Honors
Frieden, Watson to receive faculty achievement awards

By Ann Nicholson
and Linda Sage

One of the world's leading cave archaeologists and an authority on protein structure and folding will receive Washington University's second annual faculty achievement awards, which were announced Saturday, April 15, at the Chancellor's Gala in Holmes Lounge. The awards will be conferred at a public event in the fall.

Carl Frieden, Ph.D., the Alumni Distinguished Professor and head of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the School of Medicine, is the winner of the George and Gerry Coe Faculty Achievement Award. Patty Jo Watson, Ph.D., and Carl Frieden, Ph.D., visit at the University's second annual faculty achievement awards. The selections were made by a panel of faculty members among the University's many fine scholars and professors. Mark S. Wrighton, chancellor. See Honors, page 2

Patty Jo Watson, Ph.D., and Carl Frieden, Ph.D., visit at the University's second annual faculty achievement awards. The selections were made by a panel of faculty members among the University's many fine scholars and professors. Mark S. Wrighton, chancellor. See Honors, page 2

Assessing water quality
Gregg McKee of Ladue (kneeling) and Robert and Liza Street of Clayton conduct tests at Tyson Research Center as part of the Lifelong Learning Institute's "Aquatic Ecosystems" course Saturday, April 15. The Water, Tyson Field Science Program, offered the class, in which 12 participants explored a pond and creek, learned about chemical testing methods and bioassays and collected aquatic organisms. The University's Lifelong Learning Institute provides a wide range of educational opportunities for older adults.

Padmanabhan named to new chair
By Barbara Rea

"Vuddy" Padmanabhan, Ph.D., was installed as the first John K. Wallace Jr. and Ellen A. Wallace Distinguished Professor of Marketing at the John M. Olin School of Business in an April 12 ceremony in Simon Hall. The professorship was made possible by a recent commitment of $2 million from the Wallaces. "John and Ellen Wallace are among the University's most generous and supportive friends," said Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, announcing the commitment. "Establishing a distinguished professorship is one of the many meaningful ways in which they've shown their long-standing devotion to the University and the Olin School." Stuart L. Greenbaum, dean of the business school, also expressed his gratitude for the new professorship. "I'm delighted that the Wallaces' generosity allows us to honor outstanding faculty such as Vuddy Padmanabhan," Greenbaum said. "Such gifts help the Olin School attract and retain world-class faculty and contribute to its rise as one of the nation's premier business schools."

Padmanabhan was on the faculty of Stanford University, Northwestern University and the European international business school INSEAD in France before joining the faculty here as professor of marketing in 1998. He teaches customer-focused marketing management, services marketing, advanced services marketing and contemporary marketing channels and pursues research interests in those areas. He has been published in many scholarly journals, including Marketing, Science and Management Science.

Padmanabhan earned a doctoral degree and master of science degree from the University of Texas at Dallas. He received a bachelor of technology degree from the Institute of Technology, Benares Hindu University in India.

Life's origins
Researchers find intriguing possibility in volcanic gases

By Tony Fitzpatrick

Washington University geologists have developed the theoretical calculations about how life might have arisen from volcanic gases on Earth, Mars and other celestial bodies. Analyzing ash, lava and magma chemical compositions from nine representative volcanoes around the world, geologists Everett L. Shock, Ph.D., professor of earth and planetary sciences in Arts & Sciences, and Mikhail E. "Misha" Zolotov, Ph.D., senior research scientist, describe a scenario in which initial volcanic gases spewing from the Earth as hot as 1,200 degrees Celsius cool down to a relatively low temperature of 150-300 C. Shock and Zolotov have shown that, in this temperature range, environmental and chemical conditions are ripe for formation of basic hydrocarbon-based — a wide range of carbon-based compounds essential for life — from the hydrogens and carbon monoxide present in the volcanic gases.

For decades researchers observing volcanic rocks have detected a fine film of organics on the rocks' mineral surfaces, leading to endless speculation about the film's source. Many thought that the organic compounds were stable parts of the Earth's mantle brought up over time through volcanic activity. Others held that the organic mixtures condensed and coalesced in volcanic gases during eruptions. The Shock-Zolotov calculations show that the latter process is more likely.

Conditions favorable for hydrocarbon synthesis also could be favorable for other life ingredients, such as amino acids and complex organic polymers, leading, perhaps, to self-replicating RNA molecules and eventually to all sorts of cells and diverse organisms.

The calculations take into consideration temperatures, gas concentration and other conditions of the gases and geophysical conditions of the individual volcanoes. They are valuable as a framework for researchers setting up experiments and testing results, and they
New chair
Padmanaban named to Wallace professorship—From page 1

Varanasi, India.
John K. Wallace Jr., chairman of The Regency Group, a company based in Clayton, Mo., and a member of the University's Board of Trustees, has been a distinguished leader in the St. Louis business community for 30 years. After receiving a master of business administration degree from the University's school of business in 1962, he rose to the position of executive vice president and president of charitable subsidiaries at Capelles Co. Manufacturers in St. Louis. In 1981, he purchased a subsidiary he had sold and renamed it Imperial Products. When he sold the firm in 1989, it was the largest industrial and third-largest recreational charcoal operation in the United States. Recently, Wallace became a co-owner of the St. Louis Cardinals.

Now semi-retired, he serves on the business school's National Council and chairs the school's efforts for the Campaign for Washington University.

He is a past chairman of the William Greenleaf Eliot Society and a past president of the business school's alumni association. A recipient of the school's Distinguished Alumni Award for success in his career, Wallace also has received awards for his service to the University as a whole. He is active in many civic and cultural institutions, among them the Missouri Botanical Garden, the St. Louis Zoo and the Municipal Theatre Association of St. Louis. Ellen Wallace, his wife, also has enjoyed success in business. In 1990, she became a founding partner of Farmhouse Collection Inc., a manufacturer-offering unique, high-end handcrafted furniture to the design trade industry. Together with their partners, Wallace helped to develop the firm into the nationally recognized company it is today, supported by 17 regional showrooms.

Before entering the furniture business, Ellen Wallace volunteered extensively in St. Louis for organizations dedicated to helping disadvantaged and at-risk youth. For 10 years she served as a Citizen's Deputy Juvenile Officer with the St. Louis County Family Court system and was a member of the board of directors of the Providence Program. Currently, she serves on the boards of the Center for Contemporary Art in St. Louis and Regional Art Organizations in St. Louis. The Wallace's commitment is part of the Campaign for Washington University, a major initiative which aims to continue building on the University's record of excellence and to bring greater benefit to the St. Louis region. The campaign, to end June 30, 2004, has received gifts and commitments totaling $846 million to date.

TRUMANS
All four competition entries are finalists

Ecuador, Johannesburg, from Louisville, Ky., has a triple major in environmental studies, mathematics and earth and planetary sciences. Beckman is an American Culture student and Spanish major from Baldwinsville, N.Y. Currently studying in New York, and Aki is a Bioethics in Public Policy major from Chico, Calif. N.Y. She is currently studying in London.

Growing up in Montana, Kayje Spooner acquired a love of the outdoors and a desire to preserve nature and the environment. Her senior capstone project for an environmental protection now encompasses national and Latin American issues, with a focus on bringing opposing sides together. She spent last summer working on a trail crew in Baxter State Park in Maine. She is in Ecuador to study its culture and development and plans to do independent research on environmental policies. She enjoys travel, snowboarding, ultimate frisbee and numerous outdoor sports and activities.

Truman Scholars also receive priority consideration when applying for awards in a special ceremony at the University.

Frieden's group also is studying the mechanisms by which certain bacterial chaperones help proteins refold and interactions between proteins, especially those that form the cellular skeletal. Other interests include the relationship between stress response and the catalytic mechanisms of certain enzymes.

Frieden came to the medical school as a postdoctoral fellow in 1995 and has been on the faculty since 1997. In 1988, he received his M.D. from the Yale University School of Medicine and is a member of the American Public Health Association and the National Science Foundation.

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• Outstanding achievement in research and scholarship
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Monopolyville members of Delta Gamma sorority and Sigma Nu fraternity perform "Monopolyville" at the University's Thurnite Carnival Saturday, April 15. With the audience transported into one of America's favorite board games, the plot thickened as Mr. Hat kidnapped Rich Uncle Pennybags, the mayor of Monopolyville, with Thimble and Penny working to foil his evil plans. Thimble was played by sophomore JonaLucas Feliucano (front left), with freshman Jamie Rosenthal (left) as Penny. Back-up singers (from left) Community, Chrest and Chance were portrayed by freshman Carly Oxman, senior Yael Berkovich and junior Whitney Walters.
Neurosurgery team will volunteer in Kenyan hospitals

BY DIANE DUKE WILLIAMS

This year, second-year medical student Roberto Miki realized he and many of his classmates were making healthy lifestyle choices. Because of that, they were often eating fast food, not exercising regularly and skipping regular medical checkups.

"We have to keep in shape, and I thought if we're going to be teaching patients, we should be doing the same," said Miki, a marathon runner. "The habits we start today should stay with us for the rest of our lives."

Since its inception, the Wellness Initiative has invited an exercise physiologist to speak to students—organized physical therapy checkups for students and created and posted training diaries in the medical school's

Olin Gym. On Saturday, April 15, Miki and his first-year and one second-year students—had someone on the track for 12 consecutive hours.

"I like to keep in shape, and I thought if we're going to be telling patients to be healthy, we should be doing the same," said Weems. "It's a good way for the different classes to get to know each other better."

Another goal of the relay race was to bring national publicity for the Children's Health Insurance Program, which provides coverage for uninsured children.

The American Medical Association's Medical Student Section adopted this program as its national focus this year.

Miki first came up with the idea of a 12-hour relay in high school at Coconut Grove, Fl. He convinced his cross-country track teammates it would be a good way to raise the money needed to travel to a meet in South Carolina. The relay has become an annual event at Ramset Everglaes High School and is used to raise money for various causes. Last year, students paid off the medical bills of a rival team's coach who had cancer.

If the School of Medicine relay catches on, the organizers might ask it to raise money for charity next year.

"This year, we wanted to get people together, have a good time running and teaching the public about the Children's Health Insurance Program," Miki said.

"We also just wanted to do something good for the world."

First-year medical student Karithi Lukoo, left, passes the baton to classmate So Miki during a 12-hour relay race for the 2nd annual "Running for their lives." Sixty-five students have organized and participated in the race, which is sponsored in part by the University'sTracking Team, to raise funds for Children's Health Insurance Program.

BY LINDA SAGE

AIDS drugs could lead to bone loss

BY NICOLE VYCES

Researchers are tacking on bone deterioration to the list of hazards associated with potent antiretroviral medications. However, they consider it a small tradeoff for the dramatic cut in death rates among HIV-infected patients taking these drugs.

Reporting in the March 20, 2000, issue of AIDS, Pablo Tabas, M.D., an associate professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases, said that therapy inactivates different enzymes in proteins that make up bone. The defects in MEN2B and MTC

Roberto Miki

... permanent activates the gene. He then will determine how the products of these genes drastically inhibit cell proliferation. "These genes are of particular interest as important therapeutic effects," he said. "They reduce their activity of their..."}

Correction

In the April 13 Record article about funding from the Diabetes Research and Training Center, an incorrect phone number was given. For more information or applications, the correct phone number is 362-4890.
**Exhibitions**

- Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition — Through May 3 in the Gallery of Art, Steinberg Hall. Tsai, a second-year student in visual arts, has produced a series of paintings, sculptures, and mixed media works titled "The Octagon Waltz (1995-2000)."

Friday, April 21

- 7-9:30 p.m. Film screening of "Evita," directed by Alan Parker, on loan from the Saul Zaentz Company. Room 100 Brown Hall. 935-6726.

**Film**

**Lectures**

Thursday, April 20


Friday, April 21


Friday, April 28


**University Events**

- "The Octagon Waltz" • Mars • Nanowires • Guerrilla Curating • Jazz • Passover

**Sophomore wins Hatchet competition**

By LAM OTTEN

Peter J. Hanrahan, a sophomore in art history, has won the 2000 A.H. Hatchet Playwriting Competition. The annual competition, which is sponsored by the Performing Arts Department (PAD) in Arts & Sciences, selects one work each year for a full theatrical production. The competition is open to current University students and graduates of the University's PAD program.

Hanrahan won for his play titled "Catholic in Carnarvon," which follows a group of priests in Carnarvon, N.S. Next fall, Hanrahan will take part in New York to Normal: Bucky Badger, dir., of Study 928 McDonnell Hall. 935-6200.

3 p.m. Asian and Slavic studies lecture. "East of the Volga River: Russia's Relations with Mongolia, Korea, and Central Asia." Michael A. Kozol, asst. prof. of political science, University of Toronto. Room 311 Clinical Research Center. 935-6571.

Monday, April 24

- 4:30 p.m. School of Art studio lecture. Tork Root, ceramic artist, Steinberg Hall 116. 935-6950.

**Music**

Saturday, April 22


Monday, April 24

- 7 p.m. Jazz concert. WJU Jazz Groups. Features in Lounge, Wohl Center. 935-6950.

Wednesday, April 26


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- Friday, April 28
Olin Follies’ spoofs business school — all for a good cause

When students at the John M. Olin School of Business present the fifth annual Olin Follies April 28, they’ll not only be poking fun at some of the traditions, administrators, faculty and students, but they also will be raising money for a good cause.

Proceeds will go to the Sunshine Mission in downtown St. Louis, according to Paul Hunter, MBA ’93 candidate and show coordinator. The mission provides shelter, a drug treatment and rehabilitation program, counseling sessions, a thrift store and after-school computer programs. (Directors of the mission are Jim and Carol Clarkos, whose son, Anthony, received an MBA from the business school in 1995.)

Tickets for “The Olin Zone,”
takeoff on “The Twilight Zone,” are $5 per person for admission only or $10 per person for admission and a T-shirt. About 300 persons are expected to attend the show, held in the 7 p.m. in Simon Hall’s May Auditorium. The public is invited.

Eight skits, live and video, will include “The $27,500 Pyramid,” the cost of tuition, and a spoof on rankings revealing that People magazine has named the school’s dean, Stuart I. Greenbaum, as the “sexiest” school dean show.

Skits for the show, entirely student-run, were written by about 15 MBA students; and students, as well as a few faculty, campus officials, and administrators, will be in the skits.

For more information, call Paul Hunter, 533-7907.

Saturday, April 29

On stage

Wednesday, April 26
6 p.m. Performing Arts Dept. play, "g'man." Takia Abolene, author, and Henry Swiny, dir. 6040 Forest Park Blvd. 935-2534. 7 p.m. "A Taste of the East" and "Michael, Colorado" dinner. Holmes Lounge, Cuba. 935-7130.

Thursday, April 27

Friday, April 28

Saturday, April 29

Sports

Women’s track

The women’s track and field team continues its push towards their first-ever University Athletic Association Championships. As the Bears hovered with a throw of 140 feet, 4 inches — but WU scored well in every event. Richmond and Missey Kline finished second in the 400 hurdles, while senior Brian Smith offset quality performances on the relay for the championship.

The team’s men finished fourth. The women won nine events — 1 of the 350-meter hurdles and four sprint finishes in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 9:39.24. Pat MacDonald and Craig Boltis set the new 10,000-meter and 5,000-meter marks for the season. In addition, Anne Gregory won the first run and the final game at the CU field, a grand slam, in game four. We’re off to the races in the season opener against Miami (Ohio). The Bears swept out of the town with a 9-0 win after four games in 14 innings. Winning eight out of nine games, women meet Finley, who the second game was called due to technical difficulties with the lights. The Bears swept past Westminster College, 6-1 and 5-4; Sunday, April 11, 7-5. Liz Stith tossed complete games in all five win, winning four. Only a five-run rally in the top of the last inning by Fontbonne in a perfect game against them. They underplayed their season opener against Miami (Ohio). Their first run and the final game at the CU field, a grand slam, in game four. We’re off to the races in the season opener against Miami (Ohio). The Bears swept out of the town with a 9-0 win after four games in 14 innings. Winning eight out of nine games, women won four of five.
Origins
Researchers develop theoretical calculations

should be integral in analyzing Martian meteorites. They could, in fact, help settle controversies about the 1996 analysis of a Martian meteorite, which bore evidence of the kinds of organisms found in many terrestrial volcanic lava, magma and ash samples.

Shock and Zolotov published their results in the Journal of Geophysical Research. Their work was supported by the National Science Foundation and NASA.

The calculations show that life can arise not only from the gaseous chemistry of present-day terrestrial volcanoes, but that it was even more likely to have developed billions of years ago on early Earth, Mars and Jupiter’s satellite, Europa.

There is a solid body of evidence that shows that even at very low temperatures of spewing volcanic gases, there may be organic compounds that are present.

The conditions might have contributed to the production of organic compounds required for the emergence of life,” said Shock, who first rose to prominence in the “origins of life” debate in 1992 when he performed calculations showing that life could have first emerged chemosynthetically — without sunlight — at hot water vents on the ocean floor. “Our work began with an eye toward understanding the hydrocarbons found in Martian meteorites, and we soon realized that there are plenty of gas compositions from Earth’s volcanoes, and we thought we should study the full range of possibilities. So with this paper we analyzed the hard physical evidence from the Earth, and from that we think we can extrapolate to Mars.

The calculations prove what can happen thermodynamically, but not necessarily what will happen. Developing them is an important first step in understanding this process. For the first time, we now have a quantified temperature zone in which hydrocarbons can form and a framework on which to understand what conditions lead to hydrocarbon formation from volcanic gas. There have been a number of experiments in this area over the years, but not a framework to better understand the process. Misha’s calculations predict what kinds of chemical clues one should be on the lookout for among the organic compounds that are present.”

Zolotov gathered data from volcanoes ranging from Mount St. Helens and Iceland’s Sursey to Sicily’s Mount Etna and Hawaii’s Kilauea. All of the volcanoes arose from different geological settings and produced initial gas temperatures of varying ranges.

“The calculations show that there is a potential for hydrocarbons to form during the cooling process, and that this condition also is promising for amino acids to develop,” Zolotov said. “The process is not very efficient today. For instance, at Kilauea, the hydrogen and carbon monoxide amounts of the gases are more than 2 percent. But it still is a steady source for hydrocarbons to form.

For the origins of life — on Earth, at least — there are two basic competing views: one suggests that life was brought here by comet or meteorite impact — the “extraterrestrial” view; the other that life was generated here, either at the ocean floor, or through a chain of events sparked by lightning, or in volcanic gases.

“Unlike spark discharge sources in the laboratory or solar flux or operating units of the University as well as faculty or staff carrying out University functions, may not obtain or use under other domain names and have their Web pages set up as a subdomain than those of the University, even though they may be located on the campus of the University and provide goods or services to the University.

Washington University in St. Louis is a tradename of the University. Individuals or organizations obtaining their own domain names and have their Web pages set up as a subdomain than those of the University, even though they may be located on the campus of the University and provide goods or services to the University.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

HR seminars offer help with retirement planning

BY CHRISTINE FARMER

For the first time, the Office of Human Resources is conducting brown bag seminars to help faculty and staff better understand their tax-deferred retirement plan, known as the Internal Revenue Service limits on employee contributions to the University’s Retirement Annuity Plan. Eligible employees were invited to a brown bag lunch on April 17 to indicate the results of their final estimated maximum contribution. Employees should take notes for the seminars.

"These limits are quite confusing, and as a result we felt that we needed to go a step further than printed materials for our employees," said Jim Leaman, director of benefits. "The limits apply differently to each person based on various factors. It’s important that employees attend these brown bag seminars to understand their impact on the wustl.edu domain name.

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WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

For questions about this policy, contact Shirley B. Baker, Vice Chancellor for Informa-

Campus Watch

April 14 8:36 a.m. — Unknown person destroyed three chairs in the common areas of Davenport 2.

April 16 6:31 a.m. — A Washington University student cut a lock securing a bicycle at the Athletic Complex and took the bicycle; the same student then

Campus Watch

The following incidents were reported to University Police from April 14–16. Readers with information that could assist in investigating these incidents are urged to contact University Police at 500-5055. These announcements are provided as a public service by the Department of Public Safety and University Police.

April 14 8:36 a.m. — Unknown person destroyed three chairs in the common areas of Davenport 2.

University Police also responded to 10 reports of theft, nine reports of minor injuries, two reports of vandalism and two reports of fire.

The University Police blotter is a daily report of the number of reports of fire, crime, misconduct or other events received by the University Police. The blotter may not be used for any purpose other than to promote the exempt missions of the University (education, research and patient care). Contact University Police for any educational or charitable organizations that are interested in receiving University Police information.

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Campus Watch
The School of Architecture will honor outstanding graduates with annual Distinguished Alumni Awards. The awards will be presented at a formal banquet on Nov. 10.

The recipient of the 1999 Distinguished Alumni Award is Charles A. Wolf, a 1956 alumnus of the University's College of Architecture, Art, and Humanities.

Wolf is founder of Dean/Wolf Architects and an adjunct professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture and the Parsons School of Design in New York City.

Wolf was awarded the University's first Givens Hall Award for faculty and staff to registrar Myrl L. Funk, who will retire this year and staff to registrar Myrl L. Funk, who will retire this year.

Funk, who will retire this year and now registrar, has supported four deans for nearly all the school's existence. She also has assisted numerous faculty and played a crucial role in advising students. Funk was awarded the university's first Gloria W. White Distinguished Service Award in 1998 for her exceptional efforts and contributions to the betterment of the university.

Berk is the newly inaugurated president of the University of Pennsylvania, and she was one of the University's first women to be awarded a faculty position in 1967 and then was appointed as associate professor in 1971.

Berk was a founding partner of Bauer and Wiley Architects in Newport Beach, Calif. She previously was with Walt Disney Enterprises and the international design firm of CRSS Architects Inc. Her work has received numerous awards and has been published extensively.

Bauer is a founding member of the American Institute of Architects and played a crucial role in building a greater understanding of the complex relationship of the arts and sciences.

The compilation has been well-received in scholarly circles, including leading public-ration

Through a Danielek Fellowship, he traveled abroad and attended the American Academy in Rome. His New City firm's work has been published widely and received many awards. The firm has built a reputation for experimenting with new finishing techniques and assemblies and for their experience in detailing and crafting materials.

Pritzlaff has had a long association with the University, primarily through her 20-year membership on the Board of Trustees. She continues to serve on the board's Educational Policy Committee and has been a member of the National Council for the School of Medicine since 1987.

Pritzlaff's interest in and support of the University have contributed greatly to many initiatives and programs on both the Hilltop and medical campuses. As a member of the board of trustees of Monticello College Foundation, she has helped gain substantial support for the Mr. and Mrs. Spencer T. Olin Fellowships for Women in Graduate Study at the University. "This is one of our great traditions," she said.

"It supports women in graduate school and women great Arizonans of being leaders in their fields."

As a director of the Spencer T. Olin and Ann W. Olin Foundation, Pritzlaff continues the philanthropic efforts of the late Mr. and Mrs. Spencer T. Olin Fellowships for Women in Graduate Study at the University. "This is one of our great traditions," she said.

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During her years as chancellor, Mary Dell Compton has "led this institution in ways from the foundation's support."

The search for a new chancellor will begin immediately.

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Dabeeru C. Rao, Ph.D., a professor of biostatistics and director of the School of Medicine’s Division of Biostatistics, studies how genes and environmental factors shape people’s lives — in particular, their risk of developing diseases. But the native of a small village in southeast India attributes his own success to lesser tangible factors: luck, determination to succeed and perseverance born of gratitude for family members who made sacrifices to help him achieve.

The elder Rao’s sacrifice came when he was 17. He took with him a new wife, a widowed sister, a widowed mother, and no money or job prospects. By underbidding contractors for construction jobs in the area and investing in farm land, he was able to save money against his neighbors’ advice; he spent it all sending Dabeeru, known in D.C., and his other 11 children away to college.

“My father used to say, ‘If we have money, we will spend it on something, or one day, we may be robbed,’” Rao said. “But if we put this money into education, nobody can take it away.”

Choosing statistics
The elder Rao’s sacrifice came with strings attached. For example, he insisted that his children only play with other children who were college-bound. Rao’s siblings became professionals in a variety of fields. Rao, the seventh-oldest child, followed the advice of his physician brother and became a statistician. “His vision was that I would do something nontraditional as a tribute to my father,” said Rao.

Several of Rao’s colleagues would argue that he has done much more than that. Theodore Reich, M.D., the Samuel and Miriam Ludwig Professor of Psychiatry and a genetics professor at the medical school, noted that Rao has made the biostatistics division nationally renowned while helping found the field of genetic epidemiology. “He is one of the giants of genetic epidemiology, and one of its first great lights,” Reich said.

Rao received a bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree at the prestigious Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta. He had to place in the top 25 on a national exam to gain entry. Once at the institute, Rao soon became fascinated with the application of statistics to questions in genetic epidemiology, the study of the genetics and inheritance of disease and other traits. “I would say it was pure luck that I landed at the institute, and once I was there, it was the gravity of the intellectual atmosphere and the inspiring mentorship of R. Rao, the institute’s director, that turned me on to genetic epidemiology,” Rao said.

Dabeeru C. Rao, Ph.D.

Education
Indian Statistical Institute, B.S., 1967; M.S., 1968; Ph.D., 1971

Family
Wife, Sarada; son, Ravi (back row) and Lakshmi — pause for a photo during a vacation in London.

With Big Ben in the background, the Rao family — Dabeeru, Sarada, Ravi (back row) and Lakshmi — pause for a photo during a vacation in London.

Dabeeru C. Rao, Ph.D. (right), director of biostatistics, talks with J. Philip Miller, professor of biostatistics, about optimum ways to link families with heart disease from independent studies.

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By BARBARA MOOREHEID

Propelling a biostatistical powerhouse
Dabeeru C. Rao, Ph.D., is ‘giant of genetic epidemiology’

Rao said, “...it’s genes and environmental factors and the way they work together that influence who develops certain diseases.”

“Rao is a leader in the field of genetic epidemiology,” said Jean MacCluer, Ph.D., a genetic epidemiologist at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. Rao worked with Morton Reich and other researchers on study design and analysis.

Far-reaching impact
Rao’s research has had a broad impact on the genetic epidemiology field. “Rao is the founding editor of the leading journal in the field of statistical genetics,” said Steve Elston, who has worked extensively in genetics and biostatistics. “He talks to me and other people about the quality of an argument and will challenge you to hold up your theories to the cold light of reality.”

In his spare time, Rao gardens, takes pictures and spends time with his family: two children and wife, Sarada, with whom he recently celebrated a 25th wedding anniversary. Sarada stopped working in 1974 to support his career, and Rao credits his success and well-being to her unflinching support.

Province and others believe they owe as much to Rao for his support of his personal and professional growth. “He talks about the division as his family, and that’s not rhetoric,” Province said. “He really believes it.”