



Washington University

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December 2003

## University News

**BIOMED 21 LAUNCHED:** This \$300 million new strategic research initiative will rapidly bring new knowledge of the human genetic blueprint to the patient's bedside and change how illness is understood, diagnosed, and successfully treated.

**UNIVERSITY TO HOST 2004 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE:** For the fourth consecutive time, Washington University in St. Louis has been selected to host a presidential debate. The second debate of the 2004 presidential election campaign is scheduled for 8 p.m. CDT, October 8, in the Field House.



**DEAN KHINDUKA ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT:** Shanti K. Khinduka, Ph. D., Dean of the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, announced that on June 30, 2004, he will retire as dean after 30 years of service.

**NO. 1 IN FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY:** Charity Navigator, an online, independent source for evaluating the financial health of more than 2,500 not-for-profit organizations, puts Washington University at the top of the list of colleges and universities in terms of doing the most with gifts it receives.

**UNCAS A. WHITAKER HALL DEDICATED:** The dedication of Uncas A. Whitaker Hall for Biomedical Engineering was a major step forward in a plan begun more than a decade ago to launch a nationally prominent department in this rapidly growing field.

## Research

**BATTLING SICKLE CELL DISEASE:** Thanks to an \$18.5 million National Institutes of Health grant awarded to Washington University School of Medicine, children who suffer from sickle cell anemia will receive treatment that may prevent silent strokes, a serious affliction associated with the disease.

**BADLANDS:** According to Conevery Bolton Valencius, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, early settlers of the Missouri and Arkansas territories worried that "sickly" land would affect their own health.

**ADVANTAGE, HARDWARE:** John Lockwood, Ph.D.,



assistant professor of computer science and engineering, has developed computer hardware that protects computer networks, and their thousands of users, from software viruses and worms.

**LOOK, BUT DON'T TOUCH:** To prevent damage to sensitive language areas of the brain, researchers at Washington University in St. Louis are developing a painless, non-invasive imaging technique to evaluate brain surgery risks better and to guide operations more precisely.



Photo by Bob Boston  
Michael R. DeBaun, M.D., shares a smile with Randice Reed. Randice has sickle cell disease, which affects one in 400 African-American infants - and 20 percent of those children will suffer a silent stroke before they finish high school.

## Features



Photograph by Theodor Horydczak, c. 1935  
One of two spiral staircases in the Supreme Court Building.

and overeating, Edwin B. Fisher, Ph.D., professor of psychology, says many of the same techniques can be used to help those who suffer from shopping stress.

**GOING TO THE ALTAR PAYS OFF:** "Marriage substantially increases a person's likelihood of becoming affluent," says Mark R. Rank, Ph.D., professor of social work at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work. "Having children, however, significantly lowers the probability of becoming wealthy for all people."

**ROLL OVER MEYER; TELL MENDELEEV THE NEWS:** The periodic table isn't what it used to be, thanks to innovations by Katharina Lodders, Ph.D., associate professor of earth and planetary sciences.

**NEXT TERM'S FORECAST:** Launched last year by researchers at Washington University in St. Louis and Harvard University, the Supreme Court Forecasting Project began as a friendly competition that pitted statistical analysis against the expertise of a panel of legal experts.

**GETTING A GRIP ON HOLIDAY SHOPPING:** An expert on helping people gain control of personal habits like smoking and

## Heard on Campus

"In life as in death, Churchill's relations with America were a characteristic combination of grandiloquence and grittiness, rhetoric and realism, hope and disappointment."

- David Cannadine, the Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Chair of British History at the Institute for Historical Research at the University of London, delivering the T.S. Eliot lecture, "Churchill and America," November 10, 2003.

## Kudos

Roger Phillips, Ph.D., professor of earth and planetary sciences in Arts & Sciences and director of the McDonnell Center for Space Sciences, was named the recipient of the Geological Society of America's G.K. Gilbert Award at its annual meeting in November.

Richard H. Gelberman, M.D., the Fred C. Reynolds Professor and chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, and Timothy J. Ley, M.D., the Alan and Edith Wolff Professor of Medicine, have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine.

Bethany Ehlmann and Allison Gilmore are two of 32 American men and women chosen as Rhodes Scholars. Ehlmann, a senior from Edwardsville, Illinois, is majoring in earth and planetary sciences and environmental studies. Gilmore, a

senior from Eagan, Minnesota, will receive both B.A. and M.A. degrees in mathematics.

David A. Balota, Ph.D., professor of psychology in Arts & Sciences and professor of neurology in the School of Medicine, and Himadri B. Pakrasi, Ph.D., professor of biology in Arts & Sciences, have been elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The Association of American Medical Colleges has named Kenneth M. Ludmerer, M.D., professor of medicine and professor of history in Arts & Sciences, the recipient of the 2003 Abraham Flexner Award for Distinguished Service to Medical Education.

Of the University's six NCAA Division III teams that compete in the fall, five captured University Athletic Association championships: men's and women's cross country, women's soccer, football, and volleyball.

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## About @ Washington University in St. Louis

This newsletter is prepared by the staff of the Office of Special Development Communications Projects and the Office of Alumni and Development Programs. It is intended to provide a summary of what is happening at the University. Alumni, parents, and friends of the University for whom we have valid e-mail addresses automatically receive @ Washington University in St. Louis as a service of the University.

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