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# Record

WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY  
IN ST. LOUIS

Vol. 21 No. 23 March 13, 1997



Jolly Stewart, right, head of the opera program, and graduate student Lori Barrett examine a model of the set design for the upcoming Washington University Opera performances of Thomas Benjamin's "The Rehearsal" and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "The Impresario." The set will transform Bixby Hall's Bixby Gallery into a grand ballroom of New York City's Algonquin Hotel, circa 1939.

## Hammers and harmonies

*Music department, art school collaborate to present two operas in Bixby Gallery*

The banging of hammers that recently echoed throughout Bixby Hall's Bixby Gallery will be replaced with the strains of singing when the Washington University Opera presents its spring opera fare this weekend.

The melodies, however, couldn't take place without the clatter.

The Department of Music in Arts and Sciences and the School of Art have combined their creative energies — and respective sounds — to present a unique double bill of one-act operas in Bixby Gallery. The double bill begins with Thomas Benjamin's 20th-century tale "The Rehearsal" and ends with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's comedy "The Impresario."

The music department singers will perform in a space designed by art students. Together, the young musicians and artists will transport audiences into a realm in which ego-driven divas battle for supremacy in the tony atmosphere of New York City's Algonquin Hotel, circa 1939.

The collaboration between the disciplines has been wonderful, said Jolly Stewart, head of the opera program and instructor in voice. "It's a natural marriage to have the School of Art working with music," Stewart said. "We're all

in the arts, after all. We can share our strengths and learn from one another."

Libby Reuter, assistant dean of the art school and Bixby Gallery director, said she recently had been looking for an opportunity to program music into the gallery, which originally was designed as the antiques room

for the British Pavilion of the 1904 World's Fair.

"We're very excited to have the musical and the visual aspects brought together," Reuter said. "It's been an excellent opportunity for our students. This has given them a real-world challenge to work on."

With its soaring ceiling and wood-paneled walls, Bixby Gallery is tailor-made

*Continued on back page*

### DOUBLE BILL OF OPERA

**What:** The Department of Music in Arts and Sciences and the School of Art have joined forces to present Thomas Benjamin's "The Rehearsal" and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "The Impresario."

**When:** 8 p.m. Friday, March 14, and Saturday, March 15, and 3 p.m. Sunday, March 16

**Where:** Bixby Hall's Bixby Gallery

**Tickets:** \$10 for table seating and \$5 for gallery seating. Call (314) 935-5581.

## Computer mapping puts another tool in social workers' belts

Thanks to a computer-mapping database developed by George Warren Brown School of Social Work students, social-service agencies working to improve the handling of child-abuse problems in south St. Louis soon will have a wealth of information on neighborhood resources at their fingertips.

The mapping database, which provides social-service workers with easily accessible information on where families can find help, has caught the attention of the Missouri Division of Family Services (DFS). Several social work students have been hired part time to train DFS personnel to use the mapping database and to explore its uses in other state social-service programs.

The program displays maps showing the locations of counseling services, child-care centers and other resources. This makes it easier for social-service providers to direct families to the most appropriate and convenient sources of assistance — including details on hours

### ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S BEST

The George Warren Brown School of Social Work is tied for No. 1 with the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in the latest U.S. News & World Report rankings of graduate-level social work programs. (See story on page 6.)

of operation, fees, bus routes and other important information.

The mapping database is an outgrowth of an interdisciplinary Washington University course on community development. The course, a cross-listed offering of the social work school and the School of Architecture, was co-taught last semester by John Robertson, Ph.D., assistant professor of social work, and Jana Perea, associate professor of architecture.

As part of the class, students from various disciplines form small teams that work with community leaders on neighborhood problems. In the fall of 1995, a student team decided to use geographic-information system software to help leaders from the Sigel Community Education Center organize neighborhood social-service data into an easy-to-use mapping database.

In emergency situations, child-abuse hotline operators could use the database to instantly generate a map showing a caller's home address and the locations of relevant resources in the neighborhood.

"If caseworkers can direct their clients more quickly, it may reduce stress and avoid situations where there is a potential for child abuse," said Kim Wier, a recent master's of social work graduate who

### Missouri law aims to involve community in responding to reports of child abuse

A computer-mapping database developed by Washington University students will provide valuable information to Missouri legislators evaluating alternative approaches to the investigation of child-abuse reports.

The computer-mapping project at the Sigel Community Education Center in south St. Louis was spurred by Missouri Senate Bill 595. Signed into law during the 1993-94 legislative session, the law is designed to encourage greater collaboration between state child-abuse investigators and the families and communities they serve.

The legislation is based on the belief that neighborhoods and communities are the primary sources of opportunities and support for families and have the responsibility of assuring the safety and vitality of their members.

The law mandates that the Missouri Division of Family Services (DFS) collaborate with communities to provide a continuum of services to prevent and remedy problems of child abuse and neglect. The Sigel neighborhood was

selected as one of five communities statewide in which various approaches to child-abuse investigation are to be explored and assessed.

During a three-year demonstration period, state investigators are working closely with Sigel administrators and other neighborhood social-service providers to test a two-track approach to the investigation of child-abuse reports.

Although "high-risk" cases will continue to be handled through the traditional DFS investigative process, minor cases will be channeled through a new "Family Assessment" track in which community-based social-service providers remain closely involved in the evaluation process and provide immediate assistance on a voluntary basis without the stigma associated with a full-fledged investigative process.

The computer-mapping database gives the community-based social-service providers a wealth of information on where families can obtain immediate assistance in the neighborhood.

helped initiate the project in the fall of 1995. "The software makes it easy to look for relationships between child abuse and other factors, such as poverty or poor access to services."

The program provides a valuable tool for long-term planning and analysis by allowing community leaders to create customized maps that show relationships among neighborhood programs, services and other factors, such as U.S. Census

data. For example, a church group looking for a place to locate a community youth program might create a map showing residential areas that have many young people but few recreational facilities.

Second-year social work graduate students Christy Castner and Jodi de la Pena took over further development of the computer-mapping database last

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#### Helping hemophiliacs ..... 2

A new technique might overcome a primary obstacle to successful gene therapy for this disease

#### A mile in their shoes ..... 3

Leslie Kahl, M.D., has a unique ability to grasp the quandaries and dilemmas facing medical students

#### Melodious diversity ..... 5

Three ensembles to offer the full spectrum of musical performance in Edison Theatre's "OVATIONS!" series



# Medical Update



## Celebrating 80 years

At her 80th birthday party, Lenabell Bell cuts a piece of cake for her current physician, Morey A. Blinder, M.D., right, assistant professor of medicine and of pathology, while her retired physician, Hugh Chaplin Jr., M.D., professor emeritus of medicine and of pathology, looks on. The March 3 party took place in the Clinical Sciences Research Building. Bell, who has sickle cell anemia, is the only surviving patient from a sickle cell research project that started in 1956. Bell has been involved in numerous School of Medicine sickle cell studies during the past 40 years.

## Gene-carrying virus might help hemophiliacs

The key to gene therapy for at least two forms of hemophilia might lie with a virus that helps deliver genetic cargo into cells, according to School of Medicine researchers.

In the February issue of *Blood*, the investigators describe how the technique might overcome one of the primary obstacles to successful gene therapy for hemophilia. It also might impact other diseases caused by protein deficiencies, said Katherine Parker Ponder, M.D., assistant professor of medicine and of biochemistry and molecular biophysics.

Ponder and her colleagues used a retrovirus to smuggle genes into the nuclei of liver cells in rats. The gene package sparked production of a blood-clotting factor that is absent in one type of hemophilia.

"This is a new direction in hemophilia research," Ponder said. "This approach is giving us unprecedented and stable levels of this clotting factor. Previous research has not matched these levels."

Hemophilia is a hereditary and potentially fatal blood condition that causes people to bleed excessively.



Katherine P. Ponder

Blood fails to coagulate in the wake of injury because clotting factors are missing or are poorly expressed in the blood. The most common form is hemophilia A. It results from a deficiency in clotting factor VIII and afflicts one in 5,000 men in the United States.

The researchers are studying a different form of the disease that results from a deficiency in clotting factor X. This rare but serious disorder affects one in 500,000 Americans. By engineering a virus to carry the human factor X gene into liver cells, the researchers enabled rats to produce sustained levels of the blood component. After more than a year, some of

the rats are continuing to produce stable levels of factor X.

Maintaining concentrated, long-term levels of missing clotting factors has been a major obstacle in hemophilia research, Ponder said. She added that the sustained levels of factor X achieved in the rats would be considered therapeutic for factor X-deficient humans.

The approach also might work for clotting factor IX deficiency. Factors IX and X are similar proteins, and their genes can be manipulated in similar ways, she said. Factor IX deficiency contributes to hemophilia B, which affects one in 50,000 American males.

The retrovirus technique is not limited to hemophilia, Ponder said. "We're now looking to see if we can apply our gene-delivery techniques to cure other liver disorders," she said. "Once you get (the retrovirus) into the liver, you could essentially target any genetic disorder you want. It should be applicable to a tremendous number of genetic disorders that affect proteins made by the liver."

— George Corsiglia

## Researchers testing drug that might lessen brain damage after stroke

School of Medicine researchers are testing an experimental drug that might lessen the brain damage that occurs after stroke. The drug, Cerestat, is being tested at 120 sites in five countries.

"Much of the brain damage from stroke occurs in the hours after symptoms begin, so physicians can try to intervene if a patient gets to the hospital in time," said neurology Professor Chung Y. Hsu, M.D., Ph.D. Hsu is coordinating Washington University's participation in the trial, which is being organized by Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Stroke is the leading cause of disability in the United States, accounting for the lingering symptoms in 2 million to 3 million Americans. It also is the third-leading cause of death, killing 150,000 of the 500,000 people who have strokes each year. In the most common type, ischemic stroke, a clot in a blood vessel blocks the supply of oxygen and nutrients to part of the brain.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved one drug, tPA (tissue plasminogen activator), for treatment of ischemic stroke. The drug dissolves blood clots, restoring the flow of essential substances to threatened tissue. Cerestat offers a different approach by protecting cells that surround a damaged area. Substances from dying cells harm healthy tissue. Cerestat consistently has reduced this tissue damage in animal studies.

"Now it is time to see if this medication can help patients," said Paul T. Akins, M.D., Ph.D., instructor in neurology. "But people must receive the drug no more than six hours after symptoms begin."

Stroke patients are screened when they arrive at Barnes-Jewish Hospital to determine if they are eligible for the experimental treatment. Participants then receive an infusion of either Cerestat or an inactive substance. Their neurological status and level of functioning are assessed three months later.

The screening, trial-related medications and follow-up examination are free.

Cerestat — aptiganel hydrochloride — was developed by Cambridge Neuro-Science Inc. after decades of basic research at Washington University and other institutions. The research was pioneered by John W. Olney, M.D., professor of psychiatry and of pathology; Steven M. Rothman, M.D., the Ernest and Jane G. Stein Professor of Developmental Neurology in neurology, in pediatrics and in anatomy and neurobiology; and Dennis W. Choi, M.D., Ph.D., the Andrew B. and Gretchen P. Jones Professor of Neurology and head of the Department of Neurology. Their studies showed that cells damaged during a stroke release dangerous amounts of glutamate, a chemical that allows neurons to communicate with each other. The glutamate opens channels on nearby neurons, allowing lethal concentrations of ions to enter. Cerestat blocks the opening of channels that are controlled by a glutamate-operated switch called the NMDA receptor.

## Volunteers needed to test treatment of post-shingles pain

School of Medicine investigators are recruiting patients for a study of an investigational drug for the treatment of postherpetic neuralgia, the severe pain that can affect patients months or years after they have had shingles. St. Louis is one of 10 sites involved in the study of the drug, called gabapentin.

The drug originally was developed as a treatment for epilepsy. It helps prevent seizures, but in preliminary studies, it also appears to help ease the pain that follows shingles.

"If you think of the pain as a 'short circuit' in peripheral nerves, then it makes sense that a drug designed to prevent seizures — which essentially are 'short circuits' in the brain — might also prevent postherpetic neuralgia," said Edwin Duntzman, M.D., assistant professor of anesthesiology and principal investigator at the Washington University site.

Shingles is an inflammation of nerves in the arms, legs, chest or elsewhere. The virus that causes the childhood disease chicken pox also causes shingles. The virus (*Varicella zoster*) can reinfect older people and result in the skin lesions and pain associated with shingles. About 20 percent to 30 percent of people older than 60 suffer from shingles, and half of those develop postherpetic neuralgia. In patients older than 70, about three-fourths suffer from the severe pain.

"We've treated people with a different drug for many years, but there can be side effects that make it dangerous for patients with other medical problems," Duntzman said. "And once patients pass 70, most have other medical problems."

Volunteers for the study must be 18 or older and have had pain from postherpetic neuralgia for more than three months after a shingles rash has healed. During an eight-week study period, participants will receive either gabapentin or placebos. Subjects will make six visits to the Washington University Pain Management Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital during the course of the study. For more information, call (314) 362-8820.

## Record

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Washington

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS



# Washington People

## Kahl's experiences connect her with students

**W**hen students walk into Leslie Kahl's office to discuss their quandaries and dilemmas, they encounter someone who has walked a mile in their shoes. Kahl, M.D., associate dean for student affairs at the School of Medicine, knows how these students feel because she agonized over her decision to become a doctor.

When she was a junior at Stanford University, Kahl took some time off from school. Like a third of her Stanford classmates, she was a pre-med major. But she wasn't certain she wanted a medical career.

"I took three quarters off to go home and think about what had happened and to decide whether this was a decision I had fallen into or something I had consciously chosen," Kahl said.

Not many of Kahl's high school classmates dreamed of becoming physicians. She grew up in the rural New York town of Corning, population 15,000 and home of the multi-million-dollar Corning Glass Corp. Kahl noted that people worked for either Corning or the school district.

Kahl's father worked for Corning, as did her grandfather, who held the patent for the glass in stoplights and in the nose cones of rockets. Her mother worked for the school district when Kahl began high school.

"In retrospect, it was a really neat place to grow up," she said. "There was much more going on than in your average small town. It was filled with lawyers and designers and people who required a lot in terms of culture."

Many of Kahl's childhood memories are of music and of people from foreign lands. Her mother played the flute in the local symphony, and her father was president of the symphony society. Her grandparents traveled extensively and played host to many fellow travelers.

"The Sunday dinner table was frequently graced with foreign students or fellow travelers — people from all over the world," she said. "As a child, I remember these exotic-smelling wooden crates coming back from everywhere and would anticipate them."

Her grandfather, a chemist, taught Kahl to use a slide rule and helped her figure out math problems during concerts. Kahl has always enjoyed music, math and languages.

During her time off from Stanford, Kahl shadowed a married couple — one was a general practitioner and the other was a general surgeon. By the time she returned to Stanford, Kahl was convinced medicine was the correct career choice for her because she saw how the couple interacted with people and how they were making a difference.

When Kahl graduated from Stanford in 1973 with a bachelor's degree, she hadn't finished her pre-med requirements. She then worked for a year in a series of unusual full-time jobs while she took more science courses and prepared credentials for medical school applications. While living in a Berkeley, Calif., co-op, she worked as a switchboard operator, which she confesses wasn't her calling. She also worked briefly as an assistant loan officer in a Japanese bank and then as a civilian associate director of a literacy school at California's Fort Ord.

"It really was a great year. I spent a lot of time at the beach and went backpacking," she said. "When I entered medical school, I was very focused and knew I wanted a career and not just a job. I think the year off gave me much better direction than if I had gone straight through."

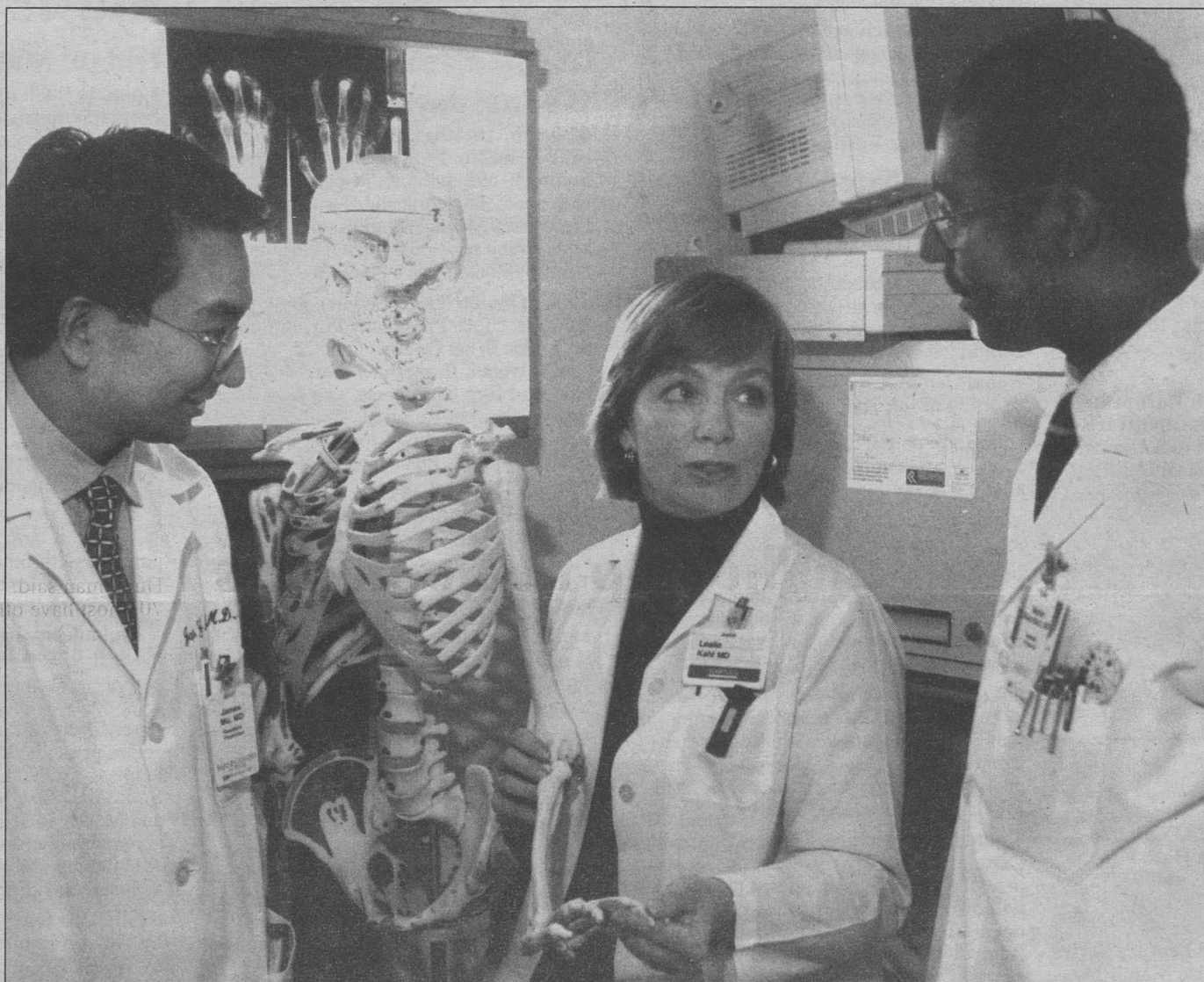
### 'She's a good listener'

Kahl's early soul-searching experiences have contributed to her noted listening skills and rapport with students — traits that immediately come to mind when students and colleagues describe her.

"I think she can see all the different sides of an issue very clearly, even before you've presented the issue to her. She just has a good grasp on things," said Todd Vedder, senior class president. "She asks very focused questions, and I think that's because she's a good listener."

Kahl became associate dean for student affairs in 1993. In addition to counseling students on academic and personal issues, she provides administrative support for a host of student community-service activities and directs the Program for Women in Science and Medicine, which helps recruit female medical students.

A rheumatologist and associate professor of medicine, Kahl also has a reputation as an excellent teacher. She received the Distinguished Service Teaching Award four years in a row, from 1992-96, for her work in the medical school's rheumatology pathophysiology course. She has been course master in rheumatology since 1992.



Leslie Kahl, M.D., talks with residents James Mu, M.D., left, and Melvin Blanchard, M.D., before going on rounds.

**"I think she can see all the different sides of an issue very clearly, even before you've presented the issue to her."**

— Todd Vedder

"She's very good," said Gerald Medoff, M.D., professor of medicine and of molecular microbiology and director of medical education for the Department of Medicine. "I think her clinical expertise and her rapport with students is admirable and an important contribution to our teaching program."

Teaching has been a common thread throughout Kahl's life. When she graduated from high school, she received an award as most likely to become an outstanding teacher.

"At the time, having experienced small-town, somewhat mediocre classes, I didn't consider this to be the highest form of compliment," Kahl said. "But now that I understand what teaching is, teaching gives me the most pride."

During medical school at New York's Albany Medical College, Kahl spent a summer helping develop a class curriculum. She also was in charge of fellows at an arthritis hospital affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh, where she taught before joining Washington University. She earned a medical degree from Albany in 1978.

It's clear what she likes about teaching. "Seeing the 'Oh, yeah, now I understand.' That's the same look you get whether you're teaching a house officer, a student or a patient," she said.

In some ways, Kahl said, the information she conveys to patients and the public is as important as what she teaches to medical students and house officers. She has discovered that patients and families who are well-educated about a disease cope with it better. They also are more reliable and are good observers and reporters when communicating with physicians.

### Rheumatology was an easy choice

Kahl decided to become a rheumatologist during the second year of a residency at Presbyterian University Hospital in Pittsburgh. It was the rheumatology patients who motivated her, after being up all night on call, to go

home and read about their illnesses.

"Their diseases seemed so exciting, esoteric and exotic," she said. "It was a very easy decision for me."

Kahl and her husband, George Matuschak, M.D., completed fellowships at the University of Pittsburgh and joined the faculty there for four years before moving to St. Louis in 1987. They have an 8-year-old son. Matuschak is a professor of medicine and director of the medical intensive-care unit at Saint Louis University.

Kahl's main assignment when she joined Washington University was to try to bridge the gap between a large patient population and a productive bench research program in rheumatology. For the first several years, she built a computerized database of lupus patients and looked at patient-care

issues, such as the natural history of the illness, disease treatment and its complications, and infection. In her role as director of the Lupus Clinic, she provided patient data and specimens for ongoing studies, including several national multicenter research protocols.

In 1992, Kahl became director of the clinical section of the Division of Rheumatology.

Since she entered the field, scientists have learned a great deal about the immunogenetics of arthritis — which eventually might unravel how the disease is triggered. In some instances, an infection — probably viral — is the likely trigger for many so-called autoimmune diseases, such as lupus and arthritis, Kahl explained. One of the biggest discoveries, she said, has been that of Lyme disease. Researchers now know the cause of the arthritic disorder, understand the pathophysiology, and are able to treat it.

Physicians also know more about treating lupus, she said. More people today are diagnosed and treated in the early stages of the disease, helping patients enjoy a better quality of life.

"It used to be that the only patients who got diagnosed and treated were the ones who had catastrophic illness — full-blown lupus with all the complications, many of them life threatening," Kahl said.

Kahl strongly believes physicians must remember that the prescription pad is not the only tool for treating arthritis. "There are lots of other tools available now, including education of the patient and family, weight loss, physical and occupational therapy, and judicious use of splints and assisted devices," Kahl said.

She recently completed an educational video on arthritis for primary-care physicians.

Kahl admits that juggling her roles as physician and administrator is difficult. "But one of the things I like about my job is that every day is different," she said. "You never have any idea what to expect."

— Diane Duke



# Calendar

Visit Washington University's on-line calendar at  
<http://cf6000.wustl.edu/calendar/events/v1.1>

## March 13-22



## Exhibitions

**"Abstract Expressionism: American Art in the 1950s and '60s."** A collection of 20th-century masterpieces by artists of the "New York School." Through April 6. Gallery of Art, upper gallery, Steinberg Hall. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays; 1 to 5 p.m. weekends. 935-4523.

**Arts Connection/City Faces exhibit.** Features works by participants in City Faces, a summer drawing program for at-risk youths. Through March 29. Center Of Contemporary Arts, 524 Trinity Ave. Hours: 1 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; noon to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. 725-6555.

**"The Last Time I Saw Paris: A City in Time."** A Department of Special Collections exhibit. Through March 21. Special Collections, level five, Olin Library. Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. 935-5495.

**"The Lens of Architecture: Ronchamp Through Hervé."** Architectural photographs by 20th-century photographer Lucien Hervé. Through March 30. Gallery of Art, lower gallery, Steinberg Hall. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays; 1 to 5 p.m. weekends. 935-4523.

**"The Third World Through European Eyes: Postcolonial German Literature."** Exhibit opens March 21 and runs through March 31. Special Collections, level five, Olin Library. Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. 935-5495.



## Films

All Filmboard movies cost \$3 and are shown in Room 100 Brown Hall. For the 24-hour Filmboard hotline, call 935-5983.

### Friday, March 14

7 and 9:30 p.m. Filmboard Feature Series. "The Hudsucker Proxy." (Also March 15, same times, and March 16 at 7 p.m.)

Midnight. Filmboard Midnight Series. "Batman" (1966). (Also March 15, same time, and March 16 at 9:30 p.m.)

### Tuesday, March 18

6 p.m. Japanese Film Series. "Grave of the Fireflies." Room 219 South Ridgley Hall. 935-5156.

7 and 9 p.m. Filmboard Classic Series. "Born Yesterday." (Also March 19, same times.)

### Friday, March 21

7, 8:30 and 10 p.m. Filmboard Feature Series. "Wallace & Gromit: The Best of Aardman Animation." (Also March 22, same times, and March 23 at 6:30 and 8 p.m.)

Midnight. Filmboard Midnight Series. "Back to the Future." (Also March 22, same time, and March 23 at 9:30 p.m.)



## Lectures

### Thursday, March 13

11 a.m. Pathology seminar. "Protein Modules and Signaling Networks." Tony Pawson, Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute, Mount Sinai Hospital, N.Y. Cori Aud., 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-3365.

Noon. Genetics seminar. "Metal Ions and Oxidative Stress: New Insights From Yeast,"

Valeria Culotta, Johns Hopkins U., Baltimore. Room 823 McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg. 362-3365.

2:30 p.m. Mechanical engineering colloquium. "Bulk Growth of Semiconductor Crystals in a Magnetic Field: A Study of Dopant Transport." Nancy Ma, postdoctoral researcher in mechanical engineering, U. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. (Postponed from Feb. 27.) Room 100 Cupples II Hall. 935-6055.

4 p.m. Anthropology colloquium. "Prehistoric Southwestern Warfare: Continentwide Implications." Steve LeBlanc, asst. prof. of anthropology, U. of Southern California. Room 149 McMillan Hall. 935-5252.

4:15 p.m. Philosophy lecture. "Developing an Argument for Religious Toleration After the Reformation." Edwin Curley, prof. of philosophy, U. of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Stix International House. 935-6614.

5 p.m. Vision sciences seminar. "Water Channels: Unanswered Questions and Unresolved Controversies." Rajkumar V. Patil, research asst. prof. of ophthalmology and visual sciences. East Pavilion Aud., Barnes-Jewish Hospital. 362-3365.

### Friday, March 14

9:15 a.m. Pediatric Grand Rounds. James Barrett Brown Lecture. "A Biologic Approach to Vascular Malformations." John B. Mulliken, assoc. prof. of surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery, Harvard U. Medical School. Clopton Aud., 4950 Children's Place. 454-6020.

Noon. Cell biology and physiology seminar. "Sorting of Ion Transport Proteins in Polarized Cells." Michael Caplan, assoc. prof. of cell and molecular physiology, Yale U. School of Medicine. Room 426 McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg. 362-6950.

3 p.m. Biology thesis defense. "Population Genetic Consequences of the Holocene Invasion of the Ozarks and Flint Hills by the Eastern Collared Lizard (*Crotaphytus collaris*) With Subsequent Habitat Fragmentation." Delbert Hutchison, graduate student. Room 322 Rebstock Hall. 362-3365.

4 p.m. Anatomy and neurobiology seminar. "The Head-Gut Connection: Interactions of the Pre-frontal Cortex With the Visceral Control System." Joel Price, prof. of anatomy and neurobiology. Room 928 McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg. 362-3365.

4 p.m. Music lecture. Thomas Benjamin, Dept. of Music Theory, Peabody Conservatory of Music, Johns Hopkins U., Baltimore, will discuss the process of composing his opera "The Rehearsal." Discussion will follow with John and Jolly Stewart, WU Dept. of Music faculty members. Room 102 new music classroom bldg. 935-4841.

4 p.m. Plastic and reconstructive surgery lecture. James Barrett Brown Lecture. "A Personal Evolution Toward a One-stage Repair of Bilateral Complete Cleft Lip and Nasal Deformity." John B. Mulliken, assoc. prof. of surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery, Harvard U. Medical School. Third Floor Aud., St. Louis Children's Hospital. 454-6020.

4:45 p.m. Business/law lecture. Part of the conference "Markets and Information Gathering in an Electronic Age: Securities Regulation in the 21st Century." (See *Miscellany*.) Keynote address by Steven M.H. Wallman, commissioner, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Registration required. Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom, Anheuser-Busch Hall. 935-6437.

6 and 8:30 p.m. WU Association Travel Lecture Series. "Peru: The Mysterious Journey." Buddy Hatton, travelogue producer and two-time winner of the Canadian Emmy Award. (Postponed from Jan. 3.) Cost: \$4.50. Graham Chapel. 935-5212.

### Monday, March 17

3:30 p.m. Biostatistics seminar. "Practical Random Effects Models for Survival." Terry Therneau, assoc. prof. of biostatistics, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. Room 1112 Old Shriner's Hospital Bldg. 362-3614.

4 p.m. Biology seminar. "Regulation of Nitrogenase Activity by Reversible ADP-ribosylation." Paul W. Ludden, Dept. of Biochemistry, U. of Wisconsin, Madison. Room 322 Rebstock Hall. 935-6860.

4 p.m. Immunology seminar. "Intracellular Calcium Signaling." Thomas H. Steinberg, asst. prof. of cell biology and physiology and of medicine. Eric P. Newman Education Center. 362-2798.

8 p.m. School of Architecture's Monday Night Lecture Series. "Do It Yourself — Building at Cranbrook," Dan Hoffman, prof. of architecture, Cranbrook Academy of Art, and director, Cranbrook Architectural Office, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. Steinberg Hall Aud. 935-6200.

### Tuesday, March 18

Noon. Molecular microbiology/microbial pathogenesis seminar. "Protein Secretion and Pilus Biogenesis." Stephen Lory, U. of Washington, Seattle. Room 775 McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg. 362-7258.

4 p.m. Chemistry seminar. "Proteins: From Catalysis to Cancer and Beyond." Mark D. Distefano, asst. prof. of chemistry, U. of Minnesota. Room 311 McMillan Lab. 935-6530.

4 p.m. Diabetes research seminar. "Depolarization, Secretion-coupling in  $\beta$ -cells." Stanley Misler, assoc. prof. of cell biology and physiology and of medicine. Pathology Library, Room 3723 West Bldg. 362-7435.

### Wednesday, March 19

6:30 a.m. Anesthesiology Grand Rounds. "STAT But Not FAS(+): Control of Airway Immunity and Asthma." Michael J. Holtzman, the Selma and Herman Seldin Professor of Medicine and assoc. prof. of cell biology and physiology. Wohl Hospital Bldg. Aud., 4960 Children's Place. 362-6978.

8 a.m. Obstetrics and Gynecology Grand Rounds. "Teen Pregnancy Prevention in St. Louis: What Doctors Can Do," the Rev. Gloria Weber, former member, Missouri House of Representatives, and Jean Berg, former director, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Rights. Clopton Aud., 4950 Children's Place. 362-3143.

11 a.m. Assembly Series. Benjamin E. Youngdahl Lecture in Social Policy. "Bridge to a Multicultural Century." Clarence Page, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist, Chicago Tribune. Graham Chapel. (See story on page 5.) 935-5285.

1 p.m. Math lecture. Wavelets and P.D.E.s Seminar. Topic to be announced. Speaker is Wim Sweldens, Bell Labs. Room 199 Cupples I Hall. 935-6726.

4 p.m. Biochemistry and molecular biophysics seminar. "The True Free Energy of Protein Folding is Difficult to Use for Structure Prediction and Sometimes Fails at Fold Recognition." Gordon M. Crippen, prof., Dept. of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, U. of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Cori Aud., 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-0261.

### Thursday, March 20

11:15 a.m. Social work lecture. "Overview of Mental Health Prevention Research." Juan Ramos, director, prevention and special projects, National Institute of Mental Health. Room 295 West Campus Administrative Center. 935-5687.

3 p.m. Social work lecture. "Opportunities for NIMH-funded Research in Prevention for Social Workers." Juan Ramos, director, prevention and special projects, National Institute of Mental Health. Room 295 West Campus Administrative Center. 935-5687.

4 p.m. Biology and biomedical sciences ethics seminar. "Biologists in 'The Real World': Ethical Conflicts and Social Responsibility." Charles Weiner, prof. of the history of science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cori Aud., 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-3364.

4:15 p.m. Philosophy lecture. "Applying Ethics and the Method of Ethics." Ursula Wolf, prof. of philosophy, Free U. of Berlin. Stix International House. 935-6614.

8 p.m. African and Afro-American studies lecture. "Elvis Presley, Martin Luther King and the Ironical Redemption of the South." Gerald L. Early, the Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters and professor and director, African and Afro-American Studies Program. Hurst Lounge, Room 201 Duncker Hall. 935-5690.

### Friday, March 21

9:15 a.m. Pediatric Grand Rounds. "Kwashiorkor in Malawi." Mark J. Manary, asst. prof. of pediatrics. Clopton Aud., 4950 Children's Place. 454-6006.

Noon. Cell biology and physiology seminar. "Ferrets, Firths and Friends Influence PM Ca Pump Pursuits." Mark A. Milanick, Dept. of Physiology, U. of Missouri School of Medicine. Room 426 McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg. 362-6950.

4 p.m. Music lecture. "Music History, Music Theory and Ethnomusicology: Disciplines in Crisis." Kevin Korsyn, assoc. prof. of music, U. of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Room 102 new music classroom bldg. 935-5581.

4 p.m. Russian lecture. "Popular Religion and Superstition in the Brothers Karamazov." Linda J. Ivantix, Dept. of Slavic Languages, Pennsylvania State U. Women's Bldg. Lounge. 935-5177.



## Music

### Friday, March 21

8 p.m. WU Chamber Choir concert. Program: motets by Tomás Luis de Victoria and Antonio Lotti and the world premiere of "The Lavender Fields: Renata's Requiem" in memory of the late Renata Rotkiewicz, an Olin Library employee. Directed by John Stewart. Graham Chapel. 935-5581.

### Saturday, March 22

8 p.m. Voice recital. Program: Italian opera arias featuring Donna De Pond, soprano, with Gail Hintz, piano. Graham Chapel. 935-5581.



## Performances

### Friday, March 14

8 p.m. Edison Theatre's "OVATIONS!" series presents Streb/Ringside in "POPACTION." Co-sponsored by Dance St. Louis. (Also March 15, same time, and March 16 at 2 p.m.) Cost: \$23 for the general public; \$18 for senior citizens and WU faculty and staff; and \$12 for WU students. Edison Theatre. 935-6543.

8 p.m. WU Opera presents "The Rehearsal" by Thomas Benjamin and "The Impresario" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. (Also March 15, same time, and March 16 at 3 p.m.) Cost: \$10 for table seating; \$5 for gallery seating. Bixby Gallery, Bixby Hall. (See story on page 1.) 935-5581.

### Friday, March 21

8 p.m. Edison Theatre's "OVATIONS!" series presents Zap Mama, a female vocal group featuring Afro-European music. Co-sponsored by Wired Women Productions. Cost: \$23 for the general public; \$18 for senior citizens and WU faculty and staff; and \$12 for WU students. Edison Theatre. (See story on page 5.) 935-6543.

### Saturday, March 22

2 p.m. Edison Theatre's "ovations! for young people" series presents String Trio of New York and Bang On A Can All-Stars. Cost: \$12. At 8 p.m., the same groups will present an "OVATIONS!" performance. Cost: \$23 for the general public; \$18 for senior citizens and WU faculty and staff; and \$12 for WU students. Both events will be in Edison Theatre. (See story on page 5.) 935-6543.



## Miscellany

Registration continues for the following Office of Continuing Medical Education seminars: Leonard Berg Symposium on Alzheimer's Disease (April 4); "Clinical Pulmonary Update" (April 4-5); "Fifth



Annual Refresher Course and Update in General Surgery" (April 10-12); and "Common Cancers — Prevention, Detection and Therapy" (April 25). Call 362-6891 for times, costs and locations and to register.

### Friday, March 14

**Registration deadline for European studies symposium.** "The Third World Through European Eyes: Postcolonial German Literature (1970-1990)." The symposium, to be held March 28-30, will hold sessions at various locations. 935-4360.

**9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Business/law conference.** "Markets and Information Gathering in an Electronic Age: Securities Regulation in the 21st Century." Anheuser-Busch Hall. For more info. and to register, call 935-6403.

### Saturday, March 15

**9 a.m.-noon. Art workshop.** "Business for Creative People." Illustrator Marilyn Cathcart will discuss how to set up a business in the arts. Cost: \$35. Room 104 Bixby Hall. Call 935-4643 to register.

**9 a.m.-noon. Book arts workshop.** "Paper Pop-up Basics." Instructed by Bob Smith, prof. emeritus of art. Cost: \$35. Room 204 Lewis Center. For a list of supplies and to register, call 935-4643.

**1-5 p.m. Book arts workshop.** Make a paper-covered portfolio case that has a cloth spine. Cost: \$35. Room 104 Bixby Hall. Call 935-4643 to register.

### Sunday, March 16

**11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Hillel Center event.** Freshman Brunch: Indian Jewry. "How to Pray for Rain, Resurrection and Reincarnation," Rabbi Hyim Shafner. Hillel Center, 6300 Forsyth Blvd. 726-6177.

**8 p.m. Hillel Center event.** Rosh Chodesh: A Spiritual Gathering of Women. Hillel Center, 6300 Forsyth Blvd. 862-3272.

### Monday, March 17

**7-10 p.m. Twenty-third annual Internal Medicine Review (continued).** The topic is infectious diseases. Steinberg Amphitheater, 216 S. Kingshighway Blvd. 362-6891.

### Tuesday, March 18

**6:15 p.m. Germanic literary reading.** Author Harald Hartung, Technische Universität Berlin, will read from his works. Stix International House. 935-5106.

**8 p.m. International Writers Center Reading Series.** Joanna Scott, author of "The Manikin," "Arrogance" and "Various Antidotes," will read from her works. Cost: \$5; free for senior citizens and students with ID; A&E members receive two-for-one discounts. West Campus Conference Center. (See story on page 7.) 935-5576.

### Wednesday, March 19

**11 a.m.-1 p.m. Hillel Center plant and flower sale.** (Also March 20, same times.) Proceeds benefit the Jewish National Fund. Mallinckrodt Center. 726-6177.

### Thursday, March 20

**8 p.m. Poetry reading.** Robert Pinsky, author of "The Want Bone" and a new

translation of Dante's "Inferno," will read from his recent work. Hurst Lounge, Room 201 Duncker Hall. 935-5664.

### Friday, March 21

**7:15 a.m. Office of Continuing Medical Education seminar.** "Integrated Care of the Thoracic Surgery Patient: A Seminar for Allied Health Professionals." (Continues March 22.) Eric P. Newman Education Center. For costs and to register, call 362-6891.

### Saturday, March 22

**8 a.m.-1 p.m. Office of Continuing Medical Education seminar.** "New Approaches to the Management of HIV Disease: Update From the Fourth Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections." The Ritz-Carlton, Clayton. For costs and to register, call 362-2418.

**9 a.m.-noon. Book arts workshop.** "Chameleon Tongues and Castle Towers." Explore advanced paper construction, learn animation and action techniques, and make architectural and sculptural structures. Prerequisite: basic paper construction. Instructed by Bob Smith, prof. emeritus of art. Cost: \$35. Room 204 Lewis Center. For a list of supplies and to register, call 935-4643.

**9:30 a.m.-noon. African and Afro-American studies/English poetry readings and discussion.** "African-American Poetry: Perspectives From Contemporary Poets," Forrest Hamer, Allison Joseph and John Keene. Hurst Lounge, Room 201 Duncker Hall. 935-5690.

**8 p.m. Hillel Center event.** "The Whole Megillah." A community reading of "Megillat Esther." Come in costume. Call for location. Followed by a party at 10 p.m. in Holmes Lounge, Ridgley Hall. 726-6177.



## Vienna Fest 1997

**"Visionaries in Exile — A Cultural Journey From 'Austria to America.'"**

A computer-interactive traveling exhibit on Viennese architects in the United States. Co-sponsored by the Austrian Cultural Institute New York and Architektur Zentrum Wien. Through March 30. Gallery of Art, upper gallery, Steinberg Hall. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays; 1 to 5 p.m. weekends. 935-4523.

### Monday, March 17

**Noon. Chamber music concert.** Performers: Tod Bowermaster, horn; Dana Edson, violin; and Seth Carlin, piano. Program: Johannes Brahms' Horn Trio in E-flat Major. Moore Aud., 660 S. Euclid Ave. 935-4841.

## String Trio, Bang On A Can All-Stars to play just about every type of music

Jazz, classical, rock, funk, new music and more will join forces in pushing the musical boundaries when the String Trio of New York and the Bang On A Can All-Stars share the bill at 2 and 8 p.m. March 22 in Edison Theatre.

The two ensembles will make their St. Louis premieres as part of Edison's "OVATIONS!" series. The matinee concert is part of the "ovations! for young people" series.

The six members of the Bang On A Can All-Stars play an assortment of acoustic and electric instruments, including cello, bass, piano, electric guitar, and percussion and woodwind instruments. Drawing on a background that spans the musical spectrum, the All-Stars create a sound that has the clarity and precision of a chamber ensemble and the drive and spirit of a rock band.

The All-Stars began as a collaboration of musicians who first met at the "Bang On A Can Festival," an annual celebration of new music that began in 1987 on Manhattan's Lower East Side. By 1992, this group of musicians had developed an identity of its own and had become a separate ensemble — the All-Stars. The ensemble epitomizes the vision of the festival — that all musical attitudes and genres can and should relate to each other.

The String Trio of New York, formed in 1977, has delighted audiences world-

wide with its sophisticated and engaging compositions for violin, guitar and bass.

The group's repertoire features more than 60 stylistically diverse works made up of originals by ensemble members, works by renowned composers commissioned for the ensemble, and arrangements of jazz standards. The trio has riveted audiences with its flawless technique and flare for improvisation.

Bass player John Lindberg summed up the ensemble's musical philosophy, "We strive to combine the interactional sensibilities of chamber music with the spontaneity and excitement of jazz."

## Diverse blend of musical influences anchors Zap Mama's performances

A cross-cultural musical mélange will spark dancing in the aisles when Zap Mama performs at 8 p.m. March 21 in Edison Theatre.

The one-night-only performance is part of Edison's "OVATIONS!" series and is co-sponsored by Wired Women Productions.

Zap Mama, which originally built a reputation as an exuberant Afro-European female a cappella group, has expanded into new musical frontiers. The group now includes acoustic instruments to complement the electrifying voices. The current lineup — starring Zap Mama founder Marie Daulne with backup vocalists, bass and drums — incorporates the best elements of its former incarnation with a new sense of drive and energy. But, like before, Zap Mama promises a powerful evening of music that mixes the souls of Africa, Europe and the United States.

Daulne draws from a range of musical influences, including North American jazz, European chorales, Asian chants and African cries, among others.

Zap Mama's music is a reflection of Daulne's diverse heritage spanning two continents. She was born 30 years ago in Zaire to a Belgian father and Zairian mother. Her father was killed in a political revolt, and her mother escaped with her three children to hide out with a Pygmy tribe before settling in Belgium with her in-laws.

Daulne started Zap Mama in 1989.

### "OVATIONS!"

**What:** Zap Mama

**When:** 8 p.m. March 21

**Where:** Edison Theatre

**Tickets:** \$23 for the general public; \$18 for senior citizens and Washington University faculty and staff; and \$12 for University students. Tickets are available at the Edison Theatre box office, (314) 935-6543, and MetroTix outlets, (314) 534-1111.

The a cappella group quickly gained renown for songs filled with stirring melodies and harmonies and performances filled with an assortment of grunts, whistles, animal calls, clicks, pantomime and a healthy dose of humor.

Daulne attributes her desire to change Zap Mama in part to having a baby. "Maybe it's because I've become a mother and I need something different," she said. She believes the evolution has allowed for more "subtle creations" to be combined with the group's powerful vocal elements.

Whatever form Zap Mama takes in the future, Daulne said, it is the blending of cultures that always will be at the heart of the music. Daulne said she identifies with the European desire to analyze and intellectualize but adds that the African vibe is also in the music.

## Assembly Series features columnist Clarence Page

Nationally syndicated columnist Clarence Page will deliver the Benjamin E. Youngdahl Lecture in Social Policy at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 19, in Graham Chapel. His lecture, titled "Bridge to a Multicultural Century," is part of the Assembly Series and is free and open to the public.

Page, the 1989 Pulitzer Prize winner for commentary, has been a Chicago Tribune columnist and a member of the newspaper's editorial board since 1984. His columns address issues such as education, politics, economics, prejudice, housing, hunger and crime. He has been based in Washington, D.C., since 1991.

Page occasionally is a panelist on "The McLaughlin Group" and has been a contributor of essays to the "MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour." His commentary also is broadcast on National Public Radio's "Weekend Sunday."

He has received awards from the Illinois and Wisconsin chapters of the American Civil Liberties Union for his



Clarence Page

columns on civil liberties and constitutional rights. He was inducted into the Chicago Journalism Hall of Fame in 1992.

Page graduated from Ohio University in Athens in 1969. From 1969 to 1980, he was a reporter and assistant city editor for the Chicago Tribune. He became director of the Community Affairs Department of WBBM-TV in 1980 and was a reporter and planning editor at the station from 1982-84.

For information, call (314) 935-5285.

## Sports

Compiled by Mike Wolf, director, and Kevin Bergquist, asst. director, sports information. For the most up-to-date news about Washington University's athletics program, access the Bears' Web site at [www.sports-u.com](http://www.sports-u.com).

### Men's basketball loses in tourney's first round

The Washington University men's basketball team lost 86-69 to the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (Terre Haute, Ind.) last week in the first round of the NCAA tournament. The loss ended WU's season. The Bears finished with a 17-9 overall record and a 9-5 record in the University Athletic Association (UAA).

### Women's basketball finishes season 19-7

The women's basketball team got another shot at Millikin University (Decatur, Ill.) last week in the first round of the NCAA tournament, but the result was the same as earlier this season. Millikin won 61-53, ending the Bears' season at 19-7 overall and 10-4 in the UAA.

### Women's tennis drops four in California

The women's tennis team ran up against the best that Division III has to offer on its spring break trip to California. The Bears

lost to Pomona-Pitzer Colleges (Claremont, Calif.); Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges (Claremont); the University of California at San Diego; and Point Loma Nazarene College (San Diego).

Current record: 3-5

Next week: 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville; 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 23, vs. Indiana State University (Terre Haute, Ind.), Tao Tennis Center

### Richard, Rigaud earn All-American status

Sophomore Emily Richard bettered her own school record while competing last week at the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships in Oshkosh, Wis. Richard placed fifth in the 5,000 meters in 17 minutes, 31.17 seconds, beating by 16 seconds the school record she set earlier this season. Sophomore Claudine Rigaud improved her school mark in the 55-meter dash to 7.36 seconds in qualifying for the finals in that event. In the finals, Rigaud placed sixth in 7.39 seconds. Both athletes earned All-American status.



# U.S. News rates social work No. 1, creative writing 10th

The George Warren Brown School of Social Work broke into the No. 1 slot among the nation's social work graduate programs, and in a first-time ranking of creative writing programs, Washington University tied for 10th in the latest U.S. News & World Report rankings of the country's best graduate programs.

The two rankings reflect the national reputations of both programs because these rankings are based on surveys of deans, faculty and administrators in each field. The University's social work program moved up from second to tie the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor for first.

"It is gratifying that on at least one indicator — namely the esteem we enjoy among our colleagues — we are moving forward toward our goal of becoming the world's finest school of social work," said Shanti K. Khinduka, Ph.D., dean of the social work school. "We, as a school, are committed to becoming the world's best, not simply in reputational polls but on all reasonable educational criteria."

Khinduka noted that the school has long had a solid reputation for teaching and research — a foundation strengthened by the establishment in recent years of several innovative teaching and research centers and by the faculty's success in winning research grants and their outstanding record of publications in top-tier journals.

Carl Phillips, director of the Creative Writing Program and associate professor of English and of African and Afro-American studies in Arts and Sciences, is pleased that the magazine's first ranking of graduate creative writing programs put the University among the top 10.

"It is an indication that we seem to be doing our job well," he said, crediting the program's outstanding, nationally recognized faculty. "I'd like to think this ranking means that we are proving there can be a new generation of literary prominence at Washington University. Already,

we have national award-winning writers here, which bodes well for the future."

Several other University professional schools and graduate programs were ranked among the nation's best.

As in past years, the School of Medicine was in the top 10, ranking No. 5 among research-oriented medical schools. It also was ranked second in student selectivity, a measure of student quality.

"It's an honor to be listed among the top five medical schools in the country," said William A. Peck, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the medical school. "The rankings merely reinforce what we within the Medical Center know to be true, that we have faculty members who are leaders in their respective fields guiding brilliant students who are the world's future medical and scientific leaders."

The medical school's Health Administration Program ranked No. 12.

The School of Engineering and Applied Science ranked No. 38, jumping five slots from last year and eight slots from its 1995 ranking, when it first cracked the top 50.

The move, said Dean Christopher I. Byrnes, Ph.D., reflects the accomplishments of the school's innovative programs across departments; its internationally recognized expertise and leadership in computer science and networking; and its biomedical engineering and materials science teaching and research, among others.

"While current rankings cannot incorporate all of the gains we have made during this decade as an engineering school, the progress we have made in national perceptions of our ranking is indeed satisfying," Byrnes said. "As we continue our ascent into the top tier of engineering schools, the credit belongs to the entire engineering school family — our alumni, faculty, friends, staff and students."

The John M. Olin School of Business rose to No. 31, up two slots from last year. "The direction of change is encour-

## Magazine incorrectly ranked law schools

An error by U.S. News & World Report in calculating its 1997 rankings of the nation's best law schools resulted in the Washington University School of Law originally being ranked six places lower than it should have been.

According to U.S. News, 33 of the top 50 law schools were incorrectly ranked in the magazine's Monday, March 10, issue. In figuring the rankings, U.S. News inadvertently transposed two columns of figures related to employment data. As a result, the School of Law was incorrectly ranked 37th when it should have been ranked 31st, the same as its 1996 ranking.

The magazine is recalling its original rankings guidebook from newsstands and will replace it with a new version that has the corrected law school rankings. U.S. News also will run a revised copy of the rankings tables for all of the law schools in the Monday, March 17, issue of the weekly magazine.

In a teleconference last week with representatives of law schools from across the country, U.S. News officials said they would consider re-evaluating their methodology for future rankings to iron out any inconsistencies in ranking

the many categories and subcategories that make up the magazine's law school rankings formula.

For those who might not see the corrected information for 1997, the timing of the error could not have been worse, said School of Law Dean Dorsey D. Ellis Jr., J.D.

"The impact of this egregious error is especially harmful coming at this time," he said. "Right now, students are making their final decisions about which school to attend next fall. Employers are deciding which law students and graduates to offer jobs."

Ellis said he and other members of his staff questioned the school's originally published ranking because the school had improved in all subcategories U.S. News reported.

"Our ranking by deans and law professors went up, placing us among the top 30 schools in that category," Ellis noted. "Our ranking by lawyers and judges, also among the top 30 schools, was higher than it has ever been. Our median LSAT also went up, and the percentage of our graduates employed (95 percent) was among the top 15 reported."

aging," said Dean Stuart I. Greenbaum, Ph.D., "but I believe our position among business schools is more accurately indicated by the Business Week ranking of 16, and all at Olin are committed to improve on that."

Olin ranked No. 17 in U.S. News' fall 1996 rankings of undergraduate business programs, the most recent undergraduate rankings by the magazine.

The School of Law ranked No. 31 overall. Its reputation rank by both lawyers and judges and by academics was 29 — a higher ranking than in previous years.

Departments and programs that were ranked last year and are reprinted this year are: physical therapy at No. 1; biological sciences at No. 15; political science at No. 20; and earth and planetary sciences at No. 22. The last three are Arts and Sciences programs.

In general, the magazine's rankings are based on varying criteria, including student selectivity; faculty resources; research activity; placement success; and surveys of deans, faculty, administrators, recruiters and program directors.

This is the eighth year the weekly magazine has ranked graduate schools.

## Computer-mapping database helps social-service providers — from page 1

semester while they were students in the community-development course. They since have been hired by Sigel as part-time consultants on the mapping project. Plans call for the database to be ready for use next fall by social-service workers, community-service providers and school administrators.

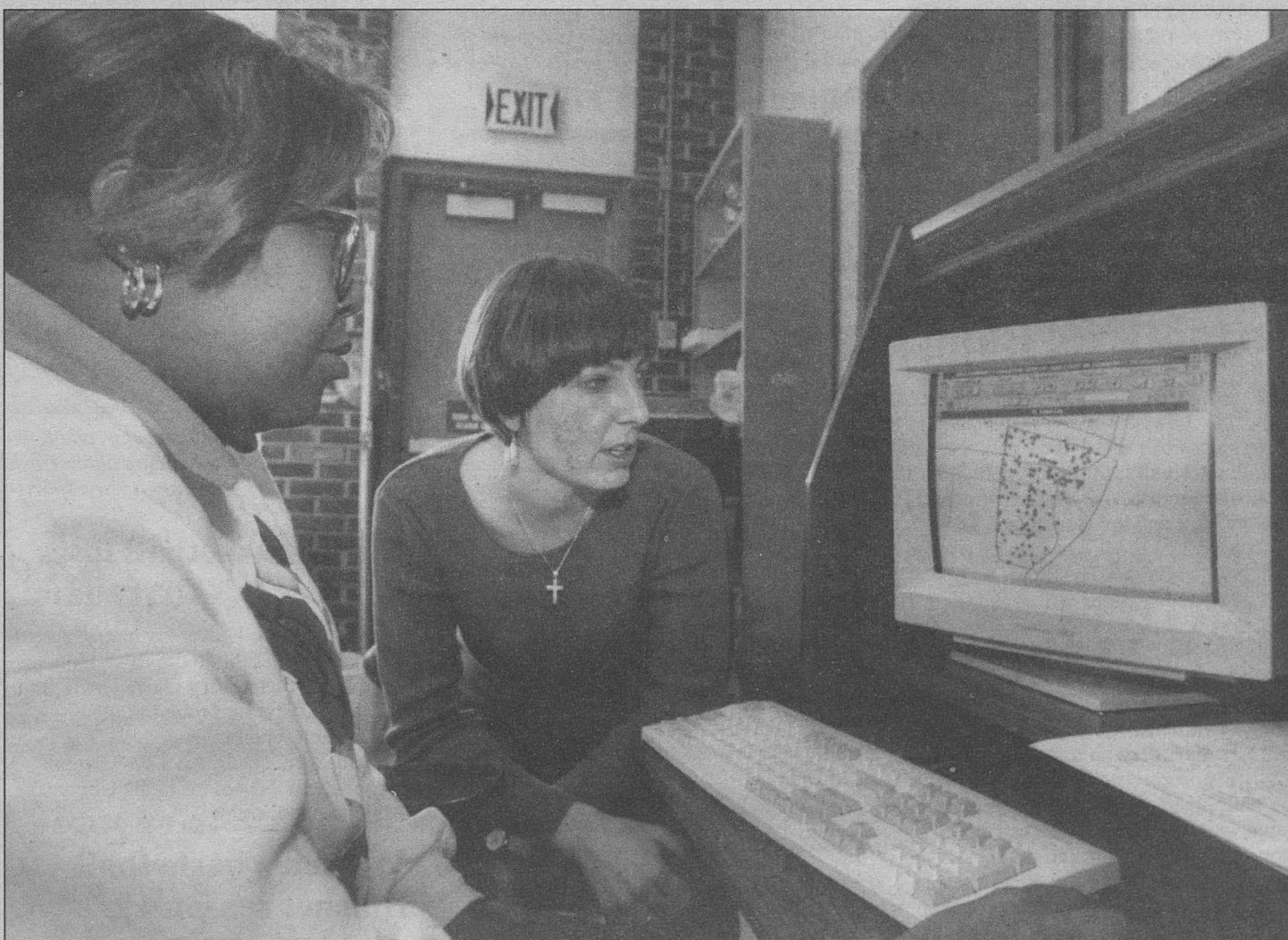
"Our goal is to train the staff at Sigel to use and maintain the database so that they can take over the operation and use the information in a way that allows them to serve their clients more effectively," Castner said. "We know how to use the software, but they are the experts on what they need from the computer program. Hopefully, it is a partnership that benefits everybody."

The success of the mapping database led the DFS to hire Wier part time to instruct some of its personnel from across the state in its use. The objective, Wier said, is to introduce DFS staff to the potential of computer mapping for uses in other social-service applications.

In addition, the social work school brought Wier back this semester to provide computer-mapping instruction to students now enrolled in the community-development course. In a somewhat symbolic completion of the University-community circle of interaction, several DFS and Sigel staff members are enrolled as students this semester in the course.

Teaching the community-development course this semester is Grant Porteous, a 1994 master's of social work graduate who works for the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council. Porteous, who took the community-development course while he was a student, develops and manages East-West Gateway programs that link low-income residents with employment opportunities.

His students this semester plan to use computer mapping to develop local resource maps as part of a St. Louis Community Development Agency effort to create World Wide Web home pages



Graduate student Christy Castner, right, trains Missouri Division of Family Services clerk/typist Angela Johnson how to use a computer-mapping database that shows where south St. Louis families can receive help in connection with child-abuse reports. The computer-mapping database was developed by George Warren Brown School of Social Work students.

for St. Louis neighborhoods. Other projects include the use of computer mapping and other analysis tools to support economic redevelopment efforts around MetroLink stations and to help housing and job-training providers target and reach their customers more effectively.

"The computer mapping software is an incredible tool for community-devel-

opment applications," Porteous said. "Learning how to use this technique allows students to offer valuable services to the agencies they are working with — not to mention making these students much more employable after graduation."

Although Porteous describes computerized mapping as an up-and-coming technology in urban planning, he cautions his students not to become too

focused on the bells and whistles of the technology.

"This is an important and effective tool, but it is just one of many tools that students must be prepared to call on as they gather information, analyze problems and search for answers in the community," Porteous said. "They can't lose sight of the people behind the maps and charts."

— Gerry Everding



# Obituaries

## Larry J. Snyder, human resources specialist

Larry J. Snyder, training and organizational development specialist in the Office of Human Resources, died of a heart attack Monday, March 3, 1997, in his St. Louis home. He was 39.

Snyder had worked at Washington University since 1992, when he was hired as a policies and procedures writer in



Larry J. Snyder

Accounting Services. In 1993, he became manager of quality-improvement training in accounting. During that time, Snyder was instrumental in developing the "Service for Success Program,"

which established procedures for internal customer service. In 1995, he transferred to human resources.

Gloria W. White, vice chancellor for human resources, praised Snyder's commitment to his work. "He was an excellent trainer and an excellent employee," she said. "We've had nothing but accolades about his performance."

Richard L. Jouett, director of training and human resources management and Snyder's immediate supervisor, agreed. "Larry was a very dedicated worker and a really good team member," Jouett said. "He was a thoughtful, kind person who always was looking to do good work. He was extremely well-liked, and he really made a great contribution to the University. We're really going to miss him."

A native of Champaign, Ill., Snyder received a bachelor's degree in business management from National-Louis University in St. Louis in 1992. He had just completed work on a dual master's degree in management and human resources development at Webster University. Before coming to Washington University, Snyder worked at The Jewish Hospital of St. Louis, Eastman Kodak Co. and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Snyder was active in the community, serving as co-chair of the Performance Improvement Executive Roundtable for the local chapter of the AAIM Management Association. He also was involved with Joint Community Ministries, the Reform Organization of Welfare, and the Animal Protective Association.

A memorial service was held Saturday, March 8, at the Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church in Urbana, Ill. A second memorial service and Mass is planned for 5 p.m. Friday, March 14, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 N. Euclid Ave., in St. Louis.

Snyder is survived by his life partner, William H. Witbrodt of St. Louis; his parents, Ralph and Joyce Snyder of Urbana; a sister, Cheryl Snyder of Springfield, Ill.; and a brother, Stephen Snyder of Las Vegas.

Memorial contributions may be made to the local chapter of the American Heart Association, 4643 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO, 63108, and to Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 N. Euclid Ave., St. Louis, MO, 63108.

## Novelist Joanna Scott to read from her works

Novelist Joanna Scott will read from her works at 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, at the West Campus Conference Center. The event is part of a reading series presented by the International Writers Center in Arts and Sciences.

Scott's novels and short-story collections include "The Manikin" (1996), "Various Antidotes" (1994), "Arrogance" (1990), "The Closest Possible Union" (1988) and "Fading, My Parmacheene Belle" (1987). Scott has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, a MacArthur Fellowship, and the Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Foundation Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Both "Arrogance" and "Various Antidotes" were nominated for the PEN/Faulkner Award.

Scott was born in Darien, Conn., and received a bachelor's degree from Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. She went on to study with Robert Coover, John Hawkes and Susan Sontag at Brown University in Providence, R.I. She currently teaches at the University of Rochester in New York.

William H. Gass, Ph.D., the David May Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities in Arts and Sciences and director of the International Writers Center, will introduce Scott. A book signing will follow her reading.

Admission to the reading is \$5. Students with valid identification and senior citizens will be admitted free. Arts and Education Council cardholders will receive two-for-one discounts.

This is the fourth reading of the fourth season of the International Writers Center Reading Series. The season closes April 11 and 12 with a special event, co-sponsored by Edison Theatre, featuring the ensemble Nuyorican Poets Cafe Live! Tickets will be available through the Edison Theatre box office at (314) 935-6543.

The International Writers Center Reading Series is underwritten by the Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis, the Lannan Foundation, the Missouri Arts Council, the Regional Arts Commission, and Mary and Max Wisgerhof.

For information, call (314) 935-5576.

# Campus Watch

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department from Feb. 24–March 9. Readers with information that could assist the investigation of these incidents are urged to call (314) 935-5555. This release is provided as a public service to promote safety-awareness on campus.

## Feb. 26

11:59 a.m. — A backpack was reported stolen from Mallinckrodt Center.

## Feb. 28

1:57 p.m. — A chair was reported stolen from Anheuser-Busch Hall.

6:18 p.m. — A backpack was reported stolen from Mallinckrodt Center.

## March 2

4:56 p.m. — The right rear window of a student affairs van was broken while it was parked in the Millbrook Boulevard garage.

## March 3

11:26 a.m. — A compact-disc player was reported stolen from a Millbrook Square apartment.

## March 4

9:51 p.m. — A compact-disc player was reported stolen from a fraternity house.

## March 5

8:24 a.m. — A calculator, keys and two cameras were reported stolen from a locked office in South Brookings Hall.

9:22 p.m. — A watch and a wallet were reported stolen from the men's locker room in the Athletic Complex.

## March 7

9:17 a.m. — A contractor reported that several tools were stolen from a secured lockbox in a pickup truck parked near Steinberg Hall.

11:30 a.m. — A contractor reported that several tools were stolen from a secured lockbox in a pickup truck parked near Steinberg Hall.

University Police also responded to five reports of vandalism; two reports of noise disturbances; and one report of a traffic violation.

## Sutera installed as first Spencer T. Olin Professor in School of Engineering and Applied Science

Salvatore P. Sutera, Ph.D., former chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, was installed as the first Spencer T. Olin Professor of Engineering and Applied Science in a ceremony Thursday, March 6.

After chairing the mechanical engineering department for 25 years, Sutera now will guide the creation of an



Salvatore P. Sutera

undergraduate program in biomedical engineering. During his tenure at Washington University, Sutera has concentrated his research efforts on biomechanics and biorheology, contributing to the understanding of blood flow in microcirculation, flow-induced trauma to blood in artificial organs, and the mechanical properties of the red blood cell in health and disease.

In his acceptance address — titled "Training Engineers for the Age of Biology: Will Biomedical Engineering Become the Paradigm for Engineering Education in the 21st Century?" — Sutera emphasized the need for restructuring engineering education at the undergraduate level and advocated the highly interdisciplinary biomedical engineering curriculum as a possible model for a general engineering bachelor's degree. Sutera concluded,

"Engineering education should be reorganized around a universal, four-year, pre-professional degree that is broadly based in the life sciences as well as the physical and engineering sciences."

Christopher I. Byrnes, Ph.D., dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science, said the new undergraduate program joins two outstanding strengths — engineering and biomedicine — to provide an increasing number of students more options in engineering. "Interest is very high in biomedical engineering among prospective Washington University engineering students," Byrnes said. "We believe we are offering an important new choice for our undergraduates."

The graduate program — the Institute of Biological and Medical Engineering, directed by Jerome R. Cox Jr., Sc.D., the Harold B. and Adelaide G. Welge Professor of Computer Science — will complement the undergraduate endeavor.

Said Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton: "As a leader in medical and engineering education, Washington University must strive to meet the ever-growing demands that a leadership role dictates. I'm grateful for the opportunity Spencer T. Olin, in his bequest, gave us to respond to these growing curriculum improvements and proud that we have a first-class faculty that can respond with new interdisciplinary programs."

## Peters named mechanical engineering chair

David A. Peters, Ph.D., was named chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering on Jan. 1. Peters succeeded Salvatore P. Sutera, Ph.D., who had served as department chair for 25 years and recently was installed as the first Spencer T. Olin Professor of Engineering and Applied Science.

Peters is the 13th chair of the mechanical engineering department and is in a familiar role — having served as the 11th chair from 1982-85.

In 1985, he left Washington University to conduct research on the integration of aerodynamic theory, structural theory and appropriate analysis tools for rotary-wing aircraft at the Georgia Institute of Technology's Center of Excellence for Rotary Wing Aircraft Technology.

While there, Peters also served as founding director of Georgia Tech's NASA Space Grant Consortium from 1989 to 1991.

He returned to Washington University in 1991 as director of the Center for Computational Mechanics. Since then, his research has concentrated on unsteady aerodynamic theories in the form of aerodynamic states. These easily can be incorporated into finite-element structural models and can be used to design control strategies. He also serves as associate director of the Georgia Tech/Washington University Center of Excellence for Rotorcraft Technology, concentrating on applications for helicopters.

Peters received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in applied mechanics from Washington University in 1969 and 1970, respectively. In 1968, he began his work in rotary-wing dynamics under the direction of Kurt H. Hohenemser, Dr. Ing., now



David A. Peters

professor emeritus of mechanical engineering. After a year at McDonnell-Douglas Astronautics Co. (1969-70), Peters spent five years at the U.S. Army Research Laboratories at NASA-Ames in California, working on various aeronautics problems.

He received a doctorate in aeronautics and astronautics in 1974 from Stanford University and joined Washington University in 1975 as a professor of mechanical engineering.

During his first stint at the University, Peters conducted research in rail-car dynamics, wind turbines (windmill dynamics) and helicopter vibration and optimization.

Peters has published more than 150 technical papers, has been editor in chief of the Journal of the American Helicopter Society, and has received numerous professional awards.

## Hilltop faculty members receive promotions, tenure

At the Friday, March 7, meeting of the Board of Trustees, the following Hilltop Campus faculty members were promoted with tenure, effective July 1, 1997 (unless otherwise indicated):

Nancy E. Berg to associate professor of modern Hebrew language and literature in Arts and Sciences

William P. Bottom to professor of organizational behavior

Douglas B. Dowd to associate professor of art

Francis B. Drake to associate professor of social work

Renato Feres to associate professor of mathematics in Arts and Sciences

Scott R. Gilbertson to associate professor of chemistry in Arts and Sciences

Maarten F.L. Golterman to associate professor of physics in Arts and Sciences

Thomas Head to associate professor of history in Arts and Sciences

Fatemeh Keshavarz-Karamustafa to associate professor of Persian language and literature in Arts and Sciences

Timothy J. Lensmire to associate professor of education in Arts and Sciences

Jonathan B. Losos to associate professor of biology in Arts and Sciences

Ronald J. Mann to professor of law (effective March 7, 1997)

Shanta Pandey to associate professor of social work

Michael E. Wyssession to associate professor of earth and planetary sciences in Arts and Sciences

In addition, the Board of Trustees granted tenure to the following:

Sabina D. Ott as associate professor of art (effective March 7, 1997)



# Opportunities & personnel news

## Hilltop Campus

*The following is a partial list of positions available on the Hilltop Campus. Information regarding these and other positions may be obtained in the Office of Human Resources, Room 130 West Campus, or by calling (314) 935-5906. Job openings also may be accessed via the World Wide Web at [cf6000.wustl.edu/hr/home](http://cf6000.wustl.edu/hr/home).*

**Administrative Assistant, Study Abroad 970198.** *International Studies.* Requirements: high school graduate or equivalent; two to five years experience; accounting experience; knowledge of FIS and SIS a plus; oral and written communication skills; computer knowledge and skills; proficiency with word processing, spreadsheet, database and desktop publishing programs for Macintosh computers; organizational skills; ability to communicate effectively with a diverse population. Application required.

**Accounting Clerk 970199.** *Housing/Residential Life.* Requirements: high school graduate; three years experience in an accounting environment; nine hours of college accounting courses and knowledge of Microsoft Word preferred; knowledge of IBM-compatible computers; proficiency in Lotus 1-2-3; self-motivation; ability to work independently with a high degree of reliability; accuracy; productivity; excellent oral and written communication skills; ability to meet deadlines with varying degrees of pressure; ability to work with various software systems; ability to handle confidential information responsibly; experience with FOCUS. Application required.

**Sales Associate 970200.** *Campus Stores.* Requirements: high school graduate; good customer-relations skills; ability to lift and display merchandise; organizational skills; flexibility; cashier experience; willingness to work evenings and weekends; willingness to hustle during back-to-school periods. Application required.

**Manager, Bear Necessities 970203.** *Board of Trustees.* Requirements: high school graduate; three or more years retail experience, including at least one year of supervisory experience and purchasing and sales experi-

ence; excellent interpersonal skills; good customer-service skills; creativity and initiative in store management; knowledge of purchasing, display of merchandise/space utilization and promotional events; skills in establishing and maintaining good working relationships with vendors and purchasing items at the most favorable prices; strong customer-service orientation; enjoy working with students; ability to keep up-to-date on student preferences; strong organizational skills; entrepreneurial attitude. Application required.

**Admissions Officer 970205.** *Office of Undergraduate Admissions.* Requirements: bachelor's degree; previous work experience (preferably in admissions); ability to effectively relate the enthusiasm for his/her undergraduate experience to prospective students and parents; leadership ability; flexibility; willingness to undertake hard work; strong organizational skills; self-motivation; ability to perform effectively on a team and in individual work settings; possess "get it done" attitude.

## Medical Campus

*The following is a partial list of positions available at the School of Medicine. Employees interested in submitting transfer requests should contact the Human Resources Department of the medical school at (314) 362-7202 to request applications. External candidates may call (314) 362-7195 for information regarding application procedures or may submit a résumé to the human resources office located at 4480 Clayton Ave., Campus Box 8002, St. Louis, MO, 63110. Please note that the medical school does not disclose salary information for vacancies, and the office strongly discourages inquiries to departments other than human resources. Job openings also may be accessed via the World Wide Web at <http://@medicine.wustl.edu/wumshr>.*

**Statistical Data Analyst 970631-R.** Requirements: bachelor's degree; statistical experience in a research environment preferred. Responsibilities include writing statistical programs; overseeing the management of the

computer system for the research staff; and maintaining the tracking program for study subjects.

**Energy Management Technician 970732-R.** Requirements: computer knowledge; AC experience. Responsibilities include providing assistance to the University by monitoring its automated systems; receiving emergency calls; and troubleshooting problems to ensure that safety is maintained. Two shifts available: 4 p.m. to midnight and midnight to 8 a.m., including some weekends.

**Preventive Maintenance Technician 970733-R.** Requirements: institutional experience beneficial; universal certification in refrigeration preferred. Responsibilities include performing complete preventive maintenance on all systems, including HVAC, electric and plumbing. Shift available is 4 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

**Financial Analyst 970740-R.** Requirements: bachelor's degree in business or related field and three to four years related business experience, or a master's degree in business administration or other advanced degree in related field and work experience as a summer intern (preferably two summers); excellent communication and analytical skills; creativity; resourcefulness; working knowledge of and experience with microcomputers, including FOCUS, Lotus and Microsoft Pro applications. Responsibilities include assisting with the general program and financial-planning analyses and initiatives of a \$558 million academic medical enterprise that encompasses clinical, research and teaching activities and working closely with the departmental financial/resource-planning process at the School of Medicine and with inter-institutional planning at the Medical Center.

**Network Technician 970751-R.** Requirements: high school graduate or equivalent; knowledge of protocol stacks (TCP/IP, DecNet, LAT, Appletalk, IPX, LAST and LAD) is a plus; experience pulling network cable and troubleshooting networks desirable; working knowledge of computer network technology; manual dexterity with small objects; ability to distinguish colors. Responsibilities include climbing ladders and pulling network cable through ceilings, closets and steam tunnels, as well as offices and labs, and troubleshooting local and wide-area networks.

## Trustees approve budgets for Hilltop

The Board of Trustees met Friday, March 7, at the School of Medicine's Eric P. Newman Education Center to review and approve proposed budgets for the 1997-98 fiscal year for the Hilltop Campus schools and administration and to approve tenure for faculty on both campuses.

The meeting opened with a report on activities since the last board meeting in December. The report was highlighted by the announcement that applications for undergraduate admission have set an all-time record of 13,800 — an increase of 23 percent over last year and an increase of 79 percent over the past three years. Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton also noted that minority student applications are up 30 percent, with African-American student applications up 40 percent.

"We are extremely pleased with the efforts of our undergraduate admissions office and the excellent team of professionals and volunteers who have come together to build a result that is probably the best among leading universities in the nation," Wrighton noted.

Wrighton said four new chaired professorships have been created and have been announced in the past few weeks, as well as a faculty fellowship. The four professorships are: the Spencer T. Olin Professor of Engineering and Applied Science; the Vernon W. and Marion K. Piper Professor of Financial Economics; the Raymond E. Maritz Professor of Architecture; and the Charlotte and Paul Hagemann Professor of Neurology. Earle H. and Suzanne F. Harbison have created the Harbison Faculty Fellowship, with the first recipient named to the Department of Music in Arts and Sciences.

The chancellor also reviewed for the trustees his follow-up visit to Asia to meet with key alumni and friends of Washington University; progress on development of a

policy for technology transfer; recent graduate and professional school rankings prepared by U.S. News & World Report; status of the search for a vice chancellor for human resources; and updates on construction and renovation — including three proposed residence halls in the South 40, completion of a new addition to Tietjens Hall for the music department, renovations to Graham Chapel, and the acquisition of 33 apartment buildings from Parkview Properties Inc.

A special citation presentation to Trustee Stephen Fossett was made in recognition of his world records for distance and endurance in ballooning.

Wrighton then discussed non-financial issues that will affect the University in the future, including the University's role in the St. Louis community; campus and neighborhood environments; education and careers; the atmosphere for research and technology transfer; diversity issues; University culture and values; and how the University manages expectations and measures progress.

Trustee action included an Educational Policy Committee proposal of 26 faculty for tenure, which was approved by the trustees, and a Hilltop Finance Committee budget proposal for the 1997-98 fiscal year for the Hilltop schools and Central Fiscal Unit, which also was approved. Reports were provided by the Audit, Buildings and Grounds, Development, Medical Finance, Real Estate and Student Affairs committees. The Alumni Board of Governors reported on alumni activities over the past few months. Before adjourning, the trustees approved degrees for two graduating students whose names had been brought forward for consideration since December.

Board Chairman William H. Danforth adjourned the meeting and reminded the trustees that the next board meeting will be May 2.

## Volunteers needed to greet prospective students

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is seeking faculty and staff volunteers to help greet visiting high school seniors April 10 at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. This marks the beginning of Washington University's Multicultural Celebration weekend for students admitted to next fall's freshman class.

The weekend is sponsored by several student groups, including the Association of Black Students, the Asian Students

Association, ASHOKA (the American Indian student association), the Chinese Students Association, the Association of Korean Students, the Association of Latin American Students, and SHADES (a multiracial student organization), as well as the admissions office.

Those interested in giving two or three hours of their time to greet prospective students April 10 at the airport should call Karen Eubanks at (314) 935-4952 for more information.

## Music department, art school join forces to present one-act operas — from page 1

to capture the mood and atmosphere of the Algonquin in its heyday, Stewart said. About 18 art students from the "Time Arts Class" worked with Stewart to design the stage and seating area that will transform the gallery into a grand ballroom. The design project was supervised by Alison Crocetta, a lecturer in the art school and instructor of the "Time Arts Class."

Crocetta said the project has provided a valuable experience for her students, most of whom are sophomores. "It's been exciting for them to see this project materialize in such a professional manner," Crocetta said. "It makes them realize that even at such an early stage in their learning, they are capable of great things. It's been really rewarding for them."

Amber Chapin, a junior majoring in sculpture, said one of the biggest challenges the designers confronted was developing a stage and seating area that best suited the gallery's dimensions.

"We had to fit all the singers and the audience into this long, narrow space," Chapin said. "We brought in all the ideas of the art students, as well as the ideas from the music department. We wanted to use elements from the Algonquin during the '20s and '30s. It was known for its round tables where people gathered. We wanted to bring in a collage of this history within the stage. It was challenging but very exciting."

In addition, students from the art school's Create Studio designed the opera's promotional poster.

The set design includes a series of multilevel round stages at one end of the gallery. The circular theme continues with a series of round tables on the gallery floor. The tables are decorated with replicas of New Yorker magazine covers from the 1930s. About 60 audience members will sit at the tables, with another 90 people sitting in chairs on a sloping platform at the other end of the gallery. The tables on the gallery floor will encircle the action of the first opera, "The Rehearsal."

It's opera-in-the-round, Stewart said of the first work. "This is rather unusual, but it's a great challenge," she said. "The audience will experience something different — something they couldn't find in most other places."

Benjamin's "The Rehearsal" tells the story of a small opera company as it prepares for a performance of Mozart's "The Impresario." The action unfolds as the two sopranos in the company — an aging star and a young upstart — jostle for center stage and for love. The impresario, or opera company director, attempts to make peace between the rivals and salvage the tension-riddled rehearsal.

This theme is carried on after the intermission when the characters in the Benjamin opera move to the round stages

and take on corresponding roles in the Mozart work — another tale of competing divas and an impresario who seeks to find a melodious conclusion to a cacophonous situation.

The operas, composed nearly 200 years apart, work well together — both musically and in how the story lines merge, Stewart said. "There is a wonderful parallel between the two pieces that makes for a really nice balance," she said. "It's a layered experience with many ironic twists."

Performing in the two related works has been an interesting experience, said Stacia Thiel, a master's degree student in vocal performance. "The first (opera) is very realistic, as if we're really in a rehearsal," Thiel said. "I love the idea of how it is then tied into 'The Impresario.' You will feel the undertones from the first opera."

She said the collaboration with the art students has been wonderful. "They have come up with a wonderful set design that is fresh and new," Thiel said. "This is what they are good at. It's taken a lot of pressure off us."

When Stewart last spring discovered the little-known Benjamin opera, she knew immediately that it must share a bill with the well-known Mozart work. The Washington University Opera hasn't staged a classical work since the opera program was resurrected in 1990, she said.

"We've always done 20th-century

operas," Stewart explained. "I thought how wonderful it would be to do a contemporary work next to Mozart — one of the all-time great masters of opera."

Stewart ties the two musical eras together by adding some new dialogue and staging the works in such a way as to create a continuous story line. "There will be definite references from the first show in the second," she said. "I wanted to create a stronger connection between the two pieces."

John Stewart, music director of the operas, will help create this connection when he and the orchestra members join the action after the intermission. "It's all very unified," he said. "The orchestra is going to be in costume. They're going to be like players from the 1930s coming to a rehearsal at the Algonquin. It's a lot of fun for us."

In addition to Thiel, the cast features Lori Barrett, a master's student in vocal performance; Joseph Consiglio, a recent graduate of the master's program in vocal performance; Gina Galati, a recent graduate with a bachelor's degree in music; James Harr, a master's student in vocal performance; Robert Reed, a local professional singer; and Valerie Schaefer, a master's student in vocal performance. Music Professor Craig Monson, Ph.D., will perform the speaking role of the impresario in Mozart's work.

— Neal Learner