Washington University in St. Louis
April 30, 2009
record.wustl.edu

Four honorary degrees to be awarded at Commencement

One was named among the 50 most important women in science by Discover magazine; another made Time magazine’s list of the 100 most influential leaders in the world. One is a pioneer and leader in mapping and sequencing the human genome; another guided the Olin Business School through a significant period of growth, helping it become a leading, nationally recognized business school. The four notable se-
tected to receive honorary degrees during the 140th Commencement May 15 all stand out in their re-
spective fields. During the ceremony, which will begin at 8:30 a.m. in Brookings Quadrangle, WUSTL also will bestow more than 2,700 academic degrees on more than 2,600 students.

Wenceslao Kopp, executive officer and founder of Teach For America, will deliver the Commencement address and receive an honorary doctor of humanities degree. The other honorary degree recipients and their degrees are:

- Robert H. Waterston, M.D., Ph.D., the William H. Gates III Endowed Chair in Biomedical Sciences and chairman of the Department of Genome Sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle, doctor of science; and
- Patty Jo Watson, Ph.D., the Edward Mallinckrodt Disting-

ished University Professor of Anthropology Emerita in Arts & Sciences, doctor of humane letters.

Twenty years ago, Kopp pro-
pelled, in her Princeton University undergraduate thesis, the creation of Teach For America — the na-
tional corps of outstanding college graduates who commit to teach for at least two years in some of the country’s highest-need schools and become lifelong leaders in pursuit of educational excellence.

Washington University and the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center have received two awards totaling $35 million from the Department of Energy (DOE) to do research on novel energy initiatives. At $20 million, the DOE’s Washington University re-
search award is the largest ever received on the Danforth Campus. The $15 million for the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center is the largest the organization has ever received.

Washington University and the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center will be home to two of 46 new multimillion-dollar Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRC) announced April 27 by the White House in conjunction with a speech delivered by President Barack Obama at the annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences. The EFRCs, which will pursue advanced scientific research on energy, are being established by

Washington People: Warner creates spark in pediatric surgery

University swine flu response

An emergency as a result of several confirmed cases of swine flu in the United States. As of April 28, there had been no cases of swine flu reported on the WUSTL campus or elsewhere in Missouri and Illinois.

The University has called together the Emerging Infectious Disease Task Force to monitor the situation and keep the Uni-

versity community informed and provide updates as new infor-
mation becomes available.

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Four notable degrees to be awarded at Commencement

To teach for America, the organization of approximately 3 million students. Teach For America has provided more teachers for low-

income communities than any other organization.

Teach For America’s 14,000 alumni also are working to expand educational opportunity and to address the underlying causes of educational inequality from a vari-
esty of sectors. A significant num-
ber of alumni hold leadership roles in education — as veteran teachers, principals, district lead-
ers and even superintendents — in high-need regions across the country.

In 1994, Time magazine recog-
nized Kopp as one of the 40 most promising leaders under 40; in 2006, U.S. News & World Report named her one of America’s best.

DOE makes largest research award in Danforth Campus history

$20 million awarded to WUSTL; $15 million to Donald Danforth Plant Science Center

By Tony Fitzpatrick

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**Women's Society presents leadership award, scholarship**

By Jessica Daues

*WUSTL schools, academic areas and departments in the graduate and professional levels currently hold top 10 rankings in US News & World Report's rankings of graduate and professional programs, which were released April 23. Overall, 43 graduate and professional academic units at the University rank in US News & Top 10 rankings.

"We are proud of our students, faculty and staff who have helped the School of Medicine remain in the top 10 since US News began the rankings in 1987."

Larry J. Shapiro

Mary Jane Gray, M.D., (right), sister of Elizabeth Gray Danforth, presents the Elizabeth Gray Danforth Scholarship to St. Louis Community College-Mariner, student Caleb Drzyzga.

Elizabeth Gray Danforth Scholarship

The society, with the help of Mary Jane Gray, M.D., sister of Elizabeth Gray Danforth, presented the Elizabeth Gray Danforth Scholarship — which covers full tuition at the University and is awarded to outstanding St. Louis Community College-Mariner students — to Simeona Georgevich.

Georgevich has a 3.91 grade-point average and attends the School of Education.

WUSTL's recognition of its achievements in the U.S. News & World Report's rankings of graduate and professional programs.

-WUSTL is an undergraduate. The award consists of a $500 cash prize and a silver clock inscribed with a quote from English writer Virginia Woolf: "I should require a university to be intellectual upon you and what an influence you can exert upon the future." WUSTL is an undergraduate.

Louise L. Wilson was named to the Danforth Scholars program.

Among the changes made to the car-pool program is scheduling.

The Motorcycle permit also provides spaces on parking lots and is designed to provide an alternative method of transportation to and from campus. This benefit helps keep hun-

Cars off the roads daily, which reduces carbon emis-

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A utomatic external defbrillators (AEDs) are being in-
stalled in 34 School of Medicine-owned buildings to improve a person's chances of survival after sudden cardiac arrest.

In the first phase of the pro-
gram, which began in January, 23 AEDs will be installed in 34 School of Medicine-owned buildings beginning in May. In addition, four AEDs will be provided to the Protective Services Department, which already has three defibrillators in its vehicles and on bicycles.

In buildings with large num-
bers of employees, an AED will be placed on every floor near the elevators. Future phases will place AEDs in all School of Medicine-owned buildings.

More than 250,000 Americans die of cardiac arrest, or abnormal heart rhythms, according to the American Heart Association, and about half of those events occur outside of a hospital. A person in cardiac arrest generally has about 4 min-
utes in which to receive lifesaving defibrillation, which provides an electrical shock to restore the heart to its normal rhythm. For every minute that passes without def-
ibrillation, the chance of survival decreases by 7 percent per minute.

Mary Z. Taylor, director of patient safety for the Faculty Practice Plan at the School of Medicine, said AEDs are becoming more common in airports, malls and schools, and are quickly and appropriately to install them in medical schools.

"As a leading medical center, Washington University has a commitment to excellence," Taylor said. "It's important that we have this life-saving device accessible to our community."

"The evidence is clear that AED is the difference in saving lives — good CPR is critical, but more than enough," said Robert M. Kennedy, M.D., professor of pediatrics and one of the physi-
cian advisers spearheading the project. "There are many physi-
cians, nurses and others in our office and research buildings with resuscitation expertise, but not every area has a resuscitation equip-
ment because patients are rare. When a cardiac arrest occurs in an office or lab, trained providers on the scene can do no more than basic CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) CPR for emergency responders, losing critical minutes. Because of the size and complexity of the moment that passes without def-
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WUSTL between April 2004 and March 2007 were offered enrollment in the study and under-
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Embryologists in the IVF lab evaluated the patient's embryos on the third day after fertilization, and the appearance of each em-
bro along with the thickness of its shell were measured and re-
duced to a percentage. Women who had embryos with shells thicker than 12 microns were eligible.

They were randomized to either the hatching arm or the nonhatching arm of the study.

Only the embryologists knew to which study arm a patient belonged. Patients who did not achieve em-
by following the initial cycle and chose to undergo a second cycle of IVF were crossed over into the alternative arm for their second cycle, if eligible.

No significant differ-
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cancies (47 percent vs. 50 percent, respectfully) or the number of live births (46 percent vs. 45 percent, respectfully). Also, no significant differences were observed between hatched and unhatched groups in rates of spontaneous abortion, twins, chromosomal abnormalities or ectopic pregnancies.

Assisted hatching will con-
tinue to be the routine practice for women undergoing IVF at the University of Missouri-Columbia Reproductive Medicine Center, Odem said. The study result have changed the amount of assisted hatching performed at the center for women younger than 38.

"The amount of assisted hatching we do has gone down by more than 50 percent," Odem said, "with the hope that other centers through-
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Mary Z. Taylor
Unique video installation ‘Chew the Fat’ to open

Friday, May 8

University Events

“Chew the Fat,” a multifaceted film and several individual portraits play in continuous loops.

Behind the scenes with international artist Aung Bouthit, Mauricio Castellanos, and Santiago Ordonez. 

In keeping with that sense of relaxed and informal air. He goes time or another — produces a short film of himself painting, walking, and doing other activities taking place April 30–May 13 at Washington University. Visit the Web for expanded calendars for the Danforth Campus, (news-info, wustl.edu/calendars).

In conjunction with the exhibition, the museum will host a free screening of “Zidane: A 21st-century Portrait,” directed by Douglas Gordon and Philippe Parreno, at 5 p.m. June 26.

For more information, visit kemperartmuseum.wustl.edu or call 933-4523.

Eclipse of the Gene • Urban Air Pollution • OVATIONS Sneak Preview

4 p.m. Immunology Research Seminar Series. “Rho GTPase Function in Cell Migration.” Chikal Randhawa, assoc. prof, of biochemistry, University of Illinois at Chicago. 362-2139.

4 p.m. QUAD-Departmental Seminar Series. “The Genetics of Fine Arts, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Whitney Independent Studies Program in New York.”

Thursday, May 7

8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Program in Addiction and Communication Services Annual PACS Departmental Conference. (Also 7:30 a.m. May 5.)


Wednesday, May 6


Tuesday, May 5

5:30 p.m. “Toxicology: The Molecular Basis of Human Disease.” Lecture. 935-5566.

Monday, May 4

4 p.m. Institute for Public Health Faculty Seminar Series. “Environmental Risk Assessment.” "Toxicology: The Molecular Basis of Human Disease." Lecture. 935-5566.


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4 p.m. Shimmon Cancer Center Seminar. “Statins, oxLDL, and thioredoxin: research and program evaluation.” U. of Calif., San Francisco, South Bldg., 1500 E. Medical Center Drive. 935-3119.

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Steam plant shuts down early this year

The University decided to shut down the main steam plant on the Danforth Campus April 27, three weeks earlier than usual.

Traditional, the University has waited until after Commencement to shut down this plant, which provides steam to some campus buildings. The estimated savings to the University of acting now is $58,000 and 70,000 therm of energy. Current weather predictions for the next three weeks indicate average high temperatures in the 70s and low temperatures in the 50s. These conditions should not lead to significant discomfort. In the effort to conserve funds as well as energy, the support of the University community is encouraged. The practical implications of this measure vary from building to building. The Women's Building, Student Radiocchemistry Building and January, Elrick, Cappels, McCrilli, Martin, Sever, Lopata, Cupples I, and Cupples II do not have hot water, but they will have no heat once this plant is shut down. If an extended cold spell were predicted, the main steam plant would re-activate after a delay of 12 hours. Other buildings on campus could be adjusted accordingly or shut down if the weather turns unexpectedly cold.

It is suggested that employees keep a sweater or a jacket in their office during this period, especially for the early morning. Students should be prepared for possibly colder classrooms and dining facilities.

**Track teams sweep UAA championships**

The men's and women's outdoor track and field teams swept the University Athletic Association (UAA) outdoor championships for the second consecutive year, setting a UAA outdoor record last week as it continues a late-season push to secure an at-large berth into the NCAA Division III championship.

The women's team won the UAA outdoor title for the 10th straight year, while the men took a UAA team title for the first time since they were the indoor champions in 2007. The Bears swept the conference outdoor titles for the first time since 2004.

The squads combined to produce 17 UAA champions (10 men's events and seven women's), 10 NCAA Division III outdoor championship qualification marks on two school and UAA records.

The men's record came in the 10,000 meters, which the team of sophomore Tom Gulyas, junior Ify Gendelman, senior Pierre Huppes and senior Charlie Cutler set finished first with a time of 31:43. Senior Aubrey Edwards set a school record in the men's hammer throw, where the finished third with a distance of 49.52 meters.

Men's tennis fares well in Ojai tourney

Senior Charlie Cutler and junior John Stewart, both regulars in the WUSTL first-ever appearance in the prestigious 108th Ojai Tournament April 24-26. Despite never teaming up before, they did all right, finishing in No. 1 and No. 5, and a pair of singles, doubles partners, while Cutler fell in the quarterfinals.

**Softball splits doubleheader**

The No. 20 softball team split a doubleheader against Missouri Baptist University at the WU Softball Field.

Sophomore Claire Voris tossed a two-hit shut-out in an 8-0 win in five innings in Game 1, with junior Carol Mellow pounding a grand slam to left-center field to open the scoring. The team then lost Game 2, 4-3, but scored 12 runs over the final three innings to erase its deficit. The Bears then split a doubleheader, 16-15.

**Baseball remains in hunt for postseason**

The baseball team posted a 1-3 record last week as it continues a late-season push to secure an at-large berth into the NCAA Division III championship.

The Bears began the week with a win in a wild game against Saint Louis, 20-18, April 20. WUSTL led Webster 15-3 in the seventh inning when St. Louis scored 12 runs over the final three innings to erase its deficit. The Bears then split a doubleheader, 16-15. WUSTL picked up a 13-7 win over Case Western Reserve University April 25 and then won its third game of the week with an 8-1 decision over the University of Chicago April 26. The Bears (20-18) return home Thursday, April 30, for a doubleheader with Maryville University at 1 p.m.

Washington University in St. Louis

April 30, 2009

**WUSTL recycles its way to top 10 percent contest finish**

By Jessica Dauw

Washington University recycled 84.9 percent of its waste last year, spring to rank No. 26 out of 293 schools participating in the annual Ratepayers' Alliance's (RAPA) contest, based on total recycled materials collected. The 2009 RAPA contest ran from Jan. 16 and ended March 28.

"We recycled a total of 428,663 pounds was good enough to rank No. 2 in the Midwest. We outperformed the University of Missouri-Columbia, No. 2 on America University and another association rival (below Emory University) and No. 2 in the RAPA member universities nationwide.

"The RAPA contest is a community program called Washington University in the Region (WUR) and is sponsored by Matt Matten, assistant vice chancellor for sustainability. While we again ranked among the top 10 percent of institutions in the nation in this competition, we know we have much room to improve and will work to do so throughout the year and in next year's contest."

"This competition is so terrific because it reminds us to do all we can to remind us to all of the importance of the three Rs — reduce, reuse, recycle — and that present the landfill of valuable, usable material. And we must learn how to do all of us can to be environmental stewards better. It is important to conserve natural resources and protects land and water resources," Malten said.

Malten also said that this event can teach us how to be good stewards as well.

"One thing that is clear from our performance data from this competition is we have tremendous room for improvement in waste minimization," Malten said. "By simply not creating waste in the first place, we not only protect the environment but also reduce the amount we need to spend on facilitating recycling."

This is crucial at all times, but especially in our current economy, where it has been a challenge to sustain recycled materials markets.

The University also excelled in the Targeted Materials category, finishing No. 16 of 87 schools. For the second consecutive year, ranking No. 62 in the nation (top 25 percent for schools), with 18.82 pounds of recycled material per person.

"This year, 5/0 schools participated in the contest, the most in RAPA/Maria's nine-year history. Recycle/Maria is a 10-week competition administered by the National Environmental Coalition, or NREC, and a target RAPA/ Alliance against colleges and universities in the United States to see which campus can prevent the most materials from entering a landfill.

For more information on the contest or to see the full results, visit recycle/mareia.org. For information about recycling on the WUSTL campus, visit sustain.wustl.edu.

**Washingtn University Opera presents Magic Flute**

By Liam Otten

A handsome prince, a distant land, a damsel in distress. Why, it's the world of "The Magic Flute!" Little is as it seems.

The year's contest.

The University well in the top 10 percent contest finish at the national level in this competition, we have found our King and Queen of the Night easily defeated her nemesis, Sarastro, and the opera was a success. "The complications, hardships and love and triumph of Pamina, who is revealed from a spirit by the high priest Sarastro. At the behest of her mother, the Queen of the Night — Tamino sets out on the quest to find her. With the help of his friend Emund Schikaneder, a Vienna theater manager who wrote the libretto. Originally based on a fairy by Christopher Martin Wieland, the story was sharply reworked when Mozart and Schikaneder discovered that a real theater had selected the same subject — a reworking that led to serious transformation from evil magician to judicious philosopher.

The finished piece debuted in the fall of 1791, only months before Mozart died, with Schikaneder himself in the role of Papageno.

John Stewart, director of vocal activities in the Department of Music, conducted the performance. The cast of 13 is led by Joshua Tamasi, Sarah Shipkowski as Pamina and Alan Napoli as Papageno.

Also starring are Sara Gottmann as the Queen of the Night, Kevin McNally as Monostatos, a character based at Papagena, Papagena's brother, Adalgisa as Young Priestess, Misomentos, Sarastro's slave. Rounding out the cast and Lindsay Kelley, Taylor Martin, Nisa Maynard, Carli Miller, Allison Moritz and Tom Stidler.

Both performances — sponsored by the Department of Music, Arts & Sciences — are free and open to the public.

For more information, call 935-5566 or e-mail kschultz@artsci.wustl.edu.

**Teaching excellence**

Richard J. Smith, Ph.D., dean of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and the Rankin E. Dunning Chair of Chemistry, has been named Professor of Physical Anthropology, chair with a doctoral students Julie D. Kleinheider (center), in Germanic languages and literatures, and Emily M. Wieland, in Jazz Studies, after he participated in Tam to stand to receive the "Designed Sciences' Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence during an April 20 ceremony in the Danforth Union. The award forces outstanding teaching assistants in the general which includes a $1,500 cash prize and certificate. To see the names of the other recipients of the teaching award for the 2008-09 academic year, visit arsirt.wustl.edu/GSAS/Teaching/Resources/ awards.php.

The Office of Student Accounting will switch new paper billing system for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year.

Beginning in June 2009, bills will be available online only through WebSTAC. Following the University's emphasis on sustainability, paper copies of statements will be shredded. WUSTL is making the change in an effort to reduce the amount of paper needed, reducing an estimated 3,000 trees annually. In addition, the University will realize significant savings by not incurring the processing costs associated with the mailings.

"We will be sending your paper bills will be sent to the student and other payers at the end of the month if an account balance is due. Stephanie by-step instructions about accessing and paying bills online can be found on Student Accounting's Web site, studentaccounting.wustl.edu.

Staff members from our office are available to answer any questions students or parents might have about accessing and paying their bills online," Schnarre said.

For more information, contact Student Accounting at 1-800-758-0650, 935-3274 or student_billing@wustl.edu.

Billing will go green in Office of Student Accounting

Green Your Office

Skip paper report covers

Choose paper clips or binder stubs, instead of staples, but remove them with a tool that removes binder clips
School of Architecture and Urban Planning, received the $35,000 from the YouthBridge Community Foundation; Rupununi Learners earned the $30,000, Lofthus Foundation of St. Louis award; and Fathers Support Center Legal Clinic won the $30,000, Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis, visit aces.wustl.edu.

Degrees

From Page 1

Burson named to new position in law

Charles Burson, J.D., has been named the School of Law’s first senior professor of practice. The new position is for distinguished lawyers and legal practice seniors who meet criteria established by the law faculty to serve as full-time teaching faculty. “The new senior professor of practice designation creates an effective and innovative means for outstanding legal professionals to share their expertise with our law students as full-time teachers and to work closely with their classes on the law faculty,” said Kent Syverud, 1J3, dean and the John A. Shiley University Professor.

“Charles Burson is an exemplar of the ideal of the senior professor of practice,” Syverud said. “He comes to the law school after a highly distinguished career in law and government service, and his classes are rigorous and popular with our students.”

Since 2007, Burson has been a visiting professor of law, teaching “The Lawyer’s Role in Corporate Crisis Management”; “Supreme Court & Presidential Elections;” and “The Legacy of Bush v. Gore” for the Visiting Attorney general as well as counsel and chief of staff to former vice president Al Gore.

After leaving the White House, Burson began his work as general counsel and executive vice president for the National Law School.

A member of the law school’s National Council, Burson is one of seven presidential-appointed members from the Missouri Bar. Charles Burson earned a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Michigan, a master’s degree from Cambridge University, and a juris doctorate from Harvard University.

Sam Fox School honors six

BY LIAM OTTEN

The Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts honored four outstanding architecture and art alumni at its second annual awards dinner April 23. WUSTL student Claire Wulf (MSW ’09) received the $5,000 student architects’ studio award, presented by the $25,000 Stedman Foundation award. Missouri Women in Trades won the $25,000, Daughter of Charity Foundation of St. Louis award; and Fathers Support Center Legal Clinic won the $30,000, Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis, visit aces.wustl.edu.

By year’s end, students elected him “Teacher of the Year” for his work in the Edward Jones investment summer.

An equally gifted administrator, Virgil, then became dean and marked a period of vibrant growth for the Olin with an endowment surge from $200,000 to $75 million and the construction of Simon Hall. Virgil initiated the executive master of business administration and established an accelerated learning program that remains hallmark of the Olin today.

In addition to leadership roles with multiple civic and educational concerns, including The Magic House, City Academy and Higher Ground, Dr. Virgil served as a director and chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and of the Consortium for Graduate Study in Management.

He has been recognized for his service to the University with numerous honors, including the William Greenleaf Eliot Society’s 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award from Olin.

In his wife, Gerry, received the school’s Dean’s Medal in 1996, and, upon his retirement, friends and alumni established an endowed scholarship in the couple’s name. In 2004, friends established the Geraldine J. and Robert L. Virgil Professorship in Accounting and Management, which is held by Mahendra R. Gyng, Ph.D., Olin’s dean.

Watson is internationally known for his pioneering contributions to the field of genomics. He and his laboratory, along with the UCSC Genome Browser project, have led efforts to make the complete DNA of any organism larger than a single cell.

Watson developed a technique for sequencing the way the Human Genome Project, the deciphering of the complete DNA of any organism. He is internationally known for his pioneering contributions to the field of genomics. He and his laboratory, along with the UCSC Genome Browser project, have led efforts to make the complete DNA of any organism larger than a single cell.

Watson developed a technique for sequencing the human genome.

They went on to generate the sequences of the entire mouse’s, the chimpanzee and other primates.

Watson was born in 1928 in Chicago. He joined the WUSTL studio faculty in 1969 and twice served as chair of the Department of Anthropology.
Award

The umbrella of the International Center for Advanced Research in Energy and Sustainability (ICARES) is growing. "For the St. Louis region to become a world leader in energy research, we need strong institutions that are magnets for talented scientists," said Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, Ph.D., chancellor of Washington University in St. Louis. "ICARES is one of those powerful magnets." The center has a new director, and it has expanded its operations into a new building.

Professor Bobo, Ph.D., is the new director of ICARES. He comes to WUSTL from the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he was a professor of environmental engineering and director of the McDonnell Environmental Institute.

Dr. Bobo is excited about the potential of ICARES to become a world leader in energy research. He says, "I am very excited about the opportunities that ICARES offers to bring together scientists from different disciplines to work on energy-related problems."
Brad Warner
Education: M.D., University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine
Title: Pediatric surgeon-in-chief of the School of Medicine and St. Louis Children’s Hospital, and the Appling Blair St. Louis Children’s Hospital Professor of Surgery
Family: Barbara Warner, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics and a neonatologist at St. Louis Children’s Hospital; daughters Laurens, 17, a senior at Mary Institute Country Day School who will attend Washington University in the fall and Emily, 14, a freshman at Ladue Horton Watkins High School
Hobbies: Landscape and portrait photography and running marathons. He is training to run the San Diego Marathon with daughter Laurens in May.

"He's spectacular," says Timothy Eberlein, M.D., the Bizzy Professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery. "Every facet of the job Brad has touched has changed for the better. He's a superb mentor and role model for the students and residents. Many times I wonder how any one human being can do all the things that he does and do them so well. He's made a huge impact on our pediatric surgery program."

Warm and engaging, Warner is widely regarded for his clinical expertise in pediatric cancer surgery and surgical procedures for inflammatory bowel disease and other gastrointestinal illnesses. He is attracted to the medical center's rich academic environment, with its top-ranked medical school, children's hospital and surgery department, all on the same campus. "This environment has all the elements to produce the best pediatric surgery program in the country," he says.

Companion for kids
Even as a preschooler, Warner knew he wanted to be a surgeon. Without patients on which to practice, he held dead animals to dissect, much to his mother's dismay. She was a nurse at St. Luke's Hospital, and her stories of intriguing cases fed her son's interest in medicine.

Warner earned a medical degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. He completed his surgical residency at the University of Cincinnati, then surgery department chair Joseph Fischer, M.D. "He was a rigid, Harvard-trained, academic surgeon," Warner says. "His focus was on patient care, but he made you feel like you weren't giving back if you just did patient care. He really pushed me and others to do research so that we could improve patient care."

During his surgical residency, Warner found himself especially moved by the children he met in the pediatric rotation. "Children are very resilient," he says. "They really do want to be well. When I see a child who has had open-heart surgery sitting up in bed the next day licking a popsicle and ready to go back at it — well, it's nothing short of amazing. They have such a positive outlook."

One in particular, in changed the course of Warner's career. During his residency, Warner cared for a young boy with short bowel syndrome, whose abbreviated intestines couldn't absorb nutrients normally. He came into the clinic wearing a backpack that held a battery-operated feeding pump so he could receive nutrition via a vein.

"The boy was jaundiced from liver failure, and his mother was teary-eyed from seeing her son suffer," Warner says. "He was so small for his age and tried so hard to do the things a normal four-year-old would do."

Warner decided then to focus his research on short-bowel syndrome. Although some children are born with shortened intestines, the condition primarily affects premature infants. The infection and inflammation that are hallmark of the condition quickly destroy part or all of the intestines.

"The babies will be feeding well and growing, then all of a sudden, their abdomens become distended or they pass blood," Warner says. "In the operating room, you sometimes see that there just is no bowel left. In these cases, there is nothing we can do. It is a heartbreaker for everyone."

A higher risk of necrotizing enterocolitis, which affects infants born with bowel disease, is biliary atresia and congenital diaphragmatic hernia, which affects one in every 2,000 U.S. born babies. The condition occurs when an organ doesn't develop, allowing abdominal organs to grow into the chest cavity. This crowds out the developing lungs and prevents them from growing. Most babies born with the condition must be placed on a heart-lung bypass machine because their tiny heart can't pump enough oxygen to the body. Nearly half of these babies die before they reach their first birthday.

"This environment has all the elements to produce the best pediatric surgery program in the country," he says.

Good team
Warner's wife, Barbara Warner, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics and a neonatologist at St. Louis Children's Hospital, also was recruited to the medical school at the same time. The two met while he was a resident and she a medical student. In addition to Warner's ability to care for the same patients, they also have a long-standing research collaboration that centers on necrotizing enterocolitis.

While the causes of the illness are unknown, the Warners have long suspected that it may be linked to an underlying injury or abnormality in the intestinal lining, which may influence the composition of the microbes that naturally colonize the gut after birth.

Their partnership has explored the critical role of epidermal growth factor in necrotizing enterocolitis. Mice that lack the growth factor die soon after birth from a bowel ischemia that closely mirrors the human illness. The Warners have found lower levels of the growth factor in babies with the condition.

Brad Warner also specializes in the care of babies born with congenital diaphragmatic hernia, which affects one in every 1,500 babies. The condition occurs when the diaphragm does not fully develop, allowing abdominal organs to grow into the chest cavity. This crowds out the

Making an impact
Warner's leadership and compassion invigorate pediatric surgery research

"His leadership and his compassion for kids have invigorated our pediatric surgery research," says F. Sessions Cole, M.D., the Park J. White, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics and associate vice chancellor for children's health. "Despite his busy clinical, administrative and educational roles, he remains available for his patients and their families. His standard of supportive professionalism enhances all of our practices."

Since his arrival, Warner has placed a high priority on strengthening the pediatric surgery training program. Medical students now rotate through the program, and the program for residents has grown so popular that nine are planning careers in pediatric surgery.

"To me, this is especially gratifying," Warner says. "Warner is highly admired not only by those in St. Louis but by colleagues in Cincinnati for his generosity of ideas, unquestionable integrity and balance of professional and personal life."

"His career serves as a supermodel for students, residents and fellows of commitment to support patient care, excellence in patient care and cutting-edge research and education," says John C. Taylor, M.D., professor of surgery/transplantation at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. "His mentorship and example have achieved all these professional goals while being happily in love with his wife, Barb, and blessed with his two beautiful daughters. He is all that so many of us aspire to become."