A host of dignitaries — scholars, educators and a senator — joined a large crowd of wellwishers at the groundbreaking Aug. 2 for the new Donald Danforth Plant Science Center at Olive Boulevard and Watson Road in Creve Coeur. They spoke of the outstanding opportunity the center affords St. Louis and the region and plant scientists who will enhance their knowledge of cutting-edge biotechnology research at the center.

U.S. Senator Christopher S. Bond; National Science Foundation (NSF) Director Rita Colwell; William H. Danforth, Washington University chancellor and president of the Danforth Foundation; and Peter Colwell; William H. Danforth, Jr., vice chancellor in Arts and Sciences and director of the Danforth Plant Science Center at Olive Boulevard and Watson Road in Creve Coeur. They spoke of the outstanding opportunity the center affords St. Louis and the region and plant scientists who will enhance their knowledge of cutting-edge biotechnology research at the center.

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton presented the Science Coalition’s Lange Award to Bond and NSF’s Richard Geerhan (in absentia) in recognition of their advocacy for federal government support of basic research. The coalition is comprised of some 400 organizations, institutions and individuals that support research funding.

The three-story building will provide 170,000 square feet of space housing laboratories, an auditorium, offices and conference rooms. Nicholas Grimshaw and Partners of London, in association with St. Louis-based Hellmuth Obata Kassabaum (HOK), designed the center. Construction began May 1, 2000, and is scheduled for completion in 2003.

The center’s mission is to increase understanding of basic plant biology; apply new knowledge to help sustain productivity in agriculture, forestry and allied fields; facilitate the rapid development and commercialization of promising technologies and products; and contribute to the education and training of graduate and postdoctoral students, scientists and technicians from around the world.

The center is named for the late Donald Danforth, former president of Rohwedder Partners Co. and father of William and John Danforth. William Danforth, chair of the Danforth Foundation, served as master of ceremonies for the event, and, in addition to introducing people, he introduced the motif of the day: "As we break ground today for our building, we are also breaking ground on the realization of a dream," Danforth said. "Our dream has four parts:"

- The W.M. Keck Foundation of Los Angeles has awarded $990,000 to the School of Medicine for research on repairing the injured spinal cord.
- Dennis W. Choi, M.D., Ph.D., the Andrew B. and Gretchen P. Jones Professor of Neurology and head of the Department of Neurology, will lead the project.
- William A. Peck, M.D., assistant professor of cell transplantation study new Keck award
- Perhaps they might one day result in enough recognition for people to walk again.

"We are deeply appreciative of the support extended to Professor Choi and his colleagues," Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said. "Their fundamental work promises to lead to approaches overcoming the tragic consequences associated with spinal cord injuries.""It's important that the youth understand that the world is a fantastic place and that research can help them gain the tools they need to realize their dreams," said Kenneth R. Mares, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Department of Neurology.

The $75 million facility will house laboratories, an auditorium and offices for the W.M. Keck Foundation of Los Angeles, the National Science Foundation, the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the American Society of Plant Biologists.

Phyllis Hanson, professor of physiology and anatomy at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, is the recipient of a $1 million in research support over five years. The program was created to promote the development of young scientists who exhibit extraordinary promise in biomedical research and academic leadership.

"Phyllis Hanson's powerful grasp of research, her scientific dedication and her sense of academic excellence have contributed greatly to the field of neuroscience," said Linda Sage, president of the Society for Neuroscience.

John G. Gibson, Ph.D., professor of cell biology and anatomy at the School of Medicine, has been named the Distinguished Young Scholar in Medical Research Award from the Los Angeles-based W.M. Keck Foundation. Hanson was picked from 10 finalists for the award.

The Young Scholars program will provide Hanson with $1 million in research support over five years. The program was created to promote the development of young scientists who exhibit extraordinary promise in biomedical research and academic leadership.

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The program tries to teach students not to give up, and gets them to think of a creative way to spice a business up," said Sandra Marks, the program director. "We want them to get involved in an industry and find out everything that's behind it." As in years past, this summer's students researched many possible products, ranging from clothing to sports bottles to silverware covers. University faculty taught the students courses in human resources, marketing, finance, operations, team building and economics. In the same field trip to local minority-owned businesses, they gave students a chance to access successful entrepreneurs.

"This year the students visited Andy's Seasonings, the company that manufactures the breading for McDonald's Chicken Katsu and Unlimted Water." It benefits the St. Louis area by giving back," Marks said. "Our students give back," Marks said. "Our students want them to understand it is a business and that diagnoses diseases of the blood," she said. "I started thinking about it after I was first accepted into the program." Franklin's group developed a plan for a medical computer disk that diagnoses diseases of the blood. From the judges, the follow-up 45-minute presentation.

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Drug treatment might help patients with abdominal aortic aneurysms

studied common therapy to prevent miscarriage isn't helpful

By Linda Sacks

A widely used and expensive therapy that is supposed to prevent miscarriage doesn't work, according to the Recurrent Miscarriage Study (REMSI), found that women treated with immunotherapy had more and later miscarriages than those who were untreated.

The findings appeared in the July 14 issue of The Lancet. They show that mononuclear-cell immunization ought not to be used, at least not for James R. Schreiber, M.D., professor and director of Genetics and Immunology at the University of Chicago. Thirteen years ago, he and Randall R. Odem, M.D., associate professor of Obstetrics and gynecology and Immunology at the University of Chicago, believed that women who were being subjected to an, expensive and expensive therapy that might have untoward effects wouldn't receive from the National Institutes of Health, they organized the gold standard of clinical trials—a prospective, randomized, double-blinded study. "It was a study designed to question what we do through two years of random," said Randall R. Odem, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and head of the medical school's Division of Reproductive Endocrinology. Odem also played a major role in the REMIS study.

Mononuclear-cell immunization—also called lymphocyte immunization—first was tried in humans in 1978. It now is offered in private doctors' offices and medical centers throughout the world and costs many thousands of dollars.

The therapy is based on the idea that the placenta sometimes is recognized as foreign tissue because it contains genes from the father as well as the mother. Immune cells then destroy it, killing fetuses. Instructing mononuclear cells prepared from the fetal leukocytes might elicit a protective immune response to help maintain the pregnancy. "But there's underlying science that supports this" said Schreiber.

From July 31, 1997, to December 1997, 179 women participated in REMISI, which was sponsored by the University of Chicago and the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. The women had suffered at least three miscarriages but still wanted to conceive. Between 0.5 percent and 1 percent of couples—thousands in the United States—experience multiple miscarriages.

The women at each center were randomly assigned to one of three groups. In those groups, the treatment groups were immunized with mononuclear cells from their partners. The control group received saline injections. All the women were given weekly ultrasonograms to follow the progress of the pregnancy. The study's main goal was to determine the percent of women in each group who subsequently managed to carry a pregnancy to 28 weeks, the time at which a fetus can survive outside the womb.

Neither the researchers nor the participants knew who received the treatment. But a Data Monitoring and Safety Board kept track of the data. At the end of 1997, the board asked the researchers not to immunize more women. "That phone call took my breath away," said Schreiber. (The data showed that 33% of the women had become pregnant with the saline treatment.)

"We were looking to see whether immunotherapy was helpful. To our surprise, we found that the patients who were treated worse than those who received the saline," said Schreiber. "The best strategy for these women is a weekly ultrasound. They should be told, That's the way they can keep from delivering a baby."

Women with a history of multiple miscarriage shouldn't be encouraged by the study's results, Schreiber said, because 65 percent of the untreated women delivered a baby. The best strategy for these women is a weekly ultrasound, he suggested. That way, they can keep from delivering a baby.

Women with reproductive problems also need a careful workup, Odem said. "There are many reasons for recurrent miscarriage—thrombolytic problems, ovulatory dysfunction, uterine abnormalities, immunological abnormalities," he said. "Many of these problems can be corrected.

But, Schreiber added, "We shouldn't be giving these women immunotherapy. This study clearly shows that it's ineffective."
University Events

1999-2000 PAD season 'runs gamut of theatre and dance'

by Lisa Ottez

The Performing Arts Department (PAD) of Washington University has announced a 1999-2000 season that "runs the gamut" of theater offerings, according to Henry I. Schvey, Ph.D., professor and chair of the department.

"This will be one of our most versatile and balanced seasons," said Schvey. "It runs the gamut from classical theater to contemporary drama and everything in between—in a wonderful, fun musical, some traditional dance and three student-directed plays. It will be a terrific stretch for our performers to work in such a variety of styles."

The season opens Sept. 9 in the Dance Studio with "Dance Close-Up," the PAD's annual showcase for dance faculty. Often considered the unofficial start of St. Louis' professional dance season, "Dance Close-Up" features faculty artists performing their own original choreography in styles ranging from classical ballet, West African to Indian dance, Mary-Jean Cowell, director of the dance program, produces this annual artistic direction.

Performances of the season arrive Sept. 23-26 in the A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre with "From Blood to Prayer: 2 Plays About Women and Sacrifice," an evening of contemporary one-act plays. Robert Neblett, a doctoral student in comparative literature and drama, will direct Ellen McIntyre's "Children and Other Daughters," a postmodern retelling of the Orestes myth that focuses on the Greek women left behind during the Trojan War. Bonnie Taylor, also a doctoral student in comparative literature and drama, directs Helen LeCraw's "The Conquest of the School at Maduliblu," which tells the story of Sakundvui, the so-called "Bandit Queen" of India. Maria-Jean Cowell, director of the dance program, will examine the holistic perspective of the Pirates of Penzance," as it plays out through three generations. Set in St. Louis in 1976, the story follows the major life events of stage-struck Bill Whitney, who is confronting the horrific experiences of his mother and uncle in Auschwitz. The work was commissioned by the St. Louis Holocaust Museum, where it received its first production. "University Events" MED.

"The Imaginary Invalid" is the site of a new and ambitious production opening March 31-April 2 in Edison Theatre and continuing April 9-16. First performed in 1673, this satire written in the last days of the playwright's life—tells a tale to hypochondriacs, the medical profession and health care practitioners of all sorts. William Whitaker, artist in residence, will direct "gitanjali," by graduate student Sabrina Aledini, concludes the season April 30-May 1. A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre. A touching exploration of a mother's love, the mother/daughter relationship and the vulnerabilities of the personal and cultural heritage, "gitanjali" was the winner of the 1999 A.E. Hotchner Studio Playwriting Competition. An annual contest$email address="http://www.wustl.edu/~boggs/" for graduate students, the PAD is currently seeking submissions.

For more information or to reserve tickets for the PAD office, 935-5898. For tickets, go to Edison Theatre Box Office, 935-6543.

Egyptian Mummies • Childhood Asthma • Taste of St. Louis • Choices 101

Exhibitions

"Structure and Surface: Contemporary African Art, a Survey" is open at the St. Louis Art Museum through Aug. 26. For a full listing of recent exhibits and current information, see the School of Museum's website at museums.wustl.edu/SM/, or call the Edison Theatre Box Office, 935-5177.

Lectures

Mark Well to head new Visual Arts and Design Center

by Liz Ottez

Friday, Aug. 20

9:15 a.m. Pedestrian Great Round. "Childhood Asthma Management Program: Barriers and Opportunities for Improvement in Education and Medical Settings." Carol C. March, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics, University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago. Location: 4950 Wohl Center, Rooms 107-110. (Refer to the dean's advising meeting. Rooms 107-110, 9:30-10:30 a.m.)

10 a.m. Orientation: Fine Arts. The first part of the student orientation. The second part begins Oct. 20. Admission: Open to all. (Refer to the dean's advising meeting. Rooms 107-110, 9:30-10:30 a.m.)

1-2 p.m. Academic advising meetings. Rooms 107-110. (Refer to the dean's advising meeting. Rooms 107-110, 9:30-10:30 a.m.)

7-9 p.m. Making Choices. Upper-class students will lead a discussion about the Choices 101 program.

8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Academic advising appointments, various schools. (Refer to dean's advising meeting for location.)

9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Academic registration.

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Library tours. Help desk, Olin Library.

Tuesday, Aug. 27

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Academic advising appointments, various schools. (Refer to dean's advising meeting for location.)

9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Academic registration.

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Library tours. Help desk, Olin Library.

Wednesday, Aug. 28

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Academic advising appointments, various schools. (Refer to dean's advising meeting for location.)

9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Academic registration.

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Library tours. Help desk, Olin Library.

Thursday, Aug. 29

7-9 p.m. Performing Arts Open House. For information, go to wustl.edu/events. (Refer to the dean's advising meeting. Rooms 107-110, 9:30-10:30 a.m.)

8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Academic advising appointments, various schools. (Refer to dean's advising meeting for location.)

9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Academic registration.

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Library tours. Help desk, Olin Library.

Friday, Aug. 30

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Academic advising appointments, various schools. (Refer to dean's advising meeting for location.)

9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Academic registration.

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Library tours. Help desk, Olin Library.

Saturday, Aug. 31

9-10 p.m. Dance. Informal meet-and-greets with students. (Refer to the dean's advising meeting. Rooms 107-110, 9:30-10:30 a.m.)

8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Academic advising appointments, various schools. (Refer to dean's advising meeting for location.)

9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Academic registration.

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Library tours. Help desk, Olin Library.

Sunday, Aug. 22

1-2 p.m. A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre. A social event. Carnival games, talent shows — after the performance. (Refer to the dean's advising meeting. Rooms 107-110, 9:30-10:30 a.m.)

4-6 p.m. Engineering academic and peer advising meetings. Location: Laclede Gate, Laclede Hall. 935-6700.

4-8 p.m. Arts and Sciences academic advising appointments, various schools. (Refer to dean's advising meeting for location.)

5-7 p.m. Orientation: The first introduction to the student advising network. Location: Student Center, Hilltop Commons, 785-2000.

8-9 p.m. Choices 101. Upper-class students will lead a discussion about the Choices 101 program.

And more...
Derek Walcott, a Nobel

Writers Center in Arts and Sciences, and by Lorin Cuoco, the David May Distinguished

Center Director Roger N. Beachy, Ph.D., said that when the center becomes operational in 2001, he expects 100 scientists to be working there, with 100 more involved by 2002. Beachy said that the center will bring new resources to St. Louis in research funding and business opportunities and "new economic development focused on the strength of the life sciences in St. Louis." The center's $146 million in start-up money comes from the Danforth Foundation, Monsanto, Co. and the Monsanto Fund, and the state of Missouri, Washington University, the Missouri Botanical Garden, Monsanto, Co., the University of Missouri, Purdue University and the University of Illinois are partners in the effort.

Bond has been a supporter of bioinformatics research and is chairman of the Senate's subcommittee that funds NSF and other agencies. He called the event "a day of caution," but indicated that critics of biologically altered food in Europe and elsewhere are vocal and are spilling over to the United States. He urged the scientists at the Danforth Center to work to make sure that consumers understand the "benefits" of the new biotechnologies and "be vigilant to correct publically those who are not careful with the facts."

Ralph S. Chauhan, Ph.D., Spencer T. Olin Professor in Arts and Sciences and chair of the biology department, is a renowed plant scientist who foresees great benefits from the center. "I'm extremely excited about both the scientific and educational potential of the Danforth Plant Science Center and the future Danforth Plant Science Center research facilities," he said. "There will be interdisciplinary opportunities, postdoctoral and adjunct faculty, and of course a good number of well-trained professionals who will be working there. There will be a constant infusion of new ideas and people. This will greatly enhance plant science expertise in the St. Louis area, and it will be an outstanding advantage for our students."

Hanson graduated magna cum laude from Yale University in 1985 with a major in molecular biophysics and biochemistry. She then received a postdoctoral fellowship before entering the St. Louis University School of Medicine in 1989. She returned to Yale for a postdoctoral fellowship before joining Washington University in 1991.

Hanson has held a three-year Helen Hay Whitney Foundation award for her research. As a faculty member at the medical school, she also has received a Scholar Award from the McKnight Foundation, a Faculty Scholar Award from the Chicago Community Trust and a Colonial award from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

The Keck Foundation, one of the nation's top philanthropic organizations, was founded in 1954 by Henry Kissinger and is based in the Superior Oil Company. The Foundation's grant primarily supports pioneering efforts in medical research, science, engineering and higher education.

**Central computer systems are clear for Y2K takeoff**

At the sands of the old millenium, the University is putting on the bottom of the glass, concern about Year 2000 (Y2K) computer problems. It is working hard to circumvent any overlooked problems can be corrected quickly.

"All the computer programs have been changed," Smith said. "Since the program was tested in the recent period and moved into production. Most—about 90 percent of all computer programs have been tested with year 2000 dates. These include payroll, check requests, payroll, accounting, fringe, financial aid, student information, purchasing, human services and others.

"I should add all the signs indicate that the plan is successful. In reality, he noted, "the central administration computer systems would already have begun to experience problems if the required changes had not been made."

"We avoided problems because the necessary program changes were already in place.

"The fact that there have been no serious Y2K problems so far is evidence to us that our process is working," he said. But his office is not letting its guard down. "We do have a contingency plan in place that could be utilized for any unanticipated problems that do arise," he added. The bottom line, yes, you will get a paycheck in January 2000, not December 1999, and if your direct deposit, it will get deposited in the bank that has assured us of that.

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Experiences into curriculum development and publication with their colleagues at professional meetings. An important program is effective in reaching young scientists and illuminating their teaching needs to incorporate research into secondary teaching. Faculty and St. Louis industrial professionals regularly addressed different aspects of science and technology careers through the career discussion series.

Washington University professors were Muthanna Al-Dahan, D.S., assistant professor of engineering; Shiferi J. Dyke, Ph.D., senior assistant professor of civil engineering; Patrick G. Carty, Ph.D, assistant professor of physics in Arts and Sciences; and Richard Morris, Ph.D., assistant research associate in computer science; Donald J. Pohl, Ph.D., associate professor of computer science; Julie Morris, Ph.D., professor of physics in Arts and Sciences; and planetary sciences in Arts and Sciences; and Julie Morris, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology.

They are the current STARS by opening his combustion engine laboratory to students from Vashon High School. Their teacher, Ray Cummings, was a 2000 STARS graduate. Cummings attended the University of Missouri-St. Louis. "I'm working on developing an entirely new learning platform for undergraduate students, and I think the future of combustion is going to be in the engine," Cummings said. "It's very exciting getting background from the Washington University faculty." Dyke participated in two outreach programs this summer. She mentored STARS participants Tim Horgan of St. Louis University High School in an environmental engineering project. She also directed eight students from colleges and universities in the NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program. For five years, the NSF has funded a program in civil engineering's structural engineering division that brings undergraduate students to campus for 10 weeks of intensive summer research in areas of interest. Students receive a stipend for their contributions and are live at our campus.

Beyond conducting research, the students undertook undergraduate part in that enhanced the students' experience (including having their oral presentations videotaped). They also brought the students to research and visited area industries to observe the students working in different environments. The program concluded Friday, Aug. 6, with the Washington University Undergraduate Research Colloquium, where students presented the final results of their projects.

Future scientists' working habits begin young. Cummings, who was a Vashon High School teacher, Ray Cummings, was a 2000 STARS graduate. Cummings attended the University of Missouri-St. Louis. "I'm working on developing an entirely new learning platform for undergraduate students, and I think the future of combustion is going to be in the engine," Cummings said. "It's very exciting getting background from the Washington University faculty." Dyke participated in two outreach programs this summer. She mentored STARS participants Tim Horgan of St. Louis University High School in an environmental engineering project. She also directed eight students from colleges and universities in the NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program. For five years, the NSF has funded a program in civil engineering's structural engineering division that brings undergraduate students to campus for 10 weeks of intensive summer research in areas of interest. Students receive a stipend for their contributions and are live at our campus.

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#### Notables

**Anne L. Gloewinski, M.D.**
 Instructor in child psychiatry and post-doctoral fellow in psychiatry and epidemiology; has been awarded a Klingenstein Third Generation Foundation Fellowship in Depression. The two-year $60,000 grant will enable Ms. Gloewinski's research studying psychopathology in children to enroll adolescents, through a systematic analysis of depressive diagnostic syndromes in a population of young female twin adolescents at risk for major depressive disorder.

**Peggy A. Neufeld**, instructor in the Program in Pre-Hospital Therapeutics, received the Berlex Fellowship for the 1999-2000 Pre-Hospital Therapeutics Fellowship in Patient Education at the annual conference of the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC), held recently in Kansas City. The conference is attended by international and interdisciplinary participants.

**Krezovidi S.R. Sivalai, Ph.D.**, research associate in the Department of Surgery, recently received a $90,000 grant from the National Institute of Health to study the role of the mitochondrial protein, porin, in the pathogenesis of the disease, Wilson's disease.

**William H. Clover, Ph.D.**, an associate dean of business school at Washington University, has been appointed as the director of the University’s Marconi Science Award. UNICO Corporation of St. Louis, will meet in San Francisco.

**Mark R. Stein**, a professor of psychology and the director of the Center for Creative Research, will address the annual conference of the Consortium for the Advancement of Policy Studies of Children and Family Issues to be held Sept. 25 at the Adam’s Mark Hotel in St. Louis.

**Christopher "Kit" Bond**, the Science Coalition's Langer Award for Bond's steadfast support of research funding, was presented to U.S. Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond at the Science Coalition's 1999 Annual Conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

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**Weidenbaum**, a native of St. Louis, Ill., began his post on Aug. 2. Previously, he was the U.S. coordinator of public policy experts drawn from a wide range of backgrounds, including business, government, academia and a labor union. Weidenbaum has been an economist in three worlds — business, government and academia. Known for his research on economic policy, taxes, government spending and globalization, he is the author of eight books and hundreds of articles on economic policy and academic papers. A member of the economics faculty here since 1980, he has received the highest award in economics — the Nobel Prize in Economics. His work has been featured in numerous newspapers and magazines.
Pilgrimage to Mount Wutai

Research brings
Grant's department offers

RECORD

Research brings

"The primary materials are scarce and piecemeal, but there is
effective for a glimpse of the

world of an extraordinary
group of women."