

Washington University School of Medicine

Digital Commons@Becker

Washington University Record

Washington University Publications

4-4-2003

Washington University Record, April 4, 2003

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/record>

Recommended Citation

Washington University Record, April 4, 2003. Bernard Becker Medical Library Archives.
<https://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/record/964>.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Washington University Publications at Digital Commons@Becker. It has been accepted for inclusion in Washington University Record by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Becker. For more information, please contact vanam@wustl.edu.

Record

April 4, 2003

Volume 27 No. 26



Washington University in St. Louis

Genome of intestinal bacterium sequenced

By GILA Z. RECKESS

School of Medicine researchers have completed sequencing the genome of *Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron*, one of the most prevalent bacteria that live in the human intestine.

The results appeared in the March 28 issue of the journal *Science*.

"Now that the draft sequence of the human genome is complete, it's critical that we study the environmental forces that regulate our gene expression," said principal investigator Jeffrey I. Gordon, M.D., the Dr. Robert J. Glaser Distinguished University Professor and head of the Department of Molecular Biology and Pharmacology.

"Humans enjoy mutually beneficial relationships with billions of bacteria that live in our gut. Discovering how these microbes manipulate our biology to benefit themselves and us should provide new insights about the foundations of our health and new therapeutic strategies for preventing

or treating various diseases."

According to Gordon, in order to develop a comprehensive view of humans as a life form, we need to consider the fact that from birth to death, the human body is home to diverse communities of microorganisms. It is estimated that adults are composed of 10 times more microbial cells than human cells.

The intestine harbors our largest collection of microbes. Although the true extent of biodiversity is not known, it appears that the gut contains at least 1,000 different species of bacteria, and that their collective genomes ("the microbiome") contains 100-fold

more genes than the human genome.

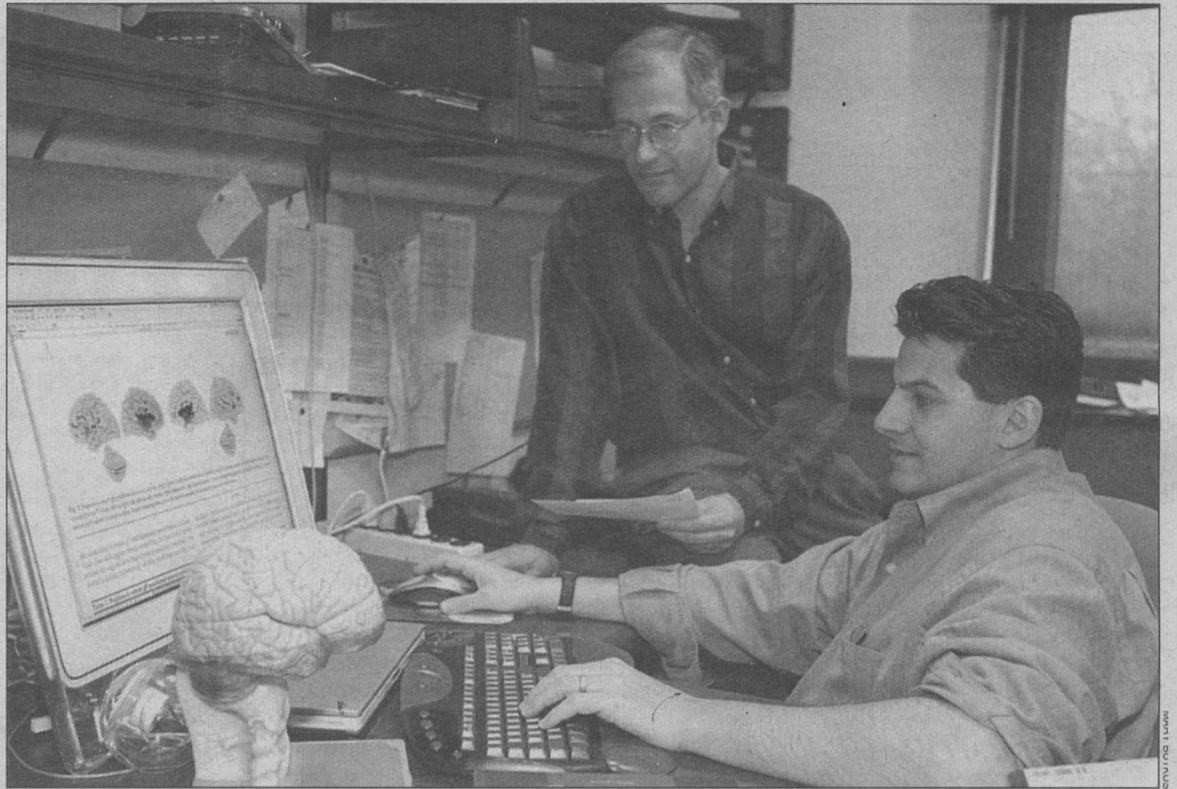
These bacteria provide certain metabolic capabilities that humans lack, including the ability to process nutrients that human genes cannot break down.

Gordon's team analyzed *B. thetaiotaomicron* as a representative of this microbial community because it is such a promi-

See **Bacteria**, Page 5



Gordon



Research Scientist Jeremy R. Gray, Ph.D. (left), and Assistant Professor Todd S. Braver, Ph.D., both in psychology in Arts & Sciences, review brain imaging scans. In a recent study, their research team found that people with higher fluid intelligence use specific brain regions to help focus their attention and resist distraction during a difficult mental task.

Human intelligence's inner workings explored in brain imaging research

By GERRY EVERDING

Human intelligence is like a mental juggling act in which the smartest performers use specific brain regions to resist distraction and keep attention focused on critical pieces of information, according to a new brain imaging study.

Jeremy R. Gray, Ph.D., research scientist in psychology in Arts & Sciences, co-authored the study, which was recently published in the journal *Nature Neuroscience*.

"Some people seem to perform better than others in novel, mentally demanding situations, but why?" Gray said. "Presumably, people are using their brains differently, but how?"

Curious about the specific cognitive and neural mechanisms that underlie individual differences in intelligence, Gray and his colleagues devised a study to explore the inner workings of one

important aspect of human intelligence. The study sought to better understand the process through which the mind reasons and solves novel problems, an ability known among psychologists as "fluid intelligence."

"The results may help researchers to understand the neural basis of individual differences in cognitive ability," according to a news release issued by *Nature Neuroscience*.

Describing the study as "impressive" in part because of its relatively large number of participants, the journal suggests the findings "will help to constrain theories of the neural mechanisms underlying differences in general intelligence."

The research team included Gray; Todd S. Braver, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology; and Christopher F. Chabris, Ph.D., a research associate at Harvard University.

Using functional magnetic res-

onance imaging (fMRI), team members measured subtle changes in brain activity as study participants performed a challenging mental task — one perhaps analogous to trying to drive to a new destination and attempting to keep the directions in mind while maintaining a conversation with passengers in the car.

Participants in the study were asked to do what might seem like a mental juggling act. They had to keep a list of three words or faces actively in mind. Every few seconds, they had to add another word or face to this list, and drop the oldest item from the list.

But before they forgot the old item completely, they had to indicate whether the new item they were adding exactly matched the oldest item they were dropping. Their brain activity was monitored as they did so.

Critically, the experimenters would occasionally throw partici-

See **Brain**, Page 6

Thurtene Carnival April 12-13: Seek the Thrill, Enjoy the Ride!

By NEIL SCHOENHERR

At the University, all the signs of spring point in one direction — the annual Thurtene Carnival.

Running from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. April 12-13 on the Athletic Complex parking lot, the theme of this year's carnival is "Seek the Thrill, Enjoy the Ride!"

This year's event will feature six themed façades, designed and constructed by students, which will house student-performed plays.

Other Thurtene traditions will continue, including 18 major carnival rides, 16 game booths and 15 booths serving an array of tasty treats and ethnic edibles.

An anticipated 120,000 people will share the spirit of Thurtene this year.

The net proceeds will benefit Thurtene's charity — Friends of Kids With Cancer, a St. Louis organization devoted to enriching the daily lives of children undergoing treatment for cancer and related blood disorders.

For the first time, there will be a Community Service Village at Thurtene. The village will allow attendees to create projects for the children that Friends of Kids With Cancer serves — such as beads for the kids in the hospitals and bandanas for them to wear.

The carnival is presented by

See **Thurtene**, Page 6

Arc de Triomphe Library unveils cutting-edge technology center

By ANDY CLENDENNEN

In years past, University computer labs were pretty much the same — the same software, same hardware and same basic setup.

Not anymore.

Welcome to the Arc, the new Library Technology Center. Housed on Level A (one floor below the main level) of Olin Library, the Arc is taking access to technology to a new level for students, staff and faculty.

"The University's libraries provide a wide range of digital information, but we have not had the facility to show users the breadth of resources or to help them incorporate those resources into their projects," said Shirley K. Baker, vice chan-

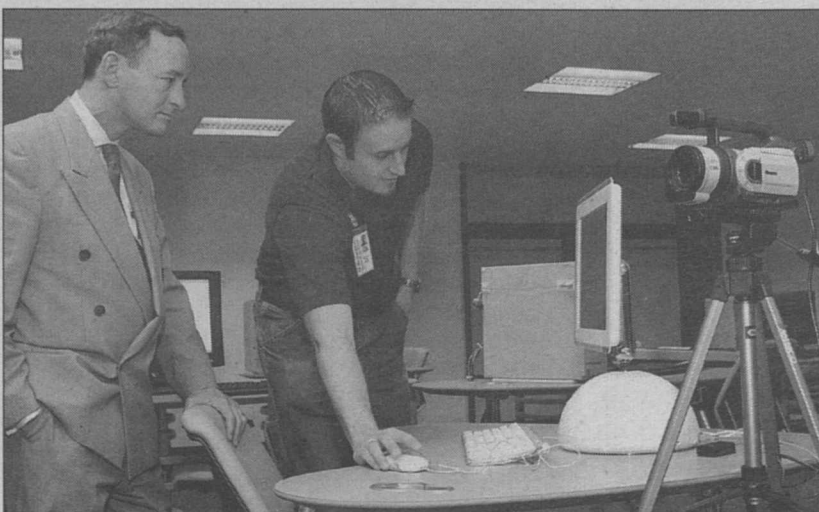
cellor for information technology and dean of University Libraries. "We can facilitate their use of digital information, just as we do for manuscript or archival materials. The Arc lets us do that."

Much of the technology in the Arc could be found elsewhere at the University. But a few distinct differences exist, all with making accessibility much easier.

"While a number of applications and equipment that the Arc offers are not new to the campus, the Arc is distinct in that it offers these tools to all members of the University population (rather than an individual class or teaching assistants)," said Arc Manager Sarah Bombich, who was hired specifically to oversee the new

See **Arc**, Page 6

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton (left) looks on as student assistant Jonathan Potler describes the various aspects of iMovie at a workstation in Olin Library's new technology center, the Arc.



KEVIN LOWDER

Code of Conduct summary

The Code of Conduct governs "members of the University community": employees, volunteers, and those who do business with the University. It states the ethical and legal standards that guide their decisions and actions as community members. This statement, published as a service by the Record, summarizes the Code of Conduct's key features.

The Code of Conduct is revised from time to time. An up-to-date version of the code is always available on the Web at codeofconduct.wustl.edu.

Integrity and ethical conduct

Washington University is committed to the highest ethical and professional standards of conduct as an integral part of its mission, the promotion of learning. To achieve this goal, the University relies on each community member's behavior, honesty, integrity and good judgment. Each community member should demonstrate respect for the rights of others. Each community member is accountable for his/her actions.

Compliance with laws and University policies

The University and each com-

munity member must transact University business in compliance with all laws, regulations, and University policies related to their positions and areas of responsibility. Managers and supervisors are responsible for teaching and monitoring compliance in their areas.

Violations or concerns

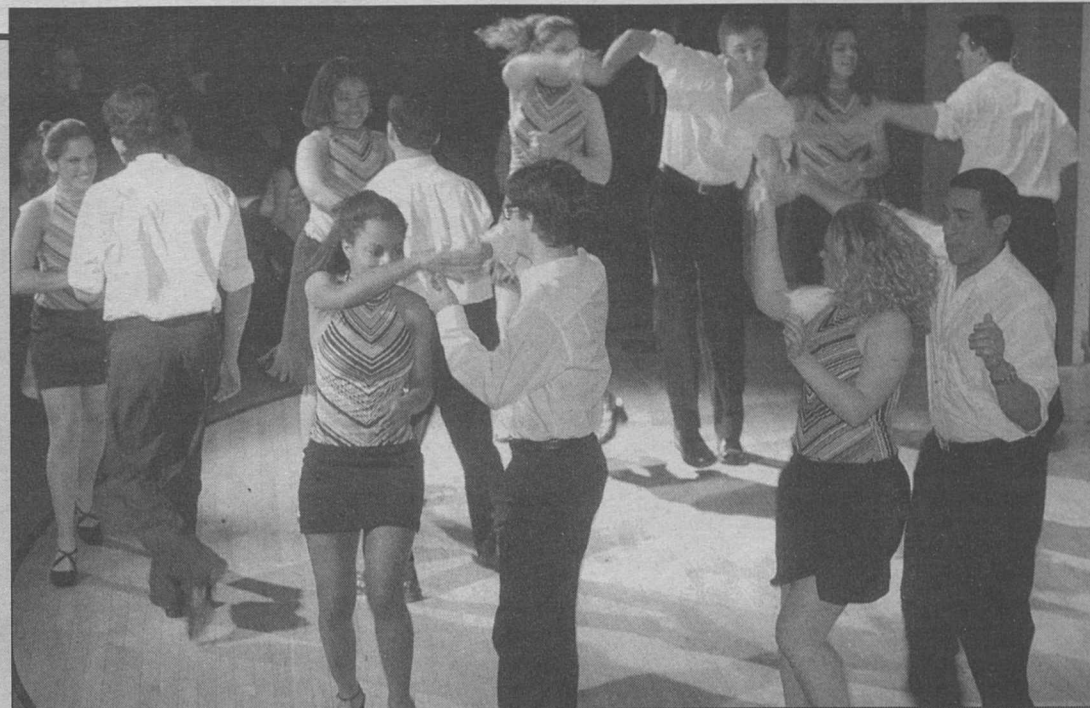
Community members are expected to report violations or concerns about violations of the Code of Conduct that come to their attention. Managers have a special duty to adhere to the standards set forth in the Code of Conduct, to recognize violations, and to enforce the standards.

There are three ways to report a violation or discuss a concern:

(1) You may report violations or concerns to your immediate supervisor or department head, if appropriate.

(2) You may call the University Compliance Office at the number established for this purpose: 362-4998. Reports may be made anonymously to this number if the caller so desires, since this number has no caller identification or number recognition.

(3) You may call the individual responsible for the related compliance area; a list of these individuals appears online at codeofconduct.wustl.edu.



Diversity on display Students perform a traditional salsa dance during Carnival 2003, held March 27 in May Auditorium in Simon Hall. The event, sponsored by the Association of Latin American Students, featured plays, dancing, music and poetry aimed at educating the University community about the vast diversity of color, sound, style and culture that exists within the Hispanic community.

Mashiko pottery at Gallery of Art April 4-20

BY LIAM OTTEN

Mashiko, a small town 60 miles north of Tokyo, is known throughout Japan for its Mashiko-yaki, a distinctive country-style pottery.

Next month, the Gallery of Art will present a rare U.S. exhibition by husband-and-wife Mashiko potters Masayuki Miyajima and Darice Veri.

East and West — Two Mashiko Potters: Masayuki Miyajima and Darice Veri, opens today in the Gallery of Art's Teaching Gallery and remains on view through April 20.

In addition, Veri will lecture on "Meeting Mashiko: An Introduction to a Japanese Pottery Village" at 7 p.m. today in the Gallery of Art's Steinberg Auditorium. A reception will immediately follow.

Other events include a talk by Veri on "An American Apprentice in a Japanese Potter World" at 6:30 p.m. April 9 in the Saint Louis Art Museum Auditorium.

On April 16, both artists will lead an all-day workshop on "The Traditions of Pottery" for the School of Art. The workshop will take place in the school's ceramics studio, located in the Lewis Center, 721 Kingsland Ave. in

Exhibition

Who: Potters Masayuki Miyajima and Darice Veri

What: *East and West — Two Mashiko Potters: Masayuki Miyajima and Darice Veri*

Where: Gallery of Art's Teaching Gallery

When: Opens today; runs through April 20

For more information about the exhibition, call 935-4523. For more details about other events with Miyajima and Veri, call 935-8772

University City.

Mashiko pottery exemplifies the simple, rustic charm of mingei, or folk art, in which craftsmen work without artistic aim or pretense to create functional objects of great beauty. Utilizing nearby mountain clay and red pine wood (for firing), Mashiko potters speak to both the spiritual and practical sides of life with such everyday items as plates, bowls and teacups.

Founded in 1853, Mashiko pottery was first brought to world attention by Shoji Hamada (1894-1978), a central figure in the folk art movement, who dedicated himself to preserving and passing on traditional pottery techniques.

Hamada was designated a Living National Treasure by the Japanese government in 1955.

Other major practitioners include Tatsuzo Shimaoka, who apprenticed to Hamada for three years and was himself designated a Living National Treasure in 1996.

Miyajima, who in turn apprenticed with Shimaoka for five years, continues the mingei tradition. Veri, a native of Ohio, moved to Mashiko in 1982 to pursue her interest in Hamada's pottery, and she and Miyajima later established their own kiln in the area.

The two artists continue to work closely together while maintaining their own styles, creating pottery that is a blend of modern and traditional.

The exhibition is co-sponsored by the University's Visiting East Asian Professionals (VEAP) Program in Arts & Sciences in cooperation with the Gallery of Art, the School of Art and the Saint Louis Art Museum.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Fridays; and noon-4:30 p.m. weekends. The gallery is closed Mondays.

All events are free and open to the public.

For more information about the exhibition, call 935-4523. For more details about the other events, call the VEAP at 935-8772.

Nutrition information available online

BY NEIL SCHOENHERR

With more people watching what they eat, University Nutrition is providing an easy way to count calories while still being able to enjoy the delicious food offered on campus.

The office's Web site — nutrition.wustl.edu — gives members of the University community the opportunity to learn more about healthy eating and to see the nutrition information in foods served on the Hilltop Campus.

"The goal is for people to use the Web site information to plan what they eat in order to meet their health goals," said Connie Diekman, director of University Nutrition. "The site provides nutrition information in the form of a nutrition facts label, so that food label readers can very easily relate to the information."

The labels featured on the Web site are exactly like those found on the labels of most food products,

displaying calories, fat and cholesterol content, vitamins, etc.

The site provides a quick and easy way for students, faculty and staff to get the facts on calories, learn about vitamins and minerals and read about the food pyramid. There also are links to the American Dietetic Association's Tip of the Day and to Web sites that provide information on vegetarianism, balancing nutrition and diet components.

"Of course, the most exciting part is the link to the campus menus," Diekman said. "Not only can you see what is being served but also you can get nutrition information and ingredients for every food service location on campus."

The site provides nutrition information for breakfast, lunch and dinner at the Bear's Den and Center Court in Wohl Student Center, Mallinckrodt Student Center and The Village, giving people a way to make better food choices and eat healthier meals.

PICTURING OUR PAST



After the conclusion of World War II, a rush of students and increasing numbers of faculty coming to the University resulted in a severe housing shortage. A temporary solution was these prefab houses, which went up in spring 1946. These pictured — at the site of the current Millbrook Garage — were primarily built to house faculty, but four five-room units, 10 four-room units, 25 three-room units and 30 two-room units were constructed to ease the housing shortage for students. Additionally, 20 single-family units were constructed on Millbrook Boulevard near Trinity Avenue in University City solely for incoming faculty. Fraternities also pitched in by allowing nonmembers to board in their houses.

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



News Briefs

'Chat With the Chancellor' April 8

The Office of Human Resources is offering the opportunity to "Chat With the Chancellor" as part of the Brown Bag Seminar series from 12:10-12:50 p.m. April 8 in the Women's Building Formal Lounge. Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton will speak on several issues of importance to all members of the University community and will field questions from the audience.

MetroLink groundbreaking event

The first step of the MetroLink expansion project will be taken at 10:30 a.m. April 9, when the ceremonial groundbreaking for the cross-county extension will take place in the West Campus parking lot just east of the West Campus Conference Center. Area mayors and city representatives are scheduled to take part, as are many University administrators including Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. Others scheduled to appear

include St. Louis County Executive Buzz Westfall and St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay.

Car wash benefits WU Build

WU Build, the University's chapter of Habitat for Humanity, will be offering a free car wash from 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. April 5 at Wydown Middle School, 6500 Wydown Blvd. in Clayton. Donations are appreciated. For more information, e-mail Jenny McKinney at mckinneyj@olin.wustl.edu.

Bear Necessities holding sale

Bear Necessities, located in Wohl Student Center, is offering 30 percent to 75 percent off University logo hats, T-shirts, sweatshirts, vests, jackets, children's items and more. The annual sale will continue while supplies last. Store hours are Monday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, noon-5 p.m.

School of Medicine Update

New gene contributes to sense of balance

BY GILA Z. RECKESS

School of Medicine researchers have discovered a gene that appears to be critical for maintaining a sense of balance in mice.

The study appeared in the April 1 issue of the journal *Human Molecular Genetics*.

"Loss of balance is a significant problem in the elderly because it can lead to dangerous falls and injuries," said one of the study's principal investigators, David M. Ornitz, M.D., Ph.D., professor of molecular biology and pharmacology. "Loss of balance also is a problem for astronauts following exposure to zero gravity. Now that we've discovered this new gene, we can begin to understand the mechanisms that allow the body to sense gravity and maintain balance."

Balance is determined and regulated by the vestibular system, which is housed in the inner ear. To detect gravity, a cluster of particles called otoconia rests atop hair cells lining the inner ear. Like a water buoy guided by the movement of waves, otoconia are displaced as the body moves. As otoconia move, they shift the hair cells, which trigger the cells to send messages to the brain.

Studies suggest that otoconia are only produced during development, and scientists believe otoconia become eroded during normal aging, which can lead to balance disorders. But little is understood

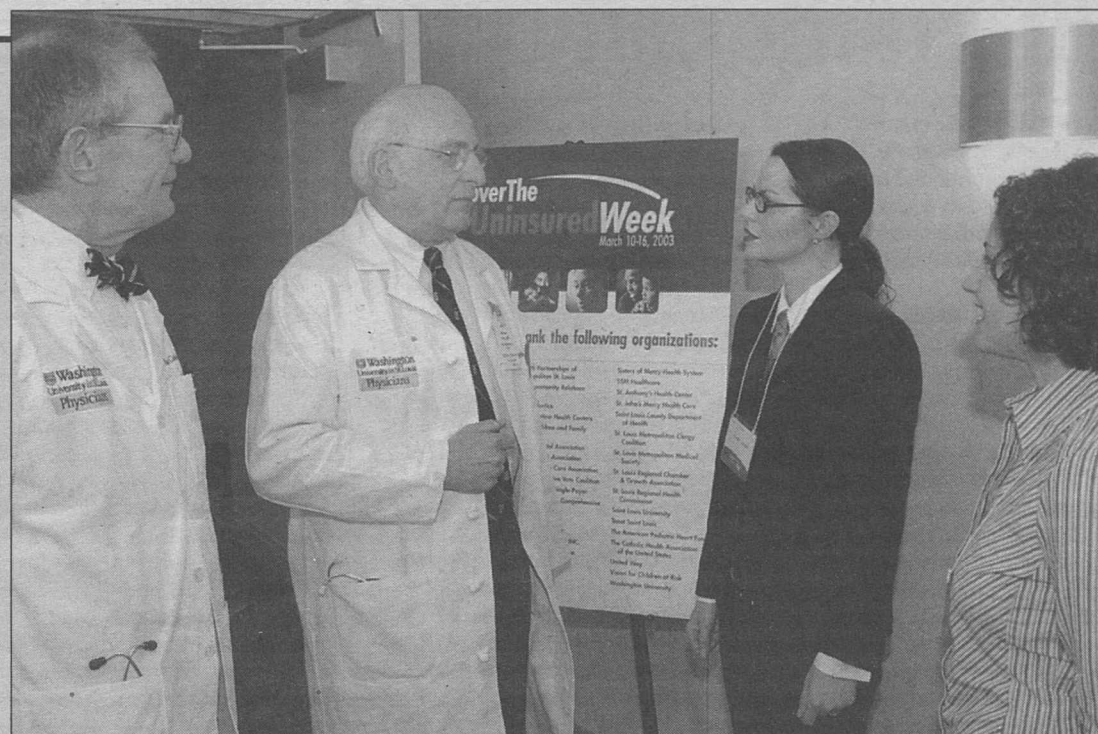
about how otoconia develop, and whether it may be possible to stimulate the production or regeneration of these particles.

Ornitz's team genetically analyzed two strains of mice, *tilted* and *mergulhador*, known to have problems with balance. These mice walk with their heads tilted and have trouble orienting themselves in water but have no hearing problems.

Moreover, they are missing their otoconia but have normal sensory hair cells. The team discovered that the two strains both have a mutation in the same previously unidentified gene, which the researchers named Otopetrin 1 or Otop1 ("oto" means ear and "petra" means stone).

"It's possible that this is one of the genes that shuts down after development," Ornitz said. "It also is possible that it is involved in a variety of vestibular disorders. If we can find a way to reactivate this gene, we may be able to help otoconia regenerate and thereby treat or prevent balance disorders."

The study's other principal investigators are Isolde Thalmann, Ph.D., research professor of otolaryngology, and Ruediger Thalmann, M.D., professor emeritus of otolaryngology. Postdoctoral fellow Belen Hurlé, Ph.D., was first author. The School of Medicine team worked in collaboration with researchers at the University of São Paulo, Brazil.



Insurance issues (From left) F. Sessions Cole, M.D., the Park J. White M.D. Professor of Pediatrics; William A. Peck, M.D., dean of the School of Medicine and executive vice chancellor for medical affairs; Brandi Lueken, founder and chief executive officer of the American Pediatric Heart Fund; and medical student Erica Freeman discuss how to raise awareness about covering the uninsured before a recent panel discussion at the medical school. The event was part of the weeklong "Cover the Uninsured Week" national public awareness campaign. Speakers stressed points such as 83 percent of the uninsured are working families and 41.2 million Americans were without coverage in 2001. Lueken delivered a personal account of her ongoing battle with procuring health insurance with pre-existing heart conditions. Insurance companies have quoted Lueken \$75,000 annual rates and have told her: "It's cheaper to let you die than provide you access to care."

Magnets help doctors navigate through blood vessels

BY GILA Z. RECKESS

As any 8-year-old knows, remote-controlled cars are far better than their hand-powered counterparts: They're easier to control and better at zooming around twists and turns.

Similarly, heart and brain specialists now have a potentially easier, more efficient way to navigate through the body's curving blood vessels.

Magnetically guided catheters have been designed to possibly provide better control and access to the heart and brain than their traditional, wire-threaded counterparts.

They also may make it easier to treat conditions such as heart rhythm abnormalities, according to University research.

"The difficulty with traditional devices is that it's hard to get them to the target, and it's hard to move them with exact precision," said Bruce D. Lindsay, M.D., associate professor of medicine. "The goal of this research is to develop a system that will help us maneuver catheters with greater accuracy and less risk."

To treat heart rhythm disturbances, cardiologists first must map the heart's electrical system and pinpoint the source of the abnormality. To do so, they thread a tube called a catheter —

which is about the size of a piece of spaghetti — through blood vessels in the groin that lead to the heart.

A wire inside the catheter allows physicians to physically twist and turn the catheter by using X-ray images for guidance.

But wire-threaded catheters have several shortcomings. In particular, they can bend in only one or two directions, so physicians have to physically rotate the entire catheter in order to reorient it.

Not only are these manual adjustments somewhat crude, but they're also inefficient. Twists initiated outside the body near the groin yield much smaller movements at the wire tip several inches away. Moreover, after multiple manipulations, the wire becomes kinked and less malleable.

To alleviate these concerns, University cardiologists have been testing the Magnetic Navigation System (MNS) developed by Stereotaxis Inc.

Instead of a wire, MNS catheters contain a magnetic tip, which is directed by the computer-controlled magnet system posi-

tioned around the patient. An electrophysiologist "draws" commands for each desired direction or movement on a specially designed pen-tablet or by using a three-dimensional computer software interface, with the commands overlaid onto the patient's constantly updated X-rays.

Thanks to research at several institutions, including the School of Medicine, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) already has cleared one such magnetic device for mapping the right side of the heart.

By mapping the organ, specialists can localize problem areas so that treatment can then be applied directly to affected regions.

An endovascular guidewire (a device similar to the magnetic catheter but about the size of a piece of string) already is cleared by the FDA and allows surgeons to deliver and position therapeutic devices and treatment in the blood vessels in and around the heart.

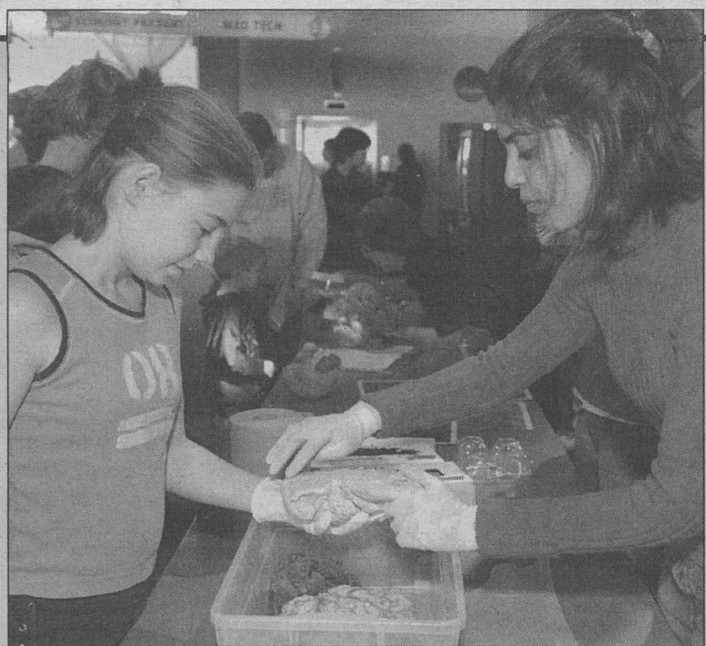
School of Medicine researchers are now exploring the use of magnetically guided catheters for treating heart rhythm abnormalities. Destroying areas of diseased tissue to divert abnormal electrical activity can effectively cure many heart rhythm abnormalities.

In a recent publication in the journal *Circulation*, Lindsay and his team's preclinical studies in non-human subjects showed that the magnetic system appeared capable of navigating a catheter to the heart, determining the origin of a heart rhythm singeing — and thereby attempting to treat — that area of tissue.

"Our research and experience using this system suggests that it will allow us to navigate to difficult sites with greater precision and to do procedures more efficiently and with potentially less complexity," Lindsay said.

Lindsay's team now is examining the use of this magnetic catheter system to treat heart rhythm abnormalities in human patients.

Neurosurgeons at the School of Medicine also are investigating the use of this system in delivering and positioning therapeutic devices to the brain to treat disorders such as aneurysms.



Brain power Amee Naik, a psychology major in Arts & Sciences, teaches 7-year-old Rachael Dennis about how the human brain works at the University's hands-on brain awareness demonstration at the St. Louis Science Center. The March 16 event, led by the School of Medicine, helped promote Brain Awareness Week, an annual international effort to raise awareness about the progress and benefits of brain research.

Bear Cub Fund awards its first round of grants

BY JIM DRYDEN

The University Bear Cub Fund has awarded its first round of grants to assist technology transfer efforts involving faculty members who want to move ideas from the research laboratory to commercial enterprises.

Roger D. Chamberlain, D.Sc., associate professor of computer science and engineering, and Elliot L. Elson, Ph.D., the Alumni Endowed Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, are the first two recipients of Bear Cub grants. Each physician received \$40,000.

"There's a financial gap between the laboratory and the board room of the venture capitalist," said Theodore J. Cicero, Ph.D., vice chancellor for

research. "Before a venture capitalist will fund a new idea, there must be some proof of concept, some recognizable foundation upon which a company might be built."

Cicero and Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton created the Bear Cub Fund to support faculty in applied research studies that would not normally be supported by federal grants. The fund supports investigators of short-term research projects as they work to make promising technologies more attractive for licensing to commercial investors.

"We recognize that Washington University should play a pivotal role in the generation of knowledge that gets commercialized in this region," Cicero said.

The Bear Cub Fund, which

has been in existence since November, is administered through the University's research office. The fund is made up of endowment income and capital from private sources. Cicero plans to offer investigators grants totaling about \$250,000 each year.

For this round of funding, a selection committee of senior faculty and members of the business and technology investment community reviewed 13 grant applications. Investigators applied for \$20,000-\$60,000, one-year grant awards.

Chamberlain plans to use the Bear Cub grant to assist in designing and building a system that will make database searches up to 100 times faster than conventional approaches. Speeding

up such searches will assist computer users who are forced to sift through more data as some 1.5 million Web pages are added to the Internet each day. The project also aims to speed up sequence matching in searches of genomic databases.

Elson's grant will fund work on a system to improve the screening of chemical compounds thought to have therapeutic potential. Typical screening methods provide little or no information about biological responses to chemical compounds. Elson is developing a screening method that measures cellular responses to candidate drugs.

The fund will support up to eight projects annually. The next grant application deadline is May 5.

University Events

Internationally distinguished architects to speak

BY LIAM OTTEN

Two internationally recognized architects will present their work early this month as part of the School of Architecture's Monday Night Lecture Series.

Rafael Pelli, principal of Caesar Pelli & Associates in New York and a member of the U.S. Green Building Council, will speak on "Whole Buildings: Current Works With Sustainable Design" at 6 p.m. today in Kemp Auditorium in Givens Hall.

And Nasrine Seraji, chair of the Department of Architecture at Cornell University, will speak on "Thinking Matters of Architecture" at 6 p.m. April 7 in Steinberg Auditorium in Steinberg Hall.

Pelli has been a principal with Pelli & Associates since 1994 and

has led the firm's New York office since its establishment in 2000. Current projects include a 252-unit apartment building in Battery Park City, the first designed under new environmental design guidelines developed by the Battery Park City Authority and believed to be the first "green" high-rise residential building in the United States.

Other recent projects include the 136,000-square-foot Gerald Ratner Athletics Center at the University of Chicago; a master plan for the new campus of the Universidad Siglo 21 in Córdoba, Argentina; and a 1.6 million-square-foot mixed-use building in midtown Manhattan that will contain the headquarters of Bloomberg LP as well as housing and retail.

Pelli has lectured widely about sustainable building design since joining the U.S. Green Building Council in 1996. He has served as guest critic at Yale University, the University of Cincinnati, the Parsons School of Design in New York and the Southern California Institute for Architecture.

Articles about Pelli & Associates' work have appeared in *Metropolis*, *Wired*, *Grid*, *Sustainable Building* and *Designer/Builder* magazines.

Pelli earned a bachelor's degree from Yale in 1978 and a master of architecture degree in 1985 from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

Seraji was born Tehran, Iran, in 1957 and earned a diploma from the Architectural Association (AA) School in London in 1983.

In 1988, she settled in Paris, where she initially taught in the University of Toronto's Study Abroad Program but soon founded her own studio, Atelier Seraji.

In 1991, she designed the Temporary American Cultural Centre in Paris, a building constructed entirely of prefabricated elements. It was dismantled in 1993, before the inauguration of Frank Gehry's permanent center.

Other major projects include the Pavilion of the Caverne du Dragon in Chemin des Dames in Aisne, France (1996-98), commemorating one of the most famous battle sites of World War I, and housing complexes in Paris and Vienna.

Seraji's work has been widely exhibited, at the Galerie d'Architecture in Paris, the Royal Insti-

tute of British Architects in London and the Venice Biennale, among other venues.

Her work and writings have been featured in numerous international journals, including *Casabella*, *Space*, *Building Design*, *Architektur & Bau Forum* and *AD: Architectural Design Profile*.

Prior to joining the faculty at Cornell in 2001, she spent five years as professor and director of the Meisterschulen für Architektur at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Vienna, and also has taught at the AA in London and Princeton University.

Pelli's and Seraji's talks are free and open to the public and will be preceded by receptions at 5:30 p.m. in Givens Hall.

For more information, call 935-6200.

Package Tour • Beauty and the Body • International Festival

"University Events" lists a portion of the activities taking place at Washington University April 4-17. 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.

Contemporary Projects: Arnold Odermatt Photographs. Continues through April 20. Gallery of Art. 935-4523.

Cynthia Weese: Works. Continues through April 11. Givens Hall. 935-6200.

East and West — Two Mashiko Potters: Masayuki Miyajima and Darice Veri. Continues through April 20. Gallery of Art Teaching Gallery. 935-8772.

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

Ten Shades of Green. Continues through April 11. Givens Hall. 935-6200.

Film

Thursday, April 10

7 p.m. Film & Media Studies Screenings and Discussion. *Stand Off and Package Tour*, Gyula Gazdag, dir. Co-sponsored by the programs in Comparative Literature, International Studies, and Jewish & Near Eastern Studies. Galleria 6 Theatres. 935-4056.

Kennedy Cuomo to give Women's Society Starbird lecture

BY NADEE GUNASENA

Human rights activist Kerry Kennedy Cuomo will deliver the annual Washington University Women's Society Adele Starbird Lecture for the Assembly Series at 11 a.m. April 9 in Graham Chapel.

Kennedy Cuomo's work in the field of human rights began in 1981, when she initiated an investigation into alleged abuse of refugees from El Salvador by U.S. immigration officials. Since then, she has been devoted to the promotion and protection of basic rights, covering such legal and social justice issues as freedom of expression, child labor, indigenous land rights, judicial independence, ethnic violence and women's rights.

In the past 20 years, Kennedy Cuomo has led more than three-dozen human rights delegations to more than 20 countries.

In 1988, in honor of her father, she founded the Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Memorial Center for Human Rights, created to protect rights outlined in the United Nations Declaration of Human

Rights. The center provides support and resources for human rights defenders and investigates and uncovers violations, such as torture or disappearances.

The center also encourages the U.S. government to spotlight human rights in foreign and domestic policies, striving to make a difference in the international arena.

Kennedy Cuomo directs the center's programs for the RFK Journalism and RFK Book awards, recognized by many as the "poor people's Pulitzers," which spotlight individuals who are active in human rights awareness.

Her enduring dedication to human rights has led to her involvement in related organizations. She directed the National Juvenile Justice Project, committed to developing less costly, more effective programs within the penal system to deal with offending minors.



Cuomo

Noon. Neurology & Neurological Surgery Research Seminar. "Spatial and Temporal Control of Neuronal Migration." Yi Rao, assoc. prof. of neurobiology. Maternity Bldg., Schwarz Aud. 362-7316.

Noon. Work, Families, & Public Policy Brown Bag Seminar Series. "Wives Who Outearn Their Husbands: A Transitory or a Permanent Phenomenon." Anne Winkler, assoc. prof. of economics and public policy administration, U. of Mo.-St. Louis. Eliot Hall, Rm. 300. 935-4918.

4 p.m. Anthropology Colloquium. "From Hooton to Hazards: Recent Research in Human Paleodemography." Lyle Konigsberg, prof. of anthropology, U. of Tenn. (3:30 p.m. reception, McMillan Hall, Rm. 115.) McMillan Hall, Rm. 149. 935-5252.

4 p.m. Biology Seminar. "How Neurons Find Their Identity." James Skeath, assoc. prof. of genetics. Rebstock Hall, Rm. 322. 935-7888.

4 p.m. Immunology Research Program Seminar Series. "Regulation of Auto-reactive B Cell Activation in Lupus." Stanford Peng, asst. prof. of internal medicine and of pathology & immunology. Eric P. Newman Education Center. 362-2763.

4 p.m. Pain Center Seminar. Lillian Chang, assoc. dir. of molecular biology, Purdue Pharma L.P. Clinical Sciences Research Bldg., Rm. 5550. 362-8560.

6 p.m. Architecture Monday Night Lecture Series. "Thinking Matters of Architecture." Nasrine Seraji, chair of architecture, Cornell U. (5:30 p.m. reception, Givens Hall.) Steinberg Hall Aud. 935-6200.

Tuesday, April 8

Noon. Molecular Microbiology & Microbial Pathogenesis Seminar Series. "The Aesthetics of Bacterial Genomes." Howard

Ochman, prof. of biochemistry and of molecular & cellular biology, U. of Ariz. Cori Aud., 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-3691.

Noon. Program in Physical Therapy Research Seminar. "Effects of Intensive Exercise Training After Hip Fracture." Ellen Binder, asst. prof. of medicine. 4444 Forest Park Blvd., Rm. B108/B109. 286-1404.

12:10-12:50 p.m. Brown Bag Seminar. "Chat With the Chancellor." Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. Sponsored by The Office of Human Resources. Women's Building Formal Lounge. 935-5990.

4 p.m. Anesthesiology Research Seminar. Xu Hui Zeng, research assoc. in anesthesiology. Clinical Sciences Research Bldg., Rm. 5550. 362-8560.

4 p.m. Biology Seminar. "The Boundaries of Silencing." Rohinton Kamakaka, National Inst. of Child Health & Human Development, Bethesda, Md. Rebstock Hall, Rm. 322. 935-8838.

5 p.m. Visiting East Asian Professionals Program Lecture. "The Shanghai Museum, China, and the Twenty-First Century." Xiejun Chen, dir., Shanghai Museum. Steinberg Hall, Rm. 200. 935-8772.

5:30 p.m. Laser Vision Correction Seminar Series. "Understanding LASIK" and "Am I a Candidate?" Michael S. Connors, dir., refractive surgery center. Center for Advanced Medicine, Lvl. 3 Conference Rm. 747-8036.

Wednesday, April 9

11 a.m. Assembly Series. The Washington University Women's Society Adele Starbird Lecture. Kerry Kennedy Cuomo, author and founder of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights. Graham Chapel. 935-5285.

4 p.m. Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics Seminar. "How Do Bacteria Decide When and Where to Divide?" Glenn F. King, prof. of biochemistry, U. of Conn. Health Center. Cori Aud., 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-0261.

6:30 p.m. Visiting East Asian Professionals Lecture. "An American Apprentice in a Japanese Pottery World." Darice Veri, potter. Co-sponsored by the School of Art and the Saint Louis Art Museum. Saint Louis Art Museum Aud. 935-8772.

Thursday, April 10

Noon. Genetics Seminar Series. "Regulation of Centrosome Function and Chromosome Segregation in Response to Genotoxic Stress." William E. Theurkauf, cell dynamics research group, U. of Mass. Medical School. McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg., Rm. 823. 362-2139.

1:10 p.m. George Warren Brown School of Social Work Spring Lecture Series. "Children of Color, Mental Health, and Social Policy: Challenges for Social Workers in the 21st Century." Jewelle Taylor Gibbs, prof. emerita, U. of Calif., Berkeley. Brown Hall Lounge. 935-4909.

3 p.m. Mechanical Engineering Sesquicentennial Colloquium. "Machining." Philip V. Bayly, assoc. prof. of mechanical engineering. Cupples II Hall, Rm. 100. 935-6047.

4 p.m. Anatomy & Neurobiology Seminar. Annual Robert J. Terry Lecture. "Desert Ant Navigation: Mini Brains — Mega Tasks — Smart Solutions." Rüdiger Wehner, prof. of zoology, U. of Zürich, Switzerland. Moore Aud., 660 S. Euclid Ave. 362-7043.

4 p.m. Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences Seminar Series. "Is a Crx-dependent Mechanism Responsible for Photoreceptor Degeneration in Spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 7 (SCA7)?" Shimming Chen, asst. prof. of ophthalmology and visual sciences. Maternity Bldg., Rm. 725. 362-1006.

4:45 p.m. Ethics in Families Reading Group Discussion. "Children as Decision Makers." Dorothy Edwards, assoc. prof. of occupational therapy. Psychology Bldg. Lounge. 935-8212.

Friday, April 11

11 a.m. Comorbidity & Addictions Center Seminar. "Cultural Variations in Drug Use and Delinquent Behavior: Blacks, Hispanic and White Girls 20 Years Ago — Using Qualitative Research in Minority Communities." Co-sponsored by the Center for Mental Health Services Research. Goldfarb Hall, Rm. 246. 935-5687.

11 a.m. Pathology & Immunology Lecture. "High-affinity T Cell Receptors: Engineering, Specificity, and Function." David M. Kranz, prof. of biochemistry, U. of Ill. Children's Hospital 3rd Floor Aud. 362-8740.

Noon. Cell Biology & Physiology Seminar. "Cdc42: Always Another Surprise." Richard A. Cerione, prof. of molecular medicine, Cornell U. McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg., Rm. 426. 362-6040.

4 p.m. Anatomy & Neurobiology Seminar. Paul Bridgman, assoc. prof. of anatomy & neurobiology. McDonnell Medical Sciences Bldg., Rm. 928. 362-7043.

4:30 p.m. Mathematics Colloquium. J.S. Marron, prof. of statistics, U. of N.C. (4 p.m. tea, Cupples II Hall, Rm. 200.) Cupples II Hall, Rm. 199. 935-6760.

7 p.m. Gallery of Art Friday Forum Lecture. "Made in France: Art From 1945 to the Present." Rebecca DeRoo, asst. prof. of art history. (6:30 p.m. reception.) Cost: \$10. Gallery of Art. 935-4523.

7:30 p.m. University Libraries Lecture. "Darwin & the Duodecimo: Natural Selection & Books." Roderick Cave, researcher and author. West Campus Conference Center, Rm. AB. 935-5495.

Saturday, April 12

10:30 a.m. University Libraries Lecture. "Chinese and Vietnamese Ritual Papers." Roderick Cave, researcher and author. Olin Library, Lvl. A. 935-5495.

Monday, April 14

Noon. Neurology & Neurological Surgery Research Seminar. "The Atkins Diet: Turning Epilepsy and Obesity Into Odd Bedfellows." Liu Lin Thio, asst. prof. of neurobiology. Maternity Bldg., Schwarz Aud. 362-7316.

4 p.m. Immunology Research Seminar Series. "CD8 T Cell Avidity in Development and Function." Janet Connolly, research asst. prof. of genetics. Eric P. Newman Education Center. 362-2763.

6 p.m. Architecture Monday Night Lecture Series. "Next: Reconsidering Everyday Forms and Fabrication." Charles Lazor, designer, BLUDOT Design, Minneapolis. (5:30 p.m. reception, Givens Hall.) Steinberg Hall Aud. 935-6200.

Sports

Baseball team wins two of three games

The baseball team improved to 13-7 with two wins in three games. Washington U. saw a 6-1 lead slip through its fingers in an 8-7 loss to the University of Wisconsin-Platteville (UWP) March 29, but the Red and Green rallied to beat the Pioneers, 5-3, in the first of two games the following day. The second game saw an 8-5 victory over Fontbonne University. In the first game against Platteville, the Bears jumped to the 6-1 lead with three runs in the first and third innings. UWP tied it before the Bears pulled back ahead, 7-6, in the bottom of the sixth. WUSTL's fourth error of the game, a balked-in run and an RBI single allowed the visi-

tors to pull out the victory. Ramos Mays and Mark Pydynowski each collected two hits, with Ryan Argo adding two RBIs. On March 30, left-hander Josh Deitch made sure there was no such rally as he tossed a complete-game win, scattering five hits while striking out four. Platteville actually led 2-1 heading to the bottom of the third, but two runs in the third and another in the fourth were the difference.

Other updates

The No. 10 **women's tennis** team moved to 8-2 by defeating NAIA Graceland College, 9-0, March 29 at the Tao Tennis Center. WUSTL won all six singles matches in straight sets and posted convincing wins in all

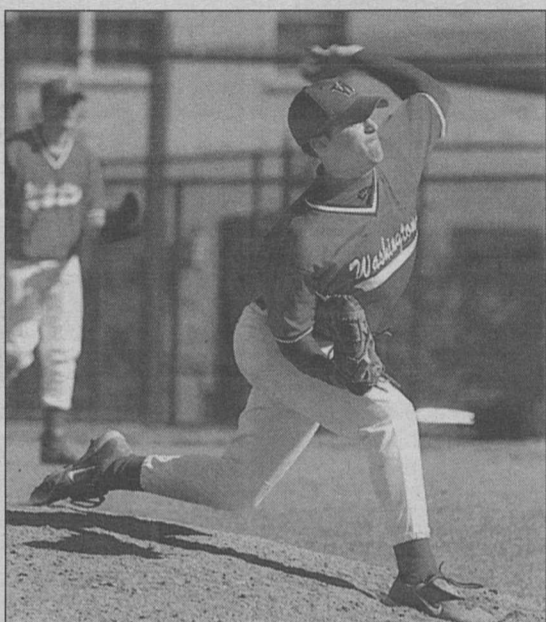
three doubles matches. Jenny Stein, Steph and Kacie Cook, Laura Greenberg, Lauren Zwick and Jen Kivitz all were singles winners. Rathi Mani and Zwick won at No. 1 doubles, followed by victories from Steph and Kacie Cook (No. 2) and Stein and Greenberg (No. 3).

The **men's tennis** team won its third straight match with a 6-1 win over Graceland College March 29. The Bears (6-3) dropped the doubles point, but managed to win all six singles matches in straight sets.

The **softball** team improved to 17-4 after posting a 2-2 record in the 3rd Annual Washington University Region Invitational. The three-day event was cut to two days after rain canceled 13 games on day one. Washington U. trailed St. Mary's University, 6-0, after three innings of play, but the Bears responded with 10 runs in the fourth and two in the fifth for a 13-9 victory. In game two on March 29, the Bears dropped a 4-1 decision to No. 22 Coe College. The next day, WUSTL suffered a tough 1-0 loss in eight innings to Simpson College, but rebounded to upset undefeated Central College, 2-1, in nine innings in the tournament finale. Kristen Harrer had a bases-loaded single in the bottom of the ninth to drive in Amanda Roberts with the winner.

On the Web

For complete sports schedules and results, go to bearsports.wustl.edu.



MARY BUTKUS

Bears sophomore Alex Cucuru delivers a pitch in action earlier this year. Cucuru is proving adept at both starting and coming out of the bullpen, as he has recorded both a win and a save in two starts and three relief appearances for the 14-8 Bears.

Alliance for Building Capacity program inaugurated by GWB

By JESSICA N. ROBERTS

The George Warren Brown School of Social Work will inaugurate its program "Alliance for Building Capacity" (ABC) with a celebration from 5-6:30 p.m. April 9 in Brown Hall Lounge.

Featured speaker Jewelle Taylor Gibbs, Ph.D., Washington University distinguished visiting scholar and professor emerita at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Social Welfare, will address "Cultural Competency and Agency Practice: Challenge or Opportunity."

ABC's mission is to build the capacity of St. Louis nonprofit organizations to serve the community more effectively by providing education, training, consultation, referrals, and a link to the valuable resources of GWB, Washington University and the

social work profession.

"Our highest priority is to serve the community-based social service agencies," said Barbara Levin, ABC program coordinator. "We envision a vibrant St. Louis community continually strengthening its capacity to meet the needs of individuals, families and neighborhoods."

Groundwork for ABC, formerly known as the Technical Assistance Program, began in fall 2002. To date, ABC has co-sponsored a workshop on program evaluation and a course for social work practitioners on evidence-based practice.

Upcoming events include a Fundraising Basics Workshop June 27 and a course on program evaluation.

For more information or to R.S.V.P. for the April 9 event, call ABC at 935-6661.

Construction Update

Construction Update is published periodically and provides information about the progress of major University building and renovation projects on the Hilltop, Medical and West campuses. Information is provided to the *Record* by facilities management.

Earth and Planetary Sciences Building

Concrete work on the third floor is near completion and crews will move to the fourth floor. On the lower level and in the mechanical room, work continues on the mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire sprinkler systems. Masonry work is beginning on Level 1 exterior walls, and stair installation has begun.

276 N. Skinker Blvd.

Work is proceeding on the second and third floors with mechanical, electrical and plumbing rough-ins close to completion. Drywall at these levels is substantially complete. Masonry work has begun. The building will have permanent power within the next two to three weeks.

Olin Library

The Level A stack area and

Level B are complete and open to the public. Atrium curtain wall and structural steel work continues on Level 1. Level 2 work continues with framing and bracing. Mechanical, electrical and plumbing rough-ins are in progress. On Level 3, selective demolition is in progress. Work continues on the air-handling units; these were scheduled to be operating by April 1.

Phase III Housing

Roof trusses, metal deck and plywood continue to be installed. Masonry work has begun on the west elevation. Mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire sprinkler system rough-ins are complete on the first floor and continue on the second and third. Interior framing continues, with the lower level and first floor complete. Windows are installed.

No large-scale University projects currently are under way at either the Medical Campus or at West Campus.

Tuesday, April 15

Noon. Molecular Microbiology & Microbial Pathogenesis Seminar Series. "Phosphoinositide Signaling During Phagocytosis and Bacterial Invasion." Sergio Grinstein, medical officer (research), dept. of biochemistry, U. of Toronto, Cori Aud., 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-8873.

4 p.m. Anesthesiology Research Seminar. David Yue, prof. of biomedical engineering and neuroscience, Johns Hopkins U. Clinical Sciences Research Bldg., Rm. 5550. 362-8560.

4:30 p.m. Women & Gender Studies Panel Discussion. "Beauty and the Body." (Reception follows.) Duncker Hall, Hurst Lounge. 935-5102.

6 p.m. Historia Medica Lecture Series on the History of Medicine. "Sticks and Stones May Break My Bones ... Opiates, Pain, and Professional Medicine in the Middle Ages." Walton O. Schallick III, asst. prof. of history and pediatrics. Bernard Becker Medical Library, Lvl. 7, Kenton King Center. 362-4236.

Wednesday, April 16

Noon. Academic Women's Network Brown Bag Seminar. "Grant Writing for Medical School." (Also April 18 & 23, noon.) Cori Aud., 4565 McKinley Ave. 747-0808.

4 p.m. Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics Seminar. "How Does a Molecular Machine Work?" Alexander Grosberg, prof. of physics, U. of Minn. Cori Aud. 4565 McKinley Ave. 362-0261.

Thursday, April 17

4 p.m. Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences Seminar. "Conjunctival Pyogenic Granuloma After Strabismus Surgery." Gabriela Espinoza, ophthalmology resident; "The Importance of Vitreous Liquefaction in Age-related Cataract." George Harocopos, ophthalmology resident. Maternity Bldg., Rm. 725. 362-1006.

Music

Sunday, April 6

3 p.m. Chancellor's Concert. Washington University Symphony Orchestra, Dan Presgrave, dir., and Chamber Choir of Washington University, John Stewart, dir. Graham Chapel. 935-4841.

Thursday, April 10

8 p.m. Jazz at Holmes. Tom Kennedy, bass. Ridgley Hall, Holmes Lounge. 935-4841.

On Stage

Friday, April 4

8 p.m. Performing Arts Department Performance. *All's Well That Ends Well.* William Whitaker, dir. (Also April 5, 8 p.m., and April 6, 2 p.m.) Cost: \$12, \$8 for WUSTL faculty, staff and students. Edison Theatre. 935-6543.

Wednesday, April 9

8 p.m. Washington University All Student Theatre Performance. *Pippen.* (Also April 10-12, 8 p.m.) Cost: \$5. Brookings Quadrangle. 935-7281.

Worship

Friday, April 4

11 a.m. Catholic Mass. (Soup lunch follows.) Catholic Student Center, 6352 Forsyth Blvd. 935-9191.

Sunday, April 6

11 a.m. & 9 p.m. Catholic Mass. Catholic Student Center, 6352 Forsyth Blvd. 935-9191.

Tuesday, April 8

5:15 p.m. Catholic Mass. (Soup dinner follows.) Catholic Student Center, 6352 Forsyth Blvd. 935-9191.

Thursday, April 10

9:30 p.m. Catholic Praise & Adoration Service. Catholic Student Center, 6352 Forsyth Blvd. 935-4841.

Friday, April 11

11 a.m. Catholic Mass. (Soup lunch follows.) Catholic Student Center, 6352 Forsyth Blvd. 935-9191.

Sunday, April 13

11 a.m. & 9 p.m. Catholic Mass. Catholic Student Center, 6352 Forsyth Blvd. 935-9191.

Tuesday, April 15

5:15 p.m. Catholic Mass. (Soup dinner follows.) Catholic Student Center, 6352 Forsyth Blvd. 935-9191.

Thursday, April 17

9:30 p.m. Catholic Praise & Adoration Service. Catholic Student Center, 6352 Forsyth Blvd. 935-4841.

Sports

Friday, April 4

4 p.m. Men's & Women's Tennis vs. U. of Wis.-Eau Claire. Tao Tennis Center. 935-4705.

Saturday, April 5

All Day. Men's & Women's Track & Field. WU Invitational. Francis Field. 935-4705.

9:30 a.m. Baseball vs. Thomas More College. Kelly Field. 935-4705.

Noon. Baseball vs. Knox College. Kelly Field. 935-4705.

1 p.m. Women's Tennis vs. Wittenberg U. Tao Tennis Center. 935-4705.

2 p.m. Men's Tennis vs. Wittenberg U. Tao Tennis Center. 935-4705.

Sunday, April 6

12:30 p.m. Baseball vs. Thomas More College. Kelly Field. 935-4705.

Tuesday, April 8

4 p.m. Softball vs. Blackburn College. Softball Field. 935-4705.

Saturday, April 12

1 p.m. Softball vs. MacMurray College. Softball Field. 935-4705.

1 p.m. Men's Tennis vs. New York U. Tao Tennis Center. 935-4705.

Tuesday, April 15

4:30 p.m. Women's Tennis vs. Principia College. Tao Tennis Center. 935-4705.

Thursday, April 17

3 p.m. Men's Tennis vs. Vincennes U. Tao Tennis Center. 935-4705.

And more...

Friday, April 11

8 a.m. Techportal@Olin Event. "Analysis of Technology Companies." Co-sponsored by Olin Digital Commerce Center and the Technology Management Club. Simon Hall, May Aud. 935-5942.

7-9 p.m. George Warren Brown School of Social Work International Festival Cultural Show. "Uniting Colors of the World." (5-7 p.m. international food available, Goldfarb Hall, Lvl. 1.) Brown Hall, Rm. 100. 567-9324.

Bacteria

Prominent member in gut microbial community — from Page 1

nent member.

"This bacterium becomes prominent beginning at a key developmental transition that takes place when infants are weaned from their mother's milk and begin eating a diet rich in polysaccharides," Gordon said.

By decoding the bacterium's genome, he and his students — including Jian Xu and Magnus Bjursell, members of the Biochemistry and Computational Biology programs in the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences — identified some of the strategies it employs to forge a beneficial alliance with its host.

For example, more than 100 of its 4,800 genes appear to be dedicated to retrieving dietary polysaccharides from the intestinal cavity. More than 170 enzymes are available to break down these key components of the human diet into simple sugars that can then be fermented and absorbed.

The team also discovered that *B. thetaiotaomicron* contains a very elaborate and novel apparatus for sensing its environment so

that the correct combination of enzymes that grab and degrade carbohydrates can be expressed when nutrients are available.

In addition, the organism has a rich repository of genes that allow it to manufacture carbohydrates on its own surface. By changing the features of this carbohydrate mask, the organism may be able to camouflage itself from the host's immune system.

The bacterium also appears to be well equipped to refashion its own genome over time. This capacity may be key to understanding the evolutionary processes that establish and sustain beneficial symbiotic relationships between bacteria and their hosts.

"By peering into ourselves and studying the genomes of our co-evolved bacterial partners, we have an opportunity to address fundamental questions about ecology and evolution and about determinants of our own physiology," Gordon said.

"The gut microbiome represents one of the next frontiers to be explored. Not only does it have potential to help us more fully define the complete complement of genes associated with our bodies, but it also represents a fertile field to prospect for natural products that may become tomorrow's wonder drugs."

Arc

Hardware, software training available

— from Page 1

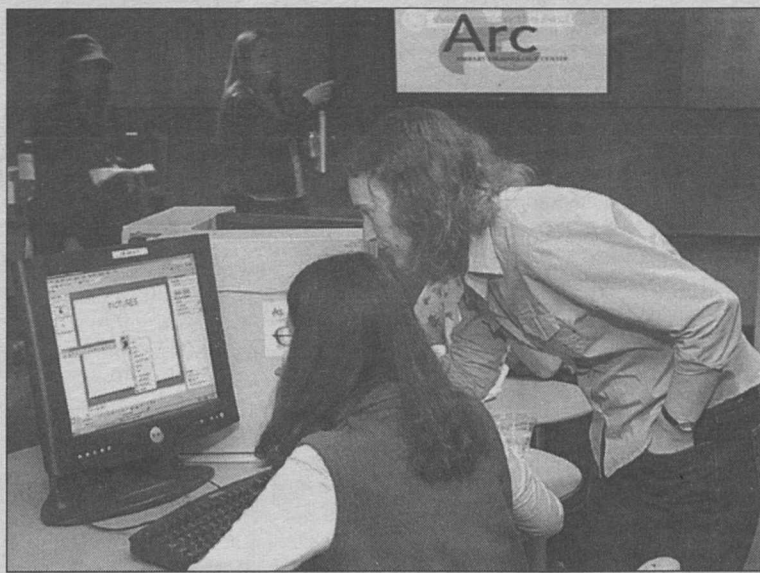
center. "In this way, the Arc integrates with existing campus technology and expands the breadth and depth of that technology's reach.

"As information increasingly comes in multimedia formats, it follows that having access to quality multimedia-content creation tools is increasingly important to all aspects of the University population. The Arc looks to help enable and spread the ability of all members of the community to draw on the libraries' digital resources and create quality digital projects from various material formats."

The technology available at the Arc is truly overwhelming, and the Web site makes it very clear what can be found.

"Support is available in the form of hardware, software and staff expertise in the creation and manipulation of digital media," the site reads. "Librarians are available to help patrons locate appropriate library resources and incorporate them into their research or teaching project.

"Technical assistance is available to help visitors with special hardware and software needs. Various levels of printing support



Graduate students Cristina Draghici (left) and Saida Sultanic experiment on one of the computers in Olin Library's new technology center, the Arc.

are provided.

"Typical projects which might occur in the Technology Center include: digitizing and editing images, text, slides, VHS; preparation of interactive tutorials and course modules; and development of multimedia presentations incorporating sound, video, animation, images, and text."

To the average person, all of this might be overwhelming. But the Arc staff is there to help. In addition to Bombich, Steven Vance serves as Arc assistant, and there will be 14 part-time student assistants on hand to help with any questions or to give tutorials

on certain software.

"Though not inclusive of all our knowledge, Steven and I have experience and are particularly interested in Web design, video editing and digital photography," Bombich said. "Steven and I are not yet experts on every type of technology available, but our total staff is rich in technology knowledge. I think that we have at least one person that can provide training on just about every supported hardware/software item in the Arc."

Members of the University community can walk in and get support on Macromedia Flash,

Adobe Acrobat, Microsoft Office, Macromedia Dreamweaver, HTML coding, Adobe Photoshop and iMovie.

The Arc is much more than an expanded computer lab, though. In addition to the main room full of computers, scanners and printers, the technology center has other rooms that people will find valuable.

The Arc Lab is the signature space in the Arc. This curved classroom (hence the name Arc) has 18 computers and can seat up to 24 people comfortably.

The Arc Lab can be divided into two smaller classrooms. If a class has fewer than 10 people, it will likely get one of these smaller rooms.

The Arc Lab features a Symposium — a podium with a computer, laptop ports, and complete audio-visual and room controls built in.

The Presentation Room is a lecture-style room with chairs and tablet tables for 36 people. The Presentation Room also has a Symposium.

There are two consulting rooms that seat three or four people. Each room has a TV/VCR, computer, scanner and multimedia software.

The consulting rooms provide a space for Arc staff to assist visitors in planning digital projects. These rooms may be reserved for up to three hours by students, faculty and staff

who require the unique capabilities of these spaces.

"Sample uses for these rooms include classes learning a new piece of software (Arc Lab), showing a DVD to a class (Presentation Room), and librarians meeting one-on-one with students (consulting rooms)," Bombich said.

"Meetings that do not need the technology available in the Arc should use the group rooms available elsewhere in the library and on campus. The rooms may not be used as classrooms for regularly scheduled courses for an entire semester."

While up and running right now, the Arc is waiting on the delivery of a few more pieces of equipment before being 100 percent ready. The gear is tentatively scheduled to arrive in the early part of April, and the Arc should be fully operational later this month.

"The Arc is meant to be a space in which members of the University community can collaborate, converse and experiment with new technology in ways that expand individuals' expertise, understanding, and ability to communicate," Bombich said. "To further this goal, the Arc aims to offer a unique level of individualized and group training for its visitors."

For more information on the Arc, go online to library.wustl.edu/units/arc.

Brain

Better understanding of fluid intelligence sought

— from Page 1

pants a curveball: showing them a new item that did not match the oldest item, but did match one nearby in the ongoing sequence. Participants found these "lure" items to be especially distracting.

A key finding of the study was that participants with higher fluid intelligence were better able to respond correctly despite the interference from the lure items. They appeared to do so by engaging several key brain regions more strongly, including the prefrontal and parietal cortex.

"Our study depended on the fact that people vary in their intelligence levels," Braver said. "We used that variation to identify which brain regions are more critical for fluid intelligence."

Several previous studies have examined how the brain responds to questions that appear on intelligence tests. However, the previous studies did not examine how people differ, nor what aspects of the test questions were most sensitive to such differences.

The findings in the *Nature Neuroscience* report draw on a

cognitive theory of fluid intelligence proposed by Randall Engle, Ph.D., professor of psychology at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and his colleagues. In this theory, the ability to resist or overcome interference like that on the recent study's lure trials is important.

"Imagine trying to keep a new phone number in mind just long enough to dial it," Gray said. "Now imagine trying to do this while people around you are having a very interesting conversation. Paying attention to the conversation would interfere with remembering the phone number."

"People with higher fluid intelligence should have an easier time resisting being distracted by the conversation and keeping attention focused on the phone number."

The recent study included 48 participants, all healthy, right-handed, native English speakers between the ages of 18 and 37, about half men and half women. Each participant was administered a standard test of fluid intelligence, known as Raven's Advanced Progressive Matrices.

Each participant was then asked to perform the word test and face "mental juggling" tasks while lying inside an fMRI scanner. Each task tested a kind of short-term memory known as "working memory."

To get a sense of how the task

works, ask a friend to read the following words to you at a rate of about one word every 2.5 seconds: dog, cat, chair, table, cat, door, chair, dog.

For each word that you hear, make a mental note of whether it is the same word as you heard three words previously. That is, compare the fourth word you hear to the first, the fifth word to the second, and so on. (For the first three words, there is nothing to compare them to, so just remember them for later.)

The study participants had to do a similar task, except that it involved viewing a series of either unrelated words or unfamiliar faces on a computer screen, one word or face every few seconds. Participants had to press a button to indicate whether the word or face on the screen matched one shown exactly three previously.

The task is challenging, but the researchers included some especially tricky lure items that were even more difficult. These were words or faces that had been shown two, four, or five previously in the sequence, but not three previously.

For example, the second time the word "chair" appears in the list above is a lure. The lure items are easily confusable for an item seen three previously.

The mere fact that the word or face was seen recently is salient and hard to ignore. This creates

interference of the type that, according to Engle and his colleagues, should engage fluid intelligence.

On the task, people with higher fluid intelligence were generally more accurate than those with lower fluid intelligence.

Fluid intelligence appeared to be most critical for performance on lure trials. The critical nature of lure trials also was reflected in brain activation differences between individuals of high and low fluid intelligence.

In several brain areas, including prefrontal and parietal cortex, people with higher fluid intelligence had stronger neural activity than people with lower fluid intelligence. That is, doing the task led to widespread activity across the brain, but the strength of this activity was related to fluid intelligence only on the lure trials.

So, what was it exactly that the participants with higher fluid intelligence were doing differently on the lure trials? Their performance suggests they were keeping the distracting information at bay, and they appeared to do so by activating regions in

prefrontal and parietal cortex, as well as a number of auxiliary regions.

While the study offers new insight into fluid intelligence, the researchers emphasize that how well people perform in a given situation depends on the complex interaction of many abilities. For example, this study does not address every aspect of fluid intelligence, nor does it account for other forms of intelligence, such as crystallized intelligence, which involves specific skills and expertise.

Motivation and emotion also are important. Other work suggests that fluid intelligence may not be fixed, but can be increased.

"I find this study exciting in part because it opens a door to doing many further studies that capitalize on differences in psychological functions among individuals," Braver said.

"Individuals differ in cognitive abilities and in many other ways as well, such as personality. We can use this same type of approach to understand how these psychological differences are reflected in brain function."

Campus Watch

The following incidents were reported to University Police **March 26-April 1**. 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.

March 26

5:38 a.m. — A contracted employee observed two people taking a potted plant from Simon Hall. Items taken included a 24-inch houseplant with 4-inch dark green leaves and an 18-inch black ceramic pot.

March 27

7:10 p.m. — A student reported that his Sony PlayStation was stolen from the common area of his room in Hurd Residence Hall. The student stated that the door was unlocked.

March 31

9:51 a.m. — A senior lecturer in the Program in Film and Media Studies in Arts & Sciences reported that an

unknown person stole a computer disc that belonged to the University from his office in Mallinckrodt Student Center, Room 305. The theft occurred sometime between 5 p.m. Feb. 28 and 6 p.m. March 27. Total loss is estimated at \$1,000.

3:58 p.m. — A person stated that an unknown person broke the legs off a conference table and broke glass from a picture in the Park/Mudd Residential College conference rooms.

Additionally, University Police responded to two reports each of lost article, property damage and auto accident, and one report each of identity theft, judicial violation, disturbance and larceny.

Thurtene

University tradition to continue April 12-13

— from Page 1

members of the Thurtene Honorary, composed of 13 juniors who bear sole responsibility for carrying on the traditional event. Members are chosen on the basis of outstanding leadership, character and participation in University activities.

"It has been nothing less than an incredible experience working with the members of the honorary and other University students to make this carnival a complete success," said Nathan Kleiner, a member of the honorary. "We are excited to bring together the Washington

University and St. Louis communities.

"We're really proud to be part of something that so many people look forward to every year."

As has been tradition, the honorary will present awards on the Sunday of the event for best production, best set construction, best food and best game booth, as well as the Chancellor's Charity Cup and the coveted Burmeister Cup for best overall participation in the carnival.

Thurtene Carnival, first conceptualized in 1904, is the University's longest-running tradition. In fact, it's the nation's oldest and largest student-run carnival.

The first "Younivee Surrkuss," Thurtene's predecessor, was held in 1907. The seven-hour festival ran much like a real circus and featured sideshows and a main

attraction.

General admission was 10 cents, sideshows were a nickel and proceeds were donated to the University's athletic association. A crowd of 400 made the event a roaring success.

Nearly a century later, Thurtene Carnival still bears a resemblance to its ancestor. However, the "big top" has been replaced by sturdily constructed façades, and the crowd of 400 has swelled to a two-day throng of many thousands.

"We greatly appreciate the support of the administration as well as our alumni," Kleiner said. "We encourage everyone to join us at the carnival. It's going to be a wonderful event."

No admission is charged, but tickets must be purchased for rides and plays. For more information, go online to thurtene.org.

Notables

Of note

Jonathan S. Turner, Ph.D., the Henry Edwin Sever Professor of Engineering and professor of computer science, has received a three-year, \$1.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation for research titled "The Open Network Laboratory: A Resource for High Performance Networking Research." ...

Dennis J. Dietzen, Ph.D., assistant professor of pediatrics, has received a one-year, \$50,000

Atorvastatin Research Award. ...

Yue Wu, graduate assistant in cardiology, has received a two-year, \$42,000 predoctoral fellowship from the Heartland Affiliate Research Committee of the American Heart Association for research titled "Ventricular Diastolic Input Impedance: Frequency Based Characterization of Diastolic Function." ...

Michael Holtzman, M.D., the Selma and Herman Seldin Professor of Medicine, has received a three-year, \$120,000 Parker B. Francis Fellowship from the Parker B. Francis Fellowship Program. ...

Brian Carpenter, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology in Arts & Sciences, has received a one-year, \$30,000 grant from the University of Missouri Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Research Program for research titled "Patient-Valued Preferences: Examining Agreement within Families." ...

Linda M. Mundy, M.D., assistant professor of medicine, has received a one-year, \$10,363 grant from the Barnes-Jewish Hospital Auxiliary for computer processors

and ART adherence teaching guides. ...

Russell Osguthorpe, M.D., clinical fellow in pediatrics and infectious diseases, has received a one-year, \$70,000 2002 Pediatric Infectious Disease Society-St. Jude Fellowship Award. ...

William Lyon, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow in molecular microbiology, has received a one-year, \$30,000 grant from the American Foundation for Urological Disease for research titled "Dissecting the Mechanisms of Enterococcal Pathogenicity." ...

Sarah C.R. Elgin, Ph.D., professor of biology in Arts & Sciences, has received a two-year, \$50,000 grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute for an "Undergraduate Mini-Grant Initiative: Assessment of the Undergraduate Research Experience." The project brings

together 42 colleges and research universities in a common assessment of the impact of undergraduate research experiences. ...

Wen Jiang, M.D., postdoctoral trainee in otolaryngology, has received a one-year, \$10,000 Alando J. Ballantyne Resident Research Pilot Grant from the American Head and Neck Society for research titled "Identification of CSMD1 Binding Partners." ...

Rachel G. Humphrey, clinical fellow in obstetrics and gynecology, has received a two-year, \$95,000 Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine Scholarship Award for research titled "Fibrin Modulation of Human Trophoblast Apoptosis." ...

Bradley Jolliff, research associate professor of earth and planetary sciences in Arts & Sciences, has received a three-year, \$75,000 grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

for research titled "Connecting Remote Measurements of Mineralogy and Lithology of Mars to Surface Environments Through Analog Studies." ...

Dan W. Haupt, M.D., postdoctoral trainee in psychiatry, has received a two-year, \$15,000 award from the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression. ...

Bonnie N. Joe, M.D., Ph.D., clinical fellow in radiology, has received a one-year, \$50,000 Siemens Medical Solutions Inc./Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) Research Fellow Grant from the RSNA Research and Education Foundation for research titled "Evaluation of MR Contrast Enhancement and MRS in Breast Cancer: Effect of Contrast Injection Rate and Effect of Contrast on MRS Profile."

Obituary

Ford, 87

Lee T. Ford, a retired orthopaedic surgeon and a School of Medicine professor for 15 years, died Tuesday, March 25, 2003, of heart failure at his home in Belleville, Ill. He was 87. He retired in 1991.

Employment

Go online to hr.wustl.edu (Hilltop Campus) or medicine.wustl.edu/wumshr (Medical Campus) to obtain complete job descriptions.

Hilltop Campus

For the most current listing of Hilltop Campus position openings and the Hilltop Campus application process, go online to hr.wustl.edu. For more information, call 935-5906 to reach the Human Resources Employment Office at West Campus.

Senior Medical Sciences Writer 010108

General Lab Asst. Part Time 020237

Physical Therapist 030064

Registered Nurse 030079

Health Services Physician 030099

Business Development Coord. 030110

Zone Manager 030137

Study Coord. 030172

Shuttle Driver 030179

Career Development Specialist 030187

Staff Psychologist 030190

DNA Sequencing Lab Technician 030197

Assoc. General Counsel 030197

Lab Technician IV 030199

Assoc. Dir. of Capital Projects 030203

Health Educator 030204

Staff Psychologist/Counselor/Clin. Soc. Worker 030206

WCRC
Receptionist/Admin. Asst. 030208

Assoc. Dir., Business Development 030210

Accounts Payable Coord. 030212

Business Development Specialist 030213

Residential College Dir. 030214

Treasury Analyst 030215

Deputized Police Officer 030217

Research Technician 030219

Assoc. Dir. J.B. Ervin Scholars Program 030220

Accountant IV 030221

Dir., Student Health & Counseling Service 030222

Supervisor of Gift Acknowledgements 030224

Admin. Asst. 030225

Asst./Assoc. Dean for Graduate Programs 030227

Switchboard Operator (Weekends 4-10 PM) 030230

Dir. of Development, School of Architecture 030231

Hazardous Materials Manager 030232

Hazardous Materials Tech II 030233

Assoc. Dir. of Dev., Olin School of Business 030234

Assoc. Dir. of Corporate and Foundation Relations 030235

Research Technician 030236

Coord. for Greek Housing Programs 030237

Coord. for Chapter Development 030238

Operations Manager 030239

Business Development Manager 030241

Department Secretary 030242

Administrative Asst. 030243

Library Technical Asst. (Adaptive Cataloging) 030244

Administrative Asst. (Asst. to Chair) 030245

Debt Service Accountant 030246

Editor's Asst. 030247

Library Technical Asst. (Accounting) 030248

Department Secretary 030250

Admin. Coord. I 030251

Medical Secretary III 031242

Professional Rater II 031266

Research Patient Coord./Professional 031277

Payroll & Appts. Ops. Asst. II 031279

Behavioral Scientist 031285

Behavioral Scientist 031286

Medical Asst. II 031290

Clerk I 031291

RN Care Manager 031292

Special Project Asst. 031295

Secretary III 031296

Professional Rater I 031297

Professional Rater I - Part Time 031298

Administrative Coord. 031300

Facilities Tech III 031303

Facilities Tech III 031304

Facilities Tech III 031305

Facilities Tech III 031306

Custodian 031309

Custodian 031310

Custodian 031311

Sr. Research Technician 031312

User Support Asst. 031313

Medical Asst. II 030314

Clerk I 031315

Research Technician II 031316

Clinical Nurse Coord. 031321

Medical Campus

This is a partial list of positions in the School of Medicine. Employees: Contact the medical school's Office of Human Resources at 362-7196. External candidates: Submit resumes to the Office of Human Resources, 4480 Clayton Ave., Campus Box 8002, St. Louis, MO 63110, or call 362-7196.

LPN 031133

Clinical Office Supervisor 031137

Sr. Research Technician 031231

Research Technician I 031240



Special honor (From left) Former Sen. Jean Carnahan, D-Mo.; her daughter, Robin Carnahan; Jane H. Aiken, J.D., professor of law; and Ann Davis Shields, J.D., senior lecturer of law, were honored by the School of Law and the Women's Law Caucus in conjunction with International Women's Day March 24 in the Janite Lee Reading Room in Anheuser-Busch Hall.

School of engineering presents awards

By TONY FITZPATRICK

The School of Engineering & Applied Science will honor six distinguished individuals April 9 at its annual Alumni Achievement Awards Dinner at the Fox Theatre.

The event will begin at 6 p.m. with cocktails, followed by dinner and the awards program at 8 p.m. Dean Christopher I. Byrnes, Ph.D., will present the awards.

Alumni Achievement Award recipients are: Dale H. Besterfield, Richard E. Pinckert, John L. Stein and David F. Winter.

Mathew M. Thomas will receive the Young Alumni Award, and William A. Peck, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, will receive the 2003 Dean's Award.

Besterfield (B.S., industrial engineering, 1953) will be recognized for his many contributions in the field of quality control, his work in higher education and his community service.

In 1962, Besterfield was employed by the College of Engineering at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC). He spent the next 29 years earning a doctorate, teaching undergraduate and graduate students and publishing articles and books.

Since retiring from SIUC, Besterfield has concentrated on consulting activities, revising textbooks and volunteering.

Pinckert (B.S., chemical engineering, 1962) will be recognized for his accomplishments in the aviation field, particularly his pio-

neering work in environmental technology.

Pinckert joined McDonnell Douglas Corp. in 1968 as a strength engineer. He became a nationally recognized expert in fracture mechanics. In 1993, Pinckert created the environmental assurance division.

Pinckert is frequently invited to speak at national and international conferences on environmental technology. He now is Boeing Co.'s director of design integration and environmental assurance.

Stein (B.S., chemical engineering, 1967; M.S., environmental and sanitary engineering, 1969) will be recognized for his professional achievements in environmental engineering and his commitment to environmental excellence.

In 1970, Stein began a 32-year career with Anheuser-Busch, becoming the company's first environmental engineer. In 1972, as the nation began enacting a series of environmental statutes, Stein became responsible for ensuring the company's compliance.

In retirement, Stein pursues a lifelong interest in railroads and railroad history.

Winter (B.S., electrical engineering, 1942) will be recognized for his professional accomplishments in the electronics field, particularly his work in addressing the problem of "stray voltage."

He taught electrical engineering at the University from 1948-1954. With William K. Dick, he patented an electronic grounding system to mitigate the detrimental

effects of stray voltage on cattle.

From 1954-1974, Winter was vice president of engineering and research at Moloney Electric. And from 1974-1986, he was an administrator at International Telephone and Telegraph's Blackburn Division.

Thomas (B.S., 1985, M.S., 1989, Ph.D., 1995, all in chemical engineering; B.S., data processing, 1988) will receive the Young Alumni Award in recognition of his professional achievements and his work in promoting research partnerships between the School of Engineering & Applied Science and Boeing.

His technical interests involve composite bonding applications. His administrative responsibilities involve the cross-promotion of technology between academia and Boeing.

Peck will receive the Dean's Award in recognition of his many professional achievements in the medical field, his unwavering resolve in supporting collaborations between the School of Medicine and the School of Engineering & Applied Science, and his commitment to improving the human condition.

In 1989, he became vice chancellor for medical affairs, dean of the School of Medicine and president of the Washington University Medical Center. He became executive vice chancellor in 1993.

Peck's academic activities include original investigations in bone and mineral metabolism (resulting in 100 scientific publications), extensive clinical teaching and patient-care experience.

Record

Washington University community news

Editor Kevin M. Kiley
Associate Editor Andy Clendennen
Assistant Editor Neil Schoenherr
Associate Vice Chancellor Judith Jasper Leicht
Executive Editor Susan Killenberg McGinn
Medical News Editor Kimberly Leydig
Production Carl Jacobs

News & Comments
(314) 935-6603
Campus Box 1070
kevin_kiley@aimail.wustl.edu

Medical News
(314) 286-0119
Campus Box 8508
leydigk@msnotes.wustl.edu

Record (USPS 600-430; ISSN 1043-0520), Volume 27, Number 26/April 4, 2003. Published for the faculty, staff and friends of Washington University. Produced weekly during the school year, except school holidays, and monthly during June, July and August by the Office of Public Affairs, Washington University, Campus Box 1070, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130. Periodicals postage paid at St. Louis, MO.

Where to send address changes

Postmaster and nonemployees Record, Washington University, Campus Box 1070, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130.

Employees Office of Human Resources, Washington University, Campus Box 1184, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130.

Washington University in St. Louis

Washington People

Last year, Walter W. Davis Jr.'s staff processed 4.16 million pieces of mail, received 280,978 deliveries, contracted for \$3 million in services — and used enough trash bags to reach from St. Louis to Oklahoma City, if tied end-to-end.

And those are just a few of the department's responsibilities. Collectively, the staff manages 4.3 million square feet of labs, clinical areas, classrooms, office buildings and parking facilities on the 40-acre Medical Campus.

"I like the thrill of making it all happen," says Davis, the medical school's assistant dean for facilities and chief facilities officer in the facilities management department. "But it's not about me. It's about the 300 or so employees, all with different talents and skills, being brought together so they can support the School of Medicine in all respects."

Plaques highlighting employees of the year and other honorees line the walls of Davis' office. They remind him that world-class results are best achieved through teamwork, which he considers the cornerstone of his success.

"Walt is the least egotistical person I know," says Denise McCartney, associate vice chancellor for research administration. "When he manages an organization, he's really interested in making sure that his staff's accomplishments are recognized."

William A. Peck, M.D., execu-



Tracy Brodt (left), microbiological and laboratory safety manager in environmental health and safety, explains the features of a full-faced chemical respirator to Walter W. Davis Jr., the School of Medicine's assistant dean for facilities and chief facilities officer in the facilities management department. The respirators are used as emergency protective equipment in laboratories.

By DIANE DUKE WILLIAMS

Leading by example

As chief facilities officer in the School of Medicine, Walter W. Davis Jr. insists that teamwork is the cornerstone to success

utive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the medical school, adds: "Walt Davis' knowledge, experience and leadership have combined to secure and sharply enhance the medical school's facilities and infrastructure. He is wonderful with his people — effectively motivating them to do their best. I am most grateful to him for these accomplishments."

Davis' staff has been divided into six divisions, including administrative services, business operations, design and construction, the physical plant, protective services and environmental health and safety, which recently became an institution-wide program under the direction of Michael R. Cannon, executive vice chancellor and general counsel.

In addition to his team, Davis manages a \$50 million annual capital construction budget and a \$30 million operating budget. Since he joined the University, he has been involved in the construction of a handful of new buildings, including the Eric P. Newman Education Center and the McDonnell Pediatric Research Building.

His days are often varied. In between addressing a problem in the physical plant and rushing off to a Building and Grounds Committee meeting on the Hilltop Campus, he

might be checking on a faucet that's running full tilt.

To provide facilities management for one of the nation's most highly regarded medical schools is a tall order. And Davis and his team are always trying to improve the process.

"The excitement is that there's so much we can still do — we can always go higher," he says.

Lee Fetter, former associate vice chancellor for administration and finance and chief operating officer at the medical school, recruited Davis to the University. For Davis, he says, reaching this year's goals just means raising the bar to establish loftier ones.

"He's the embodiment of continuous quality improvement," adds Fetter, now president of St. Louis Children's Hospital and senior executive officer of BJC HealthCare.

Known for his honesty, high standards and strong self-discipline, Davis also is a hard person to surprise, says Richard A. Roloff, executive vice chancellor.

"He's always thinking and always thinking ahead," Roloff says. "Walt has brought a degree of professionalism to the facilities area at the medical school that has been of tremendous benefit to the whole University."

"The planning he does has saved the University a lot of money — things happen on time and within budget."

Always on the move

Davis, whose father was an officer in the U.S. Army, was born in the Panama Canal Zone. Before he graduated from high school, he attended 10 schools and lived in 12 states — some as many as three times. Three years of high school in Berlin, which was behind the Iron Curtain at the time, was a great experience for him.

"I always enjoyed the diversity of different parts of Europe and of the United States and meeting new people," Davis says. "Moving around really was a very expansive experience, and I think it trans-

lates well to the various cultures and people at the School of Medicine."

As a child, Davis focused on academics and sports and always dreamed of going to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He also wanted to learn to fly — another dream that would come true.

After graduating from West Point in 1964, Davis went to flight school and then flew surveillance missions over Vietnam for a year.

Two years after returning from Vietnam, he left the Army to work in manufacturing operations for Johnson & Johnson in New Brunswick, N.J.

"It was a very high-charged, very demanding environment," Davis says. "It was well-suited for the background that I had."

After several promotions, he became facility manager for the corporate headquarters. He also earned a master of business administration degree in management science in 1978 from Fairleigh Dickinson University in East Rutherford, N.J.

Davis was then recruited to the former Ralston Purina Co. headquarters in St. Louis, where he traveled the world, consulting to operating divisions.

"The principles are universal," Davis says. "You have to know how to walk into a plant-engineering or facilities-management organization, understand quickly what's going on and then be able to come back and say what needs to be done to improve the performance."

He then served five years as director of Ralston Property Management, where he managed all support services for the company's corporate headquarters, before joining the medical school.

Inspiring leadership

Some of the leadership skills he was taught at West Point have helped him along the way, Davis explains.

"I think leading is a step beyond managing an organization," he says. "There's a quality of being able to do something with a purpose and leading people in a more inspired way."

Roloff says everyone who comes into contact with Davis has

enormous respect for him.

"He's a man of excellent character," Roloff says. "Davis leads by example and is a man that, without going to any great lengths, can inspire the people around him to follow."

In his private life, Davis and Virginia, his wife of 37 years, have two children and two grandchildren. Daughter Deborah is a public-relations consultant and lives in Portland, Ore., with her husband, son and daughter. And son Byron frequently travels in his job as a site coordinator for a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C.

Davis and his wife enjoy and support the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, the St. Louis Children's Choirs and the Missouri Botanical Garden. They also enjoy art films.

He reads a wide array of books, ranging from management texts to biographies.

Joseph A. Kanabrocki, Ph.D., biological safety officer and assistant director in environmental health and safety, calls Davis the perfect boss.

"He really wants your opinions and is open-minded about different ways to do things," Kanabrocki says.

"But most of all, it's his support. He really does stand behind his people. It does a great deal for morale. There's truly a sense that we're all in this together."

Walter W. Davis Jr.

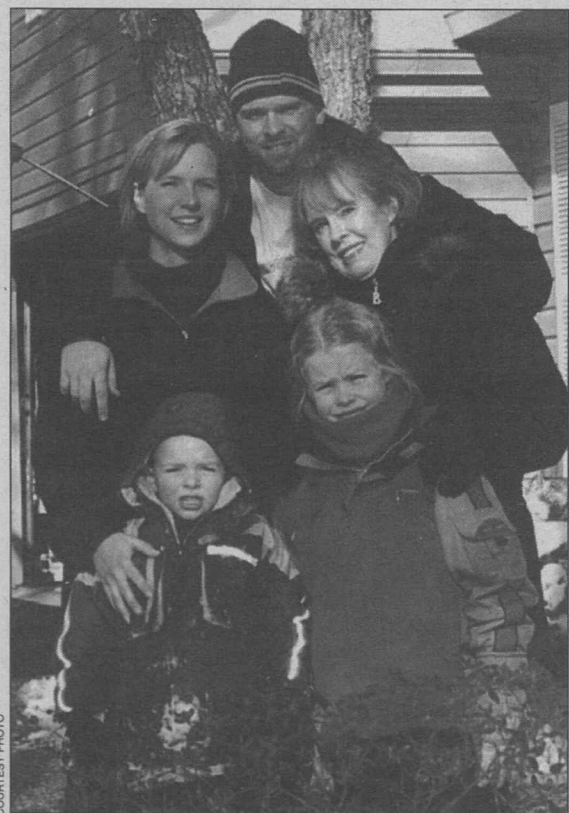
University title: Assistant dean for facilities and chief facilities officer in the facilities management department

Degrees: B.S. in engineering from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point (1964); M.B.A. in management science from Fairleigh Dickinson University (1978)

Family: Wife Virginia; son Byron, daughter Deborah; grandchildren Carson and Cassidy

Hobbies: Reading, attending the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra and The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis

Years at the University: 11



Walt Davis' family: (in back, from left) daughter Deborah, son Byron, wife Virginia and (in front, from left) grandchildren Carson and Cassidy.