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August 2005

University News



The Farrell Learning and Teaching Center is the latest addition to the top-ranked Barnes-Jewish Hospital/Washington University School of Medicine campus. The state-of-the-art, six-story building will be dedicated September 15 and 16.

ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST MEDICAL CENTERS: Barnes-Jewish Hospital/Washington University School of Medicine was ranked sixth among America's elite medical centers by *U.S. News & World Report* in its recent "America's Best Hospitals" issue. This marks the highest ranking the hospital has earned since *U.S. News* began ranking hospitals in 1990, and it is the medical center's 13th consecutive year on the news magazine's "Honor Roll."

PARTNERS FOR CHANGE: The new partnership between the Skandalaris Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at Washington University and YouthBridge Association, a St. Louis agency dedicated to innovative youth-focused social ventures, will foster and expand social entrepreneurship through a new award and competition. One million dollars has been pledged for the effort, and other area universities, institutions, community groups, and foundations have been invited to collaborate in the effort.

Research

POMEGRANATE JUICE GOOD FOR MOMS AND BABIES: Expectant mothers at risk of premature birth may want to consider drinking pomegranate juice to help their babies resist brain injuries from low oxygen and reduced blood flow. Researchers at the School of Medicine found that baby mice whose mothers drank pomegranate juice experienced a decreased chance of brain tissue loss when exposed to low levels of oxygen.

CLEARING THE AIR: Pratim Biswas, Ph.D., the Stifel and Quinette Jens Professor of Environmental



Engineering Science, develops innovative techniques to help solve global environmental problems, from mercury pollution to ground-water contamination.

DISCARDED ENERGY: Lars Angenent, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemical engineering in the School of Engineering and Applied Science, has created a device that uses bacteria to treat wastewater and create electricity. Angenent has filed a provisional U.S. patent on the process.



Photo by David Kilper

Lars Angenent (right) and doctoral student Jason He examine the upflow microbial fuel cell that, eventually, could handle the 2 million gallons of wastewater needed to create power for 900 homes.

BOTOX FOR FEET: Botox is being used for much more these days than just to help smooth wrinkles and keep people looking younger. It has been used to treat muscle spasms and Tourette syndrome, and now researchers at the School of Medicine are using Botox to help save limbs from amputation.

Features



Image courtesy Ronald Reagan Library
President Reagan presents Weidenbaum to the press at a Feb. 12, 1981, news conference following release of the "Audit of the U.S. Economy."

ADVISING REAGAN: For nearly a quarter century, Murray Weidenbaum, Ph.D., honorary chairman of the Murray Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy and the Edward Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor, has said little about his service as the first chairman of President Ronald Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers, a role in which he was a primary architect of policies later known as "Reaganomics." Weidenbaum has recently issued a brief memoir detailing his years as the president's chief economic adviser.

AFRICAN-AMERICANS AND

ARTHRITIS: A pilot study comparing the results of treatment for rheumatoid arthritis in African-Americans and Caucasians has revealed that African-Americans are more likely to suffer pain and disability from the disorder. "Further analysis of our results showed that this was linked primarily to their socio-economic status, not to their race," says senior investigator Richard Brasington, M.D., associate professor of medicine.

HELP FOR 'HELICOPTER PARENTS': Sending children off to college can be a tough move for parents, especially those "helicopter parents," who tend to hover. Karen Levin Coburn, assistant vice chancellor for students and dean for the freshman transition, offers some expert advice to ease parents through the transition.

Heard on Campus

"Enjoy the ride because it's going incredibly fast. The years fly by, especially if you keep looking ahead. Be present to where you are and enjoy it."

— Jordan Friedman, President of the Class of 2005, giving a bit of advice during his address to graduates and the audience in Brookings Quadrangle at the 2005 Commencement ceremony May 22, 2005

Kudos

Paul M. Allen, Ph.D., the Robert L. Kroc Professor of Pathology in the Department of Pathology and Immunology at the School of Medicine, has been named president of the American Association of Immunologists.

Two students of the Program in Occupational Therapy at Washington University School of Medicine have been elected to prominent offices of the Assembly of Student Delegates Steering Committee of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). Kristen Lindeman, and Tim Wolf, both third year doctoral students, were elected chairperson and vice chairperson, respectively.

Roy Curtiss III, Ph.D., the George William and Irene Koechig Freiberg Professor of Biology Emeritus, has been awarded a \$14.8 million Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Wellcome Trust and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Curtiss, who is conducting his research at Arizona State University, is one of 42 recipients of the first-ever awards headed by the Gates Foundation

Women's track and field sophomore Natalie Badowski, a biology and philosophy-neuroscience-psychology major from Buffalo Grove, Illinois, garnered ESPN The Magazine track and field third-team Academic All-America College Division honors, as announced by the College Sports Information Directors of America. Badowski is the fifth Washington University women's track and field student-athlete to earn the accolade and the sixth Bear to do so in 2004-2005.

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This newsletter is prepared by Special Development Communications Projects staff in Alumni and Development Programs. It is intended to provide a brief 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.

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