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Record

Feb. 14, 2003

Volume 27 No. 20



Washington University in St. Louis

Cancer-killing protein found by researchers

By JIM DRYDEN

School of Medicine researchers have found that a protein called cytidine uridine guanosine binding protein-2 (CUGBP2) can destroy several types of cancer cells.

When the team inserted the protein into cultured tumor cells, more than 70 percent self-destructed.

The team's study appeared in the Jan. 17 issue of the journal *Molecular Cell*. The researchers found that CUGBP2 helps regulate production of cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2), which is better known as a key culprit in arthritis.

"The gene that produces COX-2 is turned on very early in cancer, so there has been a lot of research to see whether interfering with it might be an effective therapy," said principal investigator Shrikant

Anant, Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine.

In rheumatoid arthritis, COX-2 converts arachidonic acid in the body into prostaglandins. In cancer cells, COX-2 levels



Anant

also rise and trigger production of prostaglandins.

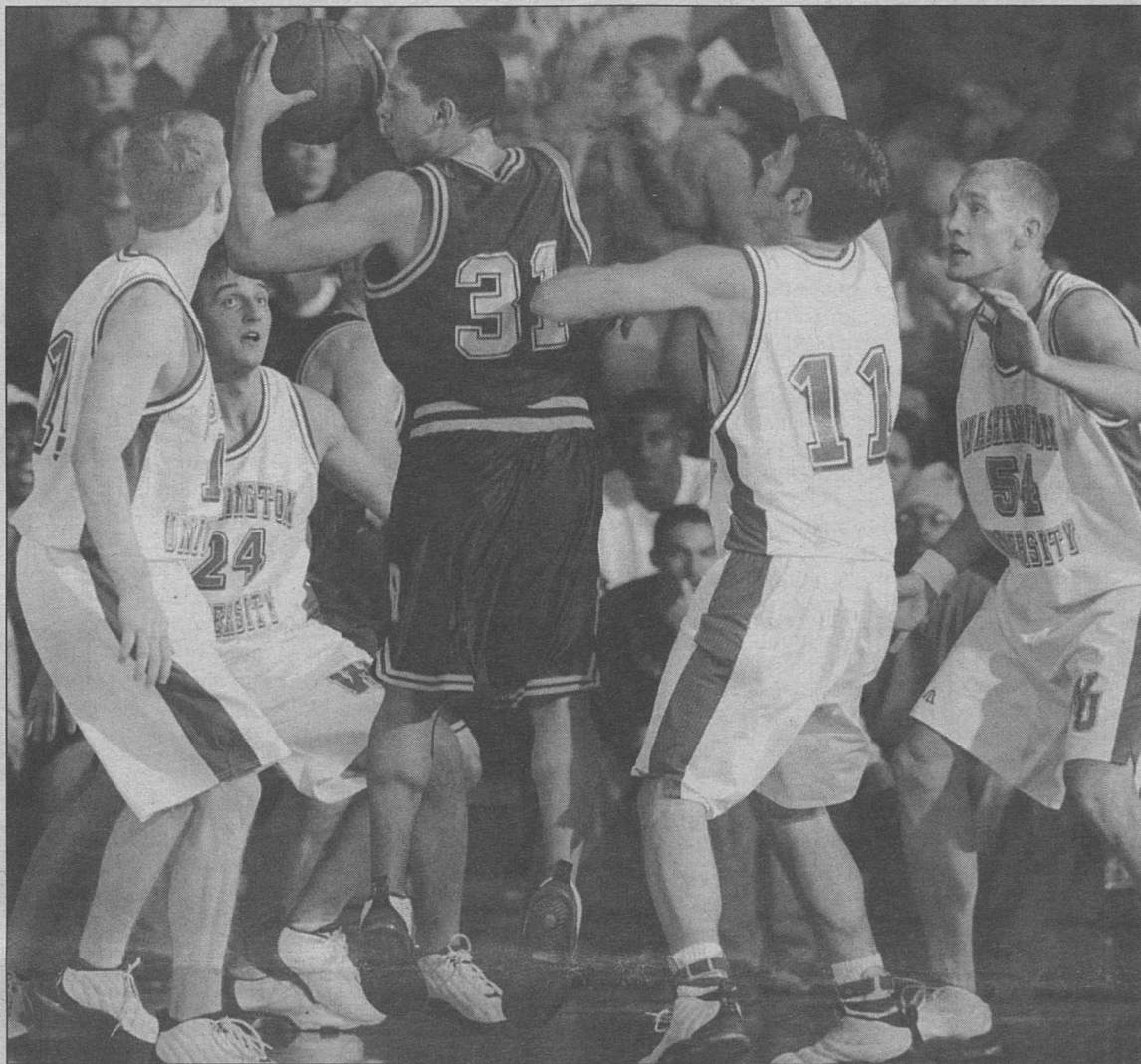
The prostaglandins bind to tumor cells and help turn on genes involved in the generation of new blood vessels, helping feed the cells' rapid growth.

In this study, Anant and his colleagues looked at events early in the development of tumors. In any cell's life, there is a normal cycle of replication and division.

First, a close copy of DNA, called RNA, is made, and that RNA, in turn is translated into proteins. These proteins have to be made at precisely the right time in order for the cycle to work correctly.

It is thought that tight regula-

See **Protein**, Page 6



Bears seniors (from left) Matt Tabash, Joel Parrott, Dustin Tylka and Jarriot Rook surround the University of Rochester's Gabe Perez in a recent contest in the Field House. With just five games remaining on their regular-season schedules, the WUSTL men's and women's teams are both a perfect 20-0.

Basketball teams poised to make history

By KEITH JENKINS

As the season winds down, the men's and women's basketball teams are gearing up for what could be one of the most historic finishes in college basketball history.

With only five games left on each team's regular-season schedule, both stand atop all the NCAA Division III polls with their identical 20-0 records.

The men and women are both chasing national championships, and should they both accomplish the feat, Washington U. would become just the second school in NCAA history to win the men's and women's national titles in the same year. Division II Central

Upcoming games

Today, EMORY UNIVERSITY

Women 6 p.m.; men 8 p.m.

Feb. 16, CASE WESTERN RESERVE U.

Men 1 p.m.; women 3 p.m.

Feb. 21, Carnegie Mellon University

Women 5 p.m.; men 7 p.m.

Feb. 23, University of Rochester

Men noon; women 2 p.m.

March 1, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Women 6 p.m.; men 8 p.m.

Home games in CAPS; all times Central

Missouri State University won both in 1984.

Ultimately, success won't be

measured by national championships alone, though. Both clubs have already achieved more this year than most programs ever do.

It's fairly easy to gauge this season's success. Just look at the numbers.

There are 2,655 four-year college basketball teams, but only 12 of them are undefeated. Two of those 12 can be found right here on the Hilltop Campus.

The women's team has now recorded six straight 20-win seasons and is 20-0 for the fourth time in the past five seasons. The Bears have won 74 consecutive regular-season home games, 51 straight regular-season games

See **Basketball**, Page 6

Celebrate Birthday party set for Feb. 22

By ANDY CLENDENNEN

The story of George Washington cutting down the cherry tree is almost certainly apocryphal.

But the fact that the University is named for the first president of the United States is most definitely not.

To commemorate several things at the same time, the University is holding a "George Washington Birthday Party" for faculty, staff and students from 6-9 p.m. Feb. 22 in the Athletic Complex.

The party will accomplish three things. It will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the charter of the University — then known as Eliot Seminary; note the birthday of the University's namesake; and be the start of recognizing the University's 150th anniversary year.

"This is a great, fun way to celebrate the birthday of both our namesake and the University and, at the same time, host the first event of our yearlong Sesquicentennial celebration that will begin officially next September," Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said. "I hope many from our community will join us for the evening."

Other Sesquicentennial-related events won't start until fall semester.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to bring children to the event, as entertainment will be provided for the entire family. Local band LP Outsiders will perform, and there will be a special area for children that will feature face painting, arts and crafts, and other activities.

Typical ballpark food will be served (hot dogs, popcorn, corn dogs, pretzels, chips, Cracker Jacks

See **Celebration**, Page 6

Dragon dancers

Olin School of Business students celebrate the start of the Chinese New Year with the "dragon dance" at the business school's "Spring Festival," sponsored by the Olin Great China Club, Feb. 9 in May Auditorium in Simon Hall. The celebration represents the beginning of spring and is the most important traditional holiday for Chinese people. Delighting those in attendance were live theater performances and festivities, including a Chinese buffet, a lion dance with waist drums, a Chinese opera drama, traditional Tibetan folk dance, a Chinese circus and martial arts performances. 2003 is the Chinese Year of the Sheep.



'Untold stories' of slaves now online; symposium Feb. 19

By GERRY EVERDING

As Americans celebrate Black History Month, they will for the first time have online access to the pleadings of hundreds of African-Americans who sued for their freedom in state courts during the early to mid-1800s.

Many of these people won emancipation in state courtrooms long before President Lincoln proclaimed it to the nation.

"These are the untold stories behind the nation's first civil rights cases," said David T. Konig, Ph.D., professor of history in Arts & Sciences and of law.

The University is a partner in

a public-private collaboration designed to preserve and make available online historically significant documents of the St. Louis Circuit Court, an archive dating to the late 1700s.

The project's latest offering of 19th-century freedom suits opens to the public Feb. 19 with a news conference and symposium featuring several national experts on slavery and related legal issues.

The Freedom Suits Series includes images of hundreds of original hand-written documents in which African-American men, women and children petitioned the court for freedom.

See **Series**, Page 2

Black History Month film series starts Feb. 16

BY ANDY CLENDENNEN

University Libraries is sponsoring a film series for Black History Month.

The series will feature a number of films that are part of the libraries' new Film and Media Archive, established in 2001 after the acquisition of the collections of Blackside Inc., the largest African-American-owned film production company of its day.

The screenings, which are free and open to the public, are as follows:

• **Feb. 16, 3:30-5 p.m.**, Brown Hall, Room 100. "Black Film: Subjects and Creators."

Black History: Lost, Stolen, or Strayed (1976). A very young Bill Cosby narrates a film that examines African-American representations in Hollywood films and television.

I'll Make Me A World (1998). Segments from two episodes examine African-American film genres and filmmakers, from Oscar Micheaux and his race

films, to Julie Dash, Blaxploitation films and Spike Lee.

These films will be introduced by Jeff Smith, Ph.D., associate professor of performing arts and director of the Film and Media Studies Program in Arts & Sciences.

• **Feb. 20, 8 p.m.**, Mad Art Gallery, 12th and Lynch streets in the Soulard district. "Celebrating Black History."

American Shoeshine (1976). In this deep and entertaining exploration of the world of the shoeshine artist, a dozen or so shoeshiners, armed with hot-poppin' rags and street-corner philosophy, introduce viewers to their world. It was nominated for an Academy Award, is no longer in distribution and is rarely seen — few prints of this film exist.

Eyes on the Prize: Ain't Scared of Your Jails (1987). In this episode of the acclaimed PBS civil rights documentary series *Eyes on the Prize*, college students begin to take a leadership role in lunch-counter sit-ins in

Nashville, Tenn., and face death as the Freedom Riders try to break down segregation in interstate bus travel throughout the South.

These films are presented with the Academic Film Archive of North America and Ciné 16 St. Louis Film Series. They will be introduced by Leslie Brown, Ph.D., assistant professor of history and of African & Afro-American Studies, both in Arts & Sciences.

• **Feb. 23, 3:30-5 p.m.**, Brown Hall, Room 100. "Out of the Archive."

America's War on Poverty (1995). For every hour of a finished program, there are 10-15 hours of footage left out. This showing will feature rarely seen clips and outtakes of original interviews and television news coverage from the Blackside series.

These clips will be introduced by David Rowntree, archivist in the Film and Media Archive.

Series

— from Page 1

Sample documents from several freedom suits and an introductory multimedia presentation on the project are now available for preview at the project home page, stl-courtrecords.wustl.edu.

"These court documents tell the stories of African-Americans who have been all-but-forgotten and ignored by history, people whose courage and perseverance provide a tremendously rich and important new chapter in the history of this nation," said Wayne Fields, Ph.D., co-director of the American Culture Studies Program and the Lynne Cooper Harvey Distinguished Professor in English, both in Arts & Sciences.

The Freedom Suits Series is part of the St. Louis Circuit Court Historical Records Project, a collaborative effort involving the University, the Missouri State Archives (a division of the Missouri secretary of state's office) and the St. Louis Circuit Court clerk's office.

Faculty and students from the University have worked closely on the project since its initiation. The collaboration has since been expanded to offer volunteer research opportunities to students at several other local universities.

On Feb. 19, the stories of many freedom suit plaintiffs will become accessible to researchers worldwide. The online exhibit will include finding aids, such as a keyword-searchable database, and direct access to the digitized images of original court documents for nearly 300 freedom suits.

Some of the later cases were tried at the Old Courthouse in St. Louis, the building where the now-famous Dred Scott slavery case was initiated in 1846.

The Dred Scott case was the most explosive case focusing national attention on a slave's attempt to gain freedom through the court system, but Scott was by no means the first African-American to bring his freedom struggle to court. Quite the opposite, Scott symbolized the many decades of struggle in which African-Americans around the nation used state courts to sue for their freedom.

They based their claims on having been born to a free parent; on traveling through or establishing residency in a free state; on having purchased their own freedom; or on having freedom granted as a condition of a master's last will and testament, a process known as manumission.

"St. Louis was an early hotbed for freedom suits because of its geographic setting as a frontier crossroads and its proximity to several free states and territories, but similar suits also were being filed in state courts across the nation," Konig said. "The St. Louis Circuit Court records may contain the nation's largest known collection of freedom suits, but there may be similar stories yet to be discovered in courthouses around the country."

Filing a freedom suit was not a trivial matter. As Konig points out, many courts in pro-slavery states were obviously hostile to African-Americans who filed freedom suits. There always existed the danger that a plaintiff might disappear mysteriously before his or her case could come to trial.

"While this route to freedom presented tremendous challenges, it is a testament to the American judicial system that the rights of pauper plaintiffs often were upheld, even in situations where they found themselves in court battles with owners who were among the most powerful and influential members of the community," Konig said.

Thus far, this project has led to the preservation and digitization of two series of court records, both of which are also accessible online:

• In January 2001, the freedom

suits brought by Dred Scott and his wife, Harriet, in 1846 became the first cases to go online through University Libraries, attracting nearly a million information requests from visitors from around the world in their first year on the Web. That fall, the American Culture Studies Program agreed to expand this initiative by digitizing additional cases and creating a site that offers Web-based research tools.

• In July 2002, the project released a collection of more than 80 cases relating to Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and other members of the Corps of Discovery. Not only do these cases provide new insights into the careers of Lewis and Clark after the expedition, but also they provide vital details on the lives of other members of the Corps of Discovery — people who left only occasional imprints on the documentary record.

"Our research is just the beginning," Konig said. "We hope that national access to these latest court documents will spur the descendants of these former slaves to come forward and help us to tell their stories more completely. We're in the process of recovering the stories of people who played a significant role in American history, but who have thus far received little recognition."

"Our next goal is to begin piecing together as much information as possible about the people behind these freedom suits, the plaintiffs and their masters, the attorneys who specialized in these cases and the political and community leaders who may have influenced the court's decisions. We're anxious to hear from people across the nation who might have family pictures, documents or stories to contribute to this collection."

News conference, public lecture

St. Louis' majestic Old Courthouse, site of Dred Scott's historic 1850 petition for freedom from slavery, will be the setting for a Feb. 19 news conference inviting the public to explore a new online collection of court documents from nearly 300 little-known slave "freedom suits."

The news conference, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom No. 13, will provide background on the new Freedom Suits Series collection and on the related St. Louis Circuit Court Historical Records Project.

Speakers will include representatives from various project participants, including the American Cultures Studies Program in Arts & Sciences, the Missouri State Archives (a division of the Missouri secretary of state's office), and the St. Louis Circuit Court Clerk's office.

After the news conference, the public is invited to learn more by attending a public lecture and panel discussion featuring several national experts on legal and historical issues related to the freedom suits. The event will be held at 4 p.m. in the Women's Building Formal Lounge.

Titled "Challenging Slavery: Seeking Freedom in the St. Louis Circuit Court," the event will feature presentations and discussion by David T. Konig, Ph.D., professor of history in Arts & Sciences and of law; Lea S. VanderVelde, J.D., the Josephine R. Witte Chair in the College of Law at the University of Iowa; and Paul Finkelman, Ph.D., the Chapman Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Tulsa.

For more information, call American Culture Studies at 935-4912.

— Gerry Everding

Securities, corporate law symposium Feb. 21-22

BY JESSICA N. ROBERTS

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Commissioner Harvey Goldschmid will deliver the Donald P. Gallop Keynote Address during the School of Law's 2003 F. Hodge O'Neal Corporate and Securities Law Symposium, "After the Sarbanes-Oxley Act: The Future of the Mandatory Disclosure System," Feb. 21-22 in Anheuser-Busch Hall.

The symposium will focus on the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which came about in response to the Enron, WorldCom and other corporate scandals. It may prove to be the most important federal securities legislation enacted since the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act creates new penalties for securities fraud, requires chief executive and chief financial officers to certify the financial statements of their companies and creates the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to oversee auditors.

"Harvey Goldschmid is one of the most perceptive insiders on corporate and securities law today," said Joel Seligman, J.D., the Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor and dean of the law school. "Not only was he an out-

standing professor of law at Columbia Law School, but his experience at the SEC during the past five years gives him an extraordinarily thoughtful basis for analyzing the pivotal securities issues the SEC must now address."

Seligman, co-author of the nation's leading securities treatise, will open the conference.

Major themes to be discussed during the symposium include what information should be disclosed under federal securities law and how should it be disclosed; how federal securities law should be enforced; and should issuers have more choices among different regulatory regimes, instead of being forced into the federal disclosure system.

Presenters and panelists include key government officials, leading academics and prominent practitioners in the securities field.

Featured participants include Alan Beller, director of the SEC's Division of Corporation Finance; Stephen M. Cutler, director of the SEC's Division of Enforcement; James D. Cox, the Brainerd Currie Professor at Duke University School of Law; Merrit B. Fox, the Alene and Allen F. Smith Professor at the University of Michigan Law School; and

Jonathan R. Macey, the J. DuPratt White Professor and director of the John M. Olin Program in Law at Cornell Law School.

The symposium is an annual program of the *Washington University Law Quarterly*, which will publish the conference papers. Seligman and Troy Paredes, associate professor of law, are the symposium's coordinators.

The Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy is a co-sponsor.

"We are delighted to have such an enormously talented group of speakers and look forward to a lot of lively debate amongst the panels and the audience," said third-year law student Bethany C. Cunningham, executive developments editor of the *Washington University Law Quarterly*.

"The Sarbanes-Oxley Act is undoubtedly the year's biggest development for anyone who deals with corporate and securities issues, and we are excited to be bringing many of those at the forefront of these issues to St. Louis."

Registration information and a complete conference schedule are available at law.wustl.edu/wulq.

For more information, contact Cunningham at 935-9003 or at bcunnin@wulaw.wustl.edu.

PICTURING OUR PAST



With the 1950s came a new intruder to the home — television. As professors and students alike experimented with the new medium, perhaps no one grasped its appeal as quickly as Huston Smith, professor of philosophy in Arts & Sciences. Smith broadcast a 17-part series called *The Religions of Man* over KETC-TV Channel 9, St. Louis' PBS affiliate. His series was one of the first KETC programs to be distributed nationally, and it later became a successful book. When a course titled "The Religions of Man" was subsequently offered by University College, 1,300 students registered for it, proving that television would be an effective medium by which to advance education.



Washington University will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2003-04. Special programs and events will be announced as the yearlong observance approaches.

School of Medicine Update

Sleeping safely Research ties bed sharing to SIDS

By KIMBERLY LEYDIG

School of Medicine researchers have found that infants who share a bed with siblings or adults are at a greater risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). In addition, new research shows that infant deaths due to bed sharing are far more common in African-American populations than in other races.

Despite the decreased SIDS rate since the inception of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) "Back to Sleep" intervention program in 1994, the racial disparity in SIDS deaths is increasing, according to University researchers.

The study, which appears in the February online edition of *Pediatrics*, reports that SIDS rates are not decreasing as fast as they should.

"We believe that the rise in bed sharing is the reason behind the racial disparity," said study leader Bradley T. Thach, M.D., professor of pediatrics. "Unless children are prepared to sleep on the floor with no covers and bedding, bed sharing is not safe in a typical bed."

Historically, some cultures



Bradley T. Thach, M.D., observes infant Alyssa Harden and her mom, Sandra, during a SIDS sleep study.

have believed that bed sharing increases bonding and encourages breast feeding. Bed-sharing advocates cite those benefits when explain-

ing why they bring the baby into bed. But those benefits, Thach said, hardly outweigh the drawback: death.

Thach and his colleagues

greater among African-American infants (79 percent) versus other races (46 percent).

University studies, along with others in the United States and

reviewed death-scene information of infant deaths in St. Louis City and County between Jan. 1, 1994, and Dec. 31, 1997. The study revealed that bed-sharing deaths were nearly twice as common in African-American infants (67 percent) as in non-African-American infants (35 percent). Deaths on non-standard beds — sofas, chairs, adult beds — also were much

abroad, have documented a number of factors that substantially increase the risk for SIDS in infants who bed share, particularly when the infant is less than 100 days old, sleeps with siblings, shares a sofa or uses pillows and quilts.

Researchers add that sleeping in the prone (stomach) position, unsafe sleep surfaces and bed sharing are the most important factors increasing the risk of SIDS.

Over the past five years, a consortium of U.S. agencies and private groups has initiated campaigns targeted to African-Americans that are designed to reduce the racial disparity in SIDS deaths by stressing key child-care practices, including back sleeping, using a firm mattress, getting parents to quit smoking and avoiding overheating and loose bedding.

However, advice on bed sharing has been low on the list.

Thach and his colleagues insist that their present findings indicate that the dangers of bed sharing deserve much more attention.

Anticancer drug may reveal mechanism of gene regulation

By DARRELL E. WARD

School of Medicine researchers have discovered a possible new mechanism for regulating large groups of genes.

While conducting yeast research on a potential new anticancer drug, the team identified a mechanism that enables the genome to silence large numbers of genes simultaneously, rather than each gene individually.

The finding emerged during research studying the molecular action of the drug rapamycin, which currently is used to suppress the immune system following kidney transplantation. But it also is being investigated as a promising anticancer drug.

Rapamycin stops tumor-cell growth through a mechanism unlike those used by other anticancer drugs. The findings were published in a recent issue of *Molecular Cell*.

"This study shows how basic research can have a clinical impact," said study leader X.F. Steven Zheng, Ph.D., assistant professor of pathology and immunology. "It gives us insights into the molecular mechanism of rapamycin's antitumor activity and may provide new targets for drug development."

As an immunosuppressant, rapamycin is different from other drugs. While other immunosuppressants tend to promote the growth of cancer cells, rapamycin blocks the proliferation of tumors.

In addition, rapamycin blocks the development of blood vessels in tumors, a process known as angiogenesis. These features led doctors to test its use as an anticancer drug.

"For a single drug to block both tumor proliferation and angiogenesis is unique," said Zheng, who is an investigator with the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center at the School of Medicine and Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

Test-tube experiments done by others showed that rapamycin

binds to a large, previously unknown cell protein known as target of rapamycin (TOR). TOR is found in organisms from yeast to humans, suggesting that it may serve an essential purpose in cells.

Zheng and his colleagues used rapamycin to inactivate TOR, enabling them to examine both TOR's function in the cell and how rapamycin works.

The researchers identified about 300 yeast genes involved in TOR-related activities. The product of one of these genes, a protein known as silent information regulator 3 (Sir3), normally clings to a battery of genes responsible for a stress protein, thereby keeping the genes inactive and silent. Stress proteins are molecules produced by cells during adverse growing conditions.

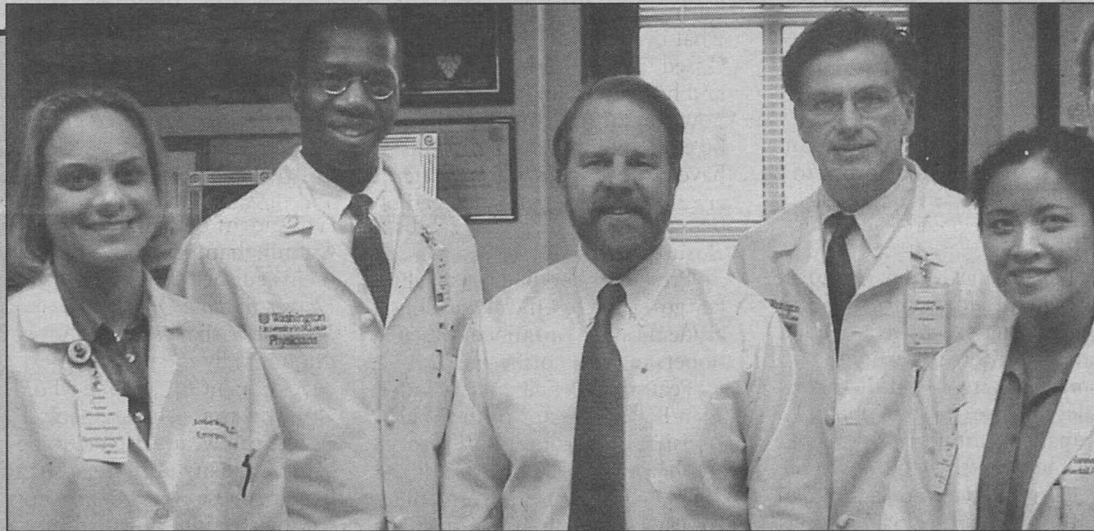
But the researchers found that when rapamycin inactivates TOR, Sir3 molecules detach from the line of stress-protein genes, triggering a stress response: The cells begin producing stress proteins, their walls thicken and they stop proliferating.

"This surprised us. TOR was not known to be directly involved in stress control," Zheng said. "Also, this means of silencing many genes simultaneously suggests a new type of gene regulation."

Usually, genes are turned on or off individually by proteins targeted to specific genes, he added. Furthermore, the investigators found that when rapamycin inactivates TOR, it also shuts down nutrient-processing pathways, preventing yeast cells from using glucose to produce energy and amino acids to make new proteins.

Overall, the researchers concluded that when rapamycin inhibits TOR, it triggers a variety of responses, including stress and starvation responses. Together, these actions probably cause the cells to stop proliferating.

These insights into rapamycin's action must now be verified in human cells.



Lobbying for reform University physicians joined hundreds of their colleagues Jan. 29 on "White Coat Day" to encourage the Missouri Legislature to enact medical malpractice reform. Here with Democratic state Sen. Patrick Dougherty (third from left) in Jefferson City are (from left): Amber D. Mounday, M.D., resident in emergency medicine; Will Ross, M.D., associate dean and head of the Office of Diversity Programs; Bradley D. Freeman, M.D., assistant professor of surgery; Hannah Ha, M.D., colorectal surgeon at Christian Northeast Hospital; Lawrence M. Lewis, M.D., division chief and associate professor of emergency medicine; and Morin Hanson, M.D., colorectal surgeon at Christian Northeast Hospital.

Fitness workshop benefits breast cancer programs

By KIMBERLY LEYDIG

There are so many excuses to not exercise — the wrath of winter weather, can't-miss episodes of *American Idol*, workout clothes that no longer fit.

Here's a good reason to snap out of a fitness funk: the Celebrate Fitness workshop, which benefits breast cancer research and programs at the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center at the School of Medicine and Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

The Celebrate Fitness event will take place from 8-10 a.m. March 8 at the Athletic Complex on the Hilltop Campus. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.

You can choose from three workouts taught by St. Louis' leading fitness instructors. There's a 90-minute high-energy class featuring step aerobics, kickboxing and strength training followed by a yoga cool-down.

Too fast-paced? Instead, you can choose the yoga and strength training combination class. If you're looking for a balance of cardio and stretching, a

third class includes 45 minutes of step aerobics and kickboxing followed by 45 minutes of yoga.

Last year, the effort raised \$17,000. The goal this year: \$30,000.

"Celebrate Fitness is a healthy and fun way for me to participate in the fight against breast cancer while honoring my mother and sister-in-law, who are survivors," said participant Joyce Kesting.

To help the cause, you can recruit a "band of angels" by raising a minimum of \$25 in sponsorship money. You can

also pre-register with a \$20 donation by visiting celebrate-fitness.org or just pay a \$25 fee at the door.

The top three angel fundraisers will receive prize bags packed with designer jewelry, baseball tickets, fragrance gift baskets and more. All participants (whether they finish the workout or not) will receive a gift bag valued at \$75. There are also raffle prizes like a theater weekend in New York City and a spa weekend in Chicago.

For more information or to register, call 286-0026.

Schizophrenia study needs volunteers

The Department of Psychiatry is seeking volunteers with schizophrenia who also have a brother or sister with the disease.

Schizophrenia is the result of genetic and environmental influences that alter the structure and function of the brain.

To participate in this family study of schizophrenia, volun-

teers must be 18 or older, have been diagnosed with schizophrenia and have a sibling with the same diagnosis.

Those who volunteer will be interviewed and will have a blood sample drawn. They will also receive compensation.

For more information, call 888-925-7252.

University Events

Hotchner-winner *Psalms* debuts Feb. 20-23

BY LIAM OTTEN

All parents have secrets, but some parents *really* have secrets.

Such is the premise of senior Marisa Wegrzyn's darkly comic two-person family drama *Psalms of a Questionable Nature*, which debuts in the A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre Feb. 20-23.

Performances begin at 8 p.m. Feb. 20-21; at 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. Feb. 22; and at 2 p.m. Feb. 23.

Psalms, winner of University's 2002 A.E. Hotchner Playwriting Competition, centers on a pair of sisters, Greta (Robin Kacyn) and Moo (Brooke Bagnall), who are reunited by their parents' seemingly random death in a car accident.

Greta, Moo's elder by 20 years, is suffering through some dire financial circumstances and is determined to sell the family's rural farmhouse. Yet Moo, who had still been living at home, resists, all too aware of the lethal secret waiting in the basement below — a secret she is nevertheless dying to reveal.

"The story is very clever, very plot-driven," said Heid Winters Vogel, who directs the show for the Performing Arts Department in Arts & Sciences. "One of my



Brooke Bagnall (left) and Robin Kacyn as sisters Moo and Greta in Marisa Wegrzyn's darkly comic family drama *Psalms of a Questionable Nature*, winner of the A.E. Hotchner Playwriting Competition, which debuts Feb. 20-23 in the A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre.

favorite things about Marisa's work is how she's able to approach seemingly mundane topics — in this case, family relationships — in really strange and interesting ways.

"It's a very demanding play for the actresses because they're both on stage the entire time with a lot

of high, emotional moments," Vogel added. "Yet it's so well written and the characters are both so strong that I think it becomes very empowering — Robin and Brooke get to go places they don't normally get to go in real life."

The Hotchner competition selects one student play each year

by blind jury. Winners spend the next year revising and refining their works and a full theatrical production is mounted the following spring.

Wegrzyn also won the Hotchner contest in 2001 for *Killing Women*, which told the story of an aspiring young hit-woman, and was runner-up in 2000 with *Polar Bears on U.S. 41*, which the author describes as "the story of a young woman who conversed with alphabet soup and the man who comes into her life."

In a rare honor, both *Polar Bears* and *Killing Women* were selected for further development by the WordBRIDGE Playwrights Lab at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla., and a production of *Killing Women* was directed there last summer by Ellen Graham, associate artistic director of WordBRIDGE.

This fall, as part of the PAD's A.E. Hotchner Play Development Lab, Wegrzyn workshoped *Psalms* with K.C. Davis, head of the playwriting program at the University of Nevada and dramaturge on the original production of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*.

"Marisa is creating a lot of

very good buzz," Vogel said. "She's really getting people interested in her work."

The set design for *Psalms*, by junior Alexis Distler, captures the feeling of dusty farmhouse basement, complete with stairs descending onto the stage.

Costumes are by senior Caity Mold-Zern, with lighting and sound by junior Leslie Karpas and freshman Matthew Kites, respectively.

A.E. Hotchner, a 1940 graduate of Washington University, is the author of numerous screenplays, novels, plays and memoirs, including the 1966 volume *Papa Hemingway*, which recounts his long friendship with the famous writer.

His memoir, *King of the Hill*, which recounts growing up in St. Louis, was made into a feature film in 1993.

The A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre is located in Room 208 of the Mallinckrodt Student Center. Tickets for *Psalms* — \$12 for the general public and \$8 for WUSTL faculty, staff and students and for senior citizens — are available at the Edison Theatre Box Office, 935-6543, and all MetroTix outlets.

For more information, call 935-6543.

Under the Sand • Serving Our Cities • Fat and Happy

"University Events" lists a portion of the activities taking place at Washington University Feb. 14-27. Visit the Web for expanded calendars for the Hilltop Campus (wustl.edu/calendar) and the School of Medicine (medschool.wustl.edu/calendars.html).

Exhibitions

Contemporary German Art: Recent Acquisitions. Continues through April 20. Gallery of Art. 935-4523.

Cuba Si: Fragments of Havana. Photographs by Carl Safe, prof. of architecture. Continues through Feb. 21. Givens Hall. 935-6200.

Italian Renaissance Engravings, c. 1470-1510. Continues through March 2. Gallery of Art. 935-4523.

Made in France: Art From 1945 to the Present. Continues through April 20. Gallery of Art. 935-4523.

Perfect Couple: Crossing Borders, Fu Shen and Victoria Lu. Continues through March 7. Sponsored by the Visiting East Asian Professionals Program. Des Lee Gallery, 1627 Washington Ave. 621-8735.

Film

Friday, Feb. 14

7 p.m. **Breathless.** Jean Luc Goddard, dir. Gallery of Art. 935-4523.

Sunday, Feb. 16

1 p.m. **French Film Series.** *Under the Sand.* François Ozon, dir. Sponsored by the Program in Film & Media Studies. Brown Hall Rm. 100. 935-4056.

3:30 p.m. **Black History Month Film Series.** *Black History: Lost, Stolen, or Strayed* and parts of *I'll Make Me a World.* Introduction: "Black Film: Subject & Creation." Jeff Smith, assoc. prof. of performing arts, dir. of Film & Media Studies. Sponsored by University Libraries. Brown Hall Rm. 100. 935-8679.

Thursday, Feb. 20

8 p.m. **Black History Month Film Series.** *American Shoeshine and Eyes on the Prize: Ain't Scared of Your Jails.* Introduction by Leslie Brown, asst. prof. of history and of African & Afro-American Studies. Co-sponsored by University Libraries, the Academic Film Archive of N. America and Ciné 16 St. Louis Film Series. Mad Art Gallery,

2727 S. 12th St. 935-8679.

Sunday, Feb. 23

1 p.m. **French Film Series.** *The Crimson Rivers.* Mathieu Kassovitz, dir. Sponsored by the Program in Film & Media Studies. U. of Mo.-St. Louis, Lucas Hall Aud., 8001 Natural Bridge Rd. 935-4056.

3:30 p.m. **Black History Month Film Series.** *America's War on Poverty.* Introduction by David Rowntree, archivist, Film & Media Archive. Sponsored by University Libraries. Brown Hall, Rm. 100. 935-8679.

Lectures

Friday, Feb. 14.

9:15 a.m. **Pediatric Grand Rounds.** "Cerebral Palsy: Trading in Our Crystal Ball for a New Pair of Glasses." Janice E. Brunstrom, asst. prof. of neurology & cell biology, dir., Pediatric Neurology Cerebral Palsy Center, St. Louis Children's Hospital. Clopton Aud., 4950 Children's Place. 454-6006.

10 a.m. **Center for Mental Health Services Research Seminar.** "Statistical Analyses for Evaluating Interventions." Ken Jung, Quantitative Marketing Solutions, St. Louis. Co-sponsored by the

Comorbidity and Addictions Center. Goldfarb Hall, Rm. G38. 935-5687.

4 p.m. **Chemistry Seminar.** "Recent Advances in Asymmetric Catalysis." Albert S.C. Chan, Hong Kong Polytechnic U. McMillen Lab, Rm. 311. 935-6530.

Saturday, Feb. 15

11 a.m.-noon. **University College Saturday Seminar Series.** "As in the Mind, So in the World: Visions of Heaven and Hell in Chinese Buddhism." Beata Grant, assoc. prof. of Chinese language & literature. McDonnell Hall, Goldfarb Aud. 935-6759.

1 p.m. **Joint Center for East Asian Studies Symposium.** "Regional Voices in East Asia." Linda Isako Angst, asst. prof. of sociology & anthropology, Lewis & Clark College, and Willy Wo-Lap Lam, sr. China analyst, CNN. Women's Bldg. Formal Lounge. 935-4448.

Monday, Feb. 17

10:30 a.m. **Division of Infectious Diseases Seminar.** "Long-term Immunity to Infectious Disease: From Sap to Anthrax and Smallpox." Shane Crotty, dept. of microbiology & immunology, Emory U. McDonnell Pediatric Research Bldg., Rm. 8101. 362-1514.

Noon. **Molecular Biology & Pharmacology Research Seminar.** "Regulation of a Powerful Innate and Adaptive Immune Effector System." John P. Atkinson, prof. of internal medicine. South Bldg., Rm. 3907, Philip Needleman Library. 362-0183.

Noon. **Neurology & Neurological Surgery Research Seminar.** Laura Dugan, assoc. prof. of neurology, Maternity Bldg., Schwarz Aud. 362-7316.

4 p.m. **Immunology Research Seminar Series.** "Apoptosis & Inflammation in Autoimmune Demyelinating Disease." John Russell, prof. of molecular biology & pharmacology, Eric P. Newman Education Center. 362-2763.

6 p.m. **Architecture Monday Night Lecture Series.** "Designing for the Non-nuclear Family." Yoko Kinoshita Watanabe & Makato Watanabe, architects, ADH Architects, Tokyo. (5:30 p.m., reception, Givens Hall.) Steinberg Hall Aud. 935-6200.

Tuesday, Feb. 18

Noon. **Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Tuesday Conference Seminar.** "The Washington University Forum on Behavioral Bioethics." Wohl Hosp. Bldg. Aud. 286-2881.

4 p.m. **The Art of the Essay Writers Series Seminar.** Katha Pollitt, poet and essayist. McMillan Hall Café. 935-5567.

4 p.m. **Chemistry Lecture.** "Asymmetric Catalysis With 'Planar-chiral' Heterocycles." Gregory C. Fu, prof. of chemistry, Mass. Inst. of Technology.

Lab Sciences Bldg., Rm. 300. 935-6530.

4 p.m. **Physics Seminar.** "First-principles Design of Epitaxial Perovskite Heterostructures." Jeffrey Neaton, postdoctoral fellow in physics and astronomy, Rutgers U. (3:45 p.m., coffee) Compton Hall, Rm. 241. 935-6276.

5:30 p.m. **Laser Vision Correction Seminar.** "Understanding LASIK" and "Am I a Candidate?" Michael S. Connors, asst. prof. of ophthalmology & visual sciences. Center for Advanced Medicine. 747-8036.

Wednesday, Feb. 19

8:15 a.m. **Obstetrics & Gynecology Grand Rounds.** "Clinical Molecular Diagnostics at BJH." Barbara Zehnbauser, clinical assoc. prof. of pathology & immunology, dir., molecular diagnostic lab. Clopton Aud., 4950 Children's Place. 362-1016.

11 a.m. **Assembly Series.** Lock & Chain Lecture. "A View From the Middle East." Judith Miller, senior correspondent, *The New York Times*. Graham Chapel. 935-5285.

11 a.m. **Public Interest Law Speaker Series.** "Social Change, Judicial Activism, and the Public Interest Lawyer." Thelton Henderson, senior judge for the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Calif. Anheuser-Busch Hall, Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom. 935-6414.

7:30 p.m. **Catholic Student Center Seminar.** "Faith & Science: Conflict or Complement?" Catholic Student Center, 6352 Forsyth Blvd. 935-9191.

Thursday, Feb. 20

1:10 p.m. **George Warren Brown School of Social Work Spring Lecture Series.** "Serving Our Cities: The Need for Public-Private Partnership." Francis Slay, mayor of St. Louis. Brown Hall Lounge. 935-4909.

2 p.m. **Physics Seminar.** "Efficient First-principles Modeling of Complex Materials." David Drabold, prof. of physics & astronomy, Ohio U. (1:45 p.m., coffee) Compton Hall, Rm. 241. 935-6276.

3 p.m. **Mechanical Engineering Sesqui-centennial Colloquium.** "Materials." Shankar Sastry, the Catherine M. & Christopher I. Byrnes Professor of Engineering. Cupples II Hall, Rm. 100. 935-6047.

4 p.m. **Chemistry Lecture.** "Determining Redox Heterogeneity of Molecular Wires." James R. Norris, Jr., prof. and chair of physical chemistry, U. of Chicago. McMillen Lab., Rm. 311. 935-6530.

4 p.m. **Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences Seminar.** "Herpes Simplex Virus and Innate Immunity: Images of Subversion." David Leib, assoc. prof. of ophthalmology & visual sciences. Maternity Bldg., Rm. 725. 362-1006.

4:15 p.m. **Earth & Planetary Sciences Colloquium.** "There and Back Again: An

Journalist Judith Miller to speak for Assembly Series

BY NADEE GUNASENA

Judith Miller — an author, prize-winning journalist and renowned expert on Middle East issues — will deliver the Lock and Chain Lecture at 11 a.m. Feb. 19 in Graham Chapel for the Assembly Series.

Her lecture is called "A View From the Middle East."

Miller, a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter for *The New York Times*, has covered both national politics and foreign affairs, with a special emphasis on the Middle East and the former Soviet Union.

She has written extensively on nuclear warfare and concentrated on the proliferation of biological germ warfare in her most recent book, *Germs, Biological Weapons and America's Secret War*, co-authored with William Broad and Stephen Engelberg.

In 2001, she was one of a small team of investigative reporters

that won a Pulitzer Prize for a 2001 series on Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda.

Her career began with a position as Washington bureau chief of *The Progressive* magazine, the nation's second-oldest journal.

After becoming a correspondent for *The New York Times* in 1977, she was named the first female chief of the *Times'* Cairo, Egypt, bureau in 1983, responsible for covering news of the Arab world.

In 1986, she became the *Times'* special correspondent in Paris, then returned to the United States the next year to serve as news editor and deputy chief of the Washington bureau. She was the paper's special correspondent to the Persian Gulf during the war

there in 1991.

She now is a senior writer on the culture desk at the *Times* as its "Ideas and Issues" correspondent.

In addition to *Germs*, Miller has written *One, By One, By One; God Has Ninety-Nine Names: Reporting From a Militant Middle East*; and *Saddam Hussein and the Crisis in the Gulf*, a best seller that was the first comprehensive account of the Gulf crisis and the biography of the man behind it.

Widely recognized as an expert on Middle East affairs, she has appeared on a variety of national television shows such as *60 Minutes*, *Good Morning America* and the *Late Show With David Letterman*. She has also been a recurring guest on National Public Radio.

All Assembly Series lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, call 935-5285 or visit the Assembly Series Web site, wupa.wustl.edu/assembly.



Miller

Rhythm in Shoes, The Red Clay Ramblers at Edison

BY LIAM OTTEN

Dance St. Louis and the Edison Theatre OVATIONS! Series will present *Rambleshoe*, a new collaboration between Rhythm in Shoes, those Dayton-based archivists of indigenous American dance, and The Red Clay Ramblers, the Tony Award-winning Americana roots music collective.

Performances begin at 8 p.m. Feb. 21-22 and at 2 p.m. Feb. 23.

The fruit of a two-year collaboration, *Rambleshoe* tells a tangled tale of wanderlust while also exploring the notions of "home" we carry with us on the road — a theme dear to the heart of any itinerant performer. More than a dozen dancers and musicians share the stage with a wealth of old-time American traditions, from tap, blues, ragtime and swing to Dixieland, clogging and hoedowns.

Rhythm in Shoes both draws on and expands American folk traditions to create innovative works that are boldly original, instantly recognizable and unmistakably contemporary. According to *The Village Voice*, "choreographer Sharon Leahy ... takes the spirit and rhythmic footwork of clogging and tap and sets them in inventive, whistle-clean musical and spatial configurations. Really smart stuff."

Founded in 1980 in Bloomington, Ind., Rhythm in Shoes is today based in Dayton, Ohio, where the company presents workshops and residency

activities for individuals of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

Its extended residencies with the Dayton Public Schools, the Muse Machine and the Ohio Arts Council are considered among the most effective arts education programs in the country, while Leahy and co-artistic director Rick Good, the troupe's chief musician/composer, have won numerous honors and awards, including fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Ohio Arts Council.

The Red Clay Ramblers formed in Durham-Chapel Hill, N.C., in 1972, and have been described by *The New York Times* as "a fantasy roadhouse band from a vanished rural America." The group has since toured more than two-dozen countries and released over a dozen albums.

Their long association with the theater includes the original New York productions of *Diamond Studs* (1975) and Sam Shepard's *A Lie of the Mind* (1985).

Fool Moon, the Ramblers' collaboration with comedians Bill Irwin and David Shiner, debuted on Broadway in 1993 and enjoyed revivals in 1995 and 1999, earning a special Tony Award, an Outer Critics Circle "Special Achievement" Award and a Drama Desk Award for "Unique Theatrical Experience."

Other theatrical credits include *Kudzu: A Southern Musical*, in collaboration with Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Doug Marlette, and the pre-

Rambleshoe

Who: Rhythm in Shoes and The Red Clay Ramblers

Where: Edison Theatre

When: 8 p.m. Feb. 21-22; 2 p.m. Feb. 23

Presented by: Edison Theatre OVATIONS! Series and Dance St. Louis

Tickets: \$27; \$22 for seniors, students, and WUSTL faculty and staff; \$13 for WUSTL students. Available at the Edison Theatre Box Office, 935-6543, the Dance St. Louis Box Office, 534-6622, and through all MetroTix outlets.

For more information, call 935-6543.

Broadway production of Roger Miller and Bill Hauptman's *Big River*.

The Ramblers scored Shepard's films *Far North* (1988) and *Silent Tongue* (1994) and have been frequent guests on Garrison Keillor's *Prairie Home Companion*.

They've also appeared on *The Tonight Show*, *CBS This Morning* and *ABC's AM-America*, among others, and performed and/or recorded with noted artists such as Randy Newman, Michele Shocked and 1998 Grammy Award-winner Shawn Colvin, a Red Clay Rambler for most of 1987.

Tickets for *Rambleshoe* — \$27; \$22 for seniors, students, and WUSTL faculty and staff; \$13 for WUSTL students — are available at the Edison Theatre Box Office, 935-6543, the Dance St. Louis Box Office, 534-6622, and through all MetroTix outlets. Discounts are available.

For more information, call 935-6543.

Donnelly, Zafris to read

BY DOLSEY SMITH

Poet Timothy Donnelly and fiction writer Nancy Zafris will read from their work at 8 p.m. Feb. 20 for the Writing Program Reading Series.

The reading is free and open to the public and will take place in Hurst Lounge in Duncker Hall. Copies of works by both authors will be available for purchase, and a book-signing will follow the reading.

Donnelly's first book, *Twenty-Seven Props for a Production of Eine Lebenszeit*, was published in January. His poems have appeared in numerous journals, including *Denver Quarterly*, *Fence*, *The Paris Review*, *Ploughshares*, *TriQuarterly* and *Verse*.

He has been co-editor of poetry for *Boston Review* since 1996 and is a graduate student in English at Princeton University.

In 2001, Donnelly received a Master Writer Fellowship from the New York State Writer's Institute and recently was awarded *The Paris Review* Bernard F. Connors Prize.

"In Timothy Donnelly's poems, the reader continually encounters forked possibilities," said Mary Jo Bang, assistant professor of English in Arts & Sciences. "Each road taken leads us deeper and deeper into a world seeped in literary tradition yet lit by a brilliantly fresh contempo-

rary rhetorical exuberance.

"Words and thoughts give rise to more exact words and finer thoughts; the music becomes more honed, more precise, and finally insists itself (as the best of literature does) into a landslide crescendo that paradoxically reduces the world outside to a blank, while inside we are caught in the vortex of an entirely new, and amazingly expansive, poetic imagination."

Zafris is the author of a book of stories, *The People I Know* (1990), and the novel *The Metal Shredders* (2002), which was named a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year.

Her short fiction has appeared in journals such as *Glimmer Train*, *Story Quarterly* and *The Kenyon Review*, as well as in several anthologies. She has received the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction and the Ohioana Library Association Award, and also serves as fiction editor of *The Kenyon Review*.

"Nancy Zafris is a writer of startling and persuasive imagination," says Kellie Wells, assistant professor of English. "In *The Metal Shredders*, as in her short fiction, Zafris has an unerring sense for finding unexpected pathos in darkly comic, movingly rendered psychologies and situations, and she mines it skillfully, in language that is as fresh and vivid as her characters are complex and interesting."

For more information on the Feb. 20 reading, call 935-7130.

Essayist Pollitt to host 2 events

BY LIAM OTTEN

Essayist and poet Katha Pollitt, known for her astute commentaries on contemporary politics, women and culture, will launch The Art of the Essay Writers Series for the University's International Writers Center in Arts & Sciences.

Pollitt will host two events while at the University, the first focused on her own work, the second on the act of writing itself.

At 7 p.m. Feb. 17, Pollitt will read from her work at the West Campus Conference Center. And at 4 p.m. Feb. 18, Pollitt will lead a seminar on essay writing and take questions from the audience in McMillan Café, Old McMillan Hall, Room 115.

A book-signing and reception will follow each program, and copies of Pollitt's books will be available for purchase. Both the events and the receptions, which include refreshments, are free and open to the public.

Pollitt is the author of *Subject to Debate: Sense and Dissents on Women, Politics, and Culture* (2001) and *Reasonable Creatures: Essays on Women and Feminism* (1994). She joined the editorial staff of *The Nation* in 1982 and her bimonthly column, "Subject to Debate," has appeared there since 1994.

Her essays, poems and reviews also have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington*

Post, *The London Review of Books* and *The Paris Review*, among others.

Pollitt's book of poems, *Antarctic Traveller* (1982), won the National Book Critics Circle Award. Other honors include a National Magazine award, a nomination for the National Book Critics Circle Award in Essays and Criticism, and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Whiting Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

She has taught at numerous colleges and universities, including Barnard College and the New School, both in New York.

Of *Reasonable Creatures*, reviewer Mary Carroll, writing for *Booklist*, observed, "With passion and precision, Pollitt hacks through the clichés and sentimental pieties that clutter much contemporary discourse about women and 'women's issues' to expose hypocrisy and mindlessness and their real-life causes and consequences."

Susan Sontag has said that Pollitt "writes the liveliest, smartest general essays on women's issues today. (They're awfully good on America, too.) Relief — that someone is finally saying it — is one of the many pleasures that Pollitt invariably gives me. Brave, funny, commonsensical, morally right on, she's almost always right."

For more information on Pollitt's reading and seminar at the University, call 935-5576.

Account of the Man in the Moon's Journey to the Lunar Core ... and Back." Dave Stegman, research asst., earth & planetary sciences, U. of Calif., Berkeley. McDonnell Hall, Rm. 362. 935-5610.

4:30 p.m. Mathematics Talk. Kirk Lecture. Tadeusz Iwaniec, John Raymond French Professor of Mathematics, Syracuse U. (4 p.m. tea, Cupples I Hall, Rm. 200.) Cupples I Hall, Rm. 199. 935-6760.

Friday, Feb. 21

7:15-9:30 a.m. Center for the Application of Information Technology Technical Breakfast Briefing. "Optimizing Web Site User Interface Design & Usability to Speed Up Projects and Increase ROI." Charlotte Schwendeman, Perficient, Inc. Open to CAIT members only. CAIT, 5 N. Jackson. 935-4792.

9:15 a.m. Pediatric Grand Rounds. "Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia." Perrin White, prof. of pediatrics, dir. of pediatric endocrinology, U. of Texas. Southwestern Medical Center. Clopton Aud., 4950 Children's Place. 454-6006.

Noon. Gastroenterology Research Conference. "Pro-adaptive or Pro-tumorigenic Actions of GH/IGF-I in the Intestine: Mediators and Modulators." P. Kay Lund, prof. of physiology, U. of N.C. Clinical Sciences Research Bldg., Rm. 901. 362-2031.

Monday, Feb. 24

Noon. Neurology & Neurological Surgery Research Seminar. "Can Neuronal Proteasome Activity Be Enhanced?" B. Joy Snider, asst. prof. of neurology, Maternity Bldg., Schwarz Aud. 362-7316.

Noon. Work, Families & Public Policy Brown Bag Seminar Series. "Fat and Happy." Heather Bednarek, Saint Louis U. Eliot Hall, Rm. 300. 935-4918.

4 p.m. Chemistry Lecture. Marvin H. Caruthers, prof. of chemistry & biochemistry, U. of Colo. McMillan Lab, Rm. 311. 935-6530.

4 p.m. Immunology Research Seminar Series. "Signaling Pathways in T Cell Development and Activation." Leslie Berg, asst. prof. of pathology. U. of Mass. Eric P. Newman Education Center. 362-2763.

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Noon. Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Tuesday Conference Seminar. "Outreach & Recruitment: The Northwestern ADC Experience." Darby Morhardt, education core leader, Northwestern U. Barnes-Jewish Hosp. Bldg., East Pavilion Aud. 286-2468.

Noon. Program in Physical Therapy Research Seminar. "Relative Phase as a Motor Control Measure in Rhythmic Coordination." David R. Collins, biomechanist & statistician, human performance lab, Barnes-Jewish Hosp. 4444 Forest Park Blvd., Rm. B108/B109. 286-1404.

Wednesday, Feb. 26

8:15 a.m. Obstetrics & Gynecology Grand Rounds. "New Frontiers in Assisted Reproductive Technologies." Susan Lanzendorf, div. of reproductive endocrinology & infertility, dept. of obstetrics & gynecology. Clopton Aud., 4950 Children's Place. 362-1016.

6 p.m. Architecture Monday Night Lecture Series. "Continuity." Steve Christer, architect, Studio Grandá, Reykjavik, Iceland. Steinberg Hall Aud. 935-6200.

Thursday, Feb. 27

Noon. Genetics Seminar. "Genomic Insulators: Chromosomal Elements That Define Domains of Gene Expression." Pamela Geyer, prof. of biochemistry, U. of Iowa. McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg., Rm. 823. 362-2139.

4 p.m. Chemistry Lecture. "The Challenges of Editing the Newsmagazine of the Chemical World." Madeleine Jacobs, editor in chief, *Chemical and Engineering News*. McMillan Lab., Rm. 311. 935-6530.

4 p.m. Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences Seminar. "Role of T Cell Subsets and Apoptosis in a Primary Model of Herpetic Keratitis." Patrick M. Stuart, asst. research prof. of ophthalmology & visual sciences. Maternity Bldg., Rm. 725. 362-1006.

Music

Friday, Feb. 14

8 p.m. OVATIONS! Stephen Schwartz & Friends. (Also Feb. 15, 8 p.m.) Cost: \$27, \$22 for seniors, students, WUSTL faculty & staff, \$13 for WUSTL students. Edison Theatre. 935-6543.

Sunday, Feb. 16

3 p.m. Concert. Washington University Symphony Orchestra, Dan Presgrave, dir. Music of Vivaldi, Chabrier, and Shostakovich. Graham Chapel. 935-4841.

Thursday, Feb. 20

8 p.m. Jazz at Holmes. Ptah Williams, piano. Ridgely Hall, Holmes Lounge. 935-4841.

On Stage

Friday, Feb. 7

7 p.m. Play Performance. *Wit*. Presented by the Barnes-Jewish Hospital Ethics Committee and WUSTL School of Medicine Program for the Humanities.

(Reception and discussion follows.) Eric P. Newman Education Center. 362-6298.

Thursday, Feb. 20

8 p.m. Performing Arts Department Performance. *Psalms of a Questionable Nature*. Marisa Wegrzyn, writer. Heidi Winters Vogel, dir. (Also Feb. 21, 8 p.m., Feb. 22, 5 & 9 p.m., Feb. 23, 2 p.m.) Cost: \$12, \$8 for WUSTL faculty, staff, & students. A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre. 935-6543.

Friday, Feb. 21

8 p.m. OVATIONS! *Rambleshoe*. Rhythm in Shoes and The Red Clay Ramblers. (Also Feb. 22, 8 p.m., Feb. 23, 2 p.m.) Cost: \$27, \$22 for senior, students, and WUSTL faculty & staff, \$13 for WUSTL students. Edison Theatre. 935-6543.

Sports

Friday, Feb. 14

6 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. Emory U. Athletic Complex. 935-4705.

8 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Emory U. Athletic Complex. 935-4705.

Sunday, Feb. 16

1 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Case Western Reserve U. Athletic Complex. 935-4705.

3 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. Case Western Reserve U. Athletic Complex. 935-4705.

And more...

Monday, Feb. 17

7 p.m. The Art of the Essay Writers Series Reading. Katha Pollitt, poet and essayist. West Campus Conference Center. 935-5567.

Friday, Feb. 21

7 p.m. Gallery of Art Guided Tours. Tours of *Contemporary German Art: Recent Acquisitions; Made in France: Art from 1945 to the Present*, and *Italian Renaissance Engravings, c. 1470-1510* led by student docents. Gallery of Art. 935-4523.

Monday, Feb. 24

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Blood Drive. Sponsored by Congress of the South 40. (Also Feb. 25, Mallinckrodt Student Center, The Gargoyle; Feb. 26 & 27, 5-10 p.m. Wohl Student Center, Friedman Lounge.) Mallinckrodt Student Center, The Gargoyle. 658-2004.

Record

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Washington University in St. Louis

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Basketball

— from Page 1

and 29 straight against the University Athletic Association.

The women are also looking to wrap up a sixth-straight UAA title, which would be their 10th in the last 12 years. A fifth national title in the last six years wouldn't be bad, either.

The men are 20-0 for the first time ever and need just one more victory to tie the team mark for consecutive wins, which was set last year. The Bears are working on a number of team-record streaks, including consecutive home wins (28), consecutive regular-season wins (40) and consecutive UAA wins (23).

Both don't think for a second that the men's team's accomplishments this year are something new. They've spent years becoming an overnight success.

The men are led by a collection of nine seniors, including all five starters. The group is already the winningest four-year class in team history, having compiled an 85-14 record, two NCAA Tournament appearances and a UAA title.

They tied the then-team record for wins two years ago with 23 and topped that with 25 a season ago.

What is it about this group that makes them so special?

"Right from day one, this group has been a really close and cohesive group," said men's head coach Mark Edwards. "With almost every group of players, you're going to have your ups and downs, but not with these seniors."

"They've grown as close to one another as any group I've ever had, and that has translated to success on the court and in the classroom. They, like all our student-athletes at Washington University, portray a very positive image that the campus community can be proud of."

It also doesn't hurt that the Bears have put the same starting five on the court for the last 47 games. And it's not just any starting five.

"Our group of seniors has a unique combination of depth, talent and unselfishness," senior Chris Jeffries said. "If you look at the starting five, this group combined for over 7,000 points in high school, earned several all-state honors and broke all kinds of records. Each one of us should be a superstar, each one should want to be 'the man,' but we're more interested in having fun and winning games."



Senior guard Diana Hill drives to the hoop against the University of Rochester earlier this year. Hill leads the Bears with 74 assists and is one of the reasons the team is in the midst of its sixth-straight 20-win season.

"If it's one guy one night and another guy the next night, it's fine with everyone. Winning the game is the most important thing."

The deep and talented women's team is led by six seniors that have the Bears humming along like so many teams that came before them.

Washington U. is averaging nearly 80 points per game and winning by an average of 25 points — despite the fact that not a single player averages more than 12 points or 23 minutes per game.

"Our success is built on a top-down process," senior Jennifer Rudis said. "The athletic department provides the funds and support, which brings in good coaches who make the program exciting. And an exciting program brings good players."

When you have the top-ranked team in the nation, every opponent plays a little harder and gives a little more effort. Both Bears squads know there's still a long way to go.

"We have always tried to stress taking it one game at a time," said women's head coach Nancy Fahey. "I know that sounds clichéd, but if you don't prepare

for one game at a time, not only are you more likely to trip up along the way, but you lose sight of the big picture."

"It's a game, after all, and it should be fun, so we try to enjoy each win. Obviously, winning the last game would be the most fun, but we try to enjoy all the moments along the way on and off the court, and I think that's been a big part of our success."

Rudis agreed.

"You've gotta have fun," Rudis said. "Both programs put in too much time and effort playing basketball to be miserable. We don't get paid, and we don't get a free education; we play because we enjoy the game and we enjoy the camaraderie."

Closing out a career with a national championship would be sweet. But ultimately, national title or not, these players will look back with plenty of fond memories.

"I would love to win it all, but 10 years from now when I look back, I'll think of all the things we accomplished and how much I enjoyed my time at Washington University," Jeffries said.

The Bears have made plenty of memories. All that's left to make now is history.

CUGBP2 might play a central role in tumor-cell survival or death.

"CUGBP2 may be one type of master switch used by the cell to control other key proteins," said co-author Brian K. Dieckgraefe, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine. "Proteins like COX-2 need to be tightly regulated to avoid uncontrolled growth. That may be why CUGBP2 levels were significantly lower in every single tumor we studied."

Anant, Dieckgraefe and their colleagues also found that CUGBP2 was not toxic to healthy cells. Moreover, when they introduced CUGBP2 into cancer cells at the levels found in normal cells, the cancer cells died.

"When CUGBP2 is introduced, there are a number of molecular derangements that take place in the cancer cell that make it susceptible to death," Anant said.

"In the future, it may be possible to use this protein as a means of killing tumor cells without harming normal cells because normal cells already produce significant amounts of the protein."

Anant already is looking at

whether it is possible to use the protein in animal models of cancer to see whether it has the same effect in their tumors as it did in human cancer cells in the test tube.

If these studies continue to demonstrate that it's possible to kill cancer cells by raising CUGBP2 levels, Anant believes the strategy might be ready for human testing in a few years.

Even if raising levels of CUGBP2 does not eliminate cancer, the researchers believe it may help existing therapies work better.

"Most therapeutic tools we currently use for cancer act by triggering cells to self-destruct," Dieckgraefe said. "So it's entirely possible that this might become a synergistic addition to existing therapies."

"By augmenting existing chemotherapy with CUGBP2, we might be able to make traditional therapies more effective."

In addition, the team said COX-2 might not be the only protein that CUGBP2 influences. Anant and Dieckgraefe said broad ranges of proteins have similar targets, so they believe CUGBP2 may have a role in regulating the production of those proteins, too.

Sports

Junior jumper Holt stays undefeated

Junior All-American Kammie Holt continued her undefeated streak in the horizontal jumps with another long jump win as the men's and women's track and field team competed at the Titan Open at Illinois Wesleyan University Feb. 8. Holt, who won the long jump at the Eastern Illinois Mega Meet to start the season and swept the long and triple jumps at the Knox College Midwest Pentangular Feb. 1, took the long jump with a leap of 18

feet, four inches, improving her season best by more than an inch. Holt is ranked No. 1 in the University Athletic Association in both jumps and fifth in NCAA Division III in the long jump. Junior Matthew Wallace paced the men's sprinters, blazing to an indoor personal-best 22.92 seconds in the 200 meters, currently tied for the top time in the UAA. Sophomore Lance Moen also turned in a strong performance with a time of 50.14 seconds in the 400 meters, which earned him third place and further distanced him from his pursuers in the UAA rankings.

Dance Marathon to raise funds for area hospitals

BY NEIL SCHOENHERR

The University will host the fourth annual St. Louis Area Dance Marathon beginning at 1 p.m. Feb. 22 in the Athletic Complex.

One hundred percent of the money raised from the 12-hour event will help more than 400,000 children in the St. Louis community through the Children's Miracle Network (CMN). The proceeds will be evenly divided between St. Louis Children's Hospital and Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital.

The event brings together students from Washington, Fontbonne, Saint Louis and Southern Illinois (Edwardsville) universities and students from area high schools.

Last year's marathon raised nearly \$60,000 for CMN, more than double the money raised its inaugural year.

This year's marathon is expected to be even bigger and better. The event will feature karaoke, live swing dance per-

formances and instruction, and line dancing.

There will also be games, raffles and live performances by student musical ensembles and St. Louis Rams cheerleaders.

Participants will be offered plenty of free food, provided by Bon Appétit.

In addition, students will have the opportunity to meet those they are helping. CMN children and their families will visit throughout the event to motivate dancers and remind them of the cause.

"The best thing about Dance Marathon is that we get to spend 12 hours celebrating the hard work and fund-raising we've done all year," said Kate Kelly, student chair of this year's event. "It will be great to hang out with the kids we are helping. They keep us motivated as the night goes on."

For more information, to volunteer or to make a donation, go online to sladm.org or e-mail dancem@restech.wustl.edu.

Other Washington's birthday events

BY BARBARA REA

In addition to sponsoring the Assembly Series lecture (see story, Page 4), Lock and Chain — the University's sophomore honorary — is celebrating George Washington's birthday and its own anniversary with several events for students, faculty and staff.

The schedule of activities is listed below.

- **Feb. 17**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Mallinckrodt Student Center. "How Well Do You Know WU?" There will be quizzes that will test your knowledge and birthday cake.
- **Feb. 18**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Mallinckrodt Student Center. "Cherry Pie Day." Enjoy cherry

pie and cherry "concrete" treats from Ted Drewes.

- **Feb. 19**, 11 a.m.-noon, Graham Chapel. Assembly Series Lecture. Judith Miller, author, prize-winning journalist and renowned expert on Middle East issues.

- **Feb. 20**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Mallinckrodt Student Center. Get your picture taken with George Washington.

- **Feb. 21**, 11 a.m., Duncker Courtyard, near Lopata Hall. Cherry tree planting.

- **Feb. 21**, 7-9 p.m., Umrath Hall. Charity auction. This event is open to the St. Louis community. For more auction information, e-mail Jamee Pearlstein at pearlsteinj@olin.wustl.edu.

Celebration

— from Page 1

and soft drinks), and actors portraying George and Martha Washington, Ben Franklin and Betsy Ross are all scheduled to make appearances.

In addition, a birthday cake for George will be distributed and everyone will sing "Happy Birthday."

The party will take place at the same time as the student-sponsored Dance Marathon, which will be taking place in the recreational gym at the Athletic Complex.

Dance Marathon raises money for the Children's Miracle Network. Accordingly, donations for the charity will be accepted at the doors of

the party.

Admission is free, but in order to help gauge the amount of food and drink required, tickets are required and must be picked up at the Edison Theatre Box Office in Mallinckrodt Student Center or in the McDonnell Medical Sciences Building, Room 100, at the Medical Campus.

By showing a WUSTL identification card, faculty and staff members can get tickets for their immediate family members; students can receive two tickets.

For more information on picking up tickets at the Hilltop Campus, call event services at 935-5234. For more information on picking up tickets at the Medical Campus, call 362-6848.

Protein

Can destroy several types of cancer cells

— from Page 1

tion of important proteins is critical, and interfering with the strict regulation of these proteins — even by a few minutes — can lead to serious problems such as cancer.

That precise timing is controlled by the activity of messenger RNA (mRNA). Anant and his colleagues explored the interaction of CUGBP2 with COX-2 mRNA in eight types of human cancer cells. In all eight, levels of CUGBP2 were very low.

"This suggests that an important step in the development of cancer is turning down the gene responsible for production of CUGBP2, thereby reducing CUGBP2 protein levels and allowing the cancer to flourish," Anant said.

The researchers also found that when CUGBP2 attached to mRNA from COX-2, cancer cells could no longer make COX-2, and they died.

That suggested that

Notables

Introducing new faculty members

The following are among the new faculty members at the University. Others will be introduced periodically in this space.

Peter Chivers, Ph.D., joins the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics in the School of Medicine as assistant professor. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Calgary in 1991 and a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1996. He then did postdoctoral work in the Department of Biology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His research is centered on questions relating to protein structure, function, and evolution. Two specific areas of interest are proteins involved in the regulation of intracellular nickel ion concentration and the evolution of protein-DNA recognition.

Jane Wolff joins the School of Architecture as assistant professor. She comes to the University from the Knowlton School of Architecture at Ohio State University and previously held positions at landscape architecture firms in California. Wolff earned a bachelor's degree in visual and environmental studies from Harvard and Radcliffe colleges and a master of landscape architecture from Harvard's Graduate School of Design. She has served as a studio critic at Harvard's Summer Program in Urban Planning and been the recipient of two Fulbright-Hays Scholar awards: the first, in 1985-86, for work at the Museum of Finnish Architecture and the University of Applied Arts in Helsinki; the second, in 1998, for work at the Academie van Bouwkunst in Amsterdam. Other honors include the Charles Eliot Traveling Fellowship (1994-95) to research land reclamation in the Netherlands. Wolff will teach "Infrastructure, Monument, Utopia," a seminar examining the historical and ideological context of the Tennessee Valley Authority — one of the most significant and comprehensive design projects in the history of the United States — as well as a studio based on designing a cemetery and chapel in St. Louis.

Of note

Daniel Coyne, M.D., associate professor of medicine, has received a one-year, \$4,284 grant from the National Kidney Foundation of Eastern Missouri and Metro East Inc. and the Deaconess Foundation for a "Pulse Oximeter." ...

John McCarthy, Ph.D., professor of mathematics in Arts & Sciences, has been elected to the Council of the American Mathematical Society, beginning Feb. 1. The American Mathematical Society, founded in 1888 to further the interests of mathematical research and scholarship, is, with about 30,000 members, the pre-eminent such society in the world. The council is the body that formulates the scientific policies of the society. Each year, five at-large members are elected by the membership to serve three-year terms; in addition, there are ex officio members and representatives of the journals published by the society. McCarthy is believed to be the youngest current member of the council. ...

Sean R. Eddy, Ph.D., the Alvin Goldfarb Distinguished Professor of Computational Biology and associate professor of genetics, has been named to the editorial board of the Public Library of Science, a new effort to make scientific studies more accessible to researchers, physicians and the public. ...

In January, **Mimi Locher**, visiting assistant professor of architecture, reviewed architecture student projects and lectured on Designed Landscapes of Japan at Delft University in Holland. ...

Paul Hruz, M.D., instructor of pediatrics, has received a one-year, \$100,000 grant from the American Diabetes Association for research titled "Tertiary Structure of Facilitative Glucose Transporters." ...

Hector D. Molina, M.D., assistant professor of medicine, has received a five-year, \$750,000 Clinical Scientist Award in Translational Research from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. ...

Steven Bassnett, Ph.D., associate professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences, has received a one-year, \$60,000 William & Mary Greve Scholar award from Research to Prevent Blindness. ...

Mark R. Holland, Ph.D., research assistant professor and a member of the Laboratory for Ultrasonics in physics in Arts & Sciences, has been elected president of the Missouri River Valley Chapter of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. Holland, who collaborates closely with researchers in the School of

Medicine's Cardiovascular Division, is serving a one-year term as president of the chapter, which promotes the application of physics to medicine and biology and encourages interest and training in medical physics and related fields. ...

Jeffrey H. Miner, Ph.D., associate professor of medicine, has received a five-year, \$500,000 grant from the American Heart Association for research titled "Development and Disease of the Glomerular Filter." ...

Chen Zhouji, Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine, has received a three-year, \$121,000 grant from the American Heart Association for research titled "Proteoglycan-binding Function and Atherogenicity of Apolipoprotein B48-containing Lipoproteins." ...

Robert H. Mach, Ph.D., professor of radiology, has received a one-year, \$272,942 grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for research titled "Development of D3 Antagonists to Treat Cocaine Addiction." ...

Brian Tsui-Pierchala, research associate of molecular biology and pharmacology, has received a five-year, \$582,243 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for research titled "Function of GFL-Dependent and Independent RET

Activation." ...

Aaron DiAntonio, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of molecular biology and pharmacology, has received a three-year, \$225,000 grant from the McKnight Endowment Fund for Neuroscience for research titled "Genetic Analysis of Synaptic Growth." ...

Theodore Simon, Ph.D., assistant professor of pediatrics, has received a two-year, \$121,000 grant from the American Heart Association for research titled "Wnt-4 Regulates Vasoconstrictor Molecules During Renal Disease." ...

Stanford Peng, M.D., assistant professor of medicine, has received a three-year, \$225,000 grant from the Lupus Research Institute for research titled "Novel Research Project in Lupus." ...

Anne M. Bowcock, Ph.D., professor of genetics, has received a two-year, \$150,000 grant from the National Psoriasis Foundation for research titled "Differentiation of Psoriasis from Other Inflammatory Skin Diseases." ...

Michael S. Diamond, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine, has received a four-year, \$200,000 New Scholar Award in Global Infectious

Diseases from the Ellison Medical Foundation. ...

David B. Wilson, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of pediatrics, has received a three-year, \$208,296 grant from the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation for research titled "Role of GATA-4 in Stomach Development" and a three-year, \$367,500 Institutional Research Grant from the American Cancer Society. ...

Scott Saunders, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of pediatrics, has received a three-year, \$229,803 grant from the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation for research titled "Role of Heparan Sulfate in Slit Mediated Axon Guidance." ...

Robert O. Heuckeroth, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of pediatrics, has received a three-year, \$218,844 grant from the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation for research titled "Vitamin A and Enteric Nervous System Development."

Notables policy

To submit Notables for publication in the *Record*, e-mail items to Andy Clendennen at andyc@aismail.wustl.edu or fax to 935-4259.



Record sales Members of the *Hatchet* editorial team examine pages for the new issue recently at their office in Prince Hall. Pictured are (sitting, from left) Amy Shearer, executive assistant; Angela Chang, production editor; Judy Wang, photography editor; (standing, from left) Kendra Gerstein, editor in chief; James Poblete, student adviser; and Chris Berresford, director of marketing and sales. The *Hatchet*, the University yearbook, has seen a record number of sales for the 2003 edition, with the number of pre-sales already 23 percent higher than the total number sold last year. The deadline to order is April 15; copies will be available in May. To order a *Hatchet*, e-mail yearbook@restech.wustl.edu or call 369-7775.

Campus Watch

The following incidents were reported to University Police Feb. 5-11. Readers with information that could assist in investigating these incidents are urged to call 935-5555. This information is provided as a public service to promote safety awareness and is available on the University Police Web site at police.wustl.edu.

Feb. 6

3:03 p.m. — A person reported that an unknown person stole several items from the Theta Xi fraternity house over the winter break. Total loss is estimated at \$1,200.

5:21 p.m. — A student reported that an unknown person broke into his room in The Village No. 9 and stole an X-Box video game and an Apple Powerbook laptop sometime between 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Total loss is estimated at \$2,780.

Feb. 10

9:49 a.m. — A staff member reported that 25 to 30 upholstered folding chairs and five or six folding tables were taken from the Old McMillan Hall

café area, in addition to a chrome bread rack and a blue upholstered easy chair. Total loss is estimated at \$5,290.

3:22 p.m. — A student reported an unknown person stole her purse from a chair in the Bear's Den in Wohl Student Center. The student thought she'd left her purse there around 1:30 p.m. and went back to Wohl Center at 3:10, when she noticed it was missing.

3:25 p.m. — An employee reported the theft of \$80 cash from her purse, which she left unattended in Wohl Student Center.

Additionally, University Police responded to three accidents and three reports of larceny.

Chemist Gross wins Midwest Award

By TONY FITZPATRICK

Michael L. Gross, Ph.D., professor of chemistry in Arts & Sciences, recently received the 2002 Midwest Award at the American Chemical Society's Midwest Regional Meeting in Lawrence, Kan.

The society gives the Midwest Award to a chemist in that region, defined by the society as South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas and southern Illinois.

Gross came to the University in 1994 after serving as a member of the chemistry department at the University of Nebraska from 1968-1994. The author of more than 400 scientific articles and book chapters, he has edited or co-edited four books and trained more than 100 graduate students, postdoctoral associates and staff members.

Early in his career, Gross made

a number of contributions to the field of mass spectrometry. He made the first observation of a gas-phase distonic ion and discovered "charge-remote fragmentation."

With colleague Charles Wilkins, he built the second Fourier transform-ion cyclotron resonance mass spectrometer in the late 1970s. He later demonstrated a number of significant analytical applications, such as gas chromatography/Fourier transform mass spectroscopy GC/FTMS, laser desorption FTMS, high-pressure trapping in FTMS, and the algorithm for exact mass measurements.

Gross' research goals include the development of a low magnetic field matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization instrument for a variety of research applications.

He continues to develop mass spectroscopy instrumentation

and methods to apply to biomedical and biochemical research problems in diseases such as cancer, with John S. Taylor, Ph.D., professor of chemistry, and diabetes and in immunology, with Emil R. Unanue, M.D., the Edward Mallinckrodt Professor and head of the Department of Pathology and Immunology.

Past University winners of the Midwest Award are: Carl and Gerty Cori, Sam Weissman, O.H. Lowry, Jacob Schaefer, Michael Welch, C. David Gutsche, Garland Marshall and Dewey Holten.

Obituary

Richard L. Bliss, who taught the history of architecture at University College in Arts & Sciences from 1971-1982, died Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2003. He was 84.

Washington People

Thanks to two decades of collaborative research, Michael E. Cain, M.D., and his team of cardiology specialists can proudly boast the two words coveted by all clinical scientists: "problem solved."

When Cain chose to specialize in cardiac electrophysiology — the examination of the heart's electrical system — physicians knew little about the many abnormal heart rhythms that affect the upper and lower chambers of the heart. Moreover, they had few ways of treating, let alone curing, these rhythm disturbances.

Now, thanks to researchers like Cain who have successfully translated laboratory findings to clinical advances, all forms of arrhythmia — heart rhythm abnormalities — are treatable, and most now are curable using minimally invasive, catheter-based approaches.

"The initial focus of our work was on sudden cardiac death," says Cain, the Tobias and Hortense Lewin Professor of Cardiovascular Diseases. "The reassuring part of that process is that after 20 years, we now can better risk-stratify



Internal medicine fellow Jina Chung, M.D., and Michael E. Cain, M.D., review a patient's electrocardiogram results. "It's very refreshing and rewarding to spend your time teaching eager, smart minds who truly want to learn," Cain says.

Healing hearts

Michael E. Cain has led the translation of arrhythmia laboratory findings into clinical advances

BY GILA Z. RECKESS

people and, more importantly, we now have effective therapies such as the implantable cardioverter defibrillator, which truly prevents people from dying prematurely. It's a nice sense of closure."

Of course, there still are plenty of unanswered questions in the pursuit of understanding the heart's electrical system, and Cain still is one of the leaders of the effort, both as a clinical scientist and as director of the School of Medicine's Cardiovascular Division.

"Michael is an exemplary leader both in research and in administering his division," says William A. Peck, M.D., dean of the medical school and executive vice chancellor for medical affairs. "He adeptly balances the school's tripartite mission of research, clinical and teaching excellence and has helped secure the division's reputation as one of the most respected heart teams in the country."

Right place, right time

The field of clinical cardiac electrophysiology is as young as Cain's medical degree. When he first decided to focus on cardiology and, more specifically, on the heart's electrical system, in the mid-1970s, only a handful of experts in the United States were dedicated to this emerging subspecialty.

So after five years of advanced cardiac and internal-medicine training at the University and Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Cain returned to his native Philadelphia to gain experience at the University of Pennsylvania.

Equipped with expertise and

eager to broaden the field, Cain returned to St. Louis in 1981 and joined the faculty at Washington University. Having completed much of his training here, Cain was convinced that the institution was a perfect fit.

"There was a palpable feeling that the institution strives to achieve excellence through collaboration and cooperation," he says, "with the mentality that we'll accomplish more if we work together."

The school's emphasis on teamwork and interdisciplinary efforts was particularly critical, in Cain's opinion, for developing a program of excellence in clinical electrophysiology.

He convinced the medical school and Barnes Hospital to establish its modern-day arrhythmia service and clinical cardiac electrophysiology laboratory.

He also helped recruit the initial team of engineers (including R. Martin Arthur, Ph.D., professor of biomedical engineering), clinical scientists (Bruce D. Lindsay, M.D., associate professor of medicine, and John P. Boineau, M.D., professor of medicine, of surgery and of biomedical engineering), basic scientists (Jeffrey E. Saffitz, M.D., Ph.D., the Paul E. Lacy and Ellen Lacy Professor of Pathology and Immunology and professor of medicine) and a cardiac surgeon who specialized in electrophysiology — the renowned James L. Cox, M.D., now retired.

The group witnessed and helped lead a drastic evolution of technology and knowledge in clinical care.

Before the '70s, information about a patient's heart rhythm could be gleaned only indirectly from analysis of the electrocardiogram.

During the late '70s and early '80s, direct recordings of the human heart's electrical system during open-heart surgery became possible through the use of computerized mapping systems developed at the University.

The data acquired during heart surgery provided new insights into the mechanisms of human arrhythmias and led to the development of curative surgical approaches for several arrhythmias. Among these approaches is the Maze procedure, the first cure for atrial fibrillation, the most common type of abnormal heart rhythm.

These breakthroughs then led to the modern era of catheter-based approaches for curing most cardiac arrhythmias. Beginning in the '70s, clinical cardiac electrophysiologists began adapting these tubes, called catheters, to thread a wire with electrodes into a patient's blood vessel, advance the catheter to the heart and record the patient's heartbeat without making a single invasive chest incision.

Information from catheter recordings in both humans and experimental animals led to more accurate diagnoses and to the development of precision, catheter-based procedures that destroy the electrical short-circuit responsible for a given arrhythmia.

Now, clinical cardiac electrophysiologists are able to cure most cardiac arrhythmias using this catheter-based approach.

"We have done some pioneering work as a group, none of which would have been possible had we not had a diverse team of experts," Cain says. "Collectively, we were able to help define the mechanisms of several human arrhythmias and develop curative, non-pharmacological approaches based on that information."

"It's very rewarding to have made such an important impact, and it's especially satisfying to watch the next generation of clinical cardiac electrophysiologists at the University take the field to the next level."

Balancing act

Inspired by academic and clinical mentors during his training, Cain discovered the importance of coupling basic science with clinical work. Little did he know that he would later need to balance far more than that.

In addition to wrangling his family together each year for a week of boating on the East Coast and a week of skiing out West, Cain maintains a tremendously busy calendar.

In the clinic and laboratory, he continues to focus on developing and using new recording methods to determine which patients are at risk for sudden cardiac arrest and to treat electrical abnormalities. But these days, his time is largely occupied by the daunting task of administering the medical school's team of 72 cardiology faculty members.

"I enjoy the challenge of providing an environment that enables our faculty to excel in our clinical, teaching and research operations," Cain says. "I try to lead by example, maintain an open administration and ensure that people feel they have owner-

ship of the division and are recognized for their contributions.

"We have a group of very talented, bright individuals, and to not take advantage of that resource would be a wasted opportunity."

Cain not only provides a leading example for faculty, but also is living proof for doctors-in-training that the American medical education approach works.

Though he always was fascinated with science and even began volunteering at a local hospital in high school, it was his experience during medical school and post-graduate training that helped him single out the heart as his life's focus and taught him the merits of combining clinical practice with laboratory exploration.

"The process allows you to truly learn about yourself and to discover which conditions fascinate you the most and, most importantly, where you feel as an individual you can have the greatest impact," Cain says. "It's gratifying now to instruct the next generation, because that's how I learned and was inspired."

"And it's very refreshing and rewarding to spend your time teaching eager, smart minds who truly want to learn."

The rest of his time is spent leading a variety of other organizations, for instance serving as president-elect (to become president in May) of the North American Society of Pacing and Electrophysiology (soon to be renamed the Heart Rhythm Association) and president of the Association of Professors of Cardiology.

"Michael is insightful and has a very clear vision of the contributions that academic medicine can make both to our community as well as to society as a whole," says James P. Crane, M.D., associate vice chancellor for clinical affairs and chief executive officer of the faculty practice plan. "He's been one of the key people on our faculty in moving the medical school forward in terms of its reputation locally, nationally and internationally."



Michael E. Cain enjoys taking trips with wife Peggy and children Meredith and Michael.

Michael E. Cain, M.D.

Academic title: Tobias and Hortense Lewin Professor of Cardiovascular Diseases and head of the Cardiovascular Division

Degrees: B.A. cum laude, Gettysburg College (1971); M.D. George Washington University School of Medicine (1975)

Family: Wife, Peggy; daughter, Meredith, 25; son, Michael, 16

Hobbies: Skiing, boating