University News

Architecture charrette explores St. Louis Arch grounds
The Gateway Arch is an icon of modern architecture and the most recognized symbol of the City of St. Louis. Yet, in many ways, the Arch is cut off from the city proper, sandwiched between the Mississippi Riverfront and a network of converging roadways and interstates. Last month a group of 41 students in art, architecture, landscape design, and transportation engineering — representing five Missouri and Illinois universities — gathered to address this challenge as part of the St. Louis Downtown/Riverfront Student Design Charrette.

WUSTL research to advance clean coal technology
On December 2, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton announced the establishment of the Consortium for Clean Coal Utilization. The University has dedicated more than $60 million in financial resources during the past year to advance education and research related to energy, environment, and sustainability. The new consortium will receive additional support in the form of research partnership commitments of $5 million each from Arch Coal and Peabody Energy and $2 million from Ameren.

WUSTL program in national spotlight
Washington University is in the spotlight for its pivotal role in the Genomics Education Partnership (GEP), a collaborative effort to provide research experience in genomics to undergraduate classrooms across the country. Genomics, the study of an organism’s entire genome (collection of DNA), is an exciting area in which students get involved in research.

Research

Lung cancer vaccine to be evaluated at Siteman Cancer Center
A vaccine designed to prevent the recurrence of lung cancer is now being tested in centers around the world, including the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center at the School of Medicine and Barnes-Jewish Hospital. The vaccine stimulates the immune system to destroy cells that carry a tumor-specific antigen called MAGE-A3. This antigen is not present in normal tissue but is found in several cancer types, including 35 percent to 50 percent of cases of the most common type of lung cancer, non-small cell lung cancer.

Study on wildlife corridors shows how they work over time
At the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, there are five strange looking patches cleared out of the surrounding forest. No, they’re not crop circles carved by aliens. They’re actually budding longleaf pine forest ecosystems. Biologists at Washington University and collaborators at North Carolina State University, the University of Florida, and the University of Washington have created these ecological patches with the help of the United States Forest Service-Savannah River to understand if corridors help plants and animals survive habitat fragmentation.

McDonnell Foundation grant harnesses cognitive science to improve student learning
Using what cognitive psychologists are discovering in the laboratory to improve learning in the classroom is the goal of a $6.47 million collaborative activity grant to Washington University from the James S. McDonnell Foundation. "The aim of
the grant is to take the knowledge that cognitive psychologists have gained about learning and memory from laboratory experimentation and develop techniques to improve learning in the classrooms," says Henry L. "Roddy" Roediger III, Ph.D., principal investigator on the grant and the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor in Arts & Sciences.

Features

Once upon a time, scales were displayed in parlors, not hidden in bathrooms
Stepping onto a scale after a calorie-filled holiday season isn't an activity many 21st-century Americans relish. But in the late 19th century, scales were all the rage at festive gatherings — the 1800s' answer to Guitar Hero. "A family would think it fun to weigh themselves before and after a big holiday dinner to see how much they had gained," says Deborah I. Levine, Ph.D., an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Modeling Interdisciplinary Inquiry Fellowship Program in the Humanities and Social Sciences in Arts & Sciences.

Late Neandertals and modern human contact in southeastern Iberia
It is widely accepted that Upper Paleolithic early modern humans spread westward across Europe about 42,000 years ago, variably displacing and absorbing Neandertal populations in the process. Middle Paleolithic assemblages persisted for another 8,000 years in Iberia, presumably made by Neandertals. New research is now shedding some light on what were probably the last Neandertals.

Book on Biblical humor is 'gospel according to Peters'
To most, the Bible is a somber work, full of such serious melodramas as Abraham intent on carving up his son at God's demand and Job enduring his many burdensome troubles, and powerful, piercing language, like the immortal line: "Jesus wept." To David A. Peters, Ph.D., the McDonnell Douglas Professor of Engineering at Washington University, the Bible indeed is a beautiful work that is sprinkled liberally with, at times, rollicking humor.

Kudos

Six faculty members from Washington University have been named fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. They are: Charles F. Hildebolt, Ph.D., professor of radiology; Daniel S. Ory, M.D., professor of medicine and of cell biology and physiology; Craig S. Pikaard, Ph.D., professor of biology in Arts & Sciences; Jean E. Schaffer, M.D., the Virginia Minnich Distinguished Professor of Medicine and professor of developmental biology; George M. Weinstock, Ph.D., professor of genetics; and Richard K. Wilson, Ph.D., professor of genetics and of molecular microbiology.
Libby Held, a junior in Arts & Sciences and back for the women’s soccer team, has been named to the 2008 National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA)/Adidas Division III Women’s Soccer All-America First Team.

Terrie E. Indeir, M.D., Ph.D., has received a 2008 Distinguished Clinical Scientist Award from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, a nationally recognized organization whose mission is to improve the quality of people’s lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research, and the prevention of child maltreatment.

Alison M. Lang, a master’s candidate in architecture in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, was a member of a team that recently won two prizes in the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) second annual green building design competition, Lifecycle Building Challenge 2, a competition open to professionals and students nationwide.

Steven Luther, a third-year law student, won the One Less Worry Scholarship, sponsored by the graduate student loan program Access Group, for his YouTube film on finding just the right summer job following his first year of law school.

About @Washington University in St. Louis

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.