Undergraduate paves way for NASA Mars mission

BY TONY FITZPATRICK
University earth and planetary scientists are paving the way for a smooth Mars landing for the Phoenix mission — scheduled to launch in August — by making sure the set-down literally is not a rocky one.

A team led by Raymond E. Arvidson, Ph.D., the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor and chair of earth and planetary sciences in Arts & Sciences, has analyzed images taken from a NASA rover to make sure the Phoenix spacecraft lands on a spot on the Red Planet's northern plains that is relatively rock-free.

"The craft has to land in a place unlikely to have more than 16 degrees relative to horizontal, and it shouldn't have very many rocks higher than 30-40 centimeters," or roughly one foot high, Arvidson said.

"We've been looking for locations big enough and homogenous enough for a high probability of a successful landing. The issue isn't slope. The issue is rocks." If the lander came down in an area with rocks roughly the same size as the lander or larger, the whole craft could tilt or tip over.

Rocks could also impede the craft's solar panels; large rocks would prevent the unfurling of the craft's solar panels, which are circular and rotate open. Solar power drives seven Phoenix mission instruments. Without it, there isn't much of a mission, which aims to have the lander use a robotic arm to dig down to a layer containing water ice and gather samples of soil and ice in the continuing pursuit of water on Mars.

The lynchpin of the meticulous, pain-staking landing-site locator task is Earth and planetary sciences junior Tabatha Heet, who began working on the project in October.

"Ray asked if I would count some rocks in the original landing area, and I got started, thinking it was going to be a one-time thing," said Heet, a student in the acclaimed Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Heet's first community service-learning course — "Rediscovering the Child: Developmental Psychology in Its Cultural Context" — for the American Culture Studies program, has become something of an expert on K-12 architecture education. In 2002, she launched this easy-to-use tool, which offers a wealth of information about risk factors and prevention strategies for five preventable diseases affecting millions of Americans.

On the site — www.yourdieriserisk .wustl.edu — users can answer a series of simple questions about their medical history, eating habits, exercise and other behaviors and then get a personalized estimate of their risk for 12 different cancers plus heart disease, diabetes, stroke and osteoporosis.

Users also will find tips on how to lower their disease risk and convenient Web links to fact sheets that describe the origins and symptoms of each disease. "The key message is that we already have information to prevent much of the chronic disease that affects the population," said Graham Colditz, M.D., M.P.H., the Nixia-Gaunden Professor and associate director of Prevention and Control at Siteman. "If we can spread the word about prevention, many people can start early in life to prevent disease later. We know it can be hard to motivate others to act, but we can learn from the media, and we can also make it easy for people to find reliable recommendations for better health and to identify strategies that are best for them."

It is estimated that healthy lifestyles could prevent more than half of cancer, 70 percent of strokes and 40 percent of heart disease and diabetes.

In addition to detailing the impact of well-known risk factors such as smoking, lack of exercise and being overweight, Your Disease Risk offers many other important health tips, such as the benefits of calcium and vitamin D for both bone and foot health, the increased risk of diabetes from eating too many red

Architectural program brings K-12 students into the studio

BY LIAM OTTEN
The proposed science center is a bold architectural statement, an elegantly modern collection of tumbling geometric shapes. Its central lobby, painted bright blue and yellow, soars 72 feet into the air while a rounded black breezeway soars 72 feet into the air while a rounded black breezeway leads to the new six-story Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Heet wants to help the next generation of scientists to be better prepared, more diverse and large enough in number to set the pace for the global economy.

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Architectural program brings K-12 students into the studio

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School of Medicine Update

Ceremonies pay tribute to employees for length of service

At the First Annual Length of University Service award programs June 4, employees were recognized for length of service through the 39 years of service and above. Ceremonies pay tribute to employees for length of service through the 39 years of service and above.

The following employees were recognized for 41 years of service to the University at the First Annual Length of University Service award programs June 4 at the Eric P. Newman Education Center. Lueck was recognized for 41 years of service.

The following people were recognized for 40 years of service.

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The following people were recognized for 4 years of service.

The following people were recognized for 3 years of service.

The following people were recognized for 2 years of service.

The following people were recognized for 1 year of service.

The following employees were recognized for 1 year of service.


School of Medicine faculty and staff mingle at the employee picnic June 8 at Hudlin Park. Festivities included a catered barbecue lunch, Ted Drewes Frozen Custard, a disc jockey providing background music, and games, including the pig race (below).

Larry J. Shapiro, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, presents the Dean’s Distinguished Service Award to Jerome Pinkner, research lab manager in the Department of Molecular Microbiology. The award annually recognizes an employee whose outstanding contributions exemplify an exceptional commitment and dedication to the School of Medicine.

Pinkner receives Distinguished Service Award

Larry J. Shapiro, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, recognized three employees for their outstanding contributions, exceptional commitment and dedication to the School of Medicine.

Known as the "Dean's Distinguished Service Award," Pinkner is research lab manager in the Department of Molecular Microbiology working for Scott Hultgren, Ph.D., professor of molecular microbiology. Hultgren said Pinkner is "indispensable" to the lab — managing grant accounting, negotiating and purchasing lab equipment and supplies and managing staff.

Pinkner also was first author on an article in the November 2006 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Magpie Chi, the Research Support Service Award, is a research lab manager in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology working for Kele Miley, M.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology. Chi joined the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 1973 to work under the late Oliver Lowery, M.D. She learned microanalytic quantitative analysis to measure metabolites and enzyme activities in small quantities of tissue. She is one of only a few people worldwide who uses this technique and shares her expertise with other researchers.

Ivy Boy Jr. received the Operation Support Service Award. Reid is manager for Cusinial Services working for Greg Brou. Those who nominated Reid cited his support of the development, training and mentoring of all the employees in the department, as well as his superior ability to lead by example. In addition, they noted his ability to achieve and maintain teamwork within a culturally diverse work group and his "can-do" attitude.
Spoken word piece calls attention to hepatitis B

BY DIANE DERY WILLIAMS

When then-classmate Jason Hill and Leon Scott, M.D., performed a spoken word piece about health disparities and the roles of physicians during the 2004 Medical School class show, the audience was captivated by what became the highlight of the show. It was impossible not to engage with the message or walk away with new knowledge, said Kathy Lee, now national Academic in the Asian-Pacific Americans. "It was such a fresh, creative way to get a message across," she said.

So when Lee was planning a training conference on preventing hepatitis B, she recruited Hill and Scott to create a spoken word piece. Spoken word is an innovative performing art that intertwines elements of rap and poetry. "Once again, they stole the show," she said.

Dobbs brace to advance clubfoot treatment

BY BETH MILLER

A new brace that maintains correction for clubfoot, birth defect in which the foot is turned in toward the body, has shown better compliance and fewer complications than the traditional brace used to treat the condition.

Matthew B. Dobbs, M.D., associate professor of orthopaedic surgery, designed the dynamic brace, called the Dobbs brace, to allow active movement, preserve muscle strength in the foot and ankle and be less restrictive to the child than the traditional brace.

Dobbs tested the brace on 28 patients who had already received non-surgical treatment for their clubfoot at St. Louis Children's Hospital and St. Louis Shriners Hospital. Over a two- to three-year follow-up period, Dobbs and his colleagues found that the Dobbs brace is at least as effective as the traditional brace and resulted in better compliance by parents.

Dobbs is senior author of the study that appears in the August issue of the Journal of Pediatric Orthopaedics.

Dobbs first treated children with clubfoot deformity using the Ponseti method. The treatment, developed in the 1950s by Ignacio Ponseti, M.D., professor emeritus of orthopedics and rehabilitation at the University of Iowa, involves weekly casting and manipulation of the clubfoot soon after birth. When done correctly, the Ponseti method greatly reduces the need for extensive surgery, which can contribute to pain and arthritis, feet in adulthood.

The children who were treated with the Ponseti method were likely to have normally functioning, pain-free, flexible feet in adulthood. Traditionally, children who have been treated for clubfoot using the Ponseti method must wear a nighttime brace that turns their feet away from each other for three to four years following the initial casting treatment. The brace has open-toed, high-top shoes attached to a shoulder-width metal bar. Because of skin blistersing and the brace's restriction of leg motion, many parents used the brace less than had been prescribed, which can allow recurrent clubfoot deformities that may require extensive surgery. In fact, past studies had shown that about 30 percent to 40 percent of families do not use the traditional brace as prescribed.

In contrast, the new brace has a soft, custom-molded interface that is placed inside of a solid ankle-foot orthosis, an orthopedic appliance designed to maintain alignment of the bones in the foot and ankle. The brace has a release mechanism that allows parents to easily detach and reattach the bar to place the child in a car seat or high chair or change a diaper without removing the entire brace. The Dobbs brace also allows children to move their legs independently and walk while wearing the brace.

Dobbs said there are key steps in preventing a recurrence of clubfoot:

All 28 patients in the study reached full correction for their clubfoot before being fitted for the brace. Eighteen patients who had not been wearing the traditional brace as prescribed were fitted for the Dobbs brace. The remaining patients were fitted only for the Dobbs brace. All two patients were wearing the brace as prescribed.

The newly designed, more flexible foot abduction orthosis is equally effective, or more so, than the traditional brace, considering rates of clubfoot recurrence orthosis is equally effective, or more so, than the traditional brace, considering rates of clubfoot recurrence.

The professorship is named in honor of James P. Keating, M.D., professor of Pediatrics and a pioneer in the field of pediatric gastroenterology. Keating is the W. McKin Marrsift Professor of Pediatrics and a pioneer in the field of pediatric gastroenterology. For more than 25 years, Keating has taught hundreds of residents at the medical school. He began practicing pediatrics in 1984, Hamvas was a primary-care pediatrician at People's Clinic in St. Louis, as well as an instructor in clinical pediatrics at the School of Medicine. Hamvas is medical director of the Newborn Medicine Care Unit at St. Louis Children's Hospital and assistant professor at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Keating has fostered newborn medicine Care Unit from 1980-1992 and developed the Division of Medical Di-

Hamvas named James P. Keating, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics

BY BETH MILLER

Aren Hamvas, M.D., a renowned pediatrician in newborn medicine and a leading authority on a lethal infant lung disease, has been appointed the first James P. Keating, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics.

Hamvas is medical director of the Newborn Medicine Care Unit at St. Louis Children's Hospital and assistant professor at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Keating has known Hamvas since 1979, when they both began their careers at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Keating has been named the Hamvas named James P. Keating, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics.

Keating has known Hamvas as a student, resident and assistant professor for more than 25 years. "At all times he is a caring, just and inspiring teacher and an irreplaceable partner in the work of our department, hospital and school," Keating said. "He is a man of innumerable traits, serve as the inau-

Keating named professor and dean of the medical school in 1978. He established the Division of Medical Nutrition, which was awarded the Director of the pediatric intensive care unit from 1980-1992 and developed the Division of Medical Di-

Troy, N.Y., and a medical degree from WUSTL in 1981.

After completing a residency at St. Louis Children's Hospital in 1984, Hamvas was a primary-care pediatrician at People's Clinic in St. Louis, as well as an instructor in clinical pediatrics at the School of Medicine. Hamvas then completed a fellowship in newborn medicine at St. Louis Children's Hospital in 1990 and was named associate professor. He was promoted to professor in 2001.

Keating said he is thrilled and proud that he has accepted the role of the first holder of this new professorship.

Keating earned an undergraduate degree from Harvard University and a medical degree from Harvard Medical School. He was a resident in pediatrics at Boston City Hospital and was a pediatric intensive care unit from 1980-1992 and developed the Division of Medical Di-

Keating earned a graduate degree cum laude from Rens-
Olynk named director of Graduate School of Art

By LIM OTTEN

Patricia Olynk has been named director of the Graduate School of Art, part of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts.

Olynk’s appointment is the latest in a string of high-profile international known artist whose prints and intaglio etchings, monotype and monoprint treatments, and sometimes the publication of an image is often accompanied by a signature and information about the printing process. She is known for her experimental approach to art, particularly in the areas of printmaking and book arts, and has exhibited her work in numerous venues across the United States and internationally.

The Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis is excited to welcome Patricia Olynk as its new leader. With a reputation for fostering creativity and innovation, Olynk’s appointment comes at a time when the school is expanding its offerings in the field of art and design.

"I am thrilled to welcome Patricia Olynk to the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts," said Carmon Colangelo, Dean of the Sam Fox School. "Her leadership and vision will undoubtedly inspire our students and faculty to continue pushing the boundaries of what is possible in the field of art and design.

In her new role, Olynk will be responsible for overseeing the school’s graduate programs, which include degrees in studio art, art history, and curatorial practice. She will also work closely with the undergraduate programs, ensuring that they remain at the forefront of contemporary art education.

Olynk’s appointment follows the recent move of the Sam Fox School’s studio art programs to two new buildings on the University of Michigan, as well as the expansion of the School of Art and Design at the University of Michigan, as well as the addition of new technologies to explore the interdisciplinary nature of art and design.

The Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts is committed to providing a world-class education to its students, and Olynk’s leadership will undoubtedly help to shape the future of art and design education at the school.

Olynk is a prolific artist known for her work in printmaking and book arts. She has been honored with numerous awards and grants, including a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and a residency at the American Academy in Rome. Her work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions across the United States and internationally.

In addition to her artistic achievements, Olynk is a dedicated educator and has taught at numerous institutions, including the Rhode Island School of Design and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

With Olynk’s appointment, the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts is poised to continue its mission of providing a transformative education in the arts, preparing students for careers in a rapidly changing world.
Malton appointed first assistant vice chancellor for sustainability by TONY FITZPATRICK

Matthew Malton has been appointed assistant vice chancellor for campus sustainability, effective July 9.

His appointment marks the first time that the University has given a person the responsibility for campus sustainability.

"Matt has strong and appropriate experience with a broad range of sustainability initiatives," Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said. "He is highly regarded by his colleagues here in formulating and implementing the best policies and programs in the area of sustainability. Washington University will be well positioned to model a new model of sustainability, and Matt will be an effective advocate to our achieving a leadership position in addressing problems related to the environment."

Before coming to WUSTL, Malton was an assistant professor of computer science and engineering and director of environmental programs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Malton will help provide senior officials, administrators, faculty, staff and students with the vision, organizational strategy and focus to integrate sustainability into all aspects of the university's operations, including strategic planning processes, management of resources and operations, and planning and design of facilities in the area of sustainability.

His position is expected to facilitate the link between various offices and organizations, including those interested in sustainability issues, and promote initiatives that will advance the University's sustainability goals. Malton will support and enhance current programs related to energy and resource management, as well as extend and increase awareness, recycling, and sustainability at the University.

Malton earned a bachelor's degree in natural resource and environmental sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1996. In 1998, he earned a master's degree in environmental economics and policy from Duke University.

In 2005, Malton served as sustainability coordinator for the City of Urbana, Illinois. In that capacity, he was involved with initiatives to develop a comprehensive sustainability program for the university and specifically collaborated with faculty and students to implement sustainability initiatives, including new energy and waste reduction, renewable energy, green building and local food initiatives on campus.

As associate vice chancellor for campus sustainability at Washington University, Malton will provide vision, organizational strategy and focus to integrate sustainability efforts. He will help provide senior officials, administrators, faculty, staff and students with the vision, organizational strategy and focus to integrate sustainability into all aspects of the university's operations, including strategic planning processes, management of resources and operations, and planning and design of facilities in the area of sustainability.

Chen receives Microsoft fellowship by TONY FITZPATRICK

Ming Chen, Ph.D., assistant professor of computer science and engineering, is one of five faculty members nationwide to receive a 2007 Microsoft Research Faculty Fellowship.

The fellowship is one of the most prestigious awards for young computer scientists. Chen, who joined the faculty at WUSTL as an assistant professor in the first WUSTL researcher to be awarded the fellowship.

Chen received the unrestricted cash gift of $200,000 and other rewards of a sponsored conference travel and the opportunity to exchange ideas with Microsoft Corp. personnel for the next two years.

In its third year, the fellowship program is administered by Microsoft Research's External Research & PhD Program group as part of its mission to support and collaborate with the academic community.

The program is designed to identify and assist exceptional first-, second- and third-year professors engaged in innovative computing research.

Each university in the nation may nominate one candidate, from which 10 are selected to Microsoft in Redmond, Wash., to give a five-minute presentation to a panel of computer scientists, three from Microsoft and three from academia.

Chen won the fellowship for his research in nonlinear optimization, which has a number of applications in automated planning, medical operations, computer vision and computer graphics design.

Chen developed an algorithm that reduces the time it takes to solve a complex optimization problem from a week to 100 seconds.

Working with Joseph O. Dieudonné, Ph.D., professor of computational science and engineering, Chen is applying the algorithm to reduce the time it takes to solve cancer treatment problems using multiple steps in procedures unfailably rapidly and efficiently, maintaining the precision of the results.

Similarly, Chen's technology can be applied to NASA software so that the decision processes that previously could be executed in 30 seconds.

"This is that, by reducing the computational complexity of nonlinear optimization, we will develop a fast and robust decision-making tools and significantly extend the ways that computing can be used in medical and scientific and engineering applications," Chen said.

Klein named president of Randolph College by TONY FITZPATRICK

Ellen Klein has been named president of Randolph College, effective June 13.

Klein is an experienced campus leader with a strong background in comprehensive higher education. From 1981-1989, the presidential search committee unanimously recommended Klein to the board of trustees, citing his wealth of experience in leadership, educational administration, business and fund-raising, as well as his international background and lifelong interest in young people.

"I am very excited about becoming the ninth president of Randolph College," said Klein, who serves as WUSTL's chief operating officer overseeing non-academic activities, including finance, facilities, human resources, information technology and the university's strategic plan.

"I am a native of this wonderful place with an impressive past and great prospects for the future."

"I am determined to be a new president for everyone; to build on the rich tradition of the college's long history and commitment to excellence; to build on the very real sense of community that exists at the college; on the excellence of its academic programs, faculty and students; and on the overall diversity of its student body and faculty."

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton noted Klein's "long history of good work and making important contributions to WUSTL's mission." Klein, he said, "has been the driving force in terms of the financial affairs of the college." Klein's experience has included being an assistant professor of radiation oncology in the School of Medicine, Chen is applying the algorithm to reduce the time it takes to solve cancer treatment problems using multiple steps in procedures unfailably rapidly and efficiently, maintaining the precision of the results.

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Klein named president of Randolph College by TONY FITZPATRICK

Ellen Klein has been named the ninth president of Randolph College in Lynchburg, Va. The board of trustees of this liberal arts college named Klein to make the transition from a woman's college to a co-educational institution. A search committee selected Klein June 13 following an extensive national search. Klein will begin his term in August.

"I am very excited about becoming the ninth president of Randolph College," said Klein, who serves as WUSTL's chief operating officer overseeing non-academic activities, including finance, facilities, human resources, information technology and the university's strategic plan.

"I am a native of this wonderful place with an impressive past and great prospects for the future."

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Mission
Finding a rock-free landing site essential – from Page 1

Studying the HiRISE images, the team looked beyond. Hee...
Architecture students win museum façade design competition

BY LIAM OTTEN

Peter Elsheick, Cristiana Greavu and Eric Rang, sailing students in architecture in the College of Arts and Sciences, were among the winners in a recent competition for a façade for El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe in New Mexico.

The group’s winning design was selected from more than 100 entries submitted by architects, artists and designers representing 10 countries. The team will receive a $5,000 first-place cash award.

“The Shifting Lines,” consists of strips of fabric mounted on metal frames and will be unveiled at a ceremony today. "Shifting Lines," consists of semi-transparent strips of white architectural fabric arranged in a rhythmic, undulating pattern along the building's eastern edge. During the day, these 10-inch-wide strips — which are mounted on a series of 95 metal frames anchored to the roofline and the concrete sidewalk — will create ever-changing configurations of shadows on the building's glass-gated steel cladding. At night, they will be subtly lit by a carefully designed low-intensity lamp system.

“By capitalizing on the changing light of the Southwest and the repeating rhythm of the existing corroboration, the addition will create a more three-dimensional, engaging experience,” the designers noted in their artists’ statement.

“The material choice gives the viewer not only a visual experience, but also one of touch and hearing. The fabric softens the effect of the harsh metal surface, while even a mild wind can create a pleasant rippling sound.”

A public unveiling ceremony for the finished façade — which has a construction budget of about $85,000 — is being held today.

In addition, the top three entries will be on display in El Museo's exhibition hall during the biennial art show at Santa Fe Thursday, July 12-15.

SUMMARIZING WEISSMAN, Ph.D., professor emeritus of chemistry in Arts & Sciences who worked on the Manhattan Project, died Tuesday, June 12, 2007, of a cancer battle he said he was facing for several years.

Weissman is known worldwide for both the Manhattan Project — the development of the first atomic bomb. According to his son, Michael Weissman, Ph.D., professor of physics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, despite his father's intimate knowledge of how to build atomic bombs in the San, Joseph McCarthy era, he was denied security clearance to do work on essentially non-military magnetic resonance projects at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

The most serious change was that his mother had given money to a collection for the Spanish Republican government.

The security clearance was restored in 1954.

Weissman came to WUSTL in 1947 as a founding member who worked on the Manhattan Project — the development of the first atomic bomb.

Weissman was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1963 and was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1966.

Weissman donated his body to science.

A memorial service will be held Aug. 16 in Graham Chapel, with a reception following in the Ann W. Olin Women's Building.

In addition to his son, Survivors include his wife, Jane Lovey, Ph.D., the William R. Stecknor Professor Emeritus; a sister, Florence Pedemian of Los Angeles; and two grandchildren.

Mudd, 88

Robert Clayton Mudd, visiting professor of music in Arts & Sciences from 1978-1980 and instructor in University College during the late 1980s, died Thursday, June 7, 2007. He was 88.

Lyles Caliguiri, 75

A former graduate nurse at the School of Medicine from 1971-73, died Monday, June 18, 2007, at Desert Princess Hospital. She was 75.

Whitaker, 75

Ebert B. Whitaker Jr., a faculty member of the John M. Olm School of Business from 1969-1992 and associate dean of the business school from 1973-76, died Thursday, June 21, 2007. He was 75.
Washington People

Whether she’s trying to shed light on the music of the Middle Ages or come to grips with the life and work of a more recent composer such as Franz Liszt, musicologist Dolores Pesce is motivated by a single desire — to understand and communicate as accurately as possible what was in the mind of the composer at the moment of creation.

“While we can’t separate ourselves from our modern sensibility, the musical text and other contemporaneous documents leave enough clues to give us some sense of how the music might have been interpreted in its time,” says Pesce, Ph.D., professor of music and chair of the Department of Music in Arts & Sciences.

“Musicology came out of Germany and into the United States as a positivist science: First, you had to find and read all the manuscripts, that is, you had to provide a musical text for scholars and performers.”

Only after that’s done, Pesce says, can you begin to ask questions like, “What did it sound like?” “How did they hear it?” “How did they play it?”

To get at these kinds of questions, scholars like Pesce start by looking into the history and to non-musical documents to discern the rest of the story, such as the setting in which the music was composed and possible social and religious connotations.

“Especially in the Middle Ages, you’re trying to uncover how music could have spoken to an audience that was very, very unlettered,” Pesce says, who came to the University 25 years ago. “Were they hearing more things than we’re hearing? And were they more capable of doing so? That, to me, is the interesting question.”

Trained in her early life as a pianist, Pesce grew up in Philadelphia in an Italian-American family; all four of her grandparents were born in Italy. Early on, she found herself surrounded by music, albeit the popular music of the day. Her father played the violin and her mother loved to sing. “Once I started playing piano, my father and I played together,” she says. “We performed in the house and it was wonderful. Our favorites were Nat King Cole songs.”

From her junior-high years through her senior year of high school, Pesce studied with a piano instructor who enriched her teaching by bringing music theory into play and challenged her to think beyond the music that was on the page in front of her.

“He made me aware of the possibilities of thinking about music as a language,” she says. When she went off to Goucher College in Baltimore, she initially wanted to study biology and genetics, but the call toward the music was strong and, ultimately, the call to musicology won out over performance.

She went from Goucher to the Peabody Institute at The Johns Hopkins University, where her desire to teach and research was fueled even further. She was teaching community college and adult education music history courses when she applied for a Fulbright grant and subsequently spent a year doing research in Vienna, where the musical text and other documents of people are drawn to her as an adviser. “I feel like she’ll do whatever she can to see her students succeed.”

Pesce says the department is in a period of growth right now, building on a solid foundation of Western art music but also strengthening its offerings in other areas such as jazz, musical theater and world music.

“Under Dr. Pesce’s leadership, the department has taken significant steps in filling essential faculty positions and in improving our facilities in ways that affect students and teachers in extremely positive ways,” says colleague Craig Monson, Ph.D., professor of music and director of graduate studies. “She works tirelessly for us all, and faces challenges, even the most daunting, with an infectious optimism.”

“We are becoming more competitive in attracting both under-graduate and graduate students and have interests that go beyond Western art music because we’ve hired nine very different people as we attract students who are interested in working on those latter years.”

Pesce says the department is a great place, a place where she had always wanted to live. “That experience and her doctoral work at the University of Maryland sealed her fate as a teacher,” she says.

Pesce’s research in large part focuses on how medieval thinkers and composers understood the language of music and how the seminal act of notating music affected the decisions they made about pitch structures.

One of the individuals she has studied was an 11th-century monk named Guido of Arezzo, whose contributions to music theory is still practiced today in neumatic notation and choir lofts around the world. He proposed the “do-re-mi” system for teaching boys to sing.

“He not only proposed that aid to singing, but he also promoted the use of what we now call the musical staff,” says Pesce, who also has researched and written about a particular 13th-century vocal genre called the motet. “Sometimes what we find before the 11th century is one line scratched onto the page; notations placed primitive pitch signs in relative position above that line. Arezzo said, ‘Why don’t we just use multi-ple lines instead?’”

“So he’s the one who actually came up with the notation as we know it today. But he recognized that not everyone who wanted to sing would learn to read music. So he said, ‘If you’re using just the ear and can familiarize a person with the pitch relationships embedded in the syllables do-re-mi-fa, etc., then you can teach people to sing.’”

The rest, as they say, is history. Pesce’s musical interests don’t end with the Middle Ages, however. She is at it on a work about the music and life of the 19th-century composer and pianist Franz Liszt. Liszt was 75 when he died in 1886, a very old age at the time, and Pesce’s writing focuses on those latter years.

“He was a voluminous letter writer, in addition to being a pro-

Dolores Pesce seeks to understand what lies behind the musical text

Looking to history and to non-musical documents to discern the rest of the story, such as the setting in which the music was composed and possible social and religious connotations, musicologist Dolores Pesce says the department is in a period of growth right now, building on a solid foundation of Western art music but also strengthening its offerings in other areas such as jazz, musical theater and world music.

The department has about 40 music majors, along with 50 or more minors, roughly 500 people taking music lessons, and another hundred or so involved in ensem-

"Because of her diverse research interests and her constant willingness to delve into new topics along with her students, a lot of people are drawn to her as an adviser."

SARAH RUDDY

"I've taken many classes with Dr. Pesce and now I am writing my senior honors thesis under her guidance," says doctoral student Sarah Ruddy. “Because of her diverse research interests and her constant willingness to delve into new topics along with her students, a lot of people are drawn to her as an adviser. I feel like she’ll do whatever she can to see her students succeed.”

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"Under Dr. Pesce’s leadership, the department has taken significant steps in filling essential faculty positions and in improving our facilities in ways that affect students and teachers in extremely positive ways,” says colleague Craig Monson, Ph.D., professor of music and director of graduate studies. “She works tirelessly for us all, and faces challenges, even the most daunting, with an infectious optimism.”

“We are becoming more competitive in attracting both under-graduate and graduate students and have interests that go beyond Western art music because we’ve hired nine very different people as we attract students who are interested in working on those latter years.”

Pesce says the department is a great place, a place where she had always wanted to live. “That experience and her doctoral work at the University of Maryland sealed her fate as a teacher,” she says.

Pesce’s research in large part focuses on how medieval thinkers and composers understood the language of music and how the seminal act of notating music affected the decisions they made about pitch structures.

One of the individuals she has studied was an 11th-century monk named Guido of Arezzo, whose contributions to music theory is still practiced today in neumatic notation and choir lofts around the world. He proposed the “do-re-mi” system for teaching boys to sing.

“He not only proposed that aid to singing, but he also promoted the use of what we now call the musical staff,” says Pesce, who also has researched and written about a particular 13th-century vocal genre called the motet. “Sometimes what we find before the 11th century is one line scratched onto the page; notations placed primitive pitch signs in relative position above that line. Arezzo said, ‘Why don’t we just use multi-

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