Nov. 1, 2002

Washington University in St. Louis

Washington People: David M. Holtzman goes beyond the norm, pushes the envelope

Brokaw keynote speaker for 2002 Founders Day

BY BARBARA REA

T he 149th anniversary of the University’s founding will be celebrated in the usual grand style, with the presentation of awards for distinguished faculty and alumni, and one of the country’s most respected newsmen as the keynote speaker.

In addition, the Board of Trustees will bestow its annual Robert S. Brokaw Award.

The annual Founders Day event, to be held this year Nov. 9 at America’s Center, is sponsored by the Alumni Board of Governors and commemorates the University's founding in 1853. A small number of tickets are still available; call 935-7378 for information.

This year’s invited speaker is Tom Brokaw. Since 1983, when he took over the reins on NBC’s Nightly News, Brokaw has been known for his integrity, intelligence and insight for reporting news to the American public.

His place in broadcast history is secure with a set of many "firsts." He was the first American reporter to conduct a one-on-one interview with then-Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev and the first American network television anchor to interview current Russian President Vladimir Putin.

He was the only anchor to report from the scene the night the Berlin Wall fell, and in 1995, he was the first network evening news anchor to report from the site of the Oklahoma City bombing.

In the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, Brokaw was a steady presence for television news watchers. Since then, his firsthand reports from Beirut, Lebanon and Israel have delivered front-line news coverage on the Middle East.

At NBC’s major political reporter, Brokaw has covered every presidential election since 1968. From 1973-76, he was NBC’s White House correspondent; and from 1984-2000, Brokaw anchored all of NBC’s primary, convention and election-night coverage.

In 1998, Brokaw’s first book became an instant best seller. The Greatest Generation—a tribute to the generation of Americans born in the 1920s who came of age during the Great Depression, fought in World War II and built modern-day America—was so successful that it spawned two sequels, The Greatest Generation Speaks and a third related text, An Album of Memories: Personal Memories From the Greatest Generation.

This month, his memoir. A Long Way From Home: Growing Up in the American Heartland, will be released. Brokaw’s journalistic awards include several Emmys, a Peabody Award and several other honors.

New findings, technology unveiled at conference

BY TONY FITZPATRICK AND DARRELL E. WARD

S cience journalists from every region of the United States and various parts of Canada swooped upon the Heartland Oct. 27-30 to attend the 46th Annual New Horizons in Science Briefing, a function of the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing.

The University hosted the event, held at The Ritz-Carlton in Clayton, the Charles F. Knight Executive Education Center on the Hilltop Campus and other locations on the Hilltop and Medical campuses.

The purpose of the conference was to brief reporters who cover science, technology and medicine on new trends and technologies. The journalists filed stories, took notes and conducted interviews for future publication.

The University had numerous presences at the conference. On Oct. 27, the journalists heard John-Stephen A. Taylor, Ph.D., professor of chemistry in Arts & Sciences, explain his chemotherapy-alternative technique, which he refers to as a "nucleic acid-triggered catalytic drug release." This is a sophisticated drug-delivering system that allows researchers to use cancerous gene sequences as triggering mechanisms for the drugs that fight them.

They also discussed collaboration with Karen L. Woolley, Ph.D., professor of chemistry, in using his system in conjunction with Woolley’s specially designed nanoparticles, called "knedels." Woolley then discussed how her work with nanoparticles had led her to developing a group of nontoxic "antibinding" coatings that may one day inhibit marine organisms such as barnacles, tube worms and others from attaching to ship hulls and other marine structures.

Two faculty members from physics in Arts & Sciences led the Oct. 28 session on "In Search of Cosmic Mysterium," James H. Buckley, Ph.D., associate professor of physics, described his work analyzing bursts of gamma rays released from massive black holes at the centers of so-called "active galaxies." He described experiments that may soon reveal more information about the nature of the "dark matter" that comprises the majority of our own galaxy. Wai-Mo Suen, Ph.D., professor of physics, followed Buckley and discussed gravity waves—completely new kinds of waves, predicted by Einstein’s theory of general relativity—that are expected soon to reveal previously unattainable mysteries of the universe.

On Oct. 29, three School of Medicine investigators presented new methods for imaging and watching biological changes in living animals.

Dr. David Piccione-Worms, M.D., Ph.D., professor of radiology and See Conference Page 5

Flex spending open enrollment runs Nov. 1-30

F aculty and staff wanting to save money on out-of-pocket health- and child-care expenses can enroll in the University’s Flex Spending Plans for calendar year 2003 during the open enrollment period from Nov. 1, 2002, through Nov. 30. Interested employees — even those who are currently enrolled for 2002 — must enroll before Nov. 30 to ensure participation for 2003.

These plans pay out of pocket for health, dental, prescription drug or vision care expenses that are not covered by your insurance policy. These expenses include deductibles, copayments, coinsurance and other patient costs for covered services.

Employees can enroll in either plan or both. Each plan accommodates the unique needs of each participant.

While there are no limits to the types of expenses covered, employees can save money on expenses that are out of pocket, including costs for health care services, prescription drugs, dental care, and vision care services not covered by insurance. Examples of some qualifying expenses include deductibles, co-payments, coinsurance and other patient costs. Some examples of expenses that can be paid for with a flex spending plan include:

- Dentistry
- Vision care
- Prescription drugs not covered by insurance
- Diabetes supplies
- Medical equipment
- Medical supplies
- Home health care
- Alternative care

Interested employees may enroll in one or both of the University’s flex spending plans. They must do so during the open enrollment period from Nov. 1, 2002, through Nov. 30, 2002, to ensure participation for the 2003 calendar year.

Employees who are enrolled in these plans enjoy a definite tax savings," said Tom Lauman, director of benefits in human resources, "a current tax savings that will not be deferred or paid later like our retirement plan.

There are important limitations and forfeiture rules to consider when enrolling in these plans. Once enrolled, employees are not allowed to change the dollar amount of their contributions during the year unless they experience a family status change — for example, marriage, divorce or legal separation.

For more information, attend an upcoming information session or contact the Benefits Office, 800-245-5198.

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S andy M. Holmes
By David Stillman


Rowley's book is selected as one of the "ten best books of 2001" by the New York Times Book Review.

Rowley, a writer and academic, is also a critic and a prominent speaker on the subject of biography.

The result is a portrait of uncommon penetration and skill — surely one of the finest literary biographies to appear in many a year.

Rowley, commenting on the book's biographical style, writes: "I like the reader to do the work, I don't want to tell the reader what to do."
School of Medicine Update

Schechter named Schechter professor

BY DANIEL SIEGEL

Gustave Schechter, M.D., has been named the first Samuel E. Schechter Professor of Medicine.

The professorship was established by Samuel E. Schechter, M.D., a young internist at the former Jewish Hospital, who returned to St. Louis in 1963 to continue his residency at Jewish Hospital. Schechter was sent to London to help prisoners of war camps during the war, and later went to help the war effort in London, where his wife and children were living.

Since the establishment of the professorship, Schechter has been a member of the Department of Internal Medicine, the Adolphus Busch Professor of Medicine, and a member of the Department of Radiation Medicine. He has also been a member of the Department of Radiation Medicine.

Schechter is renowned for his contributions to the field of atherosclerosis, where he has made significant contributions to the understanding of the disease.

Lung-cancer screening needs volunteers

BY DARRELL E. WARD

Long-term and heavy smokers are being victimized by lung cancer, which is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States. An estimated 330,000 new cases are expected this year, and 150,000 will die of the disease.

Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of the disease.

The National Lung Screening Trial, which is being conducted by the National Cancer Institute, will compare screening with spi- ral computed tomography (spiral CT) to screening with standard chest X-rays for effec- tiveness in reducing the number of deaths due to lung cancer.

Alzheimer's drug trial needs volunteers

BY DARRELL E. WARD

Patients with mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease are needed to test a new Alzheimer's drug that is being developed for the treatment of the disease.

The drug, called tacrine, is thought to improve cognitive function in patients with mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease.

Patients must be enrolled in a care- giver and will receive study med- ications and maintenance evaluations over a six-month period of free food and lodging.

For more information, call Sally Siuch at 334-1509.

Birthday bash

John W. McDonald (left), M.D., Ph.D., and Pat Rummerfield (right) of the Spinal Cord Injury Program join Christopher Reeve and other celebrities at Reeve’s 50th birthday fund- raising event in New York City Sept. 25. Reeve’s medical progress, chronicled by McDonald in the September issue of the Journal of Neurosurgery: Spine, generated hundreds of national and interna- tional news stories for the School of Medicine and was featured in an hour-long documentary raising event in New York City Sept. 25. Reeve’s medical progress, chronicled by McDonald in the September issue of the Journal of Neurosurgery: Spine, generated hundreds of national and interna- tional news stories for the School of Medicine and was featured in an hour-long documentary.
Author Gross to deliver Holocaust Memorial Lecture

July 1941, perpetrated not by dentists of Jedwabne, Poland, in Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in their way into the sun-drenched scraper casts a long shadow over a works “began to feel like deserted Retrospective.

Kohn typically sketches on-site and later adjusts, flips and collects have ranged from the small (1985), the famous Chicago sky-scraper and regularly. So even if the Germans were “just as bad as we heard.”

In the year since, Kohn’s subjects have ranged from small villages of the Galician inns of Oaxaca, Mexico, to the landlady who ran the hotel in Israel in 1948. In 2002, the crows

The show also includes one new composition, Brunelleschi r not with music by Richard O’Donnell and video by Dale Order and Bobbie Lamm. The work is based on Kohn’s recent studies of Filippo Brunelleschi’s lesser-known canciones, Motetti, and La Bella agli occhi in Florence, Italy.

The program includes excerpts from some of the multimedia works — created in collaboration with musicians, dancers, photographers — that have marked the artist’s creative openings since 1970. The group also features excerpts from eight previous pieces, including Pilgrimage to the Virgin of Bochumm, based on the Spanish festival; and Macho Pichu/Sacred Light, based on a groom watching the Inca city.

In addition to the exhibition, Kohn will host performances at the Des Lee Gallery re-creating some of the multimedia works — created in collaboration with musicians, dancers, photographers — that have marked the artist’s creative openings since 1970. The group also features excerpts from eight previous pieces, including Pilgrimage to the Virgin of Bochumm, based on the Spanish festival; and Macho Pichu/Sacred Light, based on a groom watching the Inca city.

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Author Mitchell to discuss 21st-century campus design

By LIAM OTTEN

by Jessica N. Roberts

Sharon Maxwell will speak at the University's 2002 William H. Hixson Lecture Series on Social Work at noon Nov. 5 in Brown Lounge in Brown Hall.

Maxwell is a representative to the National Institutes of Health Clinical Trials and is a member of the National Institutes of Health's Community Constituency Group, the Women's Health Committee of AIDS Clinical Trials and now

Author Mitchell to discuss 21st-century campus design

By LIAM OTTEN

N

ew York City professional Author Mitchell will be one of the keynote speakers at the March of Dimes luncheon at the St. Louis Automobile Club on Tuesday. Author Mitchell will discuss "The Architecture of Urban Design." Author Mitchell is a professor at the University of California, San Francisco, and a fellow at the Architectural History Foundation.

In his best-selling book, "City of Bits: Space, Place, and the Infobahn" (1996), Author Mitchell speculated on the impact of digital and communications technology that increasingly defines our daily existence. Author Mitchell also was responsible for the development of such (then-seem-

ly) fantastic devices as low-orbit, satellites, and household computers, as well as clothing.

In "Urban Life, Just Not As We Know It," (1995), Author Mitchell wrote about new, more expansive definitions of architecture that recognize the growing importance of "virtual" space.


Born and raised in Australia, Author Mitchell earned degrees from the University of Melbourne, Vedic University and the University of Cambridge. From 1978-1991, he was a founding partner of The Computer-Animated Design Group, a company that created and marketed CAD and facili-

ties-management systems.

Before coming to MIT, he directed the MIT Architecture/Urban Studies Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and serves as head of the Architectural/Urban Design Program at Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of California, San Francisco. Mitchell is a fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1996, he was awarded the annual Appreciation Prize of the Architectural History Foundation for his "achievements in the development of architectural design theory in the city as well as worldwide promotion of CAD education." Washington University's Visual Arts and Design Center is a campuswide umbrella organization for the study and promotion of visual culture. Just as a liberal arts education prepares students to analyze what they hear and read, the Visual Arts and Design Center prepares students to analyze our increasingly complex visual environment. "Technology has helped guide the development of new facilities and innovative teaching methods," the Visual Arts and Design Center works to create an interdisci-

nary curriculum and study to support new emerging technologies.

For more information on Mitchell's lecture, call 93-4523.

Tuesday, Nov. 12

Nov. Molecular Microbiology and Microbial Genetics Seminar Series. "Of Fish and Fish: Using Zebrafish to Understand the Evolution of the Gill," Lalita Ramakrishnan, assis-

tant professor of biology, University of Chicago, 4:15 p.m. in Compton Hall, Rm. 241. 935-6276.

Nov. Planned Parenthood Bicentennial Lecture Series. "Women's Health and the Evolution of Medicine," Karen Fox, professor of gynecology, Washington University Medical School, 4 p.m. in Eads Hall, 935-5954.

Thursday, Nov. 7

7 p.m. University College panel dis-

cussion. "Gender and Islam," Turning Point or Prelude to War? Lab Sciences Bldg., Rm. 15. 935-6123.

8 p.m. Earth and Planetary Science collo-


7 p.m. Architecture Monday Night Lecture Series. "Interior Design and Design in the Artistic World," John Vlach, professor of history of art, University of Kansas, 7 p.m. in Steinberg Hall, Rm. 200. 935-5270.

7 p.m. Architecture Research Seminar Series. "Concrete, Steel, Glass and the Modern Master Designer," John Van Nostrand, associate professor of architecture, 7 p.m. in Steinberg Hall, Rm. 204. 935-5123.

Friday, Nov. 8

Nov. Neuroscience Research Unit Lecture Series. "The Determination of the Female Sex in the Time of the Tenth Century," Robert Roberts, professor of human development, 4 p.m. in Eads Hall, Rm. 204. 935-6120.

Science. (Also Nov. 12.; Nov. 13 & 14, sponsored by the depts. of English and com-

July: The Reconfigured Eye: Visual Arts and Design Center prepares stu-

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…remaining null hypothesis...
Founders Day
Distinguished Alumni Awards to be presented -- from Page 1

Award and an Alfred du Pont Award. He received a special "Honorary Alumnus" degree from the University in 1973 and was later described by Alaska's House of Representatives as a "great leader and a truly outstanding American." Du Pont is a graduate of the University's College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

In addition to the du Pont award, the University presented awards to four other alumni:

- *Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.* -- for his contributions to the University's College of Architecture and Urban Studies.
- *Vladmir Putin,* Russia's prime minister, for his contributions to the University's School of Law.
- *Bill Gates,* co-founder of Microsoft Corporation, for his contributions to the University's College of Business.
- *Steve Jobs,* co-founder of Apple Inc., for his contributions to the University's College of Engineering.

The University held a special ceremony on October 25 to present these awards to the recipients and to celebrate the contributions of all of its distinguished alumni.

Shirley J. Dyska, Ph.D. (left), associate professor of civil engineering, and Shinglestone Scientific Equipment Science Lighting attended a tour of a laboratory Oct. 25.

Conference
Numerous University faculty give presentations on various topics.

of molecular biology and pharmacology, presented the new art and science of imaging molecular changes in the body and the research under way at the new Molecular Imaging Center at the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology.

Jeffrey W. Lichtman, M.D., Ph.D., professor of anatomy and neuroscience, and the Brookings Institution's Thomas Lowther have both been presented with the 2002 Distinguished Alumni Award by the University. Lichtman is the Thomas Lowther, a distinguished and influential scholar, is a leader in the field of computational neurobiology and is the recipient of numerous awards, including the prestigious G. Searle Prize in Molecular and Cellular Biology.

Lowther is an influential leader in the field of public policy and has been a member of the board of directors of the Brookings Institution since 1990. He is a former U.S. District Judge and has served as a member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Brookings Institution.

Conference
Numerous University faculty give presentations on various topics.

Washington University in St. Louis

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Editor's note: This story will conclude in the Nov. 8 Record with an announcement of the recipients of the Robert S. Brookings and Distinguished Faculty Awards.
Introducing new faculty members

The following are among the new faculty members at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

John C. Morris, M.D., the Harvey and Dorisette Hacker Friedman Professor of Neurology and professor of neuropathology and immunology, has received a five-year, $500,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health as an academic career leadership award for the University of Missouri's Center for Aging.

Linda M. Mundy, M.D., assistant professor of medicine, has received a one-year, $24,000 United Way Venture Grant to support the efforts of the Faith in Action Coalition at the Harry S. Truman Medical Center. The coalition will partner with volunteers into the homes of women who have HIV, while providing outreach efforts into the community. The coalition is also supported by a $35,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Saul K. Finn, Ph.D., joins the Department of Physics & Astronomy as the inaugural director of the Charles M. Holmberg Laboratory for Experimental Physics. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a doctorate in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois. He has had a distinguished career in both academic and industry, serving as president of the University of Illinois, University of Chicago and at Michigan State University, as director of the Institute for Fundamental Materials Research, and as a fellow of the NEC Research Institute Inc. in Princeton, N.J. He is a world-renowned materials physicist, with research on the properties of semiconductors and diamond.

Stuart Solin, Ph.D., joins the Department of Physics & Astronomy as the inaugural chair of the Charles M. Holmberg Laboratory for Experimental Physics. He earned a bachelor's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois. He has had a distinguished career in both academic and industry, serving as president of the University of Illinois, University of Chicago and at Michigan State University, as director of the Institute for Fundamental Materials Research, and as a fellow of the NEC Research Institute Inc. in Princeton, N.J. He is a world-renowned materials physicist, with research on the properties of semiconductors and diamond.

Enrollment

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introduction, birth or adoption of a child, termination or commencement of marriage, death of a spouse, or loss of health or life insurance.

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Beautifying about UAA title hopes alive

The football Bears and Case Western Reserve University football combined for 1,030 yards of total offense as the Red and Gold held on for a 49-42 victory.

University Athletic Association (AAA) was victorious in the 49-42 victory over the Musketeers.

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Correction

Oct. 23, Issue 2: The name of the Program in Gender Studies in Arts & Science was incorrectly stated for research titled "Mechanisms of Disease in the Newborn Human Infant." The name is "Mechanisms of Disease in the Newborn Human Infant."

Bruce R. Whiting, Ph.D., research assistant professor of radiology, has received a two-year, $328,813 grant from the National Cancer Institute for research titled "Radiation Dose Reduction in X-ray Computed Tomography."

Michael J. Walter, M.D., assistant professor of medicine, has received a one-year, $111,618 grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for research titled "Cardiac Function and Metabolism in Hypertension."

F. Sessoms Cole, M.D., the Part-Time Professor of Pediatrics, has received a five-year, $535,205 grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for research titled "Mechanisms of Disease in the Newborn Human Infant."

Marc R. Hammerman, M.D., director of the Medically oriented program in molecular biology at the University of Chicago, has received a five-year, $635,025 grant from the National Institutes of Health for research titled "Glycine Receptor Modulation."

Victor G. Davila-Roman, M.D., associate professor of medicine, has received a one-year, $65,025 grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for research titled "Cardiac Function and Metabolism in Hypertension.

"We encourage those interested in the new faculty members to contact them directly.

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A nontraditional approach

David M. Holtzman, M.D., makes his mark on neuroscience - and has fun along the way

by GILA Z. RICKES

David M. Holtzman, M.D., is a leading cause of dementia in older adults, work. Not only is he a leading how his basic research relates to on fundamental mechanisms while out a field and then become the newly honed clinical and research his adviser's pediatric neurology tions. For example, increased blood and oxygen flow to the brain occurring around the time of birth, called a perinatal stroke, is a common cause of injury to the developing brain. There is no current treat-}

David M. Holtzman, M.D., makes his mark on neuroscience - and has fun along the way

Even then, he continued on a nontraditional training route. Rather than focusing on getting another degree, he spent the five years it normally takes to get a Ph.D. in Mobley's lab concentrat- ing on how to think critically and learn research techniques. By the end of his training, Holtzman had become immersed from his advisor's pediatric neurology focus and began applying his newly honed clinical and research expertise to his own experimental interests. "Dave's really been able to carve out a field and then become the world's leader in it," Mobley says. "He's been able to think on fundamental mechanisms while continuing to ask questions about how his basic research relates to human disease processes." And a big appreciation for the larger perspective is clear in Holtzman's work. Not only is he a leading investigator of the most common cause of dementia in older adults, but he also is an accomplished scholar on one of the most pressing concerns of biology neuro- logical problems, perinatal stroke. Combining research into dis- 

significant progress, Holtzman's focus is shifting toward applying basic findings thereby treating disease. Translating laboratory research into clinical results remains Holtzman's ultimate goal. In fact, part of what attracted him to the School of Medicine is its focus on collaboration, both between different disciplines and between basic and clinical science. now as a rheumatology student at the University of California, San Francisco, Holtzman instituted the university's first clinic dedicated to treating patients with dementia. Now he takes advantage of Washington University's renowned Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC). "Dave's ability to clearly understand how laboratory findings could be developed to help patients sets him apart," says John C. Morris, M.D., co-director of the ADRC and the Harvey and Doris Mackett Professor of Neurology. "Although much work needs to be done, I have no doze that Dave is the person to lead these highly prom- inous efforts." In collabora- 

David M. Holtzman, M.D., and his wife, Tracy, enjoy traveling and adventure sports.

ment to intervene or reverse the damage caused by such an incident. But in a study published in the July issue of *Science*, Holtzman's team reported the first evidence that the antibiotic minocycline prevents baby rats from brain damage caused by perinatal stroke, even when given shortly after injury.

Unlike damage caused by a mononuclear, traumatic event such as perinatal stroke, Alzheimer's disease leads to slow, progressive degeneration of brain cells. Nonetheless, the two disorders both share a key element: cell death. Holtzman hopes that clues from learning to protect developing brains from injury also may prove useful in treating some of the degenerative diseases in the elderly.

Holtzman's laboratory also is extremely active in studying the specific stages that lead to symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. His team has been instrumental in showing how dangerous amounts of a protein called amyloid-$b$ (A$\beta$) begin to accumulate in the brain many years before symptoms arise. Now that his team has made

David M. Holtzman, M.D. (center), and graduate students John Cirrito (left) and John Fryer plan an experiment with mice that have Alzheimer's disease. Holtzman's approach is unique in that he allows us to explore novel ideas on our own, providing insights and guidance when needed. "Fryer says. "At times he seems to have a sixth sense as to what people need most."