New child-care facility to open on North Campus

By Jessica Daues

The University will open a child-care facility on North Campus by the fall 2010 semester, announced Henry S. Webber, executive vice chancellor for administration.

The new child-care center will offer care for 150-175 children ranging in age from 6 weeks to 6 years.

The facility will be open to the children of faculty, staff and students, said Webber, chair of WUSTL’s Child Care Committee, which was formed by the University in 2007 to make recommendations about how to improve child-care options for WUSTL families.

This is an essential investment for the University to remain competitive among its peer institutions, most of which do not offer the use of such a facility to their faculty, staff and students,” Webber said.

“The accessibility of high-quality child-care options close to where parents work is a priority for many faculty, staff and students, and it’s a vital component of an academic community that allows its members to achieve fulfilling work and home lives,” Webber said.

University employees currently have access to child-care facilities at St. Louis Children’s Hospital and the University City Children’s Center (UCCC), and the University operates the Washington University Nursery School on the Danforth Campus. Still, Webber said, the demand for child care exceeds the supply. For example, there is a long waiting list for spots at the UCCC.

With the continued support of the UCCC and nursery school and addition of a child-care facility on North Campus, the WUSTL administration hopes to make child care more accessible to WUSTL employees and students.

“The University’s relationship with the UCCC and the Washington University Nursery School, both exceptional care providers, will continue even after the opening of the new center,” Webber said. “Our goal is to provide an array of high-quality child-care options for University families. Families will be able to choose a program that best suits both the child’s and parents’ needs.”

WUSTL will build a new structure for the child-care facility on North Campus, which will be accessible from the Danforth, West and Medical campuses by car and by Metrolink. The University will finance the construction of the center and subsidize the center’s utilities and maintenance costs, but the day-to-day operations will be fully funded by users. Rates have not yet been set.

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Safer methadone used found for pain and addiction

By Jim Divyen

New findings may significantly improve the safety of methadone, a drug widely used to treat cancer pain and addiction to heroin and other opioid drugs, according to researchers at the School of Medicine and the University of Washington in Seattle.

The researchers discovered that the body processes methadone differently than previously believed. Those incorrect assumptions about methadone have been making it difficult for physicians to understand how and when the drug is cleared from the body and may be responsible for unintentional under- or overdosing, inadequate pain relief, side effects and even death.

For many years, methadone has been a mainstay in the treatment of opioid addiction. Taken orally, it suppresses withdrawal and reduces cravings. Recently, doctors have prescribed methadone more frequently as an effective treatment for acute, chronic and cancer pain.

Unfortunately, increased methadone use for pain has coincided with a significant increase in adverse events and fatalities related to methadone,” said principal investigator Evan D. Khurana, M.D., Ph.D., the Russell D. and Mary B. Shelden Professor and director of the Division of Clinical and Translational Research in Anesthesiology. “The important message is that guidelines used by clinicians to direct methadone therapy may be incorrect.”

Khurana, an anesthesiologist and clinical pharmacologist at the School of Medicine and Barnes-Jewish Hospital, and his team have reported the findings in the March issue of the journal Anesthesiology and online in the Journal Drug and Alcohol Dependence.

The investigators wanted to understand how protease inhibitors, drugs that are used to treat HIV/AIDS, interfere with the metabolism of methadone.

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In the summer of 2008, Crane accompanied Schweich on a trip to the UNODC headquarters in Vienna to discuss concerns facing Mexico and opportunities for the UNODC to build its presence in Central America and the Caribbean.

“I worked closely with Ambassador Schweich in advance of our trip to Vienna to become versed in the challenges that the region faces,” Crane said. “This knowledge was quickly put to use in our visit to Vienna, where I was able to see firsthand the way in which high-level diplomatic meetings are conducted.”

Crane will accompany Schweich for a 3

Women to women Members of the Olin Business School community organize donations to the WUSTL military care package group’s special “Wash U Women to Military Women” collection March 27. Earlier that month, the care package group, which sends care packages of donated items to U.S. troops serving overseas, asked the WUSTL community to donate objects requested by female soldiers serving in Iraq, such as brightly colored towels, fuzzy socks and tea towels. The group collected $495 worth of donations, one-third of which were general items such as snacks, batteries and toiletries, for its largest mailing yet. From left Claire Patterson, administrative assistant; Mary Pat Suenne, assistant director of MBA admissions; Joe Blockman, MBA student; Earl Barnes, computer specialist; and Jackie Slack, graduate business registrar. For more information about the group or to donate, contact Jill Edwards at 935-5623 or jilledwards@wustl.edu.

Law students gain international justice experience

By Jessica Martin

Third-year law students Laura Crane and Dan Tierney will begin their legal careers with a unique foreign policy perspective, thanks to an internship with the law school’s 2008-10 ambassador in residence, Thomas Schweich, J.D.

Schweich, in addition to serving as a visiting professor of law, is working as special representative for Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Crane and Tierney were selected to aid Schweich in preparing for meetings with senior diplomats, politicians and law enforcement officers in the region.

The students conducted research on opportunities for possible UNODC programs in Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean involving international policy and justice issues as well as working to develop potential areas for UNODC involvement with the Merida Initiative.

“The Merida Initiative is a partnership between the United States, Mexico and Central American nations to help stop illegal drug trafficking.”

Los Angeles Times reporter Laura Jan van der Meulen says, ‘There are really a lot of sandbags, a lot of high-level sanctions are in place.’”

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Alumni create socially conscious fellowship program

Pritzker named first 'Birds of Passage' fellow

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

By Barbara Rea

A strong commitment to social justice forged by students at the late 1960s, Washington University alumni are giving back to their campus community by establishing a fellowship program for graduate students willing to tackle St. Louis' toughest urban social problems.

Husband and wife alumni LouiseVeninga Zaricor, together with alumnus George Zimmer and his wife, Lorri, have made a combined gift of $75,000 to create “Birds of Passage: The Zimmer and Veninga-Zaricor Fellowships.” The fellowship will reside in the American Culture Studies Program in Arts & Sciences.

Part of a larger effort to expand American culture and urban studies at WUSTL, the Bird of Passage program will strengthen University ties with the St. Louis region while providing field experience for socially conscious graduate students.

“This gift is given from the heart,” Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said in announcing the gift. “Louise, Ben, George and Lorri share a vision that is fueled by passion and genuine commitment to Washington University’s mission. We are truly fortunate that we are truly grateful.”

The fellows program begins at a time when the University and particularly Arts and Sciences are grappling with their academic commitment to applied social science and urban studies.

“The gift fits in perfectly with our mission to support and to strengthen and expand the arts, culture and urban studies programs,” said Ralph S. Quatrano, Ph.D., interim dean of Arts & Sciences and the Spen-tor C. Oliff Professor in Arts & Sciences. “This renewed emphasis, coupled with the University’s ongoing plans to increase multi-disciplinary efforts within Arts & Sciences and across the schools, clearly signals strong learning opportunities for graduate students.”

“The Birds of Passage Fellowship adds a strong component to the undergraduate and graduate programs of American culture studies, which emphasizes engaged study, often through community involvement,” said Randall L. Calvert, Ph.D., director of the George Warren Brown School of Social Work.

“Zimmer is an ideal inaugural fellow” Calvert said. “The award both complements and contributes to her research on civic development among youth, focusing on building socially based service-learning opportunities. We are pleased that it will effectively promote her professional development as a researcher and teacher while offering such a valuable learning opportunity to our undergraduate students.”

Not to be overlooked is the gift the Zimmer, Veninga and Zaricor are giving to St. Louis, their “home away from home” while matriculating at WUSTL. Warren Fields, Ph.D., the Lynne Cooper Harvey Distinguished Chair in English and the former director of American culture studies, who has known some of the donors for more than three decades, explained their motivation to support this program.

“Not in a frame of the civil unrest of the Sixties, but they feel a responsibility to contribute to a political and social movement, likely a different one for all of us, we are truly grateful.”

Trent L. Gergely, Veninga’s student, is the founder and chief executive officer of Mens Warehouse, the largest retailer of men’s tailored suits and dress ca-

American Culture Studies

sual clothing in the United States and Canada. He opened the first store in 1973, three years after graduating from WUSTL, with a bachelor’s degree in economics in Arts & Sciences. He now presides over 1,200 stores producing $2.1 billion in annual sales annually.

His personal commitment to social responsibility is reflected in his corporate philosophy supporting charitable contributions and encouraging volunteerism. In 1992, he established the Zimmer Foundation to provide scholarships for employees and their families. His firm has made “Fortune Magazine’s 100 Best Companies to Work For” for the past several years.

Ben Zaricor (A.B. society 1970) and Louise Veninga (M.A. urban studies 72) developed a business in the hemp, spice and tea trade with their pioneer trade on social issues, sponsored by the President Richard Nixon’s initiative to open relations with China in 1971. They created a company after moving to Santa Cruz, Calif., named Fmali that sourced, pro-

Special-needs dependents

duced and supplied their products to major food and beverage companies in the United States and Europe for more than three decades.

Veninga, a national treasure by historians as it contains some of the most historic surviving American flags, and publishers of two books: “The Ginseng Book” and “Goldenseal Etc.”

Faces of Hope Students Rachel Lyons (left), Gregg Kennedy and Margaret Burke discuss the content of a recent meeting of the Faces of Hope, a University-wide celebration of civic engagement and community service April 2 in Whitaker Hall. During the event, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton announced the university-wide highlighting the University’s commitment to local, domestic and international communities. “This unique collaboration gives us a chance to recognize highlights of the past year so as to reaffirm the University’s commitment to community service,” said Robin Hattori, program director of the Gephart Institute for Public Service.

Special-needs dependents

subject of MetLife workshop

WUSTL’s Office of Human Resources will host a special workshop April 23 titled “Planning for the Future of a Child or Other Dependent With Special Needs.”

A representative from MetLife and the Institute of Estate Planning for Special Kids will conduct the workshop and discuss a service called MetDesk.

MetLife underwrites WUSTL’s life-insurance coverage.

The topics that will be ad-

ressed are: eligibility for govern-

ment benefits, guardianship/ conservatorship and financial security and funding options.

“Parents of children with special needs know no matter what the child’s age or disability, may have many serious questions about how best to provide for their child’s future,” said Tom Lauman, director of MetLife.

“We realize that some employ-

ees face unusually difficult plan-

dings decisions regarding the wel-

fare of children and are con-

cerned about how important of that is probably how far to provide for ongoing care and long-term planning,” Lauman said.

These workshops will provide important information about developing a personal plan.

Planning for Special Kids through a MetLife representative will be making the presentation, employ-

ees are under no obligation to use a MetLife estate planner.

The schedule:

• April 21, Medical Campus, Family Planning and Teaching Center, Room 214 A/B, noon.
• April 22, Danforth Campus, Room 222, noon.
• April 23, West Campus, West Building, Human Resources, Conference Room 150. Reservations are not required. For more information, contact Terri Behr at 935-6550.

Walth to deliver Bensinger Lecture

By Jessica Martin

Fleming Walsh, Ph.D., co-director and co-founder of the Chicago Center for Family Policy, will deliver the Susan B. Bensinger Clinical Lecture on "Stepping Out of Family Resilience: Overcoming Life Dislocation and Trauma." The lecture will be held Tuesday, April 14, in the Brown Hall Lounge.

The lecture is free and open to the public.


TV crime drama compound shows immune cells’ misdeeds

BY MICHAEL C. PURDY

Detectives on television shows often spray crime scenes with a compound called luminol to make blood glow. Physicians and medical researchers have applied the same technique to much smaller crime scenes: sites where the immune system attacks the body's own tissues.

The authors reported in Nature Medicine that injected luminol glows blue at sites where immune inflammation is occurring in live mice, and that they can detect this glow from outside the mice with scientific imaging techniques. Immunology researchers have shown that this technique can highlight inflammation in cancer and other diseases.

"It's quite striking how specific and sensitive this approach is," said senior author David Piwnica-Worms, Ph.D., professor of radiology and of developmental biology. "For example, we have evidence that this technique can highlight inflammation on its way to becoming cancerous but not already developed, implemented and led the transition from a paper-based Human Research Protection Program application and database tracking system to electronic, integrated systems. Jones was elected co-director of Clinical Research Ethics in the Iowa Scholar's program at the University of Iowa. She chairs the University's Office of Compliance at the University of Iowa. She also holds a position as a member of the University of Iowa's Board of Regents and a member of the University of Iowa's Board of Visitors. Jones serves on the governing board of the University of Iowa's Office of Clinical Research and is the chair of the University of Iowa's Board of Regent's Council on Research.

Iowa staff since 1983 in various leadership roles, including director of the University of Iowa's Office of Clinical Research. Jones has been on the University of Iowa's staff since 1983 and is a member of the University of Iowa's Board of Visitors. Jones serves on the governing board of the University of Iowa's Office of Clinical Research and is the chair of the University of Iowa's Board of Regent's Council on Research.

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University Events

Antiewar classic ‘Mother Courage’ PAD’s spring play

By LIM OTTEN

Arms bearing with religious imagery and a hint of intercourse violence, a family distancing themselves from the audience. Bertolt Brecht’s ‘Mother Courage and Her Children’ is widely considered the greatest antiewar play of the 20th century. Beginning 11:17 a.m., the Performing Arts Department (PAD) in Arts and Sciences presents the epic tale of a protective yet all-too-pragmatic matron as its spring Mainstage production. Performances take place in Edison Theater at 8 p.m. April 17, 18 and at 2 p.m. April 19. The shows continue the following weekend at 8 p.m. April 24 and at 2 p.m. April 26. Brecht wrote ‘Mother Courage’ in 1939, in the shadow of the Nazi invasion of Poland but set the story during the Thirty Years War, when the warring German and Spanish empires of Europe had already outlasted their usefulness. The PAD production — based on the translation by British playwright David Hare — updates the setting to a Time of the Mindless, post-Apocalyptic present.

“It should feel like a contemporary ever-assembly,” said director William Whitaker, who also appears in this year’s senior thesis play, ‘In the Closing of.

“There’s a protracted, relentless struggle that nobody understands, a struggle for the balance of power keeps shifting back and forth. But nothing is lost in that you necessarily think of Iraq or Afghanistan or the Gaza Strip,” Whitaker said. The plot centers on Anna Fierling, nicknamed “Mother Courage,” who travels from camp to camp with her.GetData food, selling food and, and usually烽 hunts with a hand-pushed cart. “Mother Courage tries to work both sides,” Whitaker said. “She’s always cutting a deal, a strategy that debate about whether she’s a hero or villain. Ultimately, the war takes everything from her.”

“Elis, the elder son, can’t wait for the fighting,” Whitaker said. “The son of a traitor, he can hardly wait for the benefits of the father.” Still, for all the tragedy, “It’s about the human being and humor — and it’s unlikely that the best musical will be for a musical — song and dance. There are funny lyrics, interesting characters, ridiculous situations, even a lecherous chaplain,” Whitaker said. “Brecht has the very contemporary idea that the people one is supposed to most revere are actually justsketchy.”

“Brecht never gets sentimenta,” said Whitaker, who previously directed the play “Almost, Maine.” “Good People of Steckhorf” for the PAD. “He doesn’t want you to feel sorry for Mother Courage, and he never wants you to see the story lost in the story.”

“He wants you to go out and do something,” Whitaker said. The cast of 17 is led by senior Kaylin Boosalis as Mother Courage, Whitaker, and Elis, and student actors.

Senior Kaylin Boosalis portrays the title character Mother Courage in the PAD’s spring Mainstage production at Edison Theater April 17-22.

Washington University in St. Louis
Panel to discuss two new African-American literature anthologies


St. Louis native Reding next up for Reading Series

Reding has published articles in Hispanic Review, and a recent short story was featured in The Chicago Reader. His most recent book is the story collection "Memorial: The History of the Methamphetamine Epidemic in Rural America," which was published in New York.

Arianna String Quartet to perform April 9

The Washington University in St. Louis Saturday, April 11 at 8 p.m. Jazz at Holmes.

Public health leaders to speak

Born in St. Louis, Reding earned a bachelor’s degree in comparative literature from Northwestern University and a master’s degree in creative writing from New York University, where he has taught undergraduate fiction and poetry.

Sports

Friday, April 10

2 p.m. War Eagle at Oregon State, Corvallis Tennis Center, 903-4730.

Monday, April 20

6:30 p.m. Banquet at Famous Dave’s, 213 E. Main St., Key West, FL. 903-6568.

Monday, April 20

9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Regional Science Seminar Series. “Galileo’s Trial.” Michael Crowe, professor of physics, Crow Hall, Rm. 300M. 935-5450.

Tuesday, April 21

1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Bach in Chicago. Music of St. Thomas with the International String Quartet Ensemble, will be joined by renowned pianist Seth Carlin, professor of music in residence at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where he is an active performer on the faculty. Carlin’s performance is free and open to the public.

Wednesday, April 22

8 p.m. Jazz at Holmes.

Onstage

Thursday, April 16

4 p.m. "Planting a Sugar Cane," presenters: "Mother Courage and Her Children." (Also April 19 at 8 p.m. and 26.) Cost: $12, $10 for students, faculty and staff. Edison Theater. 927-5543.

Thursday, April 16

5:30 p.m. Annual Gerry and Bob Virgil Ethic and Expression.” Eric P. Newman Education Center. 362-7196.

Friday, April 17


Saturday, April 18

7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The World, St. Louis. 927-5543.

Saturday, April 18

8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. "Writing Letters and director of the Writing Program. More than 7,100 teams representing 3,850 universities and schools in all 50 states and more than 100 countries will converge on Stockholm, including the WUSTL team coached by Bill Scott. The annual contest is sponsored by ACM and the Computing Curricular Consortium.

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Campbell named assistant vice chancellor for real estate

By Jessica Daues

M ary B. Campbell, senior vice president for Bank of America, has been named assistant vice chancellor for real estate. She assumed the position, recommended by University President Sir Edmund H. Flux III, on Monday, April 13.

Campbell brings more than 30 years of development and management experience to WUSTL. She will advise the University’s Division of Real Estate and Community Development, managed by the Campus Planning and Development Council.

Campbell’s responsibilities will include overseeing, coordinating and reporting on all off-campus development; developing, coordinating and monitoring the real estate strategy; planning and implementing real estate initiatives with departments and colleges in support of the University’s strategic plan and the development of the St. Louis Metropolitan Region; and leveraging off-campus infrastructure for the broader St. Louis business and community. She is expected to report to the University’s vice chancellor for human resources; the University’s vice chancellor for operations; and the University’s assistant secretary of state for the Washington, D.C., region, as the government’s deputy assistant secretary for the Public Affairs Office.

Campbell is one of the few women in her field. A native of Mayo, Minnesota, Campbell currently resides in St. Louis. She earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota in 1981, and a law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1984.

She joined Bank of America in 1984, and has held various positions with the company, including assistant vice president and assistant secretary of state for the Washington, D.C., region, where she has been since 1998. She joined Bank of America in 1984, and has held various positions with the company, including assistant vice president and assistant secretary of state for the Washington, D.C., region, where she has been since 1998. She joined Bank of America in 1984, and has held various positions with the company, including assistant vice president and assistant secretary of state for the Washington, D.C., region, where she has been since 1998. She joined Bank of America in 1984, and has held various positions with the company, including assistant vice president and assistant secretary of state for the Washington, D.C., region, where she has been since 1998.
World-renowned cosmetologist to discuss Big Bang theory

By Susan Killenberg McGinn

J aine E. Peebles, Ph.D., one of the world's foremost theoretical cosmologists who played a central role in understanding the evolution and structure of the universe, will appear at 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 15 in Graham Hall as the Women's Society Adele Starbird Lecture. The lecture is sponsored by the McDonnell Center for the Space Sciences.

"Our universe is not forever: The evidence is that over the past 15 billion years, our universe has expanded and cooled from a much hotter density state," Peebles said.

To describe how people hit on the concept of an expanding universe, and the discoveries that, thermal radiation left from the early hot stages of the universe, Peebles says, "the universe really did evolve from a different condition," Peebles said.

Peebles will also a deliver a colloquium titled "The Big Bang" as part of the lecture series. The colloquium will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, in Room 401, Compton Hall. All events are free and open to the public.

The lecture is the culmination of the study of evolution in the earliest moments of the universe that was critical in establishment of the Big Bang theory as a widely accepted model, noted a May 2000 article in Princeton University News. In 2004, Peebles received the first Shaw Prize in Astronomy for "a lifetime of groundbreaking contributions to cosmology and astrophysics." The Shaw Prize, which bears an award of $1 million, recognizes individuals who have achieved a significant breakthrough in academic and scientific research or application and whose work has resulted in a positive and profound impact on mankind. He was cited for laying "the foundations for almost all modern cosmological observations, both theoretical and observational, transforming a highly speculative field into a precise science."

Among his many contributions, he predicted the existence of the radiation that gave rise to galaxies, popularized the idea of dark matter, and developed a theory of how the universe evolved into galaxies.

A native of St. Boniface, Manitoba, Canada, Peebles earned his bachelor of science degree from the University of Manitoba in 1958 and a doctorate in physics in 1962 at Princeton University.

After a three-year post-doctoral fellowship, he joined the school's physics faculty and remained in the department throughout his career.

Peebles, a McDonnell Center, which was established in 1975 through a gift from an aerospace pioneer James S. McDonnell, is a consortium of faculty, research staff and students coming primarily from the Arts & Sciences departments of earth and planetary sciences and physics who are working on the cutting edge of space research.

For more information, contact Jane Foster at 933-5332 or jfoster@physics.wustl.edu.


One person can make a difference

By Barbara Rea

T heresa Wilson, founder and executive director of the Blessing Basket Project, will give the final program in the Assembly Starbird Address at 11 a.m. April 15, in the Knight Center.

Founded in 2004, the Blessing Basket Project is a nonprofit enterprise that connects weavers in underdeveloped countries to markets in developed countries, improving the lives of thousands of women, children and children living in six African nations while providing unique baskets that they can't be found anywhere else.

More than 900 Whole Foods Market stores nationwide carry Blessing Basket products in the distinctive and colorful baskets.

With the background of the project, weavers have become entrepreneurs, opening new businesses, expanding farms, building schools and creating more sustainable ways of life.

"A powerful story of transformation began with a woman who was imprisoned. Her sister sent her cards and letters, and a basket in which to place them," she began.

She decided to make it as her "batik handbag," and her husband, Brian, set to work identifying weavers and receiving shipments that they delivered to stores. Soon, Wilson was learning their personal stories, such as a woman who had nine children, 13 grandchil-

One person can make a difference

in 1973 and director of the Department of Human Services for the City of St. Louis. Alberts started the Clown Docs program at the School of Medicine, and his instruction in circus methods, "doctor character, "Professor Dude," is often seen rounding the hospital wards and making patients laugh.

This year's winners are Dana R. Ahrenschein, Ph.D., associate professor of medicine; Jamie Ake, assistant professor at the School of Social Work; and Camille Nelson, a senior majoring in anthropology in Arts & Sciences. The women will speak at the next program on April 30.

A passion teacher of Shakespeare and early modern literature, Ake is a tireless educator and advocate for victims of intimate partner violence both at work and outside the University.

For Loebelbach, teaching is more than a job or a career; it is a way of life that she devotes to her community and to her students.

"On behalf of the University, I want to recognize the efforts of these students and their mentors in promoting the arts and excellence within the University," Dr. Charles J. Shull, Acting President of the University, noted.

The luncheon was held in the Library Room of the Cathedral.

Baseball posts 3-1 week to move to 15-8

WUSTL split a doubleheader with Illinois College April 1 and swept Washington University April 2 to move to 15-8.

Highlights include senior Britton Wilson's triple jump in the first game and game and striking out 19 in the Bears' 3-2 win over Illinois College.

In the first game of the doubleheader, junior Brian Reis and senior Jay Reis each scored runs to start the game and striking out 19 in the Bears' 3-2 win over Illinois College.

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Collaborative impact

Kirkland works to strengthen families by strengthening communities

JESSICA MARTIN

Collaborative impact

Community

Kirkland works to strengthen families by strengthening communities

Jack Kirkland


Family: Wife: Iris; Kirkland's children: Jack, and they hold him in the highest admiration. Kirkland's academic career began during his undergraduate years at Syracuse University while interning at the Huntington Family Centers in the 3rd Ward of St. Louis. Shirley Emerson, director of the Neighborhood Council, a community agency, and Alderman Freeman M. Bosley Sr. extended the invitation. "Before we started our work with Jack, the neighborhood was filled with vacant and abandoned buildings, a lot of drug problems and all of the other social ills that go along with it," says Emerson, a Brown School alumna who earned a master's in social work in 1999. "Now the community has hope, and they have ways to achieve success. People are starting to want to stay in the neighborhood."

The Neighborhood Council holds regular public meetings to stay on top of the 3rd Ward residents' needs. The agency's current efforts are focused on improving housing options and increasing commerce in the area while providing social support. "Jack taught us how to organize the neighborhood to speak residential and social development," Emerson says. "Residents know Jack, and they hold him in the highest regard."

The community's efforts are showing tangible results. "People are more aware of what is needed to turn the town around, and they are working to improve their neighborhood," she says. "It's starting to have an impact. We've seen 500 new units of housing become available, including two major housing and urban development-sponsored projects, as well as the opening of five new restaurants and a number of other small businesses." The summer of hope does not stop there. Kirkland says that the St. Louis Economic Development Corporation is outstanding due to its prime position on the Mississippi River and as the second largest railroad center in the country. The city lies at the very heart of one of the greatest distribution centers in America. Kirkland says, "It is a great time for our students to be interning in the city's office of community development."

Kirkland is a beloved Washington University in St. Louis

"I want students to be armed with practical knowledge so they can have an impact on communities, whether it is through having a seat in government, in private enterprises, in business or through community agencies," he says. "Town needs people who can effectively bring together and coordinate economic and social resources."

Kirkland has developed practicum opportunities in East St. Louis and is working on similar opportunities with other municipalities around the country.

"Jack recognizes the importance of engaging our students in both the classroom and in the community, which is why his classes are some of the most popular at our school," says Edward F. Lawlor, Ph.D., dean of the George Warren Brown School of Social Work and the William E. Gordon Professor. "He exemplifies the type of engagement and impact we want to have in the region."

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