Student speaker Ravi emphasizes ‘culture of caring’

BY NEIL SCHORHERR

Ravi, from Charlotte, Ill., is a double major in political science and in Spanish, both in Arts & Sciences. He will be graduating summa cum laude and will attend law school at Columbia University in the fall.

Interaction with other students and with faculty made a big impact on his life. "The University provides the independence for students to take on responsibility. The class council decides what to do, how to do it and where the money will be spent. That autonomy really helps motivate students to action," Ravi said.

Though he was never involved in student government before coming to college, Sagar K. Ravi felt compelled to serve when he arrived at WUSTL. "I did a Student Union pre-orientation before freshman year that taught me about what it means to be in student government at WUSTL," said Ravi, president of the senior class and today’s student commencement speaker. "Student government here really gives students the ability to have an impact."

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Danforth Campus renaming events scheduled for fall

BY ANDY CLENDENNIN

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n recognition of the role that Chancellor Emeritus William H. "Bill" Danforth, the late Elizabeth "Biggy" Gray Danforth, the Danforth family and the Danforth Foundation have played in the evolution of Washington University, the Hilltop Campus will be renamed the Danforth Campus.

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton made the announcement Feb. 23. An official "Dedication of the Danforth Campus" ceremony will be Sept. 17, when the new name takes effect.

The Hilltop Campus is home to six of the University's seven schools.

- All members and friends of the University community are cordially invited to attend the events scheduled for Sept. 17, starting with a 9:30 a.m. program in Graham Chapel (doors will open at 8:45).
- The event will feature remarks from Wrighton, David W. Kemper, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Commerce Bancshares Inc. and chairman of the Board of Trustees; Gerald L. Early, Ph.D., the Mead Kline Professor of the Humanities in the Department of English in Arts & Sciences; Fremd; and Danforth scholar Laura Kleinman, who will be a junior majoring in philosophy in Arts & Sciences; and Danforth Foundation scholar.

The keynote speaker will be Harold T. Shapiro, Ph.D., president, provost and a professor of economics and public affairs at Princeton University, whose talk is titled "A Larger Sense of Purpose: Higher Education and Societal Well-Being" as his most recent book. A reception in Holmes Lounge will follow the dedication program.

Several other events are scheduled throughout the fall semester in conjunction with the renaming, all along the theme "A Higher Sense of Purpose."

• On Oct. 3, John "Jack" Danforth, brother of Bill, former U.S. senator from Missouri and U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and current chair of the Danforth Foundation, will give a presentation titled "Politics and Morality" at 4 p.m. in Holmes Lounge. A reception, also in Holmes Lounge, will follow.

• On Oct. 16, "Jack" Jack Danforth, brother of Bill, former U.S. senator from Missouri and U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and current chair of the Danforth Foundation, will give a presentation titled "Politics and Morality" at 4 p.m. in Holmes Lounge. A reception, also in Holmes Lounge, will follow.

Sports are for everyone Men's tennis coach Roger Follmair (right) demonstrates a technique to Special Olympic athletes as Bears freshman tennis player Hirmal Choradia (left) looks on. The University's men's and women's tennis teams recently sponsored a clinic for Special Olympic athletes at the Dwight Davis Tennis Center in Forest Park. More than 50 athletes from across Missouri participated and received a free T-shirt and lunch.

Edison announces 2006-07 OVATIONS! Series

BY LAAM OTTEN

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each year, the Edison Theatre OVATIONS! Series highlights music, theater, dance — including a variety of nationally and internationally acclaimed performers.

The 2006-07 season — Edison's 94th year — will include more than a dozen events, ranging from world premieres to the popular Ovalio! for young people series, which will open Saturday matinees for audiences of all ages.

The OVATIONS! season will open Sept. 18 with a screening of "The Queen" presented by Dianne Reeves. Widely regarded as one of today's finest jazz vocalists, Reeves is a four-time Grammy Award winner (for each of her last four albums) and is featured in George Clooney's Oscar-nominated film Good Night and Good Luck (2005).

The season will continue Oct. 17 with "Inst. Wimbledon," the re
novated Chilton wind string and percussion ensemble which weds European style with traditional Latin American roots.

Music lovers also can look for
toward "Civil Rights Reader" — a genre-defying tribute to figures of Bruce Springsteen.

Shapiro & Smith Dance Ensemble will present a program whose eclectic repertoire will conclude April 27-29 with the St. Louis debut of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, a classically trained ensemble whose eclectic repertory includes works by many of today's foremost choreographers. Meanwhile, the ovation for OVATIONS! guests who died in January 2004.

Once again, OVATIONS! and Dance St. Louis will co-sponsor performances by some of today's most cutting-edge dance companies. Shapiro & Smith Dance will return to the Edison Nov. 17-19 with "Narrative Stories of America," an evening of original choreography based on the music of Bruce Springsteen.

DanceBrazil will showcase its signature mix of traditional and contemporary Afro-Brazilian dance — including capoeira, a form inspired by martial arts — Feb. 23-25.

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Drug may prevent recurrence of depression in diabetics

By PATRICK J. LUSTMAN

A team of School of Medicine investigators found that an antidepressant medication may reduce the risk of recurrent depression and improve the length of time between depressive episodes in patients with diabetes.

"That's important not only because people with diabetes will feel better if we can control their depression, but also because it helps to manage blood sugar," said Lustman, principal investigator and professor of psychiatry. "As depression improves, glucose levels also tend to improve."

Although depression affects at least 6 percent of the adult population, the rate is about 25 percent for patients with diabetes.

Lustman's team previously demonstrated that treatment with antidepressants is an effective way to treat depression in patients with diabetes, but often depression would quickly reappear.

"As we better understand depression, it's clear that for many patients, it is a chronic recurring disease," Lustman said. "That appears to be especially true for patients with diabetes compared with those otherwise free of medical illness."

Although they knew that short-term treatment with antidepressants was helpful with mood and with controlling blood glucose, Lustman was not sure whether the drug could prevent the recurrence of depression in patients with diabetes. They also didn't know what would happen to glucose levels in the months following successful depression therapy.

So Lustman teamed up with investigators at the University of Arizona and the University of Washington. They studied patients with diabetes at the three sites.

The sample included patients with type 2 diabetes and patients with juvenile, or type 1, diabetes. Study participants averaged just over 50 years old, and they all had recovered from an episode of depression following treatment with sertraline (Zoloft). After their depression was under control, half the patients continued to take sertraline while the other half took a placebo.

Patients were followed for up to a year, or until their depression recurred. During that time, investigators regularly monitored blood-glucose levels by keeping track of hemoglobin A1c, which reflects an individual's control of blood glucose over 2-3 months.

After a year, more than 65 percent of those still taking sertraline remained in remission from their depression. Only about 48 percent of those taking placebo were still in remission.

On average, those who continued to take sertraline stayed free of depression four times longer than those who did not. The patients' blood levels remained lower in both groups of patients, as long as depression remained under control.

"That's very important," Lustman said. "We now know that controlling depression, by whatever method — exercise, activity, cognitive therapy or medication — improves the likelihood that blood glucose will be better controlled."

\[\text{Lustman}\]

Smokers seven times more likely to need jolt from heart devices

By GWIN ERICKSON

If some patients with heart disease don't take their doctors' advice to quit smoking, they are probably going to get" shocking" reminders.

A School of Medicine study found that heart patients who had implanted defibrillators and smoked were seven times more likely to have the devices jolt their hearts back into normal rhythm than non-smokers with the devices.

When the defibrillators fire, it can feel like a thump or even a kick to the chest.

"Eleven percent of cardiovascular disease patients are smokers, and previous studies have shown that decreasing or quitting smoking is a very effective therapy for patients with heart disease," said James Anderson, M.D., lead author of the study, published in the April issue of Heart Rhythm.

"If having heart disease isn't enough to make patients want to stop smoking, the evidence from our study should definitely add a strong argument to quit," said Sánchez, a cardiologist in the cardiovascular division.

Implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICDs) are self-contained devices that are placed in the chest to monitor heart rhythms and deliver electrical charges directly to heart muscle to correct abnormal rhythms. Abnormal rhythms can cause the heart to stop beating without warning, and some can cause heart failure.

The study was taken to identify the risk of ICD shocking in current smokers, while those who had formerly smoked had a five-fold increase in risk. The risk of ICD discharge associated with smoking was greater than the risk associated with age, diabetes, lung disease or use of ICD inhibitors or beta-blockers.

Smoking can harm the heart in several ways, according to Sánchez. Nicotine increases the amount of adenosine, which can lead to blood-vessel constriction and decreased flow to the heart. Smoking also increases blood-clotting factors, which can raise the chance of blood-vessel blockage.

In addition, the hemoglobin in smokers' blood has carbon monoxide attached to it and can carry as much oxygen as normal blood. Both smokers and non-smokers can develop acute heart failure, or heart failure due to heart attack.

"Heart patients know smoking is harmful, yet a good percentage of them continue to smoke," Sanchez said. "In the study, we found that quitting should be advocated for a whole myriad of reasons, and our study reveals another."

\[\text{Lustman}\]

Listen to your heart

Douglas Moeckel, a third-year medical student, and Teresa Deshields, Ph.D., manager of Psycho-Oncology Services at the Siteman Cancer Center, discuss Moeckel's poster presentation on cardiac auscultation at the recent Medical Education Day at the Farrell Learning and Teaching Center. During the event, three faculty members were presented Samuel R. Goldhaber Learning Awards in Medical Student Education: Leonard B. Batchelder, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics and instructor in medicine; Nigar Kirmani, M.D., associate professor of medicine; and Alyson R. Zazulia, M.D., assistant professor of neurology and radiology.

WUSTL, BIR join network seeking to reduce hospital-acquired infections

By MICHAEL C. PURDY

Infectious disease experts at the School of Medicine and Barnes-Jewish Hospital will participate in the new multicenter network research dedicated to assessing, treating and preventing hospital-acquired infections.

"To improve health care has led to extended life spans, the population of older patients who are more susceptible to hospital-acquired infections has increased," said Victoria J. Fraser, M.D., the J. William Campbell Professor of Medicine and director of the Division of Infectious Diseases. "We have additional growing patient populations that are vulnerable, including patients with suppressed immune systems and surgical patients."

At the same time, Fraser noted, new pathogens that are particular-ly resistant to antibiotics have emerged in patients. Two of the most worrisome are methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and Clostridium difficile.

"They cause nearly 3 million cases of diarrhea and colonic inflammation per year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that each year, about 2 million infections are acquired in health-care settings, resulting in about 90,000 deaths and more than $4.5 billion in excess medical costs. To support innovative research dedicated to stopping these infections, the CDC is providing $10 million in funding over five years through its Prevention Epicenter Program. WUSTL and BIR researchers will receive $500,000 annually for five years.

In addition to faculty from the Division of Infectious Diseases, researchers from the departments of Medicine and Surgery and St. Louis Children's Hospital will contribute to the research.

The other medical schools and hospitals in the network are the University of Utah, Ohio State University, Rhode Island Hospital/Storer Hospital of Cook County, and Harvard University/Eastern Massachusetts Hospitals.

"A primary goal of the program will be to standardize reporting of hospital-acquired infections and the development of antibiotic-resistant strains of pathogens," Fraser added. "Right now, everyone does surveillance for hospital-acquired infections differently — there's no uniform system." Fraser said. "Once we have that system and can get accurate data about the rates of infections and the associated outcome, we will be able to develop improved interventions and measure the cost-effectiveness of these infections."

Fraser also is interested in what she calls "risk stratifying," which involves incorporating data about patient health and susceptibility in assessments of hospital-acquired infection rates.

For example, a young, healthy person coming in to have a wart removed should have a near-zero risk of hospital-acquired infection, while an older, sicker patient coming in for surgery may have a much higher risk. Until researchers establish objective baselines on what the risks are, they have no objective grounds to determine if efforts to reduce hospital-acquired infections are successful.

"We need to carefully look within patient populations and know what kind of illness, patient and setting predisposes the heart to dangerous rhythms. It can feel like a thump or even a kick to the chest. If having heart disease isn't enough to make patients want to stop smoking, the evidence from our study should definitely add a strong argument to quit," said Sánchez, a cardiologist in the cardiovascular division.

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Black Holes Supersized • Take Action • Cosmic Rays: Adventures in Antarctica

at America's Center in downtownSt. Louis. At the event and the entire senior class council have been extremely helpful in planning the dinner for more than 1,100 seniors," said Jim Burmeister, executive director of University relations and Commencement. "It would have been much more difficult without their help.

Ravi was involved in student government for three years, was involved with Ashoka, a nonprofit that encourages students to   help to plan the first Chan

"artwork," said Jennifer Lewis, who was named Outstanding Senior in Political Science.

"That was an amazing experience for me," said Ravi. "It was really interesting to look back from freshman year to see how you have changed, including myself."

"This experience has all come together to teach me about art, but common humani

about art, but common humani

Young said.

Lefrak said he hopes that the program will be extended to other communities. "It's OK that I'm not artistic," said Lewis. "But any place that gives me the chance to do something Creative and was named Outstanding Senior in Political Science.
By GERRY EVERSING

It was getting late in the spring and high-school senior Nicole Solawetz of Des Moines, Iowa, still didn’t know where she was going to college. Washington University was her first choice, but she was still waiting on the admission decision.

That’s when she was invited to campus to interview as one of 35 finalists from an international pool of 2,000 applicants for the University’s Danforth Scholars Program, an honor bestowed on a select group of incoming students who exhibit exceptional “scholarship, leadership, service and the potential to make a difference in the community, both now and in the future.”

One of four students named in 2002 to receive a four-year, full-tuition scholarship through the program, Solawetz has more than lived up to the selection criteria.

“Nicole is an all-star student, and I don’t say that lightly,” says Sharon Stahl, Ph.D., associate dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and director of the Danforth Scholars Program. “She’s taking advantage of all the opportunities our university offers. She excels in the classroom, in research, in community service.”

Solawetz was an ambassador of hope to the student body, a self-described “hopeful optimist,” says Stahl.

“Out of everything I’ve done at the University, this has been my biggest inspiration,” Solawetz says. “It’s made me realize just how much I enjoy working with kids. It’s also been a great opportunity to get away from my studies for a while and do what I want to do with the rest of my life.”

Solawetz will graduate this year with a B.S. in chemical engineering and a minor in business administration. She will pursue graduate studies here at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work.

“For now, she’s headed back to suburban Des Moines where she will help organize a campus-wide community service program for interested students,” Stahl says.

During the past three summers, Brewer has tutored inner-city children for the Danforth Scholars Program. “I was forced to quit the job,” Brewer thought at the time. “I thought that would take care of the situation, but the symptoms persisted.”

“During the winter of temperatures below zero, I couldn’t get warm even in Anchorage, where you wouldn’t think there would be much of a problem,” Brewer says. “I realized that chemistry had a lot to do with being healthy and energy management goods.”

“Engineering is a way to combine my interests and tackle a big problem,” Brewer says. “It was also a big problem,” adds Brewer, the youngest of four children.

Pursuing a career as an architect, Brewer and his father, Raymond, moved his family to Anchorage in the early ’70s. Damien’s mother, Guadalupe, worked in the administrative office of the Anchorage public schools. His father encouraged him to pursue engineering, and Brewer came to Washington University in 2002, choosing it largely because of the strong environmental program of the chemical engineering department. Early in his time here, he took a course in industrial laboratory Pratim Biswas, Ph.D., the Stidt and Quinette Jens Professor of Environmental Engineering and Science and director of the Environmental Engineering Science Program, and learned that Biswas was looking for a student worker. Brewer worked most semesters in Biswas’ lab, getting hands-on experience in the lab and learning from an esteemed environmental engineer.

This relationship led to a collaboration with Biswas, studying hydrogen production via nanoscale photovoltaic titanium thin-films. Their research was presented at the 2005 annual meeting of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers in Cincinnati.

Brewer was also very active as a member of the National Society of Black Engineers, each year an officer, the final one serving as treasurer. “The society has helped me become a nice community of intellectual African-American colleagues, someone I’ve never had before,” Brewer says. “I’ve very much enjoyed the camaraderie and activities, especially going to the annual meeting.”

During the past three summers, Brewer had three different laboratory experiences that have helped mold him as an engineer and shape his vision of environmental engineering. In summer 2003, he was a laboratory technician at Northern Testing Laboratories in Anchorage in 2004, he was an environmental engineering intern at BP Chemicals in Torrance, Calif., and in 2005, he worked in the University of Minnesota Department of Chemical Engineering, where he synthesized and characterized nanowire arrays for solar cell applications.

Of all three, the three speaks most glowingly of the BP Chemicals internship. “I had a great mentor, Sanjeev Vora, a native of India, and I loved living with him and his family for 14 weeks,” he said. “I got a great background in what a chemical engineering experience is like.”

Throughout all his experiences inside and outside Washington University, Brewer has had the opportunity to understand that “science and math provide elegant ways of describing reactions and processes,” he said. “I can go to graduate school at the University of Minnesota and pursue a doctorate.”
WILLIAMSBURG, VA.

I was unconsciously looking for a place where I could let loose and paint," Repice says. "I had heard about George Washington University and how they emphasized studio work."

Repice was born in Paterson, N.J., and is the son of a retired auto mechanic. He received a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of Delaware in 2001 and served as the university's student body president for two years. He received a master of fine arts degree from the Art Institute of Chicago in 2003.

Repice has worked extensively in printmaking, and his work has been exhibited in galleries across the country. He was awarded a fellowship from the American Academy in Rome in 2004, where he worked on a project called "The Wall," which consisted of 100 lithographs depicting the environment and social issues of New York City.

Repice's most recent work is a series of paintings called "The Wall," which he says is inspired by his time in Rome. He says he hopes to use his art to create a dialogue about the environment and social issues.

"I really enjoy seeing my work in different places," Repice says. "I see it as a way to connect with people and let them see what I'm doing."
Military veteran Traugott makes the cut in surgery

BY BETTY MILLER

When Amber Traugott started classes in the School of Medicine, she knew there was only one thing she was absolutely sure of — she did not want to become a surgeon. Several years and a couple tour deployments later, she is preparing to begin her residency in surgery at Barnes-Jewish Hospital after graduating today. "On my first day of the surgery rotation, I walked in and said, 'I don't want to be a surgeon.'" After graduating today, she is preparing to begin her residency in surgery at Barnes-Jewish Hospital after graduating today.

"I'm very passionate about pediatrics and thought she would go into that field," she says. However, her experience in the surgical rotation made her realize that's not what she was meant for surgery — despite passing out on her first day in the operating room. "I found that I was having an easier time getting out of 4:30 a.m. for surgery than I was at 6 a.m. for the other rotations," she says. Traugott also found herself spending her free time reading about surgery.

"Surgeons have the potential to treat a wide variety of diseases and problems that are going on," she says. "It is very satisfying when it goes well, because they are making things better, not just managing as ails.

"A lot of really respected surgeons are very emotionally involved in their patients and the outcomes of their procedures," she adds. "That's also true for me," she says. The Wisconsin native has had a lot of experience making things better for people in need. As an undergraduate junior, Traugott enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division, where she learned Arabic and trained in intelligence. She was sent to Guan in 1997, where she worked as a translator at a camp for Iraqi and Kurdish refugees. She and other interpreters also helped prepare the camp for assimilating into American culture after they left Guan.

Traugott was sent to Kuwait in 1998 as part of the U.S. ground force presence. When her active duty ended in 1999, she completed her bachelor’s degree in genet-
Polonsky sees life plan come into focus with J.D.

BY ANDY CLENDENNEN

Take a moment to consider what you were doing in 1978. At 18, you are probably just finishing high school. A career plan may be one of the last things on your radar.

But Brenda Cass was just starting college at Marquette University. And the rest is history.

"While attending school part-time, I started my career in the brokerage industry at a regional firm in Milwaukee," Cass says. "After several years of working and learning, I decided to promote a management role. Eventually, I became a regional manager and senior vice president of investment products."

Then, the company relocated its operations to New Jersey, but she found herself preferring to remain in the Midwest. After 18 years of Milwaukee life, she moved to Chesterfield, Mo., to take a position with Edward Jones, where she is a group leader of cash operations.

"One of the most fun and most useful things to slow down."

Polonsky sees life plan come into focus with J.D.

BY ANDY CLENDENNEN

Despite growing up in the area with the highest concentration of quality colleges and universities in the United States, Sasha E. Polonsky decided to head west — way west — for her undergraduate work. She forsook Boston for the West Coast certainly offers a lot by way of education, but the palm trees seduced me away from ivy and brick.

"California was a big change and a different lifestyle. It seemed like a chance for an adventure." It's that sort of outside-the-box thinking that also led her to concentrate solely on law at Washington University. After spending three years in strategy consulting in California, Polonsky decided to attend law school and will graduate in May.

"The research aspect of strategy consulting was a huge motivator, which I didn't have in my career — and my education."

"The thing I love about Brenmar is that most of us are just accepting people for who they are and that most of us are not so paranoid."

Looking back on her time at the University, she realizes things are slowly falling into place.

"In retrospect, I can reconcile my past as a magic black box, although I never knew exactly where the path would lead," Polonsky says.

"Law was a perfect fit with my learning style. The interactive nature of law instruction requires constant class preparation. We all have to be accountable for what we say."

"The performance pressure was a huge motivator, which I didn't have in college (as an undergraduate)."

Her accountability will be put to the test, as she has been offered a job by Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York — the same firm she interned with in summer 2005.

"My daughter, Shaunda Cass, is one of the most remarkable law students with whom I have ever met," says Joel Seligman, J.D., former dean of the WUSTL law school and now president of the University of Rochester. "She has been a terrific law student and will be an outstanding lawyer."

"I'm really looking forward to it. I think it's the performance pressure which has me focused on pursuing higher education."
Music and physics ring in true harmony for Mertz

By Neil Schoenherr

Astrophysics and music. At first glance, these two fields might seem to have nothing in common, but Aaron Mertz has managed to meld them quite harmoniously during his undergraduate career at the University.

"After a year, I felt the need to take a step back and review the material I was studying," Mertz says. "I was able to go home and play with various harmonics and overtones that I had studied, and this led me to combine my physics knowledge with my passion for music.

At the University, Mertz spent time working in the Laboratory for Space Sciences with Thomas Bernard, Ph.D., professor of physics in Arts & Sciences, using meteors to study the composition of our solar system. "Our solar system has a fairly unique set of conditions that make it possible for life to exist," Mertz says. "For example, our planet has an atmosphere that is composed of carbon or different types of oxygen that have been uniquely distributed throughout our solar system.

In meteorites, there exist very small grains that have anomalous isotopic compositions. Because these grains are part of the rest of our solar system, we know they could not have originated in our solar system but rather in stellar events that occurred before the birth of our solar system 4.6 billion years ago."

In addition to using telescopes like astronomers would use to study stars, we use microscopes to analyze the very small portions of meteorites, actual stardust," he says.

To further hone his skills in physics and music, Mertz spent a great summer 2005 working in a lab at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics in Munich, Germany. "It was a great opportunity for me to combine my physics research with my love of the German language," he says. "Aaron Mertz has always amazed me not only with his intellectual ability but also with his enthusiasm for intellectual development," says Peter Kastor, Ph.D., assistant professor of history and American Culture Studies.

"The intellectual energy and collaborative spirit he has brought to his undergraduate work reflects a truly imaginative mind and a willingness to recognize and make a contribution to the University's mission of knowledge," Kastor adds.

When not studying stars or playing cellos, Mertz finds time to serve as a student representative as president of the ArtsSci Council, the undergraduate student association of the College of Arts & Sciences.

"My student-colleagues and I have tried to enhance cultural and intellectual development on campus for students," Mertz says. "We have reached out to students, and other students, with the faculty on campus and with some cultural highlights in the St. Louis area, such as the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Missouri museum, the botanical garden — things that students might not take the initiative to encounter on their own.

He came to WUSTL knowing he wanted to study physics, but he developed a new flexibility to pursue serious work in anything that he found interesting. He used his music even though I was not a music major."

Despite the University's rigorous academic demands and his double major, Aaron Mertz continued his musical passion by playing in the Washington University Symphony Orchestra and several chamber orchestras. "Aaron is the only student I can remember in my teaching career with whom I was able to discuss Christo's Gates in Central Park, 1990s models of nuclear physics and Native American basketry," says Angela L. Miller, Ph.D., of the Department of Art History and Archaeology in Arts & Sciences.

"He has been extremely enthusiastic about his research and work," she says. "He asks deep questions about how we understand words like 'empowerment' or 'feminism' across a variety of contexts."

"She also challenges us to see herself from their perspective, and she has a way of drawing that perspective out through her stories and writing on the conversations she has had with people."

"She also is grateful for the graduate student support of Li-Mei Chen, Ph.D. assistant professor of social work, and Gastam Yada, Ph.D. associate professor and director of Interna- tional Programs at the School of Social Work."

"Richa Dhanju hopes to be an agent of social change in India, Dhanju says. "Having lived and studied in India, I have always been interested in exploring new nation-states that are struggling with social and economic imbalances," she says.

"Richa Dhanju is a product of the Indian people's movement focusing on issues of transparency and accountability in the administration at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai, India. Dhanju says Peter Hovmand, Ph.D., assistant professor of social work. "... She has a way of drawing that per- spective out through her stories and writing on the conversations she has had with people.

"Richa really pushes herself to understand people from their perspectives," Hovmand says. "She asks questions about social justice and empowerment and intellectual independence and the like. She was fascinating to me as an agent of social and economic change at the grass roots, she says, and as an academic who practices what she learns from the text and who demands theory be as practical as it can be."

RICHANDHANJUHOPESBEA NAGENTOFSOCIALCHANGEINTHEU S


dianju hopes to be an agent of social change in the U.S.

By Jessica Martin

Growing up in 10 states across the U.S., Richa Dhanju saw firsthand the struggles of different cultures and races. "I've had to deal with different people and different cultures," she says. "I've had to experience tensions between the politics, economics and culture of a society."

"Growing up in India, Richa Dhanju saw the disparity amongst the different races and the like. It was fascinating for me to see the practical as it can be."
Similar to the mathematical explorations Cindy Traub studies, her life revolves around points, braids, body and spirit. The first Department of Mathematics & Sciences recipient of the Mr. & Mrs. Spencer T. Olliff Fellowship for Women Graduate Student Traub will receive a dissertation in mathematics from the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences today. But some of her most rewarding and challenging graduate experiences came outside the classroom.

Through community outreach and participatory school projects, Traub found the right equation to combine her varied interests. Traub knew she wanted to teach math when she was a high-school sophomore in her hometown of Beverly, Mass. "I've always been interested in math," she says, "It's fun."

While some might not use the word "web" to describe topological effects related to minimum-weight Steiner triangulations—the subject of her dissertation—Traub's interest in the field is something that has continued over the years. Her mother holds a degree in biology, and her great-grandfather, father and one of her two older sisters are engineers. "We've got the math and science flavor in our family," Traub says.

This interest set her on a trajectory to solve equations on her studies when she came to the University in 2001. Traub couldn't find the right project to undertake. "I felt compelled," she says. "I needed to get involved."

Such thinking is typical of Traub, says Lynn Bird, campus minister for graduate students at the University's Catholic Student Center, where Traub was involved for five years. "She's not someone who sits on the sidelines; she is someone who gets involved," Bird says. "She brings people together. Her excitement generates excitement."

In addition to her collaborative research, Traub attended area high-school and junior-high-school students through the "Math Circles" program of Steven Krantz, PhD, professor of mathematics, and was a teaching assistant, winning the 2005 Robert H. Doolittle Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics. But she also needed to make a difference beyond her studies. Her volunteerism and community service to travel to Clive Wood, Va., in an economically depressed Appalachian Mountain area, building on work. "Urban Cloud" proposes a supple, natural rubber "interface" design to the idea of "green" structures. The concept, totaling $30,000 (about $38,500), will be announced Oct. 23 during a ceremony at the Kemper Art Museum. The image demonstrates how the "Urban Cloud" might capture light on an urban scale.

ABOVE: This image was part of the entry for Tyler Survant's team in "Light of Tomorrow," a speculative design competition sponsored by VELUX, a European skylight manufacturer. The image demonstrates how the "Urban Cloud" might capture light on an urban scale.

LEFT: Survant works in Givens Hall with a model of his kind of project. It's the difference between a poem and an essay. An essay explains a poem remains evocative.

Survant is keenly attuned to the similarities and shared concerns: structure, proportion, harmony—that link architecture and music. Growing up in Lexington, Ky., he was an accomplished trumpet player, and in high school he performed with a variety of ensembles, winning the Lexington Philharmonic Band Award, the John Phillips Sousa Award and the Governor's Scholar Award. At the University, Survant served as a Student Union senator for Architecture and as secretary and vice president for the Architecture Student Council. He worked as an art handler for the Sam Fox School of Miled Lane Kemper Art Museum. He also spent six semesters as a teaching assistant for the soprano studio "Jasmine and Design Process," working with Heather Woofter, assistant professor of architecture, and Pia Sarpaneva, visiting associate professor of architecture.

"Tyler is an amazing student," says Woofter, who also served as faculty adviser for the VELUX entry. "He's very articulate regarding his work and very thoughtful. Yet he also has the humility to work with different viewpoints, to find the connections between them and to make those connections his own. That synthesis is remarkable." Survant himself notes, "Representation goes beyond just conveying ideas to someone else. Representation helps you to understand the idea itself. It's about learning through making—about building a visual language that allows you to discover new concepts and new ways of seeing." After graduation, Survant plans to remain in St. Louis for at least a year before enrolling in graduate school. He'd also like to continue developing projects and ideas with his VELUX collaborators, with an eye toward entering more conceptual competitions. "This is kind of a transitional time," he says. "I would love to build buildings, but I don't want to be limited to one path. I'm very interested in teaching and designing, in architectural writing, in conceptual design. I'm beginning to think less about particular mediums and more about particular ideas," he concludes. "It's about having a process that you address in your work."
easy ones. Unlike his predecessor, Margaret Thatcher, Major led the Conservatives to victory only slim majorities in Parliament. Nevertheless, on May 1, 1997, he became over one of the strongest economies in the world to Prime Minister Tony Blair. On May 7, 1998, he announced that he had awarded one of the United King- dom’s greatest honors: the Companion of Honour, bestowed on him by Queen Elizabeth in recognition of his initiation of the Northern Ireland Peace Process. Also, Major’s academic degrees will be awarded to: 
- Karen I. Cheeseman, M.D., D.C., a Distinguished Research Professor at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, and co-reipient of the 2004 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, doctor of science; 
- Anna Grodzinska, president and chief executive officer, St. Louis International Institute of honors, doctor of humane letters; 
- Sue Fowick, the first person to earn a Ph.D. in art in the U.S. and hold a doctorate in art history.

The ceremony

Commencement will begin with the traditional academic procession into the Quadrangle, which will be led by boisterous grand marshal James W. Davis Ph.D., professor emeritus of political science in Arts & Sciences, director of the Robert S. W. Johnson Fund, and professor of law and government.

For the 26th consecutive Commencement, the program will be given by the Missouri Music Concert Band of St. Louis. Under the direction of Dan Porges, music director/conductor of the University Symphony Orchestra, the University Wind Ensemble and The Saint Louis Wind Symphony.

Elise LaBarge, who will receive a major in vocal performance, degree in the Arts & Sciences, will sing America the Beautiful.

Sagar K. Ravi, president of the senior class, will deliver the student Commencement greeting (see article, Page 1).

Conferral of academic degrees will follow, with the deans of each of the schools and Edward S. Ma- cias, Ph.D., executive vice chancellor for Research and Economic Development, and chancellor of the Barbara and David Thomas School of Engineering & Applied Science, assisting Wrighton. After the conferral of degrees, Wrighton will deliver his message to the Class of 2006.

Professionals who will receive a master’s degree in vocal performance degree, will conduct the ceremony by singing the Alma Mater. Afterwards, the University’s schools will hold receptions for graduates and their guests.

Violent Weather Plan

The decision for implementation of the Violent Weather Plan will be made by 7 a.m. May 19. WUSTL radio and television stations will be given the information, and it will appear online to wustl.edu and be announced through campus e-mail.

Obituary

Rosenberger, senior professor of computer science and engineering

In 2005, Rosenberger was named the Voddis Chair professor in the School of Engineering & Applied Sciences. In the 1940s, Rosenberger played a central role in many of the major areas of computer science, including the development of the machine that played a key role in the early designs of ENIAC.
Devising a winning strategy

Dean Mahendra Gupta seeks to give business students the tools needed to solve complex problems

Gupta's research has focused on managerial accounting. He has studied cost management, performance measurement, and the evaluation of efficiencies in service-delivery processes. He says the five years he worked as a manager in India turned out to be a critical experience for his future academic and administrative careers. "I learned from the family business," he says. "I learned how to manage organizations. I learned how to manage people. I learned the realities of complex business decisions.

"And I learned the importance of taking care of people within the organization to create the right culture for optimal performance," Gupta came to the Olin School of Business in 1990, having been invited by Nick Doshi, Ph.D., the Hubert C. and Dorothy R. Moog Professor of Accounting, and Robert L. Virgil, Ph.D., former dean and professor emeritus of Accounting.

"Mahendra is one of the hires I've been most proud of," Virgil says. "I remember meeting him when he interviewed at Olin. I was struck by his enthusiasm, his passion for his research and for teaching. All of that was borne out eventually."

"He has been involved in a number of things. We could count on him to shoulder the work and perform the service necessary to make Olin and Washington University a better place."

Gupta's track record proves Virgil's point. As a junior faculty member in 1996-97, he was the Marcile and James Reid Professor, an award bestowed annually by senior faculty in recognition of outstanding teaching and research. Students have honored Gupta by voting for him to receive the Reid Teaching Award seven times since 2001.

"It's an absolute bummer that he won't be teaching anymore," says Nick Doshi, a 2004 M.B.A. graduate and president of the Selling Block. "For me, his cost-accounting class was one of the most valuable classes I took."

"He can do a lot more for the school as a whole than teaching accounting alone - even though the new crop of students is going to miss the opportunity to experience his class." In 2003, Gupta increased his involvement in shaping the business school's future by taking on the role of senior associate dean. When Stuart I. Greenbaum, Ph.D., the Bank of America Professor of Managerial Leadership, announced he was stepping down as dean in 2006, Gupta said it was a "natural progression for him to consider the position."

"I wanted to contribute more to the success of our school and our students from a leadership role," Gupta says when asked why he decided to be dean. The responsibility of senior associate dean and provost of operations is to have an impact, and it gave me the experience and confidence to apply for this position."

"From the standpoint of the transition to a new dean, having Gupta in the position meant there wouldn't be the usual lag time it takes for a new dean to take on a new environment and new position."

"We needed someone with enough common sense and experience to be able to work with the faculty and students issues that needed addressing and not lose a lot of time in terms of being able to initiate change," says Anuj Thakor, Ph.D., senior associate dean of the Hubert C. and Dorothy R. Moog Professor of Finance and chair of the department. "Ours is a critical decision."

"Our assessment of Mahendra is that he was sufficiently open-minded, and given his knowledge of the institution, he could sit down with faculty and all concerned stakeholders and figure out a strategy for change and for moving ahead.

Gupta wasted no time in tackling some big issues. Under his guidance, faculty, staff and students have completely redesigned the Executive M.B.A. program and introduced new courses into the M.B.A. program. Gupta has also set up a committee to examine how to improve the B.S.B.A. program. Gupta recognition that not everything in the school needed changing, but the best time to consider how to improve a product is when things are going relatively well. Gupta says. The team's changes to leverage the Olin School's biggest strength — world-class research and teaching.

The business school is uniquely positioned to be agile and responsive to the needs of students, re- cruiters and the business community.

"Our strategic thinking is to offer personalized and responsive education to students," Gupta says. In 2005, Gupta's initiatives focus on the school's new strategic analytical rigor, creativity, innovation, global reach and experiential learning. The strategy is designed to imbue students with the ability to solve complex, unstructured business problems. Gupta says the strategy addresses what many employers say is a gap in students' critical-thinking skills. The strategy also embraces innovation and creativity, which will encourage cross University partnerships and drive changes in program curricula. Gupta says a multidisciplinary approach and the creation of new courses under construction for second-year M.B.A. students.

Involving many faculty members, the class is designed to foster students' creative-thinking and problem-solving skills while teaching them how to transform novel ideas into business processes that will fuel competitive advantages. Another example of the direction in which Gupta is leading the school was evident this spring in a new course taught by former Emerson chief executive officer Charles F. Knight and former CEO of Honeywell, Lou Gerstner, former CEO of IBM; August Busch III, chairman of Anheuser-Busch Co.; and David Faries, chairman and CEO of Emerson.

"In an understandable way, Mahendra has put in place a variety of strategic and tactical initiatives," Thakor says. "He has also displayed a tremendous commitment to building the faculty as well as diversity initiatives, and this was evidenced by the effort he made to restructure the faculty and the fact that we have hired five new faculty, including two female faculty.

"Moreover, he has also reached out and built bridges with other schools in Waite," so that we are well-positioned for all, Gupta says. "We have traveled to the changes to leverage the Olin School's biggest strength — world-class research and teaching.

The business school is uniquely positioned to be agile and responsive to the needs of students, recruiters and the business community.

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