management exemplifies the school’s ability to respond effectively to the needs of the St. Louis region," he said.

Correction

In the July issue of the WU Record, Dennis O’Brien, chancellor of the University of Rochester, was incorrectly identified as L. Jay Oliva, chancellor of New York University.

Edgar Lehrman, first Russian department chair, dies at 60

Edgar H. Lehrman, Ph.D., former chairman of the WU Russian department, died July 24 following a long illness. He was 60 years old.

Dr. Lehrman was a noted authority on the Soviet Union and published several books. He came to the University in 1967 and, at that time, was appointed chairman of the newly created Russian department. He continued to serve as chairman of the department until he was hospitalized last January.

Dr. Lehrman formerly had taught at Emory, Duke, Columbia, and Pennsylvania State universities. In addition to teaching, Dr. Lehrman reviewed Russian books and literature for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Dr. Lehrman died extensively in the Soviet Union, and from 1962 to 1963, spent a year in Moscow as a U.S.-Soviet exchange scholar.

Edgar H. Lehrman

Edgar H. Lehrman was born in New York City. Dr. Lehrman received a bachelor’s degree in 1948 from Cornell University, and a master’s degree and a doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley in 1951 and 1954, respectively. He also received a certificate from the Russian Institute at Columbia University in 1956.

Dr. Lehrman is survived by his wife, Ruth Makarova Lehrman, whom he met at the University of Moscow; three daughters, Tanya April and Ellen and Julie Lehrman; his mother, Frances Lehrman; and a brother, Nathaniel S. Lehrman.

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Louis dedicated to working closely with University officials and faculty to identify commercially viable new technology and to create aggressive, growth-oriented, high-tech start-up companies to develop and commercialize new products and services. Primarily these new businesses will market biomedical discoveries derived from research programs of the WU School of Medicine.

The A/W partnership allows biomedical technology emerging from the University’s research programs to benefit the public in the shortest possible time. This will be accomplished through the efforts of a respected and talented organization that will proficiently organize and finance start-up companies to rapidly develop and market the discoveries of our faculty,” said Danforth.

“During the same time, this cooperative arrangement respects our academic traditions of freedom of the faculty to publish results of their research, freedom to select subjects for research, and freedom to seek project sponsorship from any source. The A/W partnership is committed to any outside entity, including the A/W partnership, only with the consent of the faculty investigators. The rights of other industrial organizations which sponsor research at Washington University are not affected by this new arrangement,” Danforth said.

"We have developed a concept which will speed the conversion of basic research results into a new technology of significant benefit to society and which will open new opportunities to further the University’s research and public service efforts. This partnership between venture capital and a research university will allow the University to share to a much greater degree in the financial proceeds of the technologies it produces," said MacCordy.

The productive and deliberate combination of the resources of the University, Washington University and Alafi Capital Co. in this manner insulates the University and its faculty from involvement in commercial-type activities and potential distraction from fundamental educational and research objectives. Since each organization will make its own uniquely valuable contribution to the A/W partnership, both will share equally in the proceeds from commercial success of the research companies they have partnered to create,” said MacCordy.

The faculties of universities are national resources of the highest value, and from them come the tools of new scientific knowledge, which leads with increasing rapidity to new technology for society’s improved health and well being,” said Chancellor Danforth. "The partnership will provide the capital that will, in time, provide additional financial support to the University and its faculty for strengthening research and educational programs — support that will lead to further benefits to science and society.”

Riverboat cruise greets freshmen

New students at WU will see the city in August as Mark Twain did more than a century ago. Some 1,689 freshmen and transfer students will be treated to a three-hour Mississippi River cruise on The President.

Chancellor and Mrs. William H. Danforth will host the event, which is the highlight of new students orientation at the University. The riverboat leaves downtown St. Louis, at the foot of the Gateway Arch, at 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25.

One hundred select faculty members, administrators and student leaders also will be aboard. “This gives the new students a chance to socialize with the people who will be helping them all year,” says Faith D. Maddy, associate director of Residential Life.
Ames. "Conference, held at Iowa State University in the Midwest Academic Library Conferences." at the annual meeting of the College/University Governing Board. The conference, entitled "Toward an Understanding of Teachers Who Remain Enthusiastic About Teaching," and conducted a session on "Professional and Personal Development in Mid-Career." Also at the meeting, Louis M. Smith, Ph.D., professor of education, presented papers at two symposia. The papers were titled "School Improvement and Educator Personality: Stages, Types, Traits or Processes" and "The Voyage of the Beagle." Leavitt, from Charles Darwin." Smith also was elected co-chair of the newly formed Special Interest Group in Qualitative Research. Alan R. Tom, Ph.D., associate professor and department chairman, delivered a paper on "The Disciplined Study of the Problems of Practice" and served as discussant for a paper on academic evaluation systems and for a symposium on reflective teacher education.

Ronald G. Evens, M.D., Elizabeth E. Mallinckrodt Professor of radiology and director of the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, and president and senior executive officer of Children's Hospital, has been re-elected treasurer of the American Roentgen Ray Society at its annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Evens has served on the executive council of the society for the past five years. The national organization works to advance medical science through the study of radiology and gives particular emphasis to significant teaching efforts of its members. More than 1,750 physicians belong to the society. Evens also has been elected secretary-treasurer of the Association of University Radiologists at its annual meeting in Hartford, Conn. The association promotes excellence in laboratory and field investigation, teaching and clinical practice and seeks to stimulate interest in academic radiology as a career. Its goal is to advance radiology as a medical science and to promote a forum in which university-based radiologists can present and discuss the results of their research, teaching and administrative experience. The association has a membership of 1,300.

Saulo Klahr, M.D., professor of medicine, has been elected a member of the Cardio-Renal Advisory Committee of the Food and Drug Administration. He will serve a four-year term. He also was elected chairman of the Merit Review Board in Nephrology of the Veterans Administration. The board reviews all grants in the field of nephrology for the Veterans Administration. Klahr will serve as chairman for one year.

Robert Lee, Ph.D., dean of minority student affairs at the School of Medicine, has received the School Partnership Program award from the University of Iowa Public Schools. Lee was given the award for providing high school students the opportunity to explore career interests in the health care field. Under Lee's direction, the WU School of Medicine has been involved in the School Partnership Program for three years.
CALENDAR August 7-September 4

Lectures
Tuesday, August 19 4:00 p.m., Dept. of Chemistry Seminar, 'Organometallic Cluster Chemistry and Catalysis,' John S. Bradley, Exxon Research and Engineering Co., 311 McMillen.
Thursday, August 21 4:00 p.m., Dept. of Chemistry Seminar, 'Transition Metal Catalyzed Carbonation,' Ayusman Sen, prof. of chemistry, Pennsylvania State U., 311 McMillen.
Thursday, August 28 4:00 p.m., Dept. of Chemistry Seminar, 'Mechanism and Suicide Inhibition of Rhodan- electride Reductases,' Jokhine Stubble, prof. of biochemistry, U. of Wisconsin-Madison, 311 McMillen.

Calendar Deadline
The deadline to submit items for the Sept. 15-21 calendar of the "Washington University" is Aug. 21. Items must be typed and must include your name and telephone number. Address items to: Calendar editor, Box 1070.

Furniture Exchange extends hours
Due to high demand, the Women's Society of WU has extended operating hours for the Furniture Exchange, a non-profit furniture exchange store run by the organization. The regular hours for the store, located at 6551 University Drive, are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. The Furniture Exchange is now open during the same hours Monday through Friday. The change took effect Aug. 4 and will continue through Sept. 5. Regular hours will resume beginning Monday, Sept. 8. The store will be closed Sept. 1 for the Labor Day holiday.

Furniture Exchange at 889-5206. For more information, call the Furniture Exchange at 889-5206.

Rare books, art work star in Olin's comet exhibit
"Comets: Starry Messengers, An Exhibit of Rare Books and Uncommon Editions," which is on display in Olin Library, includes this folding plate showing the course of Halley's Comet with zodiacal figures. The diagram is from "Descriptio Cometae Observati Viennae a die 19 December 1664," by Hartmann Schedel and three books by Isaac Newton. A 55-volume rare book collection with art work, folding plates, technical charts and other related materials are included in the exhibit. The books are a recent gift to the University. The collection includes a number of exceptionally rare items, many of which are not represented in the National Union Catalog, The British Library Catalogue or the "Comet: A Bibliography" by Hartmann Schedel. By permission of the Women's Society and the Panhellenic Council's general fund.

Audition dates for the drama and dance divisions of the WU Performing Arts Area have been set. Drama auditions will be held 7 to 11 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Aug. 28 and 29, in the Mallinckrodt Center drama studio, Room 208. Actors and actresses are needed for student productions of Samuel Beckett's "Endgame," to be performed Oct. 17-19; and for the world premiere of "On the Edge of the World," by Brian Griffin, winner of the St. Louis Playwrights' Festival, to be performed Nov. 14 and 15 and December 11-14.

Morning exercise class meets weekly
A "Morning Exercise" class is being offered to the public by the dance department of the Performing Arts Area. Classes will meet once a week for one hour on Wednesdays from Aug. 20 to Oct. 22 in Edison Studio, room 707, Mallinckrodt Center. Class meets time will be flexible, from 7:30 until 9 a.m., to allow for individual needs. Fee for the 10-week session is $30. A $5 increase is charged for non-WU students. Checks should be made payable to Washington University.

For more information, call 889-5858, 721-5415 or 773-5634.