LIFTING CHILDREN UP

Neurological surgeon T. S. Park helps those who have spastic cerebral palsy and brachial plexus palsy overcome what would be lifelong disabilities.
Basketball Outreach  The men’s basketball team from Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, visited Washington University in early December 2010. Participating in the 27th annual Lopata Classic basketball tournament, Tsinghua U. played the Bears and then Franklin & Marshall College, losing close games 80–70 and 93–78, respectively. Lucy Lopata (right), a longtime university supporter, greeted participating team members at the close of the classic.
Short takes provide a glimpse of WUSTL's community of great minds and great ideas.

John Beuerlein, MBA '77, a principal in the Service Division at Edward Jones, focuses on the benefits of promoting scholarships.

Plan for this year's Reunion weekends while glimpsing the fun had by those attending in 2010. Alumna Danielle Forget Shield, BS '94, shares thoughts on the benefits of staying connected to the university.

Melissa Jonson-Reid, PhD, professor of social work, directs the Center for Violence and Injury Prevention, building coalitions to help children suffering from abuse (pg. 10).

By building green, the university reveals a strong commitment to and responsibility for its effects on the environment.

T. S. Park, neurosurgeon-in-chief at St. Louis Children's Hospital, helps children with cerebral palsy and brachial plexus palsy overcome possible lifelong disabilities.

Alumna Carol Sklenicka pens a critically acclaimed biography of Raymond Carver, an influential short story writer of the 20th century.

As director of the National Human Genome Research Institute, alumnus Eric Green oversees a multitude of solo projects with an overarching common goal.

Alumna Deborah Cohen Kosofsky works as a producer of the Today show, where she melds her natural curiosity and love of writing into compelling TV segments.
Nepal Native Leads in Classroom, Community

In recognition of his leadership in academics and philanthropy, Vivek Khattri received an Elizabeth Gray Danforth Scholarship to attend Washington University. The scholarship is awarded to outstanding St. Louis Community College (SLCC) transfer students. In 2010, Khattri graduated with a 4.0 grade-point average from SLCC with an associate degree in mathematics.

"Without the scholarship, I would not have been able to attend Washington University," says Khattri, Engineering Class of '12.

While at SLCC, Khattri worked as a supplemental instructor and a peer tutor at the school's Academic Support Center. Khattri also served as vice president of scholarship for Phi Theta Kappa.

"I helped build homes for low-income families through Habitat for Humanity... I also organized a walk-a-thon to raise money to build 'play pumps' in Africa."

He is included in "Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges," the "All-USA TODAY Academic Team" and the "All-Missouri Academic Team."

Khattri is also a leader in the community. "I helped build homes for low-income families through Habitat for Humanity," he says. "I also organized a walk-a-thon to raise money to build 'play pumps' in Africa." (The pumps are water systems designed as merry-go-rounds that pump clean water into an above-ground tank.)

A native of Nepal, Khattri wants to return to his homeland to use his knowledge and experience in different areas of engineering. "But first, I plan on going to graduate school to learn operation research and management," he says. "I also want to work with NASA as a systems engineer."

Khattri knows he will never forget how much his scholarship helped him. "I plan to start an endowment fund in the near future so that more minority students can attend Washington University," he says.
New Child-care Facility Opens on North Campus

Washington University's new child-care facility on the North Campus opened in fall 2010. The Family Learning Center offers care for 156 children from the ages of 6 weeks to 6 years. The center serves the children of faculty, staff and graduate and professional students.

“Having high-quality child care available close to where parents live, learn and work provides parents convenience,” says Ann Prenatt, vice chancellor for human resources, “as well as the comfort of knowing their children are participating in an early-education program managed by a leading provider of child-care programs.”

Bright Horizons Family Solutions, which manages more than 700 child-care centers for universities, corporations, hospitals and government agencies, operates the center under the leadership of Ann Bingham.

“The Family Learning Center is an essential investment for the university — not only to remain competitive among its peer institutions, but also to help faculty, staff and students with small children lead fulfilling lives,” says Henry S. Webber, executive vice chancellor for administration.

For more information about the new center, visit wustl.edu/childcare.

Estrogen-lowering Drugs Minimize Surgery in Breast Cancer Patients

A nationwide study confirmed the benefit of giving estrogen-lowering drugs before surgery to breast cancer patients. The treatment increased the likelihood that women could undergo breast-conservation surgery instead of mastectomy.

Matthew J. Ellis, MD, PhD, the Anheuser-Busch endowed Professor in Medical Oncology and a breast cancer specialist with the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and the School of Medicine, chaired the study.

Julie A. Margenthaler, MD, assistant professor of surgery and a breast surgeon at Siteman, served as lead investigator.

The study participants received aromatase inhibitors, estrogen-lowering agents, for 16 weeks before surgery for breast cancer, and the extent of their tumors was monitored before and after the drug treatment.

“[This] therapy shrank the tumors in many of these women and improved surgical outcomes,” Ellis says. “These results will encourage a change in practice so that more women can benefit from the currently underutilized approach of administering estrogen-lowering agents before surgery.”

Veterans Can Attend University College Tuition-free

For U.S. veteran Robbie Garrison, attending University College tuition-free is a dream come true. “One of my goals was to attend Washington University,” says Garrison, a first-generation college student. “I was not sure how I would afford it, until I learned about the Yellow Ribbon Program.”

The Yellow Ribbon Program allows degree-granting institutions of higher learning in the United States to voluntarily enter into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to fund tuition expenses for veterans. Through the program, the government matches any financial aid that participating colleges pledge to eligible veterans above the base educational benefits in the new G.I. Bill. Based on University College’s 50-per cent matching contribution, students who are eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program can receive a full scholarship.


Garrison is enjoying his University College experience. “I feel as if the support staff at the university is personally invested in my success,” he says. “Plus, I am learning from some of the brightest minds in the world.”

U.S. veteran Robbie Garrison is attending University College tuition-free with the help of the Yellow Ribbon Program.
Ventilation Systems Do Not Protect Against Secondhand Smoke

Washington University researchers conducted a scientific study of secondhand smoke exposure in St. Louis bars and restaurants. They found that ventilation systems and “voluntary” smoke-free policies do not protect employees and customers from exposure to nicotine in the air.

Researchers from the Center for Tobacco Policy Research at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work and at the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and the School of Medicine analyzed nicotine levels in randomly selected bars and restaurants in St. Louis. They also analyzed nicotine levels of employees' hair samples at the monitored venues.

They found ventilation systems, a topic of debate in St. Louis, were not only ineffective, but restaurants and bars that had them actually had higher nicotine concentrations in the air than those without them. Researchers considered venues with a similar number of patrons who smoked.

This confirms the U.S. surgeon general's statement that “cleaning the air and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke.”

Protein Lets Brain Repair Damage from Multiple Sclerosis

According to researchers at the School of Medicine, a protein that helps build the brain in children may aid efforts to restore damage from multiple sclerosis (MS).

In a mouse model of MS, researchers found that the protein CXCR4 is essential for repairing myelin, a protective sheath that covers nerve cell branches. MS damages myelin, and this damage is linked to loss of the branches inside the myelin.

“In MS patients, myelin repair occurs inconsistently for reasons that aren't clear,” says senior author Robyn Klein, MD, PhD, associate professor of medicine and of neurobiology. “Understanding the nature of that problem is a priority because when myelin isn’t repaired, the chances that an MS flare-up will inflict lasting harm seem to increase.”

Klein plans to see if she can restore myelin repair in genetically engineered mouse models of MS. She will use a genetically altered lentivirus that increases levels of an inflammatory factor that activates CXCR4. She will study the new model with advanced imaging techniques to further clarify the relationship between loss of nerve cell branches and myelin damage in MS.

“We do not know if this myelin repair pathway is somehow damaged or impaired in MS patients,” Klein says. “But I like the idea of turning on something that the brain already knows how to make, allowing it to heal itself with its own molecules.”

ATHLETICS AT A GLANCE

1,157 The number of W Club members who support the athletic program at the university. The W Club was established in 1992.

26 The number of consecutive winning seasons men's basketball coach Mark Edwards guided the Bears to — a school record. Edwards received the 2010 Carl O. Bauer Award presented by the Missouri Athletic Club to the top amateur sports figure in the St. Louis area.

103–16 Career record for men's basketball player Zach Kelly, AB '10. Kelly recently signed a contract with the Bradford Dragons in the English Basketball League. He won two NCAA Division III National Championships in his four-year tenure with the Bears and served as team captain his senior year.

1,005 The number of victories Rich Luenemann, volleyball coach, has won over the course of his career. He is the fifth person in NCAA history to reach 1,000 career volleyball victories. Luenemann has coached at the university for 12 seasons. To view a video after the 1,000th win, visit bearsports.wustl.edu/Sports/Content/Pages/vball/11-5-10.aspx.
Kent D. Syverud, JD, dean of the law school and the Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor, was named a trustee of the $20 billion Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Trust.

An expert in complex litigation, insurance law and civil procedure, Syverud called the appointment an honor yet also stated it is a great public responsibility.

"This spill has been a traumatic experience for so many," says Syverud, who stressed the importance of the fund being "responsibly administered for the benefit of those with legitimate claims."

The fund is designed to settle legitimate claims against BP resulting from the Deepwater Horizon explosion on April 20, 2010, which prompted a massive oil and gas spill in the Gulf of Mexico. On June 16, 2010, following consultations with the U.S. government, BP announced that it would transition the claims process required under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to an independent claims facility, managed by Kenneth Feinberg. The $20 billion escrow account is being established in phases to satisfy claims ranging from Oil Pollution Act claims to natural resource damages to state and local response costs. Feinberg will determine eligibility, and Syverud will help oversee administration of the account.

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton praised Syverud as he noted the importance of the appointment. "It is a great honor for both Kent Syverud and the School of Law for him to be named to this role — a critical component of the recovery and restoration efforts for the communities and people so deeply affected by the oil spill in the Gulf," Wrighton says. "I am confident that Kent will be a valuable resource to the team, and I am pleased with his willingness to take on this important responsibility."

A renowned teacher and national leader in legal education, Syverud is the associate vice chancellor of the university’s Washington, D.C., programs. He previously served as president of the American Law Deans Association and the Southeastern Association of Law Schools. (See “Washington Spirit” feature on Dean Syverud at http://magazine-archives.wustl.edu/Spring10/WashingtonSpirit.html.)

Community Program
Encourages Visual Literacy

The Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum’s education department is working regularly with one of its many community partners, Girls Inc. This group is a nationwide nonprofit organization dedicated to creating summer programs and after-school activities that inspire and empower young girls. Girls Inc. connected with the Kemper Art Museum through the involvement of a few leaders of the museum’s membership group. So far, the museum has hosted two visits from the St. Louis Girls Inc. chapter, and several more are planned with the chapter’s after-school program.

In recent visits, the girls participated in programs and activities designed to enrich their understanding of and interaction with the visual arts in general, as well as some of the major works in the museum’s galleries.
Freshman Improves Water Sanitation, Wins National Prize

"Not all people recognize that water is an important resource, simply because it's one of the things we in developed countries take for granted," says freshman Rebecca Ye. "The United Nations recently declared that access to clean water and sanitation is a basic human right. This makes an already pressing issue even more relevant."

Motivated by this worldwide problem — an estimated 884 million people lack access to safe drinking water — Ye is taking action to improve water sanitation. She developed an inexpensive method to quickly detect *E. coli* in water. Ye's biosensor detected the bacteria within 24 hours as opposed to the previous method that took nearly four days.

Ye, a native of Maine, entered her project in the state competition for the 2010 Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP). She won the state and national titles. Ye then competed at the international competition in Sweden. Although she did not win, Ye enjoyed the experience.

"Stockholm is an amazing city," she says. "I was surrounded by individuals who were interested in the same issues and working to do something about it."

Her interest in water sanitation began in high school. "Mr. Cary James, my chemistry teacher, was passionate about water and advocated for the environment," Ye says.

MBA Students Trade Classroom for Boardroom

MBA students at Olin Business School will be spending less time in the classroom and more time in the boardroom. An innovative new program will involve students with nonprofit agencies supported by the United Way of Greater St. Louis.

The Olin United Way Board Fellows Program is the result of a brainstorming session between Gary Dollar, president and CEO of the United Way of Greater St. Louis, and Mahendra R. Gupta, PhD, dean and the Geraldine J. and Robert L. Virgil Professor of Accounting and Management. The two were eager to find a mutually beneficial way for students
Building a More Robust, Reliable Internet Focus of Project

Patrick Crowley, PhD, associate professor of computer science & engineering in the School of Engineering & Applied Science, is part of a collaborative team chosen by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to pursue ways to build a more robust, secure and reliable Internet.

Crowley's collaborative team project, titled "Named Data Networking" (NDN), seeks to design, implement and evaluate a new Internet architecture based on communications primitives that name data instead of machine addresses.

Rather than basing communications on point-to-point connections between computers with IP addresses — as the Internet does today — the NDN architecture is built around requests for and responses to named data, Crowley says. "It is a radical shift, but one that, we think, enables a qualitatively better path to eliminating redundant network traffic, securing communications and enabling very large numbers of wireless and mobile devices," Crowley says. His role is to design, evaluate and deploy the routers and switches needed to make NDN a reality.

"Patrick is one of the world's leading researchers in high-speed packet forwarding," says Van Jacobson, a research fellow at PARC, a Xerox company in Palo Alto, Calif.; a pioneer of the NDN network architecture; and a member of the NDN team. "I'm delighted to be working with him and glad that his expertise and insight will be applied to one of the NDN architecture's hardest problems."

Genetic Marker of Alzheimer's Identified

An international team of Alzheimer's disease experts, led by the School of Medicine, uncovered a gene variation that appears to predict the rate at which Alzheimer's disease will progress. Their work appears online in the journal Public Library of Science Genetics.

The investigators studied 846 patients with elevated levels of a protein called tau in their cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). Recent studies have found that the presence of a particular form of the tau protein in the CSF is an indicator of Alzheimer's disease.

The researchers also looked at DNA variations in the patients and identified a genetic marker linked to elevated tau levels. That marker turned out to be associated with rapid progression of Alzheimer's.

"People who carry this genetic marker tend to have higher tau levels at any given stage of the disease than individuals without it," says senior investigator Alison M. Goate, DPhil, the Samuel and Mae S. Ludwig Professor of Genetics in Psychiatry. "Until now, most studies of genetic risks associated with Alzheimer's disease have looked at the risk of developing the disease, not the speed at which you will progress once you have it. The genetic marker we've identified deals with progression."

First author Carlos Cruchaga, PhD, assistant professor of psychiatry, says the genetic finding combined with the ability to measure tau in the CSF could have profound effects. If drugs could inhibit the protein's accumulation in the fluid, they could prevent or delay some of the devastation associated with the disease.
Energy Symposium Brings International Academic Leaders to WUSTL

By Lisa Cary

To explore ways to meet the world's future energy needs and expand renewable energy sources, representatives from some of the world's leading research universities gathered at Washington University. On Oct. 1-5, 2010, the group attended the "McDonnell Academy Global Energy and Environment Partnership Symposium: Global Energy Future."

The symposium marked the third such gathering of university leaders, researchers and students since a remarkable global partnership began in 2005 with the founding of the McDonnell International Scholars Academy at Washington University. Delegates from 25 McDonnell Academy universities from East Asia, South Asia, Europe, the Middle East and South America attended the 2010 symposium.

The McDonnell Academy Global Energy & Environment Partnership (MAGEEP) organized "Global Energy Future." MAGEEP is a research consortium that grew out of the first McDonnell Academy symposium in 2007. Partner schools are cooperating and collaborating on research, with the goal of accelerating findings that will help meet worldwide needs for energy and a clean environment.

"This global partnership is unique," says symposium coordinator Pratim Biswas, PhD, the Stifel and Quinette Jens Professor of Environmental Engineering Science; chairman of the Department of Energy, Environmental & Chemical Engineering in the School of Engineering & Applied Science; and director of MAGEEP. "Unlike the bilateral or trilateral arrangements of some other universities, our 26-university research network creates a multilateral collaboration and global reach that can truly make a difference in meeting challenges of energy and the environment."

The symposium began on Oct. 1 with opening remarks from Washington University Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, an award-winning scientist and the driving force behind the formation of the McDonnell International Scholars Academy, MAGEEP and the recently formed Consortium for Clean Coal Utilization (CCCU) at the university.

In the afternoon, Kristina M. Johnson, PhD, then-undersecretary of energy for the U.S. Department of Energy; Richard A. Meserve, PhD, president of the Carnegie Institution for Science; and Gary S. Calabrese, PhD, vice president of science and technology for Corning Inc., delivered keynote addresses.

That evening, John P. Holdren, PhD, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, delivered the dinner's keynote address, "Energy Strategy in Theory and Practice."

On Oct. 2 and 3, the symposium featured an international "Presidents Forum" panel discussion series. Presidents and faculty from partner universities discussed the energy and environmental challenges of their own geographic regions and their effect on the global outlook. Topics included assessing the world's future energy needs, identifying technologies and resources to meet those energy needs, mitigating carbon dioxide accumulation, and discussing areas of research to help create new energy sources. The leaders also discussed ways to develop cooperative energy and environmental education and research programs within their schools.

Technical sessions on Oct. 4 and 5 included reports on collaborative research projects, funded by the CCCU, for developing clean coal technology with partners in East Asia and South Asia. Parallel sessions featured panel discussions and reports on current MAGEEP projects — ranging from energy efficiency in campus buildings, bioenergy and solar energy, to entrepreneurship and venture capital.

In one such project, faculty from Washington University and eight of the McDonnell Academy universities in Asia are working together to develop course content in aerosol science and engineering studies.

In the final session, delegates discussed ideas for additional collaborative research projects. Several new initiatives will be launched in the upcoming months. The next MAGEEP symposium is tentatively scheduled for late 2012.
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Energy Symposium Brings International Academic Leaders to WUSTL
Marin Tollefson, recipient of the Blair Hanson Scholarship, plans to make an impact. She is grateful that her scholarship, endowed through the estate of Dr. Blair Hanson, LA '35, made it possible to come to Washington University where she discovered a passion for language and cultures. After graduation, she hopes to teach with the Peace Corps and inspire a new generation of students.

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A Cry for the Vulnerable
Through her collaborative research, Professor Melissa Jonson-Reid addresses the dark realities of child abuse and neglect, and their effects on children, families and society. She works to shape evidence-based intervention and prevention practices.

BY JUDY H. WATTS

“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.”

—Frederick Douglass, 1817-95

Innovative, down-to-earth, animated by what husband and colleague F. Brett Drake calls “a pure commitment to helping people lead better lives,” Melissa Jonson-Reid has taken on one of society’s most alarming quandaries: the abuse and neglect of 6 million children every year in the United States.

Jonson-Reid, PhD, professor of social work and founding director of the Center for Violence and Injury Prevention (CVIP) at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, has additional grim statistics:

• Every day, approximately five children in the United States die from abuse and neglect. “At least half of those killed had been brought to the attention of the authorities,” Jonson-Reid says.

• The state of Missouri is one of the top five in the nation in deaths related to child abuse and neglect. According to the latest available figures — compiled before recent spending cuts — the per capita allocation for child welfare in Missouri was $70. States with funding starting at $158 per child had fewer deaths related to abuse and neglect.

• “While most low-income families do not maltreat their children, poverty is the most consistent risk factor associated with abuse and neglect,” Jonson-Reid says. An estimated 25 to 50 percent of abused or neglected children also endure violence from a parent’s intimate partner. Such children are at twice the risk of violent or nonviolent delinquency later on — compared to children in very low-income but safer homes.

• According to some of her very recent, unpublished research using agency data in Missouri, about 20 to 33 percent of young women who are poor and have been abused or neglected are pregnant before they are 18. These same young women appear to be at twice the risk of being accused of child mistreatment themselves when they reach adulthood.

Melissa Jonson-Reid, PhD, professor of social work, is the founding director of the Center for Violence and Injury Prevention at the Brown School.
No Care for the Caregiver

Imagine, says Melissa Jonson-Reid, that you’re 21 again. But this time around, you’re a single mother raising three energetic children in two rooms in an uneasy urban community. Maybe you’ve survived violence and neglect yourself as a child, and now you are trapped by chaos, isolation and poverty. You have no help with the little ones, you’re exhausted, and you have no prospects for yourself.

“As a parent,” Jonson-Reid says, “I’m often struck by the realization that parenting is just this wonderful thing! We have two terrific boys: Harrison, 15½, and Thomas, 6½. But it also has its hard times. Children get sick. They get grumpy. You get tired; you get busy. Most of us fortunate enough to have careers and educations, a supportive partner like mine or close friends can pull together resources, so that good times can outweigh the bad.

“In a pinch, most of us have someone to rely on. Or we can purchase things like after-school care.

“But if parenting is rarely fun, if it’s just a chore and a drain on you because you don’t have these resources — my goodness, should we be surprised if abuse or neglect results? We expect people to be superhuman in these situations, and nobody really is.”

• “Child abuse and neglect exact a huge personal cost from the children involved as well as tremendous short- and long-term economic costs to society,” Jonson-Reid says. “Investing in preventing child maltreatment is both a moral and economic imperative.” In 2007, for example, estimated direct costs (such as hospitalization, agency services and law enforcement) added to long-term costs to society (among them mental-health care, adult criminal justice and lost productivity) totaled almost $1.5 billion in Missouri alone. (The figures were derived from estimates based on national costs adjusted for the numbers of Missouri children in both officially substantiated cases as well as so-called unsubstantiated cases — because of system procedures — of children who do need services.)

The situation is entrenched, controversial and almost unimaginably complicated, which only reinforces Jonson-Reid’s determination. “Our society must evolve to the point where a firm priority is that our children must not live in poverty and not grow up in violent or neglectful families,” she says. Until then, “there are ways to apply our research in the real world. We need to intervene with children who have had these insults to their development, find ways to prevent abuse and neglect, and make our policies and programs much more effective.”

Finding solutions that work

Jonson-Reid’s research agenda has always been ambitious. To make a difference, she and frequent research partner Brett Drake, PhD, professor of social work and a respected investigator in his own right, study children’s lives over years in environments often laced with other forms of family cruelty, community violence, delinquency and crime. While poverty is key, other difficult social factors apply. These factors include substance abuse, mental-health problems, intimate partners’ violence to parents and children, earlier trauma to caregivers, inappropriate expectations of children, a dearth of parenting skills and deficiencies in caregivers’ education.

As Jonson-Reid studies the effects of existing programs and policies, she constantly searches her data for turning points — times and places when evidence-based intervention or prevention would be (or would have been) timely and possible. Then she takes her findings to agencies that contributed data and works with them to develop and test new tactics.

One example is a National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) early-childhood study with co-investigators Drake and John N. Constantino, MD, CVIP co-director. The study builds on Jonson-Reid and Drake’s earlier findings that a number of children showing up in special education had been noticed by child-welfare workers four to eight years earlier — on average between infancy and age 4. The lost time is crucially important, Jonson-Reid says, because “with many such problems, the earlier one intervenes, the more progress the children can make.”

A related issue is that policymakers have designed a child-welfare system and juvenile-court system tasked only to react to the most extreme cases. In a forthcoming article, “Disentangling system contact & services: A key pathway to evidence-based children’s policy,” Jonson-Reid highlights how few children who contact service systems actually receive intervention.

“Often multiple reports are filed before any social services are extended. The longer children live in these environments, without effective intervention, the worse the outcomes are,” Jonson-Reid says.

“Melissa’s entire career has been devoted to advancing the well-being of vulnerable children and families at a practice and a policy level,” says Edward F. Lawlor, PhD, Brown School Dean and the William E. Gordon Distinguished Professor. “Key to her effectiveness are her probing research and her ability to mobilize community agencies as well as students, faculty and staff across multiple disciplines to work collaboratively to address critical issues.”
As co-directors of the Center for Violence and Injury Prevention, Professor Jonson-Reid (left) and John N. Constantino, MD, the Blanche F. Ittleson Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics, collaborate frequently. Merging their areas of expertise, the two are developing a proposal for interventions around both parent-child interactions and caregivers’ well-being.

Collaboration key to helping people

Collaboration is the MO at the Center for Violence and Injury Prevention. Launched in August 2009 with a competitively renewable five-year grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) based on Jonson-Reid and colleagues’ proposal, the CVIP is the only one of 11 such national centers situated in a school of social work. It supports research aimed at both evidence-based intervention and prevention in the community. (Like the original medical model, evidence-based practice — now part of the Brown School’s curriculum — involves evaluating the latest peer-reviewed research combined with the client’s perspective and the practitioner’s professional judgment.) More than 30 CVIP-affiliated faculty from schools and colleges across Washington University and from Saint Louis University, the University of Missouri-Columbia and the Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College all generate, develop and pursue pioneering ideas.

Jonson-Reid and Constantino, also the Blanche F. Ittleson Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics and director of the William Greenleaf Eliot Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, collaborate frequently. Building on Constantino’s work with engaging high-risk mothers in home visits and on Jonson-Reid’s work with child-welfare and early-childhood services, the two are developing a proposal for interventions around both parent-child interactions and caregivers’ well-being.

Toward a better future

One bottom line is that an evidence-based children’s policy approach is essential. To accomplish that, Jonson-Reid says, “We need a far better state and national data infrastructure, so we know exactly what help, if any, a child received, and when, and then what happened to that child.”

She is hopeful that in the next five to 10 years, the nation’s [skeletal] data infrastructure will improve, and that the few states, such as South Carolina, that have moved toward a detailed information model for professionals will motivate folks to think outside the box. Thinking outside the box requires collaboration with the multiple agencies working on these issues, the community, the academy and policymakers.

“We must find ways to communicate with decision-makers and the public more clearly and effectively,” Jonson-Reid concludes. “At the CVIP, we’re working hard on that.”

Judy H. Watts is a freelance writer based in St. Louis and former editor of this magazine.
University Turns Green by Design

The university makes a strong commitment to sustainable growth, dotting the landscape with many new and restored buildings that meet LEED-certification standards. The aim is to minimize its environmental impact and ensure a bright future for students.

BY BETSY ROGERS
hen Dean Ralph S. Quatrano, PhD, welcomes visitors to the new Stephen F. and Camilla T. Brauer Hall at the School of Engineering & Applied Science, the first stop he makes with them is at the energy smartboard in the atrium.

Here, at the touch of a fingertip, the curious can see exactly what utilities the building is using at any moment. (For that matter, the curious can access the same information from any Internet-connected computer at http://buildingdashboard.com/clients/washu/seas/brauer/.) The smartboard shows real-time electricity, water and natural gas consumption, and solar and wind energy generation. It also explains Brauer Hall’s many green features.

The smartboard exemplifies the cutting-edge green technology that shapes Brauer Hall. It exemplifies as well Washington University’s ever-deepening commitment to environmental sustainability, to using every available technique to make its campuses as Earth-friendly as possible.
In fall 2010, the Living Learning Center at Tyson Research Center reached beyond LEED certification as it became one of the first two buildings worldwide to win the Cascadia Region Building Council's global Living Building Challenge. The center manufactures zero net impact on the environment.

The quest for sustainability plays out in many ways at the university — in local foods served in the dining halls, in an emphasis on car-sharing and public transportation, in comprehensive recycling — but perhaps nowhere as dramatically as in the growing list of new and restored green buildings that have won LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design; certification at the basic, silver, gold or platinum level means a building has met the requisite number of USGBC's LEED criteria, which govern everything from energy use to native plantings to recycling to water conservation, even parking spaces for hybrid cars.

Twelve university buildings have achieved LEED certification, and another three are under construction or in the certification process. The university is committed to achieving a minimum LEED Silver designation in all new and restored buildings, higher levels where possible.

"Washington University's commitment to buildings that have minimal effects on the environment is a part of our overall effort to promote environmental sustainability," Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton says. "We know facilities built today will benefit future generations of Washington University students and faculty, and LEED-certified buildings reflect our responsibility to ensure a brighter future."

Reaching even beyond LEED, the Living Learning Center at Tyson Research Center became one of the first two buildings worldwide to win the Cascadia Region Building Council's global Living Building Challenge last fall. The Living Learning Center presents advanced systems, solar panels, composting toilets and other sophisticated features, and it manufactures zero net impact on the environment, both from construction and in its ongoing operation. It takes no net power from the grid; it collects water for all its needs; its materials are all local.

Green building equals savings

What makes a building green? Features will vary across buildings, but at Brauer Hall the primary focus is on energy conservation. Leading-edge systems save power. Sensors detect occupants within rooms and regulate heating and cooling levels accordingly. A highly reflective roof membrane reflects the sun's heat to reduce air conditioning use. Solar panels and a wind turbine on the roof generate a small amount of power but also support research into renewable energy.

Important as energy issues are, Brauer Hall also incorporates many other sustainability features. Native plants adorn the grounds and are watered by collected stormwater runoff. Low-flow bathroom fixtures also save water. Shredded blue jeans insulate the walls.

Brauer's Distance Learning Center is another potent energy saver. Sophisticated presentation technologies in this 80-seat classroom — the first of its kind on campus — can link students and faculty there to academic presentations far from St. Louis. Describing one such event, Quatrano notes: "About 70 Washington University students and faculty recently participated in a seminar hosted at the University of Missouri. They were able to observe the speaker and see the audience; in fact, both sides were able to
“Washington University’s commitment to buildings that have minimal effects on the environment is a part of our overall effort to promote environmental sustainability,” Chancellor Wrighton says.

see and interact with one another — and no one had to drive to Columbia. This was safer and greener.”

Brauer Hall’s exceptional design won it the coveted LEED Gold designation.

Brauer, Tyson’s Living Learning Center and the other green buildings bear convincing witness to the university’s commitment to sustainability, to reducing its carbon footprint.

Two daunting challenges confront this commitment, however. The first rises from the university’s St. Louis location, where conventional electricity is relatively inexpensive. “The climate creates considerable limits on renewables,” says Henry Webber, executive vice chancellor for administration. “We are a relatively poor region for wind and a mediocre region for solar. Combined with low electrical rates, this makes renewables economically inefficient. And we face the problem of hot, humid summers and relatively cold winters.”

The university’s dramatic growth over the past 20 years has produced the second challenge. The square footage

and produce emissions and waste products.

“We’ve grown rapidly,” Webber notes, “because we’re meeting our mission of teaching, research and patient care. We’ve added students; we’ve added faculty; we’ve added facilities.”

In light of this growth, it is notable that the university’s greenhouse gas emissions have grown by considerably less, just 27 percent.

But efforts to further reduce energy consumption are “crucial,” according to the university’s Strategic Plan for Environmentally Sustainable Operations. A commitment to constructing only LEED-certified buildings is key to these efforts.

To explore Washington University’s green buildings is to discover a host of innovative techniques. The new BJC Institute of Health at the School of Medicine offers many examples. In energy savings, sensors “harvest” daylight, measuring light levels and reducing artificial lighting as appropriate; abundant windows multiply this effect. Motion sensors detect occupancy and raise and lower heating and cooling settings. Efficient fume hoods close when not in use to retain heat. Lab refrigerators are EnergyStar rated for high efficiency. Even heat generated by water chilling systems is recaptured and used elsewhere. “In the past,” says Steve Sobo, director of design and development at the medical school, “that heat would just get vented out of a building. Now we’re reusing it.”

Energy use alone is expected to be nearly 20 percent lower than in a building without these features.

Another important green feature concerns materials. “We tried to make sure that all materials, furniture and equipment were either obtained or manufactured within a 500-mile radius of the project,” Sobo explains, thus minimizing
emissions from transportation. Among the innovative materials: Missouri blue limestone for the lobby's flooring.

Outside the building lies a beautiful plaza, designed with the help of the Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG). "We used only native vegetation," Saba notes. "We went out to the [MBG's] Shaw Nature Reserve and tried to mirror the ground cover and trees there. The plaza features 40,000 bedding plants and 85 trees," including oaks, redbuds, willows and Kentucky coffee trees. Using native plants reduces the need for fertilizer, pesticides and irrigation. What watering is needed comes through soakers beneath the mulch, Saba says, and that system will shut down after the first year when the plants are established.

Even pre-construction demolition had a green edge — fully 97 percent of the demolition waste from an old garage was recycled. "The concrete is reused," Sobo explains. "The rebar is separated out and goes to a metal recycler. Wood, of course, gets turned into pulp, which gets turned into paper. There's a method for recycling drywall. And," he adds, "a lot of things like glass and electric cables end up in asphalt."

The 680,000-square-foot building awaits certification at the LEED Gold level.

Because green building produces substantial savings — in energy and water, in maintenance for landscaping, in waste disposal — it produces cost savings for the university. Though the initial investment is typically higher, a good green building over its life cycle will more than pay back that investment. "We construct buildings with the assumption that they are very long-term investments," Webber says. "Many of the elements that make a building green are things that make it efficient over the long run. I think of green as both environmentally and economically sustainable."

Something old, something new

This sustainability applies not only to new structures but also to the venerable Cope and Stewardson buildings, the historic heart of the Danforth Campus. Dating to the early years of the 20th century, these Collegiate Gothic buildings have an august presence and a craftsmanship that is hard to duplicate today.

Additionally, they turn out to be eminently amenable to green retrofits. "Our old buildings, with very thick masonry walls, are a good base for green rehabbing," Webber notes. "They are comparatively narrow, built for good ventilation, with a lot of natural light that penetrates from either side."

The university is restoring buildings to pristine condition for the next 100 years — at perhaps 60 percent of the cost of a new building — by using the existing shells and cores. These retrofits focus on cutting-edge heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems; efficient lighting; low-flow plumbing; recycling demolition and construction debris; and using materials manufactured within 500 miles of campus.

"We can do a terrific upgrade; we can restore them; and we can make them much more energy efficient. And," Webber adds, "the Cope and Stewardson buildings are beautiful. They are a defining part of our culture." (Green restoration is complete in Busch and Wilson halls and under way in Cupples II.)
Doing the right thing

Fundamentally, the university has adopted a green building strategy because it is the right thing to do. "As citizens of the planet," Quatrano asserts, "it is important to contribute to the planet's sustainability. Much of the negative carbon footprint is due to buildings. We recognize that as part of our responsibility."

Webber agrees. "We have a responsibility as a leading national university to model a certain kind of behavior," he says. "We have a responsibility to our students and to the region."

By doing the right thing, Webber says, the efforts also support the university's mission of being careful stewards of resources. "We spend about $24 million a year on energy," he says. "If we could reduce that by 10 percent over the next five years, that's $2.4 million more annually we could spend on teaching, research and patient care."

Enhancing buildings, enhancing health

Larry J. Shapiro, MD, executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and medical school dean, puts it in terms of health. "Our mission at the School of Medicine is to make society healthier," says Shapiro, the Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Distinguished Professor. "We believe sustainable buildings enhance the health of people by protecting our planet."

Beyond the ethical imperatives and the savings, green building produces substantial additional benefits for faculty, students and staff: Educationally, these buildings have significant teaching power.

"Being in this building," Quatrano says of Brauer Hall, "sustainability is all around us. Experiencing all the ways it is green reveals to students that they should be thinking about sustainability issues."

That awareness leads to a kind of infectious enthusiasm for Earth-friendly measures. Recently a staff member proudly displayed a new mouse pad. "Turns out the bottom is made from recycled tires," Quatrano says. "And I thought, of course, we in engineering are going to have mouse pads made from recycled tires!"

Green building could also encourage new research, sparking student interest in new topics. "I think students are going to be imagining ways in which engineering could lead to more green materials, more efficient machines, more efficient construction practices, and thinking: 'Maybe this would be a research topic I'd like to explore,'" Quatrano says.

Beyond education and research value, though, Washington University's green building strategy has simply created beautiful spaces in which to work and study. "These are buildings that are good for the planet but also good for the people in them," Webber says. "We have shown that we can build buildings that are very attractive, very functional, and very good for the planet — all at the same time."

Living the Green Life

Justin Carroll, associate vice chancellor and dean of students, stresses another benefit to building green — that these measures help the university attract bright, aware, engaged students. He believes that young people today look for and expect environmental responsibility.

Indeed, students themselves have instigated many campus sustainability initiatives — eliminating plastic water bottles, recycling, reusing furnishings. Students love to compete, so recycling enthusiasts engaged the university in Recyclemania, a friendly competition among campuses nationwide to promote recycling. Even as the university prepares to meter buildings to monitor utility use better, students are looking forward to competing among residence halls to see who can conserve the most power and water.

"Students understand the planet's path is unsustainable," Webber says, "and they're looking to the institutions they're associated with for leadership."

They find it at Washington University, not just in academic buildings but across the campus. The Danforth University Center, a hub for student dining and activities, achieved LEED Gold status in 2009.

Student residential housing, too, is increasingly green; the South 40 House (Phase 1), Umrath House and the Village East are LEED Silver certified. The South 40 House (Phase 2), College Hall and Eliot B recently attained LEED Gold certification. The South 40 House incorporates the campus's first green roof, a broad expanse of native plants and lawn that actually covers loading docks and part of the building's dining facilities. The plantings include an herb garden where the kitchen staff harvests herbs for cooking.

"You would never know you're on top of a building when you walk across the lawn," Carroll says.

"We're committed as an institution to global sustainability," Webber says. "We do that in research, in teaching, and in housing and student services."
Neurological surgeon T. S. Park helps children with spastic cerebral palsy and brachial plexus palsy overcome possible lifelong disabilities.

BY STEVE KOHLER

Like parents everywhere, Martin and Jennifer Wagner resisted the thought that something could be wrong with their child. When their pediatrician observed that the couple’s 18-month-old daughter, Bailey, might have cerebral palsy (CP), their immediate reaction was denial. “No parents want to admit that their child is less than perfect,” Jen says. A neurologist confirmed the diagnosis, and then after about a year, she suggested an apparently radical surgery as a treatment. The Wagners’ reaction: “No way. She can walk; she has no mental impairment.”

But then they learned of spastic CP’s effects — loss of motor control, persistent muscle tightness and the potential for long-term complications including arthritis — and their thinking changed. Wanting only the best for Bailey, the couple reconsidered selective dorsal rhizotomy (SDR) as a treatment.

Right: T. S. Park, MD, is the Shi H. Huang Professor of Neurological Surgery at the School of Medicine and the neurosurgeon-in-chief at St. Louis Children’s Hospital. He treats patients through the Center for Cerebral Palsy Spasticity, as well as the Brachial Plexus Center (at right). (See photos of Jennifer and Bailey Wagner, mentioned above, on pp. 22 & 24.)
Although the SDR surgery was available near their home in Georgia, the Wagners chose to work with neurological surgeon T. S. Park, MD, at the Washington University Center for Cerebral Palsy Spasticity at St. Louis Children's Hospital. "This involved travel, but nobody else made us feel as comfortable," Jen says. "And the statistics were clear. No one else had done nearly as many of the operations, and all without complications."

A video evaluation shot to Park's specifications showed Bailey to be a good candidate, and when she was just past her third birthday, the family traveled to St. Louis for her SDR surgery.

Before Park undertakes the technically demanding neurological surgery, he uses the experience gained performing the operation more than 2,000 times on patients from 46 states and 42 foreign countries to evaluate each candidate. He insists that his patients have access to the intensively rehabilitative physical therapy that is required for success, and he likes to be assured that patients "will work hard to walk independently," he says. He employs a scoring system to set a goal for the surgery and let patients and their families know realistically what they can expect post-recovery.

“I look for the underlying potential," Park says. “The goal is to remove spasticity to improve the quality of life for the rest of their lives.” An honest prediction is a “huge relief” for most patients and families, says Park, the Shi H. Huang Professor of Neurological Surgery at the School of Medicine and neurosurgeon-in-chief at St. Louis Children's Hospital.

The SDR procedure, as refined by Park, begins by removing a small piece of bone from a single vertebra in the patient's lower back — called a single level laminectomy — and exposing the spinal cord. By applying electrical and mechanical stimuli, Park isolates the sensory nerves from the motor nerves. He then tests the sensory nerves to evaluate their contributions to muscle spasticity.

In CP, Park explains, neurons in the spinal cord that normally are under the brain’s direction become autonomous and overexcited, resulting in a loss of muscle control. By cutting a carefully determined number of the abnormal sensory nerves, spasticity can be reduced or eliminated. The nerves don’t regenerate, so the solution is permanent. Surprisingly, Park says, no loss of sensation results. The spinal membrane is closed.
"I look for the underlying potential," says T. S. Park, MD. "The goal is to remove spasticity to improve the quality of life for the rest of their lives." An honest prediction is a "huge relief" for most patients and families, he says.

Martin and Jennifer Wagner's daughter, Bailey, was diagnosed with cerebral palsy when she was 18 months old. After considering selective dorsal rhizotomy (SDR) as a treatment, the Wagners, Georgia residents, sought out Washington University neurological surgeon T. S. Park at St. Louis Children's Hospital. Park has treated more than 2,000 patients from 46 states and 42 countries. (Left) Bailey, who is now 5, is an active young girl. She is pictured with her mother, Jennifer, at a Lenora playground in Snellville, Ga.

over the nerves, but the bone is not replaced; in younger patients, it regenerates. The operation can be applied in cases of spastic CP affecting both legs (spastic diplegia), one leg (spastic hemiplegia) or in mild cases that involve both legs and both arms (spastic quadriplegia).

The procedure originally involved opening five or six vertebrae to locate the appropriate nerves. But in 1991, Park developed the less invasive technique of gaining access via just a single vertebra lower in the back. Although the surgical field is smaller — sometimes no more than 1 inch square — and the operation is therefore more technically challenging, the effect on the patient's spinal stability is greatly reduced. The reduction in effect on the spine has made the operation accessible for older patients — up to age 40 — who could not tolerate a massively destabilized spine. (See online magazine, magazine.wustl.edu, for more on an adult success story.)

Almost single-handedly, Park has demonstrated the efficacy and safety of the SDR surgery. "His findings are absolutely fundamental and influential," says Ralph G. Dacey Jr., MD, the Henry G. & Edith R. Schwartz Professor and chairman of neurological surgery at Washington University. "He is one of the few people in

Enigmatic Cerebral Palsy

its causes are so varied and so difficult to track that complete prevention isn't practical. Its many effects and symptoms vary widely, with the greatest imaginable range of severity. And it can't be cured. Cerebral palsy (CP) is a confusing conglomeration of disorders that can involve nervous system functions from movement through seeing and hearing to thinking and learning.

Parents or pediatricians usually notice CP in children before they reach age 2, sometimes as early as 3 months, when a child has difficulty sitting, reaching or crawling. As many as 750,000 Americans have some form of the condition, and their CP-related needs cost them an average of nearly $1 million each over their lifetimes, which are not shortened by the disorder.

Of the recognized types, spastic CP is the most common, accounting for as many as 80 percent of the cases. Spastic CP is marked by tight muscles that don't stretch and joint contracture, which results in an abnormal gait, especially toe-walking. It is non-contagious and non-progressive, though the development of arthritis is a common complication, and muscles in spasm can deform bones and dislocate joints.

The accepted causes include a brain abnormality or an injury during fetal development, at birth or in the early years of life. Infections or maternal health problems also are among the culprits. Premature infants represent an inordinate number of cases, and it's thought that oxygen deprivation, called hypoxia, is often responsible. Of those patients with spastic CP who qualify for T. S. Park's selective dorsal rhizotomy surgery, more than 90 percent were born prematurely.
"Bailey doesn't know that anything was wrong," Jen says. "She falls, but now she gets back up. Dr. Park changed her life, and I hope he knows what a difference he makes."

They blog about their experiences, and more than 80 grateful patients have posted videos on the site. Park is now working with Matthew B. Dobbs, MD, associate professor of orthopaedic surgery, to develop a protocol for combining SDR with percutaneous release surgery to relieve muscles that remain too tight as a result of extended spasticity. (In Bailey's case, she had heel cord lengthening surgery last fall, which will allow her to keep her heels down as she walks.) Park also is conducting long-term outcomes research to determine how SDR patients do five and 10 years post-surgery.

After 20 years of National Institutes of Health funding for his SDR research, Park recently acquired a substantial private grant to pursue a better understanding of treatments for syringomyelia — damage to the spinal cord as a result of a fluid-filled cyst. A national registry and a consortium of 25 medical centers are contributing to comparative research on the outcomes of various treatments for the disorder.

Surgical wonders change lives

In other work, Park pursues treatment and an understanding of brachial plexus palsy, arm weakness or paralysis usually caused by a traumatic birth injury in which the baby's shoulders are trapped in the birth canal. The brachial plexus, a complex of nerves that controls the muscles of the shoulder, arms and hands, is located on the side of the neck above the collarbone. As many as 90 percent of patients recover most of their strength with therapy alone and show progress in the first three months of their lives.

For those who do not, Park established the Brachial Plexus Center, where he surgically incises the damaged nerves, harvests undamaged nerves from the tiny patients' calves, and performs a nerve graft to directly repair the brachial plexus. He prefers to operate on patients at about 7 months of age but has good success in patients up to 18 months. With more than 180 successful operations completed, his team works with orthopaedic surgeons to correct deformities that can occur later.

The surgery can help children with severe shoulder and upper arm weakness achieve functional range of motion in about 70 percent of cases, though it doesn't often make the affected arm as strong as an unaffected arm. However, Park says, "We can help children to overcome what would be a lifelong disability."

And this intent underlies all of Park's practice, research and innovation. In the example of young Bailey Wagner, now 5 years old and finished with her intense initial rehabilitation, there is still "a touch of spasticity," her mom says. But she is in mainstream preschool, participates in dance class, rides her bike, and swims. Horseback riding therapy helps her with balance and core strength. "Bailey doesn't know that anything was wrong," Jen says. "She falls, but now she gets back up. Dr. Park changed her life, and I hope he knows what a difference he makes."

Steve Kohler is a freelance writer based in Bonne Terre, Mo.
Catching a ‘Story-Catcher’

In her critically acclaimed biography of Raymond Carver, alumna Carol Sklenicka blends the personal and the narrative, portraying the messy life of the influential 20th-century short story writer.

BY CANDACE O’CONNOR
His friends called Raymond Carver a “story-catcher,” and his first full-length biographer, Carol Sklenicka, MA ’78, PhD ’86, has caught a dazzling array of stories, too. To illuminate Carver’s life, she scoured the country for clues to this brilliant but deeply flawed man — possibly the most influential short story writer of the late 20th century — who died at age 50 in 1988.

But her ensuing biography, Raymond Carver: A Writer’s Life, bears no relation to Carver’s spare texts, honed and sometimes heavily altered by his editor, Gordon Lish. Nearly 500 pages long, this book is filled with lavish details about his peripatetic life, his two wives and two children, his toxic drinking spells, his eventual break with alcohol, and his early death from lung cancer. Above all, Sklenicka traces the story of a man who had a single, overwhelming passion: to be a writer.

Like her successful subject, she has won acclaim from a range of critics, including Jacob M. Appel, writing for Ploughshares, who called it an “insightful and engaging biography.” Author Stephen King, another escapee from the hellish world of heavy drinking, described it as an “admirable biography.” And The Washington Post, the San Francisco Chronicle and several other publications named this book, issued in paperback late in 2010, as one of the 100 most notable books of 2009. The New York Times Book Review chose it as one of the “10 Best Books of 2009,” and it was nominated for a PEN-USA award.

That’s a heady response for Sklenicka, who was gratified to note that Appel said: “Sklenicka’s genius lies in her ability to connect the events of Carver’s turbulent life to the incidents depicted in his stories.” In one story after another, Carver built upon gritty incidents that had taken place in his own life. It was fascinating, she says, to connect the dots.

“That’s where you find the genius of a writer and editor,” she adds, “when you see which details make the best story.”
"Carver liked to say he had two lives, and sometimes he spoke of two people, 'Bad Ray' and 'Good Ray.' Of course, he was one man with one life. Bad Ray and Good Ray together were messier and more human than his dichotomy supposed."

A writer’s background

The details of Sklenicka's own life are far more peaceful than those of her troubled subject. She was raised in Santa Maria, Calif., to parents who had not been able to attend college. They were eager for her to go, however, and she graduated from California State Polytechnic University. "They wanted me to get an education," she says, "but they were surprised at how long I kept it up."

After three years of teaching high school English, she moved to Washington University, an experience that changed her life in two ways. First, she met her husband, poet Richard M. Ryan, also a doctoral student in English. And she took courses with faculty — poetry with Howard Nemerov, fiction-writing with Stanley Elkin, Shakespeare with Larry Ross — that would later enrich her own work.

Most influential of all was Naomi Lebowitz, now the Hortense and Tobias Lewin Distinguished Professor Emerita in the Humanities. "She taught these wild comparative literature courses on subjects like 'James' Flaubert' or 'Dickens' Balzac'; she had a wonderful time making comparisons. Her energy was so infectious, and she cared very deeply about writers' lives. To be in a seminar with her felt like being in a conversation with these great writers."

When Ryan left the program and moved to his native Northern California, where he had taken a seminal fiction course; to Iowa City, where he attended the Iowa Writer's Workshop; to Syracuse, N.Y., where he taught much later, after summoning the strength to quit drinking and forming a household with the poet Tess Gallagher. In a small town near Syracuse, she tracked down poet Hayden Carruth, a Syracuse colleague of Carver's, not long before his death.

"Carruth was an older man with a wild beard, on an oxygen tank," she says. "He was totally focused on literature and had bookshelves up to the rafters. To hear of his respect for Carver was moving, especially since he was more educated and, in some ways, a more serious poet and literary critic."

After 10 years of work, she wove such tales into a narrative and brought Carver's tumultuous story to light. As she says in her introduction: "Carver liked to say he had two lives, and sometimes he spoke of two people, 'Bad Ray' and 'Good Ray.' Of course, he was one man with one life. Bad Ray and Good Ray together were messier and more human than his dichotomy supposed."

Since 2005, Sklenicka has lived in Northern California with her now-retired husband, who just published a new volume of poetry, Vaudeville in the Dark. Sklenicka herself is beginning another project: Scribner, publisher of the Carver book, has commissioned a biography of short story writer Alice Adams.

Her days follow a gentle routine. In the mornings, she begins writing and continues through lunch, "since I'm a slow writer and mornings aren't long enough," she says. When she isn't traveling for research, she likes to spend her late afternoons outdoors: hiking in the hills, going to the beach with her dog, gardening, or kayaking.

In the end, what did she think of Carver? "I was happy for him that he was able to pull his life together and attain some success," she says. "One day, my husband and I sat reading his late poems aloud, and we were both crying. I like him for stepping up during his final illness and having the courage to write about it."
Orchestrating an Era of Genomic Medicine

Alumnus Eric Green serves as director of the National Human Genome Research Institute. In this role, he builds scientific coalitions to usher in an era when a patient's genetic makeup will be central to the person's medical care.

BY JANNA L. SIMNER

"I'm a big science sort of guy," says Eric Green, MD '87, PhD '87, HS '91. "I like large-scale experiments, large-scale organization."

In the late 1980s, Green found the perfect match for his big-science passion: the Human Genome Project. The Human Genome Project was then a new initiative with an ambitious goal: to put into proper sequence the more than 3 billion pairs of molecules that make up human DNA, and to identify the more than 20,000 genes written in those molecules. Together our genes make up our genome — the genetic blueprint that encodes everything from what color hair we're born with to which diseases we're susceptible to throughout our lives. "I got involved [with the project] on the ground level," Green says. "Genomics fit my personality so well." And he's been a part of genomics ever since.

In December 2009, Green was named director of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), which is about as big picture a role as one can imagine. As a part of the National Institutes of Health, NHGRI is the largest funder of human genome research; as such, it supports experiments both on-site and at research institutions throughout the world. Green sees his role at NHGRI as akin to conducting an orchestra. "It's incredibly gratifying to see everyone engaged in his or her solo roles, yet be part of a larger unit — and knowing as a funding agency you're a part of that," he says. Green adds that he and the institute essentially serve as overseers and as catalysts — they encourage research, search for new avenues to pursue, and work to get researchers from disparate areas talking to one another to come up with new ideas.

As director, Green also serves as NHGRI's spokesperson, regularly talking to everyone from lay audiences to members of Congress and the press. "It's about building partnerships, coalitions and collaborations, and it's about figuring out priorities," he says. "I like speaking about genomics, and not just to the experts. I like communicating very broadly."

Part of worldwide team of scientists

Green's work on the Human Genome Project began shortly after he earned joint medical and doctoral degrees from Washington University. He'd already begun a residency...
"Our institute is about developing the routine use of genomic information for medical care," Green says. "By knowing the unique makeup of individuals, we can create smarter, better ways to treat people."

in clinical pathology at the School of Medicine, and he was searching for a research laboratory to work in as well. Green visited the lab of Maynard Olson, PhD, an early leader in genomic research. "Within 20 minutes, I knew I was going to work for him," says Green, who describes Olson as one of his science heroes. "Genomics married my clinical side with the sort of scientific research mind I have." Green was excited, too, about the possibility that one day genomics might bring his research and medical backgrounds together, as well as new ways to detect and treat disease.

In 1992, after finishing his residency and postdoctoral research, Green was appointed assistant professor of pathology, genetics and internal medicine at the School of Medicine, as well as a co-investigator in the university's then-new Human Genome Center. "It was an awesomely fantastic place," Green says of his time at the medical school. "Washington University was and is a mecca for genomic science. I felt well supported and nurtured there."

At the university, Olson introduced Green to someone who became another of his science heroes: Francis Collins, who shortly thereafter would become NHGRI's director. In 1994, Collins recruited Green to join NHGRI. In 2002, he appointed Green the institute's scientific director, and in 2009, after Collins was appointed director of the NIH, he named Green his successor as director of NHGRI.

In 2003, the human genome was fully sequenced, two years ahead of schedule and under budget, and the Human Genome Project was officially concluded. With the sequence in hand for the first time, the hard work of understanding it began. For many years after, Green ran a sequencing center that made major contributions to genomics. He says he's enjoyed "working shoulder to shoulder with hundreds of scientists around the world, knowing I was part of that team." Green conducted other research, as well — one of his lab's major successes was finding the gene associated with the most common form of inherited human deafness.

All told, Green has authored and co-authored more than 250 papers as a result of his work. He's been honored by induction into the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the American Association of Physicians. In 2005, he received an Alumni Achievement Award from the university's School of Medicine, and in November 2010, he was honored with a Founders Day Distinguished Alumni Award.

Green phased out his laboratory research at NHGRI in late 2010 in order to focus on his role as NHGRI director. "It's a huge job and a huge responsibility. I wanted to give it my undivided attention," Green explains.

He also wanted to assure he had time to focus on his family, especially his two children, a son and a daughter. Green enjoys coaching his son's baseball team and both children's summer swim teams, as well as helping with his son's rock band. He squeezes two other obsessions into his busy schedule: digital photography and an unflagging dedication to the St. Louis Cardinals. He shares that dedication not only with his wife and children, but with his father, who also is a researcher, and his brother, Michael Green, MD '81, PhD '81. Michael graduated from Washington University's joint medical and doctoral program the same year that Eric began studying there.

A patient's genetic makeup key to care

With the human genome fully sequenced, NHGRI's focus has turned more strongly to human disease applications that helped draw Green to the field. He sees medical science as moving toward an era of "genomic medicine," where knowing a patient's genetic makeup will be central to the person's care.

"You really wouldn't want a mechanic working on your car who doesn't understand the blueprint of how the car was put together," Green explains. "Yet right now we're treating patients without fully understanding their genetic blueprint."

Green cites current breast cancer research as one example of how this might change. Two breast cancer patients will often have tumors that look identical when examined with a microscope but are quite different when their genes are examined — differences that suggest alternative therapies. Genomics can improve preventive care as well: a patient with, say, a genetic predisposition to colon cancer should begin screening for the disease sooner than someone without such a predisposition.

"I believe the best way to treat cancer is to understand the genetic makeup of that cancer. And the best way to treat heart disease is to understand the genetic makeup associated with each individual's heart disease," Green explains.

"Our institute is about developing the routine use of genomic information for medical care," he says. "It's not going to happen overnight, but we're finally within striking distance. By knowing the unique makeup of individuals, we can create smarter, better ways to treat people."
Alumna Deborah Cohen Kosofsky turned her natural curiosity and love of writing into a 30-year career in television. Since 2003, she has served as a producer for the Today show.

BY KRISTIN TENNANT
Deborah Cohen Kosofsky (center), AB ’79, an Emmy-winning producer at NBC’s Today show, says it is the show’s team members, particularly (from left) Al Roker, Meredith Vieira, Matt Lauer and Ann Curry, who make her career so enjoyable and the show such a success.

Time is of the essence. Deborah Cohen Kosofsky, AB ’79, an Emmy-winning producer at NBC’s Today show, understands this fast-paced reality better than most. Story ideas fly across her desk and through her mind, demanding further investigation. Breaking news forces the production team to change course. Segments are planned, produced and viewed live by an average six million daily. And the moment Today goes off the air for the morning, Kosofsky begins looking ahead to the next day’s show. There isn’t a moment to lose.

“The show is a well-oiled machine, but it’s like a locomotive going 100 miles per hour,” Kosofsky says. “Staying on top of it requires a balance between planning ahead and being flexible enough to handle whatever is thrown your way.”

While Kosofsky has mastered this breathtaking pace over her 30-year career in television, she also has developed the skill of holding time loosely, balancing careful planning with an attitude of openness and adventure. “Don’t look at life as a timeline,” she tells her three high school and college-aged children. “What’s the rush? And why does life have to unfold in a perfect line? There’s no right path. Make your own path — one that follows something you’re passionate about.”

Kosofsky’s own path has twisted and turned, but always with purpose, following her own two passions: family and the television industry.

Her love for television is rooted in a newspaper journalism course she took as a freshman at Washington University. St. Louis Post-Dispatch columnist Jim Fox, who became Kosofsky’s mentor and friend for years to come, taught the course.

“I went to Washington University with no set idea of a career path,” she says. “I was just naturally curious. Taking a class with an inspiring professor [like Jim Fox] can really have a life-altering impact.”

The following semester, Fox helped Kosofsky arrange an internship at the P-D. During her sophomore year, she began working for the university’s independent student newspaper, Student Life, serving as co-editor-in-chief her senior year. Those opportunities, along with Washington University’s supportive, engaging, liberal arts atmosphere, served her well, she says.

“Communications wasn’t a major when I went to school. Preparing for a career like mine was just about the basics: read, write, think.”

Kosofsky possessed all of those skills, but wasn’t sure how she would apply them after graduation. As she finished her senior year, her father gave her sage advice: Do what she loved. “He said, ‘It’s great to be curious about the world, and to be a good writer. Try to find a career that incorporates both of those passions,’” she recalls.

That career, in essence, found her. Shortly after Kosofsky graduated, a friend who was working for ABC
“Producers have to know their audience, understand what they want to see, and understand how to present it,” Kosofsky says. “You want to make your audience think: ‘I have to watch that.’”

in New York called to see if she was interested in a job coordinating transportation for the guests of Good Morning America. “I thought, ‘Sure, why not?’ and took the job,” she says.

This ready-for-anything attitude continued to serve Kosofsky well — not just at her job at Good Morning America, but also later when she moved to Boston to continue building her television career.

“I absolutely fell in love with TV — it was a mad love affair and has been ever since,” she says. “I love that it’s live. I love that we’re talking about issues that are interesting to me. And I love that we’re making a positive impact on people’s lives, helping them get through the day a bit easier.”

During her stay in Boston, Kosofsky developed another great love: She met her husband, and they eventually started their family. While mothering three children, Kosofsky continued nurturing a variety of television projects as a freelance producer.

She also began teaching “Producing for TV” and “Writing for TV” at Boston University. Kosofsky says teaching the writing aspect was easy, but instructing students to be producers was a challenge.

“The students needed to learn how to be thorough and meticulous,” she says. “Kids today sometimes miss that — they think the computer will save them.” In class, Kosofsky stressed the importance of not taking the viewer’s time for granted. She feels a genuine sense of responsibility to share information that’s accurate, fair and as unbiased as possible — and that also does some good. “I’m always asking myself: ‘Are we delivering what is needed? Are we doing a good job telling that story?’” she says.

“I also had to teach what makes a good segment. Producers have to know their audience, understand what they want to see, and understand how to present it,” Kosofsky continues. “You want to make your audience think: ‘I have to watch that.’ It’s about keeping the viewer committed to staying with you.”

Understanding her audience and how to draw them in were among the very skills that landed Kosofsky her position with the Today show in 2003. As a supervising producer, Kosofsky maintains two roles: booking all the chefs for the food-related segments and producing human-interest segments about health, parenting and other topics.

Her day starts early, meeting the morning’s guests at the studio, making sure the graphics and audio editors have everything they need, and finally checking in with Matt Lauer or Meredith Vieira, two of the show’s talent, to ask if they have any questions about Kosofsky’s segment. As the piece is being shot, Kosofsky stands behind the director, helping to ensure everything comes together smoothly.

“Then I start to write my segment for the next day,” she says. “I’m responsible for everything from start to finish — the pre-interview, the script, the type of visuals needed.”

According to Kosofsky, the days are long. “But it is so much fun,” she says. “I still pinch myself every day over the fact that I get to walk through the doors of the Today show studio as an employee.”

Kosofsky says the Today team members — particularly Lauer, Vieira, Al Roker and Ann Curry — are what make her career so enjoyable and the show such a success. “They’re unbeatable,” she says. “What you see on the air is exactly what they’re like when the cameras are off. They truly like each other and completely embrace the staff. It’s all about teamwork and being a family. It’s really a magical combination.”

Much like Kosofsky’s life — a magical combination of the right talents and passions, the right timing and opportunities, and the right people and relationships.

“I have a very supportive husband, and my kids were older when I started at the Today show,” she says. “I was able to tell them: ‘You will always come first, but I’m working because this gives me great fulfillment.’ My most precious gift is spending time with my children, yet I want to work in this field for as many years as anyone will let me!”
The Best Investment He Ever Made

BY SUSAN WOOLEYHAN CAIN

John Beuerlein is a dedicated advocate for higher education. He says: “Whenever someone brings up the high cost of college today, I always tell them that Washington University was the best investment I ever made. In terms of its impact on my life, it was a steal.”

Beuerlein knows a thing or two about good investments. While earning his MBA at Olin Business School, he had an internship at Edward Jones that led to a full-time job. At age 26 he became the youngest person ever to be made a general partner of the firm, and over the next 35 years he helped to lead the company’s spectacular growth. When Beuerlein joined Edward Jones, it had 177 branch offices. Today the St. Louis-based firm has more than 11,380 offices, serving more than 4.2 million households in the United States and Canada, and it has grown from $20 million to just over $4 billion in revenues.

“We build our company by building long-term individual relationships,” Beuerlein says. “That personal approach contributes to an amazing spirit of caring throughout the firm. Our No. 1 goal is to help people, not maximize profits.”

Learning and growing

Beuerlein grew up as one of eight children in Springfield, Mo. He recalls: “My dad was valedictorian of his high school class, but he never had the opportunity to go to college. He taught us the value of education.”

Beuerlein received a scholarship to attend Drury University, where he began dating his future wife and classmate, Crystal Tinlin. After they graduated in 1975, Crystal got a job with a St. Louis mortgage company, and Beuerlein applied to Washington University. During his first year at Olin, Crystal urged him to attend a Career Day job fair, where he was offered the internship with Edward Jones — and he never looked back.

“I worked as a numbers cruncher in the Research Department,” he says. “During my second year at Olin, I was invited back to work at the firm part time. “It was an incredibly exciting, entrepreneurial place to be. My cubicle was located right behind Ted Jones, the son of the founder, and John Bachmann, who later succeeded Ted as the managing partner. I learned so much from them; it was like getting a second MBA. I couldn’t wait to get to the office each morning.”

John and Crystal were planning to be married and relocate to Flagstaff, Ariz., where Beuerlein was going to open the third Edward Jones branch office in the state. “Just two weeks before I graduated from Olin, John Bachmann asked me to stay and help expand the Investment Banking Department. In 1978 they offered me the chance to run OTC trading. Two years later I became a principal of the firm, with responsibilities for the Syndicate Department.”

In 1990 Beuerlein was named director of Equity Marketing. Although he had never worked directly with clients, Beuerlein was made an area leader in the Financial Advisor Development Division in 1993, in charge of sales for the New England territory. By 2000 he was head of sales for the entire East Coast, working with regional leaders to develop financial advisers in more than 1,000 branch offices. He spent the next five years in advanced sales training, working with about 1,800 senior financial advisers throughout the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Today he is a principal in the Service Division and leads the global Client Service Excellence program. “We’re responsible for client satisfaction,” he says. “We provide employee education programs, and we work to improve the services we deliver to our branch offices.” J.D. Power and Associates has ranked Edward Jones No. 1 in investor satisfaction in five out of the past six years, including 2010, and SmartMoney magazine named it the No. 1 full-service broker for 2010.

Beuerlein credits Ted Jones, who died in 1990, with recognizing the importance of serving individual investors and building long-term relationships. “Ted taught me that helping people was good business,” Beuerlein says. “Today Edward Jones believes in giving back to the communities we serve.”
"Returning the favor"

Beuerlein is committed to helping others in his personal life as well. He is the past chair and a member of the board of trustees of Drury University and chaired its successful "Campaign for Sciences," which helped to build a new science complex. The Beuerleins, together with Edward Jones, made the naming gift for Drury's Edward Jones Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation as well as the Edward Jones Scholarships for 40 minority students. Beuerlein has mentored many Drury students, and he received the university's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2001.

Beuerlein also has been generous with his time and support at Washington University. He is a longtime member of the Executive Committee of the William Greenleaf Eliot Society and recently served as chair of the Danforth Circle Committee. In July he began a three-year term as president of the Eliot Society. He and Crystal are sustaining charter members of the Danforth Circle Chancellor's Level and life fellows of the Eliot Society, and they have been active in many community organizations through the years. Washington University honored Beuerlein with a Distinguished Alumni Award at Founders Day in 2009.

For nearly 25 years, the Beuerleins have sponsored two annual scholarships in the Olin Business School — the Edward D. Jones, Sr. Scholarship and the L.A. Beuerlein Scholarship, named in memory of John's father. Recently they made a $1 million commitment to endow the John and Crystal Beuerlein Family Scholarships, to be awarded with a preference for students who graduated from Drury University. Their gift serves as a challenge grant to match unrestricted gifts and pledges for scholarship support in all schools at the university.

Mahendra R. Gupta, PhD, dean of Olin Business School and the Geraldine J. and Robert L. Virgil Professor of Accounting and Management, says: "John is committed to helping deserving students receive a superior education. He is a mentor to many and actively recruits them for internships with Edward Jones. We are fortunate that he and Crystal have chosen to invest in our students and their future."

Beuerlein responds: "A scholarship made my education possible, and it changed our lives. Crystal and I are very happy to be able to return the favor!"

"Ted [Jones] taught me that helping people was good business," Beuerlein says. "Today Edward Jones believes in giving back to the communities we serve."

Susan Wooleyhan Caine is director of Development Communications.
Food and fun are what make the family picnic during Alumni Weekend a popular activity for alumni and their guests.

**REUNION**

**Good Times Abound**

Undergraduate alumni gear up for their Reunions.

Nearly 1,000 young alumni and friends return to Washington University annually for Young Alumni Reunion. This year promises to be no different. Members of the classes of 2010, 2006, 2001 and 1996 will come together April 15-17, 2011, for their 1st, 5th, 10th and 15th Reunions. The weekend gives alumni the opportunity to reconnect with friends and enjoy a fun-filled weekend of class parties, campus activities and Thurtene Carnival.

The 20th–70th Reunion classes will assemble on the Danforth Campus May 19–22, 2011. Undergraduate alumni from the classes of 1941 through 1991 ('41, '46, '51, '56, '61, '66, '71, '76, '81, '86, '91) will reconnect with classmates and see what is new on campus. The weekend promises to be an exciting one as many events are planned, including class parties and the Great Bear Parade.

For more on all the Reunion festivities, visit: reunions.wustl.edu.

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Stay connected to the university ...  
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Contact the Alumni Association  
314-935-7378 or 800-867-ALUM (toll-free)  
alumniassociation@wustl.edu

Members of the Class of 2005 Reunion Committee — (from left) Anne Oliphant, AB '05; Taylor Lewis Guthrie, AB '03; and Erin Harkless, BSBA '05 — enjoy the festivities.
Getting together with friends makes Alumni Weekend special. (from left) Jack Summerford, BFA '65; Jane Summerford; Marian Connole Peters, AB '65; Michael Peters, BFA '65; Patricia Tuffli and Bruce Tuffli, BFA '65.

Reunion offers the opportunity to reconnect and share a smile with former classmates, like Class of 2009 Reunion Committee Chairs Brittany Perez, AB '09, and Lee Cordova, BS '09.

Alumna Volunteer Spotlight

Danielle Forget Shield, BS '94

- President, B25 Basics, LLC
- Co-author of Exceeds Expectations: Take Control of Your Performance Review
- University volunteer positions: Chair, Washington University Club in Houston; Member, Houston Regional Cabinet

What do you enjoy most about your volunteer positions? As a student, I tried to take at least one class a semester that was beyond the reach of my civil engineering degree program — art, athletics, business, political science, etc. The incredible programs that the university brings to the alumni clubs allow us to continue learning in areas that are beyond our professional areas of expertise.

In addition, my university volunteer positions help me connect to others and network in Houston, helping me create strong friendships with fascinating people.

Why do you volunteer for Washington University? After I graduated and moved to a new city, I was compelled to participate in organizations as a way to meet people, including the Washington University alumni club.

Everyone we encounter shapes us, and the people I encountered at the university helped form who I have become professionally.

Washington U. taught me how to utilize data to find a unique solution. These analytical and decision-making skills have been invaluable in my career. I enjoy giving my time to an institution that gave so much to me.

What advice do you have for current students? Success in the workplace requires a different skill set than success in an academic environment. The university does a phenomenal job of preparing you academically, but you also need to prepare socially. You must learn to network effectively and develop communications skills. Tomorrow’s leaders will be able to optimize social networking tools, as well as know when and how to have a quality conversation face-to-face.

The best way for students to gain these skills before officially entering the workforce is through summer jobs, co-ops or internships. Alternatively, participating in professional and technical organizations will build crucial skills.

To learn more about how you can volunteer, contact the Alumni Association at 314-935-7378 or 800-867-ALUM (toll-free), or e-mail alumniassociation@wustl.edu.
Robert R. Ruethelain, BU 49, and his wife, Joan, travel around the country to visit their family. Robert meets monthly with his Theta Xi brothers, church groups and golf groups.

Henry B. Stern, SW 49, is an active collector of the literature, stamps and postal history of the British Mandate Period in Palestine, 1917-47. He is a former national president of the Society of Israel Philatelists and a life member of the American Philatelic Society.

Clyde Espenschied, SA 50, exhibited his artwork in A Book About Death on Sept. 10, 2009, in Manhattan at the Emily Harvey Foundation Gallery. The exhibit, which honored the late artist Ray Johnson, traveled across the globe. The Museum of Modern Art in New York placed the entire works in their permanent collection.

David Pearce, AR 51, James Bartled, EN 57, William Gullion, BU 57, and Peter Mollman, LA 52, are wanting to commemorate and honor Blair Gullion, former coach of Washington University's women's basketball (1947-59). They are seeking help from the players of the "Gullion Years" to honor Coach Gullion's development of a nationally recognized program. E-mail: dwpearce@aol.com, jlbartled16@aol.com, billgullion@bellsouth.net, and pmollman@msn.com

Virginia (Kuhn) Brady, SA 53, was inducted into the Pennsylvania Voter Hall of Fame. To qualify, a person must win every general election for at least 50 consecutive years.

Max A. Heeb, MD 53, retired from a 50-year surgery practice in St. Louis, Mo., in 2008. Heeb moved to a home on Kentucky Lake in 2010. He has published two books: Max the Knife: The Life and Times of a Country Surgeon (Heliographic Press, 2005) and Surgical Imposter (AuthorHouse, 2008). Both books mention the School of Medicine. He received the 2009 Alumni Merit Award from Southeast Missouri State University.

Alton C. Kohl, LA 53, LW 55, was named St. Louis Best Lawyers Bet-the-Company Litigator of the Year by Best Lawyers 2011. Kohl was also included in the commercial litigation and legal malpractice law categories by Best Lawyers. He was included in Missouri and Kansas Super Lawyers 2010 in the business litigation category. He is a partner at Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gionoulakis & Giljum, LLP in St. Louis. The firm was ranked as a "Best Law Firm" in St. Louis in the inaugural law firm rankings by U.S. News — Best Lawyers.

Rudenz T. Douthat, MD 54, is one of the two living founders of St. Louis emergency medicine and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) in 1968. He was recently honored at ACEP Scientific Assembly in Las Vegas. Douthat is now retired.

Virgil L. Fuchs, SW 56, and his wife, Marilyn, moved to Laclede Groves, a retirement community in St. Louis. The couple does a lot of volunteer work.

David A. Brandstetter, BU 58, has owned Arch Communications, Inc., in St. Louis since 1985. The company offers business local, long distance and Internet services and all types of phone products. Arch Communications also has qualified technicians for all types of wiring and phone repair.

Alice (Dean) Helmer, FA 58, and her husband, David, reside in a retirement village near Kansas City, Mo. They enjoy traveling and spending time with their children and great-grandson.

Wayne F. Schlicher, FA 58, and his wife, Evelyn, were honored for their 28 years of Neighborhood Watch Development Programs by the National Sheriffs' Association. Wayne is the recipient of two Illinois Governor's Awards for "Significant Contributions to the Field of Crime Prevention." He was recently honored for his creation and direction of a record-breaking Best Lawyers Club of Swans (and Pigs) in sponsorship of a successful Free Infant Immunization Program.

John Gianoulakis, LA 60, was selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2011 in the Bet-the-Company Litigation, commercial litigation and legal malpractice law categories. He was also listed in Missouri and Kansas Super Lawyers 2010 in the business litigation, Top 50 in St. Louis and Top 100 in Missouri categories. He is a partner at Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis & Giljum, LLP in St. Louis. The firm was ranked as a "Best Law Firm" in St. Louis in the inaugural law firm rankings by U.S. News — Best Lawyers.

Ronald Grossop, GR 60, is professor emeritus at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. He is active in educating children and young people in the use of Esperanto, the more easily learned language for international communication. Grossop assisted in presenting a 10-day seminar for Chinese teachers and students. He is president of the American Association of Esperanto and section leader for the United States and Canada in the International League of Esperanto Instructors. He resides in the Edwardsville area and is the author of three books.

Glen E. Stuckel, EN 60, was re-elected to a four-year term as District 17 Louisville Metro councilman. Stuckel has been a councilman since 2003.

Stan Fraser, BU 61, received the Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award from the Boy Scouts of America for his service in bringing scouting to culturally diverse and underserved youth. Fraser is professor emeritus of social work at the University of Louisville and a psychologist in private practice. He has worked with the U.S. Army for the past six years to reduce and prevent suicide. In addition, Fraser is a talk-show host on Sunday nights with 970 WGTK who focuses on mental health.

Michael J. Kearney, EN 62, competed in the Big Shoulders Open Water Swim in Lake Michigan on Sept. 11, 2010. This is a U.S. Masters Swimming sanctioned event with 2.5 km and 5 km events. He competed in the 2.5 km event.

Dennis J. Kilper, AR 63, AR 65, is an award-winning architect and artist, now retired from teaching and architecture at Virginia Tech. He is currently painting and seeking publication for two books on architecture and philosophy.

Jan Greenberg, LA 64, co-wrote the Bullet for Madison: Making Appalachian Spring (Roaring Brook Press, 2010). The Saint Louis Symphony performed a concert based on the book in October, 2010. E-mail: JanGreenbergSandraJordan.com

Mickey Grossman, OT 64, continues to work as an occupational therapist while serving as president of P'nai Sholom Sisterhood and co-president of their Shady Oaks Garden Club. Josh Grossman, MD 65, continues to attend Grand Rounds & Cancer Conference while working as a mentor/tutor for candidates for the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination III and writing book reviews. The couple enjoys visiting their grandchildren.

E-mail: mickeyot@embarqmail.com; djrjosht@embarqmail.com

Thomas L. Jackson, LA 66, is able to be a nominational Order of Christian Workers, headquartered in Tyler, Texas. The order held its 18th Annual Children's Christmas Party in December 2010 and gifted more than 500 disadvantaged children. Website: www.OrderOfChristianWorkers.org

Philip Culbertson, LA 66, resides in Sarasota, Fla., serves as an adjunct faculty member in the graduate program in counseling at the University of Auckland (New Zealand) and as an adjunct in philosophy at St. Bonaventure as well as the Desert, Palm Desert, Calif. He also teaches in adult continuing education at University of California, Riverside. His 12th book, The Bible in/and Popular Culture, was published by SBL Press in October 2010.

H. Michael Jones, MD 66, received a bachelor's degree in...
history from the University of Texas. He is a professor at the University of North Carolina Medical School.

Mary Ann Joyce-Walter, GR 66, GR 70, is an active composer and has been teaching at Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y., since 1979. She has reconnected with her mentor and dissertation advisor, Robert Wykes, professor emeritus of composition in Arts & Sciences.

William C. Lane, GB 67, retired as vice president and associate tax counsel after 28 years with MetLife. He and his wife, Karen J. Lane, UC 93, moved to Washington state.

Dennis A. Bolazina, LA 68, 69, was appointed to the National Construction Dispute Resolution Committee of the American Arbitration Association.

Richard D. English, GB 68, 69, received the Outstanding Accounting Educator Award from the South Dakota Society of Certified Public Accountants for 2009.

Robert J. Matlock, BU 68, presented “Setting Ground Rules with Lawyers in Collaborative Cases” before the Second Annual Civil Collaborative Law Symposium in 2010. Matlock, a member of Woods, May & Matlock, PC, is a charter member of the first collaborative practice group in Texas and a charter member of the first statewide collaborative organization, the Collaborative Law Institute of Texas. Through the efforts of those organizations, Texas was the first state to enact a collaborative law statute.

Elissa (Blitstein) Brown, GN 69, received the 2010 Clinical Nurse Specialist of the Year Award from the National Organization of Clinical Nurse Specialists. Brown is the president of the American Nurses Association/California and is also active on the national ANA level. She works at the hospital and coordinates a geropsychiatry clinic and caregiver support groups, and she consults, teaches and develops programs. She and her husband, Gary, a lawyer, are vegan chefs. Gary is a well-known vegan chef.

Earl Henry Jr., GB 69, and several survivors of the USS Indianapolis presented “Courage Beyond Measure: The USS Indianapolis Story” in September 2010 at Blue Ridge Community College near Staunton, Va. Henry represented the non-survivors by telling the story of his father who was the ship’s dentist. Following the presentation, Henry and his wife, Marilyn, traveled with two of the survivors to Washington, D.C., to visit the World War II Memorial.

E-mail: HenryBirdPrints@aol.com

Award from the Missouri Bar's Missouri Lawyers Assistance Program in October 2010. Altman was honored for his volunteer work with the Missouri Bar.

Nahoum Matsas, LA 73, GA 76, founded a consulting firm specializing in building project management in Greece.

Marc S. Palay, LA 73, is a global coordinator at Sidney Austin LLP. He works in the firm’s International Arbitration group. Palay also serves as co-managing partner of the firm’s Geneva, Switzerland, office, where he focuses on international commercial arbitration and complex transnational litigation.

Kenneth W. Bean, LA 74, LW 77, was named a Lawyer of the Year in the St. Louis metropolitan area by Best Lawyers 2011. He was recognized as the St. Louis Best Lawyers Medical Malpractice Lawyer of the Year. Bean is an attorney at Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard PC.


Branch Morgan 3rd, LA 74, moved to Essex, Md., in June 2010. Morgan continues to teach foreign languages and dance for the Baltimore City Public School Systems. He gave two presentations at the Baltimore Teachers Union 28th Annual QuEST Conference on Oct. 15, 2010. He was the featured dance artist and

Alum Lands Exclusive Interview


“During the interview, I thought of my grandfather,” Madison says. “He was not able to vote during his lifetime, and he never would have believed that an African-American man would become president. To top that off, he would never have believed his own grandson would be sitting in the Oval Office participating in a one-on-one discussion with the most powerful man on earth.”

Known to his audience as the Black Eagle, Madison can be heard nationwide, Monday through Friday, at 6 a.m. EST on The Power XM 169-SIRIUS XM Radio, as well as WOL 1450AM Radio One in Washington, D.C.

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Alvaria (Simpson) Jacquess, UC 76, works part time with Ferguson-Florissant School District’s Early Education Program. Lori (Orton) Vu, GR 76, is part owner of TTV Architects, Inc. She and her husband, Tri, completed the bronze level of ballroom dancing at a Fred Astaire Dance Studio.

Arnold Donald, EN 77, is president and CEO of the Executive Leadership Council, a network of African-American executive directors of major U.S. companies.

Conrad Jordan, GB 78, owns a sales agency that focuses on snowboard sales. He participates in the sport as much as possible. Stephen R. Woodley, LA 78, DE 82, was listed in The Best Lawyers in America 2011 in the personal injury litigation category. Woodley is a principal in the St. Louis law firm of Gray, Ritter & Graham, PC.

Jim Holliman, MD 79, received the International Humanitarian Award from the International Federation for Emergency Medicine. He also received the Individual Achievement in International Emergency Medicine Development Award from the American College of Emergency Physicians. Holliman is professor of military and emergency medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md., and clinical professor of emergency medicine at George Washington University of Medicine and Health Sciences. He also co-edited EMS: A Practical Global Guidebook.

Bob Moskowitz, GF 79, had a solo exhibition, titled Myth and Legend, in September 2010 at Blick Gallery in Santa Monica, Calif. He is the art department chair at Ventura College in Ventura, Calif. His wife, Marjorie (Feldman) Moskowitz, BU 63, FA 77, GR 79, had three solo exhibitions of her paintings during the past year. The most recent one was held at the Harbor Square Gallery in Rockland, Maine. The couple is celebrating their 30th anniversary.

Ann Meyer Fairchild, SW 80, is president-elect of the Association of Oncology Social Work. She has been an oncology social worker in a hospital and then in a large physical practice in Austin, Texas, for the past 19 years. Fairchild is now semi-retired and resides in Austin.

June McAllister Fowler, GR 80, received the Corporate Executive of the Year Award in November 2010 at the St. Louis American Foundation’s Salute to Excellence in Business Awards & Networking Luncheon. Fowler is the vice president of corporate and public communications for BJC HealthCare.

Eric Plutzer, LA 80, GR 83, GR 86, published Evolution, Creationism and the Battle to Control America’s Classrooms (Cambridge University Press, 2010). He is a professor of political science at Penn State, where he also serves as academic director of the Survey Research Center. Plutzer, Lee Ann Banaszak, GR 89, and their children recently returned to State College from Germany, where Plutzer spent a year as a guest scholar at the Max Planck Institute in Berlin for Socialforschung.

Melissa A. Wood, FA 80, displayed 20 years of collage work in a solo exhibit, Geographic Layering: The Deposition and Architecture, at International House in Davis, Calif., in fall 2010. Wood’s canvas, paper and box assemblage work will be featured in a solo exhibit in March 2012 at the Pence Gallery in Davis. E-mail: info@melissa-woodart.com

Janet Finley Long, LA 81, is the executive vice president of the U.S. Hereditary Angioedema Association. She and one of her three daughters have HAE, a C1-inhibitor deficiency of the blood. The first medications for HAE were recently FDA-approved in the United States through the efforts of the U.S. HAE Association. E-mail: janetlong@haea.org; website: www.haea.org

Susan (Prosser) Vick, SW 81, serves on the board of the Medina City Schools and the Medina County Career Center in Medina, Ohio. Vick also serves as co-chairperson for the South Africa Mission Partnership in the greater Cleveland area.

Jesse Kadekawa Miguel, LA 82, is the senior bridge architect for HNTB Corporation. The firm worked with Walsh Construction to propose a replacement of the I-90 bridge in downtown Cleveland for the Cleveland Innerbelt Bridge project. Their design build team won, and Miguel was responsible for creating the 3D models and renderings that were part of the design aesthetic requirements.

Jaeger Ploehn, GR 82, was awarded the “Sign of Honor with a Blue Ribbon” from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. The medal he received is the highest scientific award in Bulgaria.

Aaron Hara, LA 83, is the information technology manager at the Honolulu Academy of Arts.

Paul A. Leo, TI 83, is a design engineer at Lockheed Martin.

Jeanette Meyer, LA 83, was named to the board of directors of Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity. Meyer owns and operates Meyer Property, Inc., and is licensed with RE/MAX Alliance. E-mail: jmeyer@remax.net.

Anita (Ruffino) Stifelman, LA 83, HS 90, recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of Rainbow Pediatrics. She mentors residents from St. Louis Children’s Hospital and teaches students at the School of Medicine in her private practice. She and her husband, Louis, celebrated their 25th anniversary. The couple has five children, ages 9-13, in Mo., with their two daughters.

Edmond F. Ritter, MD 84, is the director of a plastic surgery residency program. He also has a large practice for reconstructive microsurgery and cosmetic surgery.

Harry Davis Jr., LA 85, is the logistics management section lead for the U.S. Marine Corps Program Management Office, Light Armored Vehicles.

Mark Glickman, LA 85, published Sacred Treasure — The Cairo Genizah: The Amazing Discoveries of Forgotten Jewish History in an Egyptian Synagogue Attic (Jewish Lights Publishing, 2010). Glickman serves as a rabbi in two congregations in the Seattle area and is on the board of trustees. Ross is the first female president in the association’s 115-year history. She resides and practices on Shelter Island, N.Y., with her husband, Frank Spinosa.

David M. Askins, LA 86, co-founded and launched the Ann Arbor Chronicle, an online-only publication that has, over the past two years, become the local journal of record for Ann Arbor, Mich.

Howard Shalowitz, LW 87, and Cara Katzen were married on June 13, 2010, at the 560 Music Center in St. Louis. The couple resides in the only all-green-certified home in Creve Coeur, Mo. Howard continues to practice law and “canning,” and Cara is the owner of Piece of Mind—a replacement company for women.

Catherine D. Wendt, LA 88, is training for competitive dressage with her two horses: Graceful and Champagne Monogram.

Craig P. Gaumer, MH 89, is assistant U.S. attorney at the
Plan today to Open Doors to the Future for students.

(See page 9.)

BROOKINGS PARTNERS

Recognizing the Importance of Planned Gifts
Washington University in St. Louis
Consider the impact your estate gift can make.

(See page 9.)
**ALUMNUS PROFILE**

**Ben Lewis, AB '99**

Entrepreneur Engages the Elderly

Ben Lewis, AB '99 (psychology and African and African-American studies), never dreamed he’d become a pioneer in the senior-care industry. It all started when he met 91-year-old Anna. Anna’s daughter, Leslie, was looking for help with her elderly mother. She introduced the two because she thought Lewis, with his background in African-American history, would be a good match for Anna, “an old lefty.”

The pair hit it off, and Lewis was hired to be Anna’s conversation partner.

“Anna spent most of her time in bed in an assisted-living facility saddled with an oxygen tank,” he says. “Still, she watched CNN and read as many books as she could. Until we met, she didn’t have many people to talk with and discuss the news and history she was digesting.”

Lewis worked with Anna for more than two years, reading to her and debating ideas and concepts. He also arranged for other people to come spend time with her, so that she had a visitor every night of the week. Lewis even found an opera singer to come and sing for Anna, an opera enthusiast.

“My experience with Anna showed me the profound need for connecting the elderly with others who share their interests,” Lewis says.

When Anna died, her family requested in her obituary that money be sent to Lewis to start an organization to provide this service to other seniors.

A year later, Lewis founded Engage As You Age, an innovative San Francisco-based organization that pairs homebound or isolated seniors with active adults who share their interests. The active adults, or “activity specialists,” visit regularly with the elderly clients to stimulate cognitive and social interactions. Engage As You Age also provides respite to family and caregivers.

“I haven’t always had an interest in working with the elderly,” Lewis says. “In high school and college, I spent a lot of time working with children. It wasn’t until I met Anna that I realized how much of a need there was — that the elderly, like children, need one-on-one social interaction.”

According to Lewis, the matching process is extensive and involves meeting with the potential clients and their families to determine what the best match would be. After selecting and training an activity specialist, Lewis brings everyone together for an initial visit. He receives detailed notes after each session and also drops by unannounced to make sure things are going well.

Engage As You Age offers its clients many different activities. “We can help someone use a computer, swap travel tales, debate about nearly anything; and, most important, engage the senior,” Lewis says.

In addition, Engage As You Age works with assisted-living facilities, nursing homes and community centers to provide group programming. Programs range from U.S. history discussion groups to Shakespeare workshops.

Engage As You Age — the only known organization of its kind — is receiving attention in the media for its pioneering services. Lewis appeared on a local newsmagazine show, and CBS aired a segment on the organization in January 2010. *The Gilbert Guide*, the Internet’s leading senior resource database, even profiled Lewis as an “Aging Innovator.”

Always looking for ways to improve his company, Lewis frequently bounces business ideas off friends he made at Washington University. “The university provided me with a place where I felt comfortable following my interests,” he says. “I wouldn’t trade that opportunity for anything.”

No matter how busy he is with running his business (delivering public talks, interviewing prospective activity specialists, checking in with clients, and reading up on the industry), Lewis finds time to spend with his matched client.

“I meet weekly with 89-year-old Verna,” he says. “She suffers from dementia, and I represent an ‘escape’ from the normal routine and am someone she looks forward to seeing.”

In the future, Lewis hopes to expand his client base in the San Francisco area and, eventually, to offer services in other locations.

“The most rewarding part of my job is knowing that I have the opportunity to profoundly change not only individual lives but also the senior-care industry,” he says.

For more information, visit www.engageasyouage.com or call 415-690-6944.

—Blaire Leible Garwitz
assistant professor of surgical technology at Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

Craig L. Finger, LA 92, co-presented "Complying With the Government Is Everyone's Job: Non-contractual Rules Pertaining to Shopping Centers" at the International Council of Shopping Centers Law for Non-lawyers Seminar in September 2010. Finger discussed the government's position as a friend and foe in the operation and ownership of a shopping center. Finger has a transactional-based real estate practice and a general corporate practice. He is a partner in the Philadelphia office of Fox Rothschild LLP.

Nick Santora, LA 92, co-created, wrote, and executively produced Breakout Kings, a new television series that will premiere on A&E in March 2011. Santora's 2010 Ch. 10 Q "Pods" recently sold to publisher Little, Brown and will be released in about 18 months. His first original comic book series, Saulstorn, will be published by DC Comics next year.

Jill (Owens) Siegel, GA 92, is the 2010 recipient of the Preeclampsia Foundation's Hope Award for Volunteer of the Year. Since 2006, Siegel and her family have helped raise more than $100,000 to benefit the foundation. She served as the 2009 Saving Grace chair and co-coordinator of the 2010 Chicago "Virtual Walk for Preeclampsia." Siegel suffered from severe preeclampsia and HELLP syndrome with the delivery of her daughter, Brooklyn, in 2006. She is the founder of the non-profit group that marked her own recovery process by completing the New York City Marathon. During that time, she became acquainted with the foundation's story and is highlighted on Runner's World website.

Jeff Polish, LA 93, GM 05, teaches high school biology and is the founder and director of The Monticello Science Festival event for and by adults. Website: www.themonti.org

Cheryl (Henderson) Rinehart, EN 93, is the owner of REMAX Real Estate in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Website: www.DR4Sale.com

Jill (Soumerer) Blomgren, PT 94, and her husband, Dan, have two children: Miles and Aiden.

Kyle Freimuth, BU 94, serves on the board of the Jewish Community Center of Chicago.

Sam Kline, EN 94, EN 95, and his wife, Susan, announced the birth of Evan Daniel on Oct. 13, 2010. He joins twin sisters, Hannah and Madeline, 3. Sam is the chief technical officer for SAfNT Technology, Inc., a leading biotechnology company.

Jared Littmann, EN 94, moved to Annapolis, MD., with his wife, Marlene Niefeld, and their 5-year-old daughter and 1-year-old son. The couple bought Marlene's parents' hardware store in 2007, which Jared runs. Marlene is a research scientist at Johns Hopkins.

Danielle Forget Shield, EN 94, co-authored Exceeds Expectations: Take Control of Your Performance Review (New York: Publisher, 2010). (See pg.)

Thomas A. Wendorf, GR 94, GR 99, is on a five-year hiatus from the University of Dayton, where he has taught English for 11 years. His current work is for his religious congregation, the Marianists (Society of Mary). He coordinates the vocation ministry for their national province, including vocations to the priesthood, and is interested in the religious life.

David Rosenberg, LA 95, and his wife, Hyla, announce the birth of Noam Lev on Jan. 24, 2010. The family resides in Philadelphia. E-mail: dpiphilly@gmail.com

Elena Jaffe Tastensen, LA 95, and her husband, Charles, announce the birth of Victoria Frances on May 11, 2010. She joins big brothers, Jacob, 6, and Maximilian, 4. The family resides in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Elena owns her own law firm specializing in matrimonial, family and criminal law. E-mail: ejt@jlaw.com

Denise (Clarke) Weiss, BU 95, and her husband, Brian, announce the birth of New York on Dec. 4, 2009. He joins big brother, Nico, 4. The family resides in Bellevue, Neb. Denise is the director of user experience design for a digital company in San Francisco.

Jason Bailin, BU 96, published his second cookbook, Get Back in the Kitchen, BIT@HES, the sequel to Get in the Kitchen, BIT@HES. Bailin is the president of designed & Beaten Culinary Works, Inc. Website: www.bitchcooks.com

Michelle (Withers) Berck, LA 96, and her husband, William A. Berck, EN 96, are living in New York with their three children and enjoying all the sights of Europe.

Victoria (Gardos) D'Annunzio, LA 96, and her husband, Chris, announce the birth of Mae Phe on March 30, 2010. She joins big sisters, Sofia, 6, and Julia, 3. The family resides in Norwood, Mass. D'Annunzio is a Spanish teacher in Wrentham, Mass.

Caroline (Bullock) Lyon, LA 96, and her husband, Jay, announce the birth of Peter Frederick on July 18, 2010. He joins big sister, Natalie, Collective, 3. The family resides in South Burlington, Vt. Carrie is an internal medicine physician at the University of Vermont/Fletcher Allen Health Care, and Jay is a mechanical engineer.


Loren Ahaus, EN 97, SI 09, SI 10, relocated to the Dallas-Fort Worth area with his wife, Karen, and their three children: Holly, 13, Todd, 11, and Megan, 6. He is an engineering specialist in the rotor dynamics department at Bell Helicopter Textron. E-mail: ahaus@bctglobal.com

Extended Chapel Jr., GL 97, completed the Administrative Law: Fair Hearing course, presented at the National Judicial College (NJC) in Reno, Nev. He serves on the faculty of NJC and was a facilitator for the course. Chapel is presiding commissioner of the Administrative Hearing Commission in Jefferson City, Mo.

Melanie Hersh, LA 97, and Andrew Heller were married in July 2010. The couple resides in New York City. Melanie is the legal director of the corporate department at Proskauer Rose LLP, and Andrew is a senior investment analyst at Caranas Capital Management.

Scott E. Lipman, LA 97, is moving to Boston with his wife, Joanna, and their son, Jonah, 3.

Shonali Rajani, GA 97, is a project architect for the Thompson Elementary School project in Arlington, Mass. She is a team architect for the Newport Schools project in Newport, R.I., and the Carlisle Elementary School consoli­dated administration planning study in Carlisle, Mass. Additionally, Rajani is a team architect on the Wayland High School project. She works at HMH Architects in Cambridge, Mass. Website: www.mosaicarchitects.com, and teaches science and Spanish in Boston Public Schools, but he is applying to schools to become a physician's assistant. His daughter is planning to apply to Washington University for fall 2011.

Stacy A. Bourne, GA 98, is principal of the Bourne Group, LLC. The group provides architect­ural and urban design services in the United States, the British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The Bourne Group hopes to expand its services in the St. Louis area.

Sanjit De Silva, LA 98, is a full-time actor living in Brooklyn, N.Y., with his wife, Deepa Purushott, and their son, Ishan. Sanjit is the associate artistic director of Rising Circle Theatre, Collective, a theater company dedicated to giving voice to underrepresented voices in America. He has done everything from television to off-Broadway and will be making his Broadway debut in 2011 at the Lincoln Center. Website: www.risingcircle.org


Heather (Metzger) Kennedy, GA 98, relocated from Brooklyn to Chicago in October 2009. She is a stay-at-home mom to her son, Thomas, 1.

Kerry Miller Los, SW 98, and her husband, Jacob, announce the birth of Eliajean Ann on Sept. 30, 2010. She joins big brother, Grayson, 4. The family resides in Lincoln, Neb. E-mail: kloos14@hotmail.com

Zipporah Porton, LA 98, and Jeff Parker were married in June 2010.

Tina Hesman Saey, GM 98, is the first recipient of the Genetics Society of America Excellence in Research Journalism Award. Saey, a molecular biology writer with Science News, received this award in recognition of her article, "Molecular Evolution," which appeared in the Jan. 31, 2009, issue of Science News and also online.

Corinne Ulmman, FA 98, EN 98, is a Brooklyn-based artist who specializes in large-scale public art designs. Her work is currently featured on a 6,500-square-foot mural in the Hell's Kitchen section of Manhattan. The work was one of four winning entries in the urban art competition.

Michael Dahlie, GR 99, received a 2010 Whiting Writers' Award. Dahlie's first novel, A Gentleman's Guide to Graceful Living (NY: W.W. Norton & Company; the PEN/Hemingway Award. Dahlie resides in Indianapolis, where he is the Booth Tarkington Writer-In-Residence at Butler University. He and his wife, Elizabeth Lynn, have a 2-year-old son.
Filmmaker Develops Craft, Finds Her Voice

A lifelong love for acting and writing propelled Sasha Isaac-Young, AB '99, BFA '99, from her hometown of Seattle to the Midwest, then back again to the West Coast. Her passion is now her profession; today, she is an award-winning film writer and director in Los Angeles.

Isaac-Young says her experiences at Washington University helped her build a solid creative foundation. When she arrived at the university in 1995, she immersed herself in the arts, earning degrees in both acting and drawing/printmaking. She appeared in several plays on campus; two of her favorites were Arthur Schnitzler's La Ronde and Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing.

She also attended a month-long "Shakespeare at the Globe" master class in London, offered annually through Washington University Performing Arts Department and Globe Education. There, she learned stagecraft with an intellectual emphasis on the Shakespearean text and history. "It was wonderful," she recalls. "I directed a scene from King Lear on the Globe stage."

After graduation, Isaac-Young briefly lived in Chicago and worked as an assistant dramaticaturge at the highly respected Steppenwolf Theatre. In January 2001, she moved to Los Angeles and enrolled in the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. While there, she learned the art and business of filmmaking by taking on duties as writer, director, art director and art production assistant, among others, for a variety of film projects she and her classmates created.

By the time she graduated from USC in 2004 with an MFA in film production, Isaac-Young was already winning accolades for her work. In fact, she was the only student in USC's lengthy film school history to be awarded school funding for directing both a documentary film and a fiction film.

Her 24-minute documentary, Foster Stories, is a moving exploration of the foster-care system in Southern California. In the film, Isaac-Young, off-camera, asks questions of the four young adults being featured. All four were then, or had previously been, in foster care — and their answers paint an emotional portrait of childhoods spent moving from home to home.

"The response to the film was amazing — it really changed a lot of things for me," Isaac-Young says.

Foster Stories won the award for Best Short Documentary at the 2005 Urbanworld Film Festival in New York City. Independent Film Channel purchased both Foster Stories and Isaac-Young's fiction film, Little Valerie.

In 2008, Isaac-Young began developing the script for what she hopes will be her first feature-length film, The Prettiest Girl.

In 2009, she was chosen to participate in the prestigious five-week Screenwriter's Lab at Film Independent, a nonprofit arts organization that produces the Independent Spirit Awards and the Los Angeles Film Festival. Meg LeFauve (writer and independent producer of the film Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys) served as her lab mentor.

"Meg helped me focus on being the writer I truly want to be," Isaac-Young says. "The lab was a safe place to show my work and be vulnerable in my writing process."

In early 2010, Isaac-Young attended the intensive eight-week Film Independent Director's Lab. This time, her assigned mentor was Catherine Hardwicke (director of acclaimed coming-of-age film Thirteen and the blockbuster vampire movie Twilight). "It was a wonderful experience — I watched me directing actors in a quietly tense scene from The Prettiest Girl," Isaac-Young says.

"Catherine's question, 'What's underneath it?' really made me think. I decided to see what would happen if I flipped the tone and rewrote the scene directly answering her question. It received a deeply engaged response from others. Now, I ask that question of everything I write. Though often the strongest choice is to keep certain things under the surface, it's nice to remember the potential power of showing the emotional underbelly."

Hoping to someday earn a living through her art, Isaac-Young is strongly committed to the work.

"On a typical day, it's just me and my laptop," she says. "But, I feel good things are coming my way."

—Lisa Cary
cases from tractor trailer, truck, car and motorcycle accidents.

Hart Passman, LA 00, and his wife, Annice, announce the birth of Isabelle Lily on June 15, 2010. The family resides on the north side of Chicago. Hart is an associate at Holland & Knight LLP in municipal and zoning law. Annice specializes in white-collar criminal investigations as an associate at Latham & Watkins LLP.

Anthony Ring, GB 00, is general manager of Melcut Cutting Tools, Ltd.

Marc F. Skapof, LW 00, is counsel in the Bankruptcy Restructuring and Creditors’ Rights Group in the New York office of Baker & Hostetler, Inc.

Dan Beckmann, LA 01, is a new media developer and award-winning journalist. He worked on the new media team in President Obama’s Chicago headquarters during the 2008 campaign. Beckmann founded IBSk, a c Ivy-cited digital production agency that produces integrated new media solutions.

Dorothy Callin, LA 01, and Robert Scott Morgan were married at the University of Notre Dame on June 26, 2010. The couple resides in the Bay Area.

Sam Fox Class of 2010, announce the birth of Max Oliver.

Daniel Sarbaccher, LA 01, is a member of the Mansfield Football Club and is rated one of the best non-Australian players in the United States.

Kathryn C. Van Steenhuysen Gates, FA 01, is living and working as an artist in Wichita, Kan. She is also the creative director of the new media company, CreativeRHINO. She has an exhibition of paintings at the Arkel Museum in Canajoharie, N.Y., and an upcoming solo exhibition at the Schwang Gallery in Wichita.

Ryan Elizabeth (Campbell) Anson, EN 02, and her husband, Stephen, announce the birth of Elliot Brooks on Aug. 8, 2010. The family resides in Boston, where Ryan is a biochemistry instructor for BD Biosciences.

Emilie R. Hyams, LA 02, received the Sanctuary for Families Above & Beyond Pro Bono Award for her work with immigrant victims of domestic violence seeking protection and independence in the United States. Hyams is counsel and director of immigration affairs for the Office of Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand.

Jan S. Joerling-Leonard, GR 02, GR 06, works in law and hopes to return to law school as soon as her kids graduate from college.

Andrew M. Mitchell, LA 02, is an associate at Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, PC, Mitchell is a member of the firm’s Trusts and Estates Practice Group and represents clients in a broad range of estate planning matters.

Cindy Traub, GR 02, GR 06, and John Kindschuh, LA 00, BU 00, announce the birth of Ryan Michael Kindschuh on May 20, 2010. Ryan was recently baptized at the Catholic Student Center and was welcomed into the church by many Washington University alumni, faculty and staff.

Shadi Abedin, LA 03, received a Certificate in Advanced Graduate Study in Endodontics from Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine in 2010. She is a practicing endodontist at Endo Group Houston.

Su Li Chong, LA 03, graduated from Harvard Medical School. Chong is planning to relocate from Illinois to the western U.S. to practice small animal veterinary medicine.

Erin M. Evans, LA 03, published her first novel, "God Catcher" (Wizard of the Coast, 2010). The book was No. 4 on the Locus Bestseller list for gaming-related fiction in June 2010.

Robert Holthaus, GB 03, was appointed to the regional board of the Midwest BankCentre West County. He is president of Holthaus Realty & Development, Inc., in Chesterfield, Mo.

Patrick Kozioł, LA 03, is pursing an MFA in art at the University of Delaware.

Julie (Schutzmann) Milder, LA 03, and Jacob Milder, LA 03, announce the birth of Zoe Sarah on Oct. 10, 2010. The family resides in Chicago, where Jake works with Goldman Sachs. Julie will be seeking a position as a science professor following some time off with the new baby.

Sarah A. Powers, LA 03, completed a dual-degree master’s program in urban planning and public health at the University of Michigan in 2008. She then worked in Rwanda for a year in low-cost housing development. Powers relocated to Washington, D.C., to work for a public sector consultant in the emergency management field.

Shawn Siegel, LA 03, LW 07, is a wealth adviser with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. Siegel specializes in working with attorneys, small-business owners and ambitious entrepreneurs.

Nickolai Detert, BU 04, plans to attend physician assistant school. He is currently a nurse on staff at Duke University and is enrolled in physician assistant school prerequisite classes.

Malcah Effron, LA 04, received a PhD in English literature from Newcastle University in England in July 2010. She is now an English adjunct faculty member at the Community College of Baltimore County.

Christy A. Finsel, SW 04, is pursuing a PhD in religious studies. She is a consultant working with native Alaskan, native Hawaiian and American Indian communities that are engaged in asset-building efforts. Finsel also administers a youth Individual Development Account (IDA) for middle school youth in St. Louis.

Scott M. Flaherty, EN 04, is an associate at Briggs and Stratton Corporation.

Jennifer Edwards, LA 06, and Micah Goldfus, LA OS, were married on Sept. 25, 2010, in New York City.

David Ulevitch, LA 04, is the founder of OpenDNS, a DNS infrastructure company. The business has grown to be used by more than 1 percent of global Internet users. Ulevitch was recently named a World Economic Forum Technology Pioneer. BusinessWeek named him a “Most Promising Entrepreneur Under 30” for his work at OpenDNS.

Andrea Perry Block, LA 05, LW 08, joined the law firm of Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs LLP in the Atlanta office as an associate with the firm’s litigation practice group. Her litigation practice focuses on banking and financial services litigation matters. Website: www.phrd.com

Keona Ervin, GR 05, GR 09, received the 2010 State Historical Society of Missouri Lewis Atherton Dissertation Fellowship for her dissertation produced on a Missouri history topic. Ervin’s dissertation is titled “A Decent Living Out of Our Work: Black Women's Labor Activism in St. Louis 1929-1945.”

Blake R. Fuhrer, LA 05, is the public policy manager for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and directs government relations for the state and federal levels. He serves as the vice president of the board of directors for RAVEN (Rape And Violence End Now), a nonprofit dedicated to domestic violence intervention and prevention in the St. Louis area. Fuhrer was recently elected to the board of directors for Tobacco-Free St. Louis.

John P. Fulkson, LA 05, graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law and is tutoring math and coaching the debate team at Sciacademy, a high-performing charter high school in New Orleans. He will begin a federal judicial clerkship in June 2011 in New Orleans.

Amelia R. Boone, LA 06, is an associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in Chicago.

Maya K. Buchanan, LA 06, is a program analyst consultant for the Architect of the Capitol Energy and Sustainability Program. She is a climate change Fulbright fellow alumna in Jordan.

Megan (Eder) Chafin, LA 06, is in her final year of the master’s of architecture program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She serves as the project architect for the university’s 2011 Solar Decathlon project.

Seth Dubeau, LA 04, GR 06, and Tim Ruddell were married on June 26, 2010, at Graham Chapel. The couple resides in Chicago.

Jennifer Edwards, LA 06, and Micah Goldfus, LA OS, were married on Sept. 25, 2010, in...
Music Industry Veteran Connects Artists, Fans

The music industry is facing many challenges. Flush with profits only a decade ago, it is now something of a sinking ship. Illegal file sharing — the process of stealing music via the Internet — is decimating sales, and legitimate MP3 services like iTunes are not coming close to making up the difference. While U2, Eminem and Mariah Carey won’t have to sell their yachts anytime soon, less-popular artists — not to mention peripheral players like promoters, label employees and music writers — are feeling the pinch.

What’s the solution? David Sherbow, JD ’76, a 35-year music industry veteran, believes the key lies in strengthening the relationship between artists and fans. Through his website, LiveMusicMachine.com, he is attempting to facilitate that process by helping individual book bands directly from the Internet. Besides making music lovers’ dreams come true — no more driving 500 miles to see your favorite group — it helps the acts maximize revenues from concerts and merchandise like T-shirts.

“In this direct-to-fan model, it’s all about artists monetizing themselves,” Sherbow explains.

He takes pride in having attended concerts featuring some of the most iconic rock performers in history, everyone from Elvis Presley to Janis Joplin. As an independent record promoter, he also helped break rap stars like Kanye West and Jay-Z. But for a time, Sherbow acknowledges things like [MP3 download site] Napster, but I’ve always thought the industry should have kept on top of technology and should have been more proactive in coming up with something better.

“MySpace and with the advent of social networking, I believe that that’s what made the big difference. That’s when musicians really recognized the potential of the Internet and were doing radio promotion principally for Def Jam as well as other major labels, and he eventually helped to break nationally more than 100 No. 1 urban tracks. “All the major labels had enormous amounts of money,” he remembers. “We were always on the road, going all over the country visiting program directors and convincing them to play our records.”

Before founding LiveMusicMachine.com, Sherbow briefly headed the urban promotions department for Asylum Records. He now focuses on his consulting business, DAS Consulting Group, and various other musical ventures attempting to harness the power of the Internet.

“In 1998, record label guys refused to acknowledge things like [MP3 download site] Napster, but I’ve always thought the industry was headed for radical changes,” he says.

Sherbow’s now defunct first effort, MPTrax.com, was a music discovery and e-commerce platform built to find and introduce emerging talent to the mainstream, while his MySpace-360Wizard.com currently helps bands maximize their presence on the social networking site MySpace. LiveMusicMachine.com, which he co-founded in 2009, allows fans from all over the country to directly book bands in their hometowns. The site’s widget can be placed on major social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace and informs users of groups’ booking costs and schedules, simplifying the booking process by bringing it within the general public’s grasp and effectively cutting out the middlemen.

“It was one of the first schools to let you do research using computers,” he remembers. “Amazing speakers visited the school. Jimmy Hoffa spoke to our class, and I talked to him.”

Sherbow’s interests lay more with rock ‘n roll than the Socratic method, however, and he found himself spending an increasing amount of time attending shows at venues like Mississippi Nights and co-managing a band called The Sheiks. Back then, St. Louis was a first-rate place for live music, he notes. “It was a super-prolific time for bands to be touring,” he says. “Due to St. Louis’ location in the middle of the country, everybody stopped there.”

After graduating, Sherbow returned to his native Maryland to clerk for that state’s Court of Appeals. As soon as his clerkship ended, he took a position in a leadership development program at the Dallas company, GTE.

“Most kids, if they knew how easy it was to book a band, they would,” he notes. Indeed, one gets the impression that this veteran of the music industry — who has witnessed its highs and lows — is ahead of his time.
she works in public relations at Fleishman-Hillard.

Benjamin F. Jackson, LA 08, is a law student at Harvard.

Gabriella Lee, BU 08, and Chris Young, BU 08, GB 08, were married in April 2010 in San Francisco. Gabriella is working for a mutual fund company in sales, and Chris is working with PricewaterhouseCoopers and pursuing his CPA license.

Katherine Maschmeyer, EN 08, SI 08, completed one year of her Math for America Fellowship. She received her master’s degree in mathematics education from Columbia University. She will teach 9th-grade math in a New York City public school.

Mary Vaughan, LA 08, works at Meeten Restaurant in Boston. She will be moving to Bolzano, Italy, in March 2011 to pursue a master’s degree in food and culture at the Universita degli Studi Scienze Gastronomiche.

Victoria Schwab, FA 09, SI 09, is a freelance writer and controls for the Chinook helicopter.

Jesus M. Figueroa, LA 09, is program director for Angel Baked Cookies, a St. Louis-based social enterprise employing teenagers in North St. Louis. The company serves the university through its partnership with Bon Appétit.

Jerem E. Schwartz, TR 09, Ryan Bwung, BU 09, and Tim Trinidad, BU 09, EN 09, created Schoology.com, a social-media platform for educational resources.

Bruce S. Higginbotham, BU 09, and his wife, Kate, announce the birth of Adira Tzivia in February 2010. Friedman completed a judicial clerkship in Tacoma, Wa., and published two articles in national law journals. He began private practice with his father at the C. Marshall Friedman PC Law Firm.

Bluena Khatri, SW 09, is a social worker at the International of St. Louis. She has helped many Bhutanese refugees from Nepal resettle in St. Louis.

Caroline B. Miller, LA 09, is completing her master’s degree in vocal performance at the Eastman School of Music.

Minja Qu, GA 09, GA 09, works on multi-scale urban and architectural projects domestically and internationally for RTKL Associates Inc. in Los Angeles.

Victoria Schwab, FA 09, will publish The Near Witch in 2011 with Hyperion.

Ceren Yartan, GR 09, is a freelance translator and writer.

Judith Kaplan, GR 09, recently presented artwork at the University of Szeged in Hungary for the American-Hungarian Educators’ Association (AHEA). Her designs depict a modern appreciation of classical Hungan folk art via printmaking and mixed media. Philip Boghan, GR 09, recently presented a paper at the University of Szeged in Hungary for the AHEA. His work on ethnic Hungarians seeking political and cultural autonomy in Romania draws upon historical antecedents, and was the culmination of research performed at Washington University.

Felix S. Dowseky, LA 10, is touring and playing drums with The Young Republic and Adrian and the Fine Print, two Nashville-based bands.

Chase Sackett, LA 10, was selected for the St. Louis Coeo Fellows Program in Public Affairs Class of 2010-11.

Minerva Shen, LA 10, is pursuing a master’s degree in human behavior at USC and is an HR intern at Internet Brands.

Mary Smith, FA 10, moved to New York. She is an assistant designer for Victoria’s Secret PINK collection. Smith is also a hostess at a raw vegan food restaurant.

In Memoriam

2010s

Judith Kaplan, GR 09, recently presented artwork at the University of Szeged in Hungary for the American-Hungarian Educators’ Association (AHEA). Her designs depict a modern appreciation of classical Hungarian folk art via printmaking and mixed media. Philip Boghan, GR 09, recently presented a paper at the University of Szeged in Hungary for the AHEA. His work on ethnic Hungarians seeking political and cultural autonomy in Romania draws upon historical antecedents, and was the culmination of research performed at Washington University.

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Chase Sackett, LA 10, was selected for the St. Louis Coeo Fellows Program in Public Affairs Class of 2010-11.

Minerva Shen, LA 10, is pursuing a master’s degree in human behavior at USC and is an HR intern at Internet Brands.

Mary Smith, FA 10, moved to New York. She is an assistant designer for Victoria’s Secret PINK collection. Smith is also a hostess at a raw vegan food restaurant.

In Memoriam

2020s

Jude (Pollard) Gould, LA 28, Nov. ’10

1930s

Herman L. Gittelmann, BU 31; July ’10 • William B. Myers, LA 32, LW 38; Oct. ’10 • Herbert N. Arst, BU 33; July ’10 • Samuel Rosenbloom, LA 33; Aug. ’10 • W. Russell Smith, MD 33; July ’10 • Stanley A. Frederiksen, LW 35; Nov. ’10 • Mildred (Stanfield) Grimmer, NU 36; Nov. ’10 • Alan L. Mayer, LA 36; Aug. ’10 • Arthur R. Steidemann, EN 36; Sept. ’10 • Bernice (Reppell) Holderle, LA 37; Nov. ’10 • Helen A. Mardorf, LA 37; Sept. ’10 • William B. Becker, LW 38, LA 38; Sept. ’10 • AEC Jones, LA 38, MD 42; Oct. ’10 • Jack L. Wych, LW 38; Sept. ’10 • Xianyu Xu, GR 38; Oct. ’10 • Charles M. Fulgarff, EN 39; Oct. ’10 • Harold G. Garber, LA 39; July ’10 • Dorothy (Dean) Hanon, LW 39; Oct. ’10

1940s

Bruce S. Higginbotham, BU 40; July ’10 • Lawrence Papin, AR 40; Oct. ’10 • Margaret others.
In Remembrance

G. Robert Blackburn

G. Robert Blackburn, the first director of community and government relations at Washington University, died Sept. 10.

From 1972 to 1992, Blackburn served as the director of the Office of Community & Governmental Relations. He was the first WUSTL administrator to be devoted solely to representing the interests of the university at both the federal and local level.

Blackburn was instrumental in laying the foundation for the excellent community and governmental relations policies and initiatives in place today.

Prior to his position as director, he served as assistant to the chancellor. Blackburn also was a lecturer in political science at the School of Arts & Sciences from 1965 to 1992.

Harvey A. Friedman

Harvey A. Friedman, St. Louis businessman and civic activist, died Nov. 28, 2010.

Friedman attended Washington University before enlisting in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942. He co-founded the Bank of Ladue and later served as vice chairman of the board of Landmark Banchares from 1979 to 1986. In addition, he served as chairman of the board for the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District and was a trustee of the Missouri History Museum.

He helped create the Center for Aging at Washington University. His continued support and advocacy for aging research led the university to establish the annual Friedman Lectureship in 2001 and to rename the center as the Harvey A. Friedman Center for Aging in 2007. A major supporter of the School of Medicine and the Barnes-Jewish Hospital Foundation, he endowed the Harvey A. and Dorismae Hacker Friedman Distinguished Professor of Neurology.

In 2008, he and his wife, Dorismae Hacker Friedman, AB '42, received the Robert S. Brookings Award at the university.

John C. Georgian

John C. Georgian, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering at the School of Engineering, died July 6, 2010.

Georgian joined WUSTL in 1949 as an associate professor of mechanical engineering and was promoted to professor in 1956. He taught in the mechanical engineering department until his retirement in 1981. The following year, he was selected as president of the year by the graduating seniors in engineering.

He invented a new absolute temperature scale, called the MKS scale. The scale simplified the equations for the ideal gas law, which describes the behavior of a perfect gas under changing conditions of temperature and pressure.

On May 1, 2002, according to the death of Georgian's first wife, Lyla, a flautist, the family set up a music scholarship, the John C. and Lyla C. Georgian Music Scholarship Endowment, in her honor.

Asa C. Jones

Asa C. Jones, AB '38, MD '42, a life patron of the Elliot Society and a member of the Brookings Partners, died Oct. 25, 2010.

Jones served as a captain in the U.S. Army, followed by a 35-year career as an orthopedic surgeon at St. Rita's Medical Center in Lima, Ohio. In 1975, he retired to Hot Springs Village, Ark.

In 1996, Jones and his late wife established the Asa C. and Dorothy Jean Nash Endowed Professorship in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, held by Keith Bridwell, MD.

A regular attendee of his medical school reunions and other university events, Jones received the Second Century Award from the School of Medicine in 1999. His planned gift will endow the J. Albert Key Distinguished Professorship in Orthopaedic Surgery.

Jai P. Nagarkatti

Jai P. Nagarkatti, a member of the Washington University Board of Trustees, died Nov. 13, 2010.

In 2007, Nagarkatti was elected to the board and had been a member of the board's Research-Graduate Affairs Committee. He had also served on the School of Engineering & Applied Science National Council since 2006.

Nagarkatti was elected president and chief operating officer at Sigma-Aldrich, a St. Louis-based life science and technology company, in 2004. He took on the additional roles of CEO in 2006 and chairman of the board in 2009. Nagarkatti had been a member of the Sigma-Aldrich board of directors since 2005. He also served on the board for the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Saint Louis Science Center.

Dorothy Jean Nash

Dorothy Jean Nash, a longtime staff member of the Department of Otolaryngology in the School of Medicine, died Aug. 26, 2010.

Nash traveled to Europe as a singer with the USO during World War II, where she met her husband, Garrett, and moved to St. Louis with him upon returning to the United States in 1946. For more than 20 years, she worked for the Department of Otolaryngology while continuing her singing career. She performed on the Charlotte Peters Show and the St. Louis Variety Club Telethon, and as part of the Muny Opera.

Nash joined the Peace Corps at the age of 72; she was instrumental in getting a clinic built in Senegal, West Africa, while serving there.

W. Neal Newton

W. Neal Newton, DDS '51, a former faculty member at the School of Dental Medicine, died July 19, 2010.

After graduating, Newton joined the faculty in the Department of Dental Pediatrics, where he taught for nearly 20 years. He also served as a dental officer in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

Newton was a fellow of the American College of Dentists, the International College of Dentists and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. He served a six-year term on the Advisory Board of Indian Health on the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Newton also served as president for the Missouri Dental Association and the U.S.A. section of the International College of Dentists, among others.

In 1983, he was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus by the School of Dental Medicine Alumni Association.

Donald K. Ross


Ross served in the U.S. Navy in World War II and the Korean War. After graduating from the University of Minnesota V-12 Program, Ross received a master’s degree in electrical engineering from MIT. He earned a doctorate in industrial engineering from Washington University.

Ross served the university as a member of the School of Engineering & Applied Science National Council. In 1993, he was recognized by the engineering school with an Alumni Achievement Award.

Ross founded Ross & Baruzzini, Inc., a global consulting engineering firm. He was honored for lifetime achievements in illumination and energy conservation by numerous organizations, including Who's Who in America.

Frank J. Stadermann

Frank J. Stadermann, senior research scientist in physics in Arts & Sciences, died Oct. 4, 2010.

Working at WUSTL since 1988, Stadermann was also a member of the Laboratory for Space Sciences and director of the NanoSIMS and Auger laboratories.

In his research, Stadermann analyzed Antarctic micrometeorites, presolar grains from primitive meteorites, cometary material and interplanetary dust to catch glimpses of the history of the cosmos and the solar system. He was the first to identify true stellar grains in the cometary collector, samples of which had been distributed to 50 different laboratories. The interstellar collector is still being analyzed.
A Trusted Leadership

BY NANCY FOWLER LARSON

When dozens of out-of-town Washington University Board of Trustee members descend upon St. Louis four times a year, they may face the unpredictability of late flights, lost luggage or bad weather. But there's one certainty they can count on: an efficient two-day agenda that goes off without a hitch.

That's because Ida H. Early, secretary of the board, has spent weeks checking and cross-checking meeting schedules, researching and organizing information, dotting every "i" and crossing every "t." She intends to make sure those from out-of-town, as well as scores of local members, have everything they need.

"That the board meetings go smoothly is due in great part to Ida's behind-the-scenes work," says Stephen F. Brauer, chair of the university's board and chairman of Hunter Engineering. "She really gets the job done."

Early is eminently qualified in her roles as chief organizer and go-to person for all trustee questions, according to Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton.

"She coordinates our board meetings with great skill and attention, aided by her deep understanding of the university," Wrighton says. "With an uncommon knowledge of the academic enterprise and the role of our trustees, Ida is uniquely suited to her leadership position. She is an outstanding resource for the university's trustees, and I am grateful for her many contributions here."

Since becoming secretary in 2007, Early has not only masterminded 14 Board of Trustee meetings — consisting of up to 80 people — she has also coordinated the efforts of a 600-member volunteer organization, the Washington University Women's Society.

Wearing her Women's Society hat, Early oversees that group's two primary functions: raising scholarship money, primarily through the not-for-profit Bear Necessities gift store, and presenting an annual lecture program. To that end, Early plans the society's monthly executive committee meetings and a variety of other events.

"I have kind of a quiet leadership role," Early says. "It's my job to make the university look really good to all these volunteers, be they board members or members of the Women's Society."

Working her way up at WUSTL

After her husband Gerald Early, PhD, the Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters in Arts & Sciences, accepted a faculty position, the pair arrived at Washington University
in 1982. In tow were their now-grown daughters: Linnet Husi, of Houston, a middle school teacher with a 22-month-old son; and Rosalind Early, AB '03, who’s pursuing a master’s in German literature at the University of Konstanz in Germany.

Ida Early, who has a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of Pennsylvania and did graduate work in educational administration at Cornell University, entered the WUSTL workforce through the Olin Business School. At Olin, she quickly advanced from administrative assistant to the director of special projects, information and foundations.

From 1993 through 2007, Early held several posts in Alumni & Development Programs. During that period, Early also took time off to serve as the first African-American president of the Junior League of St. Louis from 1996 through 1998, and to accompany her husband on a 2001 sabbatical at the National Humanities Center in Durham, N.C.

In 2002, Early resumed her WUSTL career as senior associate director of development. In that position, she ensured the university’s Annual Fund met its goals through her focus on the Danforth Circle and Patrons levels of support — which make up a full quarter of the fund — as well as Reunion class giving and African-American alumni participation.

Early’s successes were stepping stones to the position of leadership she holds today.

“I feel like everything I’ve done before has prepared me for this job as secretary to the board,” she says.

Juggling and balancing

“Traffic cop” and “juggler” weren’t literally in the job description, of course, when Early sought the board secretary post. But she quickly found that directing the flow of people and balancing multiple metaphorical balls in the air were key parts of her position.

Board meetings involve 13 committee gatherings as well as the main board assembly, and Early makes certain that members on more than one committee don’t get double- or even triple-booked.

“It’s a bit like doing a puzzle,” Early says. “You’re moving people through a lot of different pathways, hoping everyone comes together when they’re supposed to — and so far it’s worked out.”

That Early is shining in her newest role doesn’t surprise David T. Blasingame, AB ’69, MBA ’71, executive vice chancellor for Alumni & Development Programs. Blasingame, who has worked with Early since her days at Olin, praised her writing skills, team-player approach and ability to bring about order.

“She’s very organized; she thinks things through; and she goes about her work in such a gracious way,” Blasingame says. “She is very trustworthy and a great people person; she builds wonderful relationships for the university and with her colleagues.”

Early’s pleasant personality also strikes a chord with Ann B. Prenatt, vice chancellor for Human Resources, who has interacted with Early at the university and through volunteer work in the wider St. Louis community.

“When I think about Ida, I think about that big smile and the way she just seems to get things done without a lot of fanfare,” Prenatt says. “I’m sure there’s stress behind the scenes, but it isn’t evident in the way she conducts herself.”

While Early’s office — which includes two administrative coordinators — is “busy as it can be,” Early welcomes the challenges inherent in her job, which often involve navigating through changes and improvements.

For example, Early recently threw out the template for the Board of Trustees’ traditional one-day Friday meeting agenda and created a Thursday-afternoon–Friday-morning schedule, which ensures that out-of-towners can leave St. Louis in time to begin their weekend at home.

Early is happy to accommodate the Board of Trustees in any way she can because she knows they are critical to WUSTL’s success and prominence.

“The work they do is very important,” Early says. “They are entrusted with the care and stewardship of the university, so when they’re here, we make sure that every minute counts.”

Nancy Fowler Larson is a freelance writer based in St. Louis.

“With an uncommon knowledge of the academic enterprise and the role of our trustees, Ida is uniquely suited to her leadership position,” Chancellor Wrighton says. “And I am grateful for her many contributions here.”
Dance, for Inspiration  More than 1,000 students from Washington University and other local colleges and high schools got into the groove during the annual 12-hour Dance Marathon, held in the Field House of the Athletic Complex during fall semester. These energetic students helped raise more than $166,000 for the Children's Miracle Network, bringing the event's 12-year fundraising total to more than $1 million. All of the money goes to assist patients at St. Louis Children's Hospital and Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center.