It's the most wonderful time of the year

BY ANDY CLENDENNEN

No more all-nighters. No more Thurtene Carnivals. No more homecoming weekend festivities. At least, not as students.

The world awaits. Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton will confer degrees at the 146th Commencement ceremony, which begins at 8:30 a.m. May 18 in Brookings Quadrangle. The 2,622 candidates will receive 2,735 degrees, of which 1,467 are undergraduate and 1,268 are graduate and professional.

There are 558 doctoral candidates, comprising 108 for the doctor of philosophy degree from the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, two for the doctor of science degree from the Graduate School of Engineering & Applied Science, 242 for the juris doctoris degrees from the School of Law, two for the juris scientia doctoris degrees from the School of Medicine.

In the event of rain, Commencement still will take place in the Quad. If the weather turns violent, the ceremony for undergraduates will be moved to the Athletic Complex, and graduate and professional degrees will be bestowed at each respective school's Commencement reception (see listing on page 4).

Streaming video of the ceremony will be broadcast online at commencement.wustl.edu. The Webcast can be viewed in Room 110 of January Hall and in Rooms 100 (wheelchair accessible) and 118 of Brown Hall.

Tim Russert, managing editor and moderator of NBC’s “Meet the Press” and political analyst for NBC’s Nightly News and the “Today” show, will deliver the Commencement Address. The title of Russert’s speech is “A View From Washington.”

Russert also anchors The Tim Russert Show, a weekly interview program on CNBC, acts as a contributing anchor for MSNBC, and is senior vice president and Washington bureau chief of NBC News. He was a former radio anchorman and has three honorary degrees from WUSTL.

Russert, who joined NBC News in 1984, is no stranger to the campus. He covered the three presidential debates WUSTL has hosted since 1992.

The May 18 Commencement celebrates 2,622 graduates. The ceremony begins at 8:30 a.m. in Brookings Quadrangle.

Spirited student speaker wants to ‘soak it all in’

BY NEIL SCHOENHERR

"I think WUSTL is the best place we could ever have chosen to go to school," said senior Ryon Buchman. "I hope we can look back 10 years from now and remember everything we've accomplished here, because we've accomplished a lot." Appropriate words, given Buchman’s role as this year’s student Commencement speaker.

Buchman, treasurer of the senior class, is a candidate for bachelor's degrees in computer science and computer engineering in the School of Engineering & Applied Science.

"I've always loved logical problem-solving," Buchman said. "After taking some computer science courses in high school, I decided that's what I would major in. The courses here have been fantastic.

In fact, the Dallas native enjoyed his time at the University so much, he's decided to stick around. He plans to complete an MBA from the John M. Olin School of Business this May.

While he loves computers, he realized in his junior year that he didn't necessarily want to sit in front of one and program for the rest of his life. He hopes the business degree, coupled with his interest in computers, will lead to more opportunities.

"I thought that a business degree would be the perfect fit," he said. "It will allow me to go into the project..."

Buchman

Two faculty elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences

BY GERRY EVERDING AND MICHAEL C. PURDY

Two University professors have been elected fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The new fellows are Helen M. Piwnica-Worms, Ph.D., professor of cell biology and physiology and of internal medicine at the School of Medicine, and Murray L. Weidenbaum, Ph.D., the Edward Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor in Arts & Sciences, professor of economics and honorary chairman of the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government and Public Policy.

"I am delighted to have two of our outstanding faculty receive this tremendous honor," Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said. "Professors Weidenbaum and Piwnica-Worms are two dedicated scholars, and this recognition is well-deserved. This achievement symbolizes the good fortune that we have in attracting premier faculty."

Piwnica-Worms

Washington People: Syverud has a strategic plan for the School of Law

BY ANDY CLENDENNEN

It's the most wonderful time of the year...
Six nonprofits win innovation awards

BY SHELA NEUMAN

Each year, the Edison Theatre OVATIONS Series presents projects that explore new ideas and showcase innovative artists working to develop, challenge, educate and inspire.

The 2007-08 season — the Edison’s 25th — will highlight the interdisciplinary, multicultural and the experimental through a mix of returning favorites and St. Louis premiers.

“This season is about breaking down boundaries between genres and disciplines,” said Charles Robin, executive director of Edison Theatre. “We have events that move rock with opera, jazz with tango, theater with dance, film and even radio broadcast.”

“Traditional art forms are expanded,” he continued. “Classical works are re-imagined. Contemporary styles find new expression. For me, that’s what the Edison is all about.”


Feb. 15, The Campbell Brothers and Louisiana Blues Throwdown present “suck Fog,” an exploration of the gospel roots of New Orleans jazz. The Campbell Brothers are grand masters of sacred storm, a little-known African-American gospel tradition built around the pentatonic scale and Blue/Blues Throwdown, led by slide legend Marc Stone, is an all-star band featuring veteran masters and rising talents from the Gulf Coast music scene.

Feb. 29-March 1, Cuba/Ci, Ireland’s acclaimed contemporary dance company presents “Knobs,” a series of high-octane works based on the writings of psychoanalyst and couples therapist R.D. Laing.


The season concludes May 2 with the East Village Opera Company’s premiere of “The Miramonte,” a new opera by Atwood, which explores the tensions of failure, loss and the search for personal dignity.

Tickets for OVATIONS events are $30; $25 for seniors, faculty and staff and $18 for students and children. Tickets for ova- tions for young people events are $8. Subscriptions are available for both series.

For more information, call 935-6543 or visit www.edisontheatre.com.

Softball team heads to CWS for first time ever

The softball team has advanced to the College World Series for the first time, after defeating No. 17 Wartburg College, 2-0, at the 2007 NCAA Regional May 13 in Bloomington, Ind.

Junior Laura D’Andrea added two Tournament Team hits in the victory.

RECORD

The No. 13 Softball team is headed to the NCAA Tournament after defeating Wartburg, 2-0, in the Regional May 13 in Decorah, Iowa.

Laurel Sagartz threw her fourth complete game of the regional, at 6:30 p.m. May 18 at the James Madison Theatre brings its whirling mix of gymnastics and theater to campus Jan. 12.

Season promises artistic adaptation in music, dance, theater

Baseball team returns to NCAA Tournament

The baseball team returns to the College World Series for the first time, after defeating No. 17 Wartburg College, 2-0, at the 2007 NCAA Regional in Bloomington, Ind.

Female athletes have won two NCAA championships and have won 22 straight games, which is the winningest streak in the nation.

The Bears are seeded No. 4. The Bears played their final eight games to secure its place in the NCAA Tournament.

In defeating Wartburg, senior Laurel Fink has partnered with more than 45 designers from six countries to create an artistic and functional design.

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Teen gets prosthetic ear after accident

BY DIANE DUKE WILLIAMS

Like any 17-year-old, Emily Gravenhorst follows a routine of eating and school. But one day she was thrown through the rear window of her car after hitting a telephone pole. She also lost her ear about a year ago when she was thrown through the rear window of her car after hitting a telephone pole. And just before she leaves, she puts on her right ear. That ear was created in the School of Medicine's maxillofacial prosthetics laboratory, where a dental specialist, and a technician helped patients fit back into society after disfigurement due to accident or disease.

Spouse may 'drive you to drink' but also protect you from alcohol

BY JIM DRYDEN

Men and women at risk for alcohol dependence are more likely to marry others who are also at risk, School of Medicine investigators found. But that doesn't necessarily mean that both spouses will be problem drinkers.

Although alcoholism is a common, among partners of alcoholics than among partners of non-alcoholics, because alcoholism is not a random process, and we call this non-random mating. People tend to choose mates that are similar to them, not only from the same neighborhood or social background, but also in like in personality and other behaviors. We found that people at risk for alcohol dependence, and their partners, are at risk.

Alcohol dependence is influenced not only by genetic and environmental factors. A genetic influence means that a person is more likely to develop alcoholism if his or her family members have also developed alcoholism. It also means that a person is more likely to develop alcoholism if his or her family members have also developed alcoholism. It also means that a person is more likely to develop alcoholism if his or her family members have also developed alcoholism. It also means that a person is more likely to develop alcoholism if his or her family members have also developed alcoholism.

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A team of researchers from the University of Washington in Seattle and the Queensland Institute of Medical Research in Brisbane, Australia, studied 1,074 twins born between 1902 and 1944 who were part of the Australian Twin Register. They also spoke with 3,861 of those twins.

Programs prepare trainees for patient-oriented research

BY GWEN ERICSON

Two recently initiated School of Medicine programs will grant degrees and certificates this year to their first classes. The Mentored Training Program in Clinical Investigation (MTPI) and the Pre-Dental Dental Assisting Clinical Research Training Program (PDCRTP) are preparing the next generation of clinical researchers.

In addition to specialized medical education, research training and clinical trial research training physicians and dentists need to study research design, statistical analysis, data management, and ethical and legal issues. The Division of Clinical Sciences, part of the Biomedical 2 initiative, provides students with this essential framework of knowledge.

For 27 years, W. Donald Gay, M.D., D.D.S., associate professor of otolaryngology, and Ann Vitale, maxillofacial prosthetics techni-
University Events

New Horizons • Jazz • Pain Management

Thursday, June 14
9 a.m. Seminar Series. Ted Giordano, dir., School of Medicine, develop and validate new tests to identify patients with a high risk of developing cognitive impairment or alzheimer's disease. Location: Small Conference Room, School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo.

10:30 a.m. Seminar Series. Charlie Cotman, prof. of neurobiology, School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. Topic: "The Role of Tau Protein in Alzheimer's Disease." Location: Small Conference Room, School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo.

11 a.m. Seminar Series. Nadine Schretlen, assoc. prof. of psychiatry, School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. Topic: "The Neurocognitive and Behavioral Changes Associated with Aging." Location: Small Conference Room, School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo.

12:15 p.m. Seminar Series. J. David Sweatt, assoc. prof. of pharmacology, Institute for Genomic Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. Topic: "Recent Advances in Our Understanding of the Molecular Basis of Memory." Location: Small Conference Room, School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo.

1 p.m. Seminar Series. William J. Hauser, assoc. prof. of pediatrics, School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. Topic: "The Role of the Vagus Nerve in the Regulation of Gut Function." Location: Small Conference Room, School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo.

2:30 p.m. Seminar Series. John T. Sweeney, prof. of pharmacology, Institute for Genomic Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. Topic: "The Role of the Vagus Nerve in the Regulation of Gut Function." Location: Small Conference Room, School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo.

3 p.m. Seminar Series. J. David Sweatt, assoc. prof. of pharmacology, Institute for Genomic Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. Topic: "Recent Advances in Our Understanding of the Molecular Basis of Memory." Location: Small Conference Room, School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo.

4 p.m. Seminar Series. William J. Hauser, assoc. prof. of pediatrics, School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. Topic: "The Role of the Vagus Nerve in the Regulation of Gut Function." Location: Small Conference Room, School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo.

On Stage

Saturday, May 19

8:15 p.m. OVATIONS! Series. Donna Rivera, surgical nurse. Cost: $25; $20 for seniors, birthday and students. Location: Young Auditorium, McDonnell Medical Sciences Building, Rm. 8102. 286-0432.

Submissions

The next issue of the News will be dated June 14. Deadline for "University Events" submissions is noon June 7.

Fellows

New members will be inducted in full fall — Page 1

who have made pre-eminent contributions to their disciplines and to society at large.

This year's new fellows and honorary members from around the world will be welcomed during an Oct. 1 induction ceremony at the academy's headquarters in Cambridge, Mass.

Physica-Women joined the faculty in 1994 and soon became a professor. She also is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator.

Her research has transformed and refined scientists' view of how the cell regulates its own life cycle. She has helped show how mechanisms known as checkpoint interfaces with the cell cycle machinery to delay the cell's program through its life stages. The delays provide cells with important opportunities to inspect their DNA for damage; if damage is detected, cells can attempt to repair it or self-destruct to prevent that damage from leading to cancer.

The insights Physica-Women's lab has generated already have given rise to bench to bedside, inspiring and enabling clinical trials for innovative new cancer treatments.

This achievement symbolizes the good fortune we have had at Washington University in attracting premier faculty.

Mark S. Wrighton
By Steve Givens

Jessica L. "Jess" Friedman may not know where she'll be by five years, but no one can doubt her navigational skills. Between her sailing abilities, GPS mapping systems experience and a hunch developed since a place and purpose, she'll get wherever she's headed.

Friedman, who grew up in Danville, Calif., plans to graduate with a bachelor's degree in earth and planetary sciences in Arts & Sciences and an impressive list of awards and accomplishments, including twice receiving the distinguished Morris R. Udall Scholarship and an honorable mention on USA Today's 2007 All-USA College Academic Team.

Along the way, her educational experience on campus as part of the Pathfinder Program for Environmental Stewardship in Arts & Science has been augmented by a number of off-campus and international educational and research opportunities.

Those opportunities included an "education at sea" experience that took her to the South Pacific, an interdisciplinary course to study geological and ecological processes in the Mojave Desert and two summers (and an honors thesis) studying soil loss in Croatia.

She already has contributed to several professional presentations on soil erosion with her mentors in the earth and planetary sciences, who recognized her abilities early on.

"Jess has a wide-ranging mind and a real passion not just for the acquisition of knowledge, but for its application," says Jennifer R. Friedman, who grew up in Indiana, Iran, he would not have gone to college at all.

The Islamic government imposes restrictions on members of Yousefi's Baha'i Faith. The religion arose in Iran in mid-19th century and, next to Islam, is the second most popular religion in Iran with 300,000 members in that country and 6 million worldwide. While Jews and Christians can seek higher education in Iran, Baha'is cannot.

"I felt this persecution since childhood," Yousefi says. "They view our religion as the last one to arise after Islam, and they think there should not be any religion after Muhammad."

"I am not talking about Muslims," he adds. "I have many Muslim friends. I'm talking about the Iranian government."

In the revolution of 1979, fundamentalists confiscated Baha'i property and killed more than 200 Baha'i, Yousefi says. His father, like many Baha'is, lost his job.

To survive, the elder Yousefi bought a truck and began delivering fuel oil. Yousefi's older brother became a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

He told his college adviser, Sandra Knight, that he wanted to get a degree in electrical engineering. He eyed Washington University early on but ruled it out as too expensive. Then, Knight suggested something that caught Yousefi's eye.

"She encouraged me to apply here and to seek out and to learn about scholarships," Yousefi says. "She said there were lots of opportunities here."

In the process of seeking scholarships, he was interviewed for a special award: the Elizabeth Gray Danforth Scholarship.

Offered through the Women's Society of Washington University and named for the University's First Lady for 24 years, the Elizabeth Gray Danforth, the scholarship goes to junior college transfer students.

Yousefi earned the scholarship. "I was overjoyed to get the scholarship," says Yousefi, who will receive a bachelors in electrical engineering from the School of Engineering & Applied Science. "I so much want to thank the Women's Society of Washington University. Without them, I never would have studied here. They really made my dream come true." Yousefi finds the campus beautiful and the faculty friendly and challenging: "He has overcome so much already," O'Sullivan adds. "I have confidence he will represent our University well."
**Creativity drives Bartholomew to make ordinary extraordinary**

By Cynthia George

For as long as he can remember, Mark Bartholomew has loved working with his hands. As a child, he played with the tools in the family garage and always came up with new projects crafted from recycled materials. Later, he considered practicing medicine. "I spent a lot of time studying anatomy," he says, "but I could not escape my creative tendencies and needs."

When it came time to head to college, Bartholomew left his hometown of Worland, Wyo., a small farming community in the foothills of the Big Horn Mountains, knowing exactly what he wanted to do: build a career in art. "I view art as a functional, fundamental human behavior," he says.

Bartholomew's approach to making art mirrors his views. He transforms everyday objects — candy, balls, grains of rice, toy figurines — by making molds from them and casting them into new ceramic forms.

"The original objects are destroyed and re-emerge as art objects, stripped of their function, in a permanent clay-fired form," he says.

The finishes on the works reflect the colors of the landscape of Bartholomew's youth: painted deserts, old farm buildings, weathered fences, bandoned rock and eroding canyons. He spends so much time in the studios of the Lewis Center and Walker Hall, he calls them "my second homes."

Bartholomew finds time for other pursuits. "Washington University has a full-fledged school of art, but it comes with a full university," he says. "I know I would be able to explore other interests here and get a well-rounded education."

When asked how he has changed in the past four years, Bartholomew muses, "I've gotten older."

When Doxen's question, you learn a bit more."

"What has impressed me most about Mark's development is his continued focus," says Doxen, visiting assistant professor in the Sam Fox School. "He is a generous, humble and reflective person. From his internship in my studio as a sophomore to his service trip to Africa as a senior, he has given much of himself."

"From the physical work, we spent time with the people to learn the Malawian way of life," Bartholomew says. He also has made trips to

**Gwynn is making up for lost time in a big way**

By Andy Clendenen

For someone who didn't exactly know what he wanted to do after college as recently as his junior year, Kendrick Gwynn sure has figured out a plan in a hurry.

Gwynn, a biology major in Arts & Sciences who will receive a bachelor's degree, May 18 from the University of Maryland, says, "My mentor was an epidemiologist, and I worked with her doing basic studies of race and ethnicity in medicine. One year, I researched race and ethnicity and pharmaceutical drugs, and the following year, I looked at race and ethnicity and how it's perceived and used in society."

"The other experience was volunteering for the non-profit free clinic Community Health-In-Partnership Services on North Grand Boulevard in St. Louis. The clinic provides primary care, health care access to student employees, and support groups for the underserved and uninsured."

"It's a very holistic model," he says, "and I wanted to do something with that, perhaps with public health."

According to Gwynn, his two older siblings are doctors, "so I was somewhat undecided about my future, I helped to see those less fortunate."

"And that helped make mapping out a plan much easier, at least for now."

"I'm not exactly sure what I want to do with it yet, but I know I want to do something with health disparities," Gwynn says. "When I spent the two summers in the University of Maryland research program, I went to seminars and saw how big the problem was. Just within this country alone, there is a big gap between people who don't have health insurance and those who do, and it's not just based on race."

"That's one of the reasons I want to get a dual degree," he continues. "If you have an MPH alone, you don't have as much say as if you have the M.D. too. I think you can make a lot more change if you have both of those degrees. Also, if you are a doctor, you are trained to deal specifically with the patient, whereas in public health, you are trained to deal with the population as a whole."

"Plus, I've always had an interest in doing a socially active thing," he adds.

Which was evident from his days at the McDonough School in Owings Mills, Md., where he did a grassroots effort to make his school's response to hurtful acts. "Kendrick's modest sense of self helped to create an atmosphere of social change and compassionate dialogue. Kendrick really understands the concept of teamwork," she adds. "It fits in with the suit of the truth. He's organized, focused, goal-oriented. Kendrick has a powerful passion for equality and justice."

"Gwynn" appears to have found the right path. **WRU**
Westbrooks seeks a different kind of ‘green’

By Shula Neuman

M ost boys dream of being professional baseball players— to play for Westbrooks dreams of owning a baseball team. And not just any team — Westbrooks plans to own the St. Louis Cardinals.

“Most people think baseball sounds grandiose, but Westbrooks’ self-confidence and ability make it believable to do anything he sets his mind to,” says his mentor and coworker, Kimberly Walker, OTD.

When Westbrooks entered the University of Missouri-Columbia’s Olin Business School, he was initially skeptical of his ability to study occupational therapy. And he flourished.

“Westbrooks joined forces with me — at least not prior to starting his career,” says Walker, who will receive an MBA May 18. “I worked in the financial services industry and studied on mutual funds and mutual funds for a while. But I knew I wanted to be an entrepreneur, and I wanted harder skills like finance and accounting — skills that could help me put together a business plan and attract startup capital.”

Westbrooks wasn’t sure what kind of venture he wanted to start at least not prior to starting business school. Then, he came across an article on green building and sustainability that pointed him in the right direction.

“Building green is a capitalist endeavor,” Westbrooks says. “There are lots of ways where saving the environment can be quantified and turned into real dollars. I’m going to do it through real estate development.”

Soon after starting at the John M. Olin School of Business, Westbrooks joined forces with classmates David Ramirez to found Natural Capital. The company’s first project is developing 15 energy-efficient, market-rate homes in the Old North St. Louis neighborhood.

The plan has generated a good deal of excitement. The pair entered several business-plan competitions, making it to the finals of the Olin Venture Competition and winning the William James Foundation competition for socially responsible businesses.

The St. Louis native believes Natural Capital is about two years from having all the homes built and sold. “As with Westbrooks’ vision of owning the Cardinals, it’s difficult to imagine that Natural Capital won’t succeed,” says Walker.

“He’s very result-oriented,” she recalls tearfully. “It’s scary to venture out on your own,” Westbrooks says. “I’ve spent my entire life working on Natural Capital. A lot of my summers are spent laying town for nice jobs, but that’s not for me. This is a dream I’ve already reaped the rewards personally. I think it’s just a matter of time before I can enjoy the financial rewards.”

Westbrooks didn’t stop there. He entered the Olin Cup Competition, making it to the finals of the Olin Cup Competition, and set his mind to.

As an MBA candidate, Stephen Westbrooks and a classmate founded Natural Capital and developed plans for energy-efficient homes for a North St. Louis neighborhood. After graduating, Westbrooks plans to continue the venture and expects to have all the homes built and sold in about two years.

“Having a disability doesn’t mean that you have to stop doing things,” she says. “You do things a little differently, or you do different things.”

For Walker, it is the right career choice. “Occupational therapy is what I wanted to do sooner or later,” says Walker’s mentor David Gray, Ph.D.

Kimberly A. Walker, OTD (right), works in the Enabling Mobility Center at Paraplegic with patient Lindsey Ervin. Walker, a December 2006 graduate, has personal experience with a mobility limitation, which taught her that assistive technologies can be the difference between participating in activities and being left out.

“From police work to therapy, Walker helps others learn the importance of seeing with others,” Westbrooks says. “I’ve spent my entire life working on Natural Capital. A lot of my summers are spent laying town for nice jobs, but that’s not for me. This is a dream I’ve already reaped the rewards personally. I think it’s just a matter of time before I can enjoy the financial rewards.”

By Beth Miller

Kimberly A. Walker, OTD, is a perfect example of the saying, “If you want something badly, you’ll find a way to make it happen.”

Walker, who earned a doctorate in occupational therapy in December, has exemplified the spirit of determination since she was a child.

“I’m going to do it through real estate development,” she says. “You do things a little differently, or you do different things.”

Walker’s story began when she was a child.

At age 17, she told the owner she wanted to be a pharmacist, Walker’s life was instantly changed when she found out that she had diabetes. She quickly realized that wasn’t what she wanted.

Several years later, she joined the critical-incident stress response team. And not just any team — Westbrooks’ critical-incident stress response team.

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Walker, who earned a doctorate in occupational therapy in December, has exemplified the spirit of determination since birth, a difficult one in which her parents were stillborn, and Walker was left with cerebral palsy. But she has never let it get in her way.

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“Having a disability doesn’t mean that you have to stop doing things,” she says. “You do things a little differently, or you do different things.”

For Walker, it is the right career choice. “Occupational therapy is what I wanted to do sooner or later,” says Walker’s mentor David Gray, Ph.D.
When one thinks of college students, a typical image might come to mind. However, Kato’s story serves as a reminder that there are many paths to success. Kato, a native of Japan, completed a residency at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in 2004, will receive a doctor of law degree at the May School of Law, and is planning to enroll in journalism classes. She plans to use her educational experience to become a “cultural bridge” and create greater awareness of her homeland and its people.

McDonnell Scholar Kato takes on medicine and law

When one thinks of challenging careers, law and medicine might quickly come to mind. Not a problem for Ryoutaro Kato, M.D. Kato, who completed a three-year residency in internal medicine at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in 2004, will receive a doctor of law degree at the May 18 Commencement ceremony. Born in Tokyo, Kato graduated from high school in Maryland after moving there in eighth grade. He returned to Tokyo in 1991 to begin his medical studies.

“Ryotaro Kato promises to be a role model,” says Wertsch. “Most people think of conflict, but that can start after she gets a little rest this summer. There are many people around the world who have the courage to go their way, and Kato is one of them. She is a superpower, and most Americans over here don’t know how brave the world’s people want to use their words. But that can start after she gets a little rest this summer. It is something I want to use my voice for, and people — of the Middle East.

There are lots of stories untold, especially dealing with conflict,” Kato says. “I see a lot of conflict in the world based on not knowing the cultures of the people. I can imagine myself as being a good cultural bridge. A May news release said, ‘Not everyone seems to be aware of customs. It’s not easy news, and it’s something that makes me upset. I wish I could work toward fixing that.’

I want to bring viewers and readers closer to the issues and the situations and give them more awareness about the reality,” she continues. “If Americans know more about the culture and get to know those people, that would bring a big change. For example, when I was in Afghanistan, there were a lot of pro-American people — a big part of the communities.

But America doesn’t know that because the media has generalized the issue of terrorism so much and made it a big, big issue,” she says. “America is not a superpower on a global scale, and the media goes all over the world. Americans,” she adds. “They have a great expectation of the future, and most Americans over here don’t know how brave the world’s people want to use their voices. I see lots of stories untold, especially dealing with conflict. It’s something that makes me upset. I wish I could work toward fixing that.”

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Schupanitz hits high notes with music and studies

BY ANDY CLAENDENEN

Miss Clyde was raised to give back to her Navajo homeland. Her Rainmaker maternal grandmother's inspiration and hope for her family is to "keep the fire going." This guiding vision is Clyde's holistic path to becoming an agent of change.

In that vein, Clyde will receive her college degree May 18 — Schupanitz is one of only 20 students in the nation to receive the Beinecke in 2010.

"The Beinecke Scholarship committee recognized a great and well-devel-

"led vote of confidence in Andy," says Ian MacMullen, Ph.D., assistant pro-

Recent activities working as an intern in the social work field, including internships with the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) in Port-

タイミng the 'great books' of Western civilization," he adds. 

"I knew after a month of working with my Navajo people that I wanted to be a social worker," she says.

Two years of work with the Navajo Nation was followed by two years as a treatment coor-

"We are all related." 

"I feel like I'm in the right place." 

"I feel comfortable at NICWA because we are teach-

"As soon as I learned more about NICWA in class, I knew it was the place I wanted to be." 

"I feel like I'm in the right place."
Wong works to rebuild New Orleans neighborhood

BY CYNTHIA GEORGES

The first person in her family to pursue a university degree, Heike Polster has come a long way from the spunky, inquisitive girl in Bergisch Gladbach, Germany, who wanted all of “it” to become a sculptor’s wife,” she says. She was frequent trips to the library that expanded her horizons. “I spent so much time there,” she recalls, “that my parents probably should have paid them.”

For Polster, who receives a degree in German language and literature from the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences May 18, timing is everything. She launched her academic career with a body of research on how we think of and perceive time.

“The dissertation stage is tough for us,” Polster says of her convivial group of doctoral colleagues. “Essentially, we sit by ourselves and write a book.”

Polster’s “book” examines how narrators and aesthetic images probe philosophical concepts of time and space.

“What engages me,” Polster says, “is how experiences such as the Holocaust factor into the cultural narrative that we keep telling ourselves. On the German context, it often is the case of not telling ourselves and keeping silent.”

Such exploration defines who we are, the oddity, and is necessary in the post-modern environment Polster explores who we are, with time on her side

BY LIAM OTTEN

The Hoffman Triangle in New Orleans lies below sea level, sandwiched between the levees of Lake Pontchartrain on the north and the high banks of the Mississippi River to the south. During Hurricane Katrina, floodwaters rose about 9 feet, devastating two-thirds of the neighborhood’s housing.

Yet even before Katrina, “the Hoffman Triangle was facing lots of problems,” says Carolyn Wong, who received her bachelor’s degree in architecture May 18 from the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts’ College of Architecture.

Focusing on situations, vacant land, abandoned properties exacerbated high rates of poverty and crime. “The hurricane just brought these issues more to light,” Wong says.

Wong, along with classmates Rebecca Castellon, who has spent most of the spring semester crafting an ambitious new master plan for the Hoffman Triangle, and蜘蛛!

As part of the architecture studio required for her degree, “New Orleans: Close to Home,” the pair visited the area and spent months developing strategies to address some of the neighborhood’s most pressing problems, while leveraging everything from water management to housing design to energy conservation.

“The Hoffman Triangle is one of the city’s most difficult areas,” Wong says. “But this is a legitimate proposal,” says Derek Hoeferlin, associate director of the studio Inc., one of five firms selected to help design the Unified New Orleans Plan.

“They carefully assessed the extent of damage and dealt with conditions on the ground,” Wong says. “In the German context, it often is the case of not telling ourselves and keeping silent.”

Carolyn Wong creates architectural models of her design for the Hoffman Triangle, a New Orleans neighborhood devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The Ohio native helped devise a plan that would allow the area to supply its own energy and water, with housing constructed using recyclable materials.

For the past two summers, Wong interned with the Cleveland Museum of Art’s Cottage for the Blind, studying how buildings are used — how people occupy them, how they influence local culture.”

Such concerns and an eye toward the future have informed much of Wong’s work on the Hoffman Triangle.

For example, Wong and Castellon address the FEMA guidelines: “Rainy, windy places. The need for raising homes at least two feet above base flood elevation with a kind of terracing, sloping the ground beneath homes upward. Low areas between homes would be linked to a system of retention ponds, which would help control flooding by draining excess water to a nearby pumping station. New designs are designed to capitalize on natural resources, allowing natural light and water ingres.”

“We chose light gauge steel construction because it’s durable, water resistant and termite resistant,” Wong says. “In the event of another hurricane, it can also be recycled.”

“We want to take the entire neighborhood off the grid, meaning that it supplies its own power,” Wong says. “To that end, rainwater is collected and used. We’re using solar power.”

“We have a sense of challenging herself, but also great ability to switch off academic efforts for a moment and do nothing but live a good life,” Koepnick says.

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Ceremony

from Page 1

Russert has interviewed every major world leader and newsmaker in recent political history, including President George W. Bush, former Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, and the president of the German Political Science Association. In 1998, he won the Peabody Award for his coverage of the Kosovo War. In 2000, he received the Edward R. Murrow Award for his interview with Chirac following the OPEC oil embargo.

Russert served a 2005 Edward R. Murrow Award for In-depth Excellence in Television Journalism for his report on the May 2003 elections in Iraq.

Russert received a 2006 Edward R. Murrow Award for In-depth Excellence in Radio Journalism for his interview with Chirac following the OPEC oil embargo.

Russert has been recognized with numerous awards, including the National Association of Broadcasters' Silver Circle Award in 2000 and the Television Academy's Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Directing in a Variety or Music Program in 2003.

Russert has also been honored with several honorary degrees from institutions such as the University of Colorado at Boulder, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Maryland at College Park.

Russert has been inducted into the National Association of Broadcasters' Hall of Fame and was named to the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences' Hall of Fame in 2006.

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of Law develop a 'cohesive identity'

Kent D. Syverud

Thinking strategically

Becoming dean of a law school wasn’t in Kent D. Syverud’s strategic plan. “I don’t believe in taking jobs because the jobs they lead to,” says Syverud, J.D., dean and the Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor at the School of Law. "I believe in taking jobs because they’re the steps that are the most sensible growth experiences for you at the time. I didn’t become a professor to become a dean. I became a professor to become a professor. And I loved each step. I’ve gotten so much from each job I’ve taken.”

Now, Syverud is enjoying planning the future of the law school. “My favorite part of my job right now is thinking strategically how to make this law school the best place to learn to be a lawyer,” Syverud says. “The faculty, staff and students at the law school are amazing, and I think you avoid complacency by refusing to assume that you’ve already fixed every problem and that the only thing you need to do is the same thing you did the year before. You constantly re-examine everything you do and ask how to make it better. That includes what you do in the classroom and what you do outside the classroom.”

Syverud notes that the law school’s plan for the future includes expansion of the faculty, substantial improvement of job opportunities for law students across the nation and the world, investment in interdisciplinary programs with other schools and colleges, development of exciting international programs — particularly in Asia and in Europe — and continued extraordinary attention to student recruitment.

“One of the things that makes Kent such an effective dean is that he has a strategic vision for the law school, and he tries to ensure that all of the programs of the school are contributing toward that vision,” says Daniel L. Keating, J.D., vice dean of the School of Law and the Tyrrell Williams Professor of Law. "The net result of this approach to leadership is that we are developing a cohesive identity as an institution. By working towards the same goal, we are better able to maximize the impact and viability of our faculty’s energy and creativity.”

A homecoming

Before coming to the University, Syverud planned to return to the professor role after spending eight years as dean of Vanderbilt University Law School. Serving on a Northwestern University accreditation team with WUSTL, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton helped convince him otherwise. “I was going to spend a year teaching and writing at Cornell and the University of California, Berkeley and then return to the Vanderbilt faculty, but as things turned out, I gave up the Berkeley position in order to start as dean here,” he says.

“I spent two days with Mark at Northwestern and came to appreciate what a unique leader and person he is, and that made me willing to look at Washington University when the position became available,” he continues. “I had several friends who I’d known over the years who were on the faculty here who worked hard to recruit me, including Dan Keating. The more I looked at St. Louis and at Washington University, the more it seemed like a great opportunity.”

He became dean Jan. 1, 2006. “Kent has been a wonderful addition to the senior leadership team at Washington University,” Wrighton says. “In his short tenure as dean, he has built a strong foundation for our School of Law as one of the premier institutions in the United States. This spring, Kent was instrumental in bringing Chief Justice of the United States John Roberts and former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor to the Danforth Campus.”

According to the dean, the relationship at the law school also gave Syverud the opportunity to return to his geographical roots. “My wife, Ruth Chen, and I grew up on the edges of the Midwest and lived most of my life in the Midwest. So for us, it’s returning home in many ways.”

Chen, Ph.D., is a research trial lawyer in Washington before he decided to enter academia, where he developed an outstanding reputation as a teacher and a scholar in complex litigation, legal education and civil procedure.

“Sandra very much liked returning to the Danforth Campus,” he says. “I’m not one of those people who dislike litigators or the trial process. I enjoy both the competition and the efficacy in it. But then, once I got into my academic career, I just loved teaching and writing.”

Teaching is where Syverud found that he could make a difference through the law. Prior to becoming dean at Vanderbilt law school, he was a professor at University of Michigan Law School.

“We taught five 5,000 students, new to an array of courses, he says. “I think the biggest impact professors have is through the students they teach; and therefore, I think my main impact has been the degree to which I’ve been a good teacher and a demanding teacher.”

Syverud especially has enjoyed teaching at WUSTL.

“I’ve taught five classes so far in the last year-and-a-half, so I’ve already taught several hundred students here,” he says. “They are the best students I’ve taught. They are smart, civil and argumentative, and they want to make a difference in the world. I find that that nourishes me every day. I’ve also enjoyed working with faculty — I’ve just been terrifically impressed by how dedicated they are to the institution.”

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Daniel L. Keating

About Kent D. Syverud

Kent D. Syverud, J.D., looks to the audience to take a question for former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, who visited the Danforth Campus in February at Syverud’s request. Syverud was one of O’Connor’s first clerks when she reached the bench.