



# Washington University in St. Louis

March 2009  
e-News for Alumni, Parents, and Friends

## Quick Links

[Washington University  
in St. Louis](#)

[Alumni Association](#)

[Parents](#)

[Alumni & Development Programs](#)

*[The Record](#)*

[More news...](#)

[Make a Gift to Washington  
University](#)

[Past Issues of @Washington  
University in St. Louis](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Update your information](#)

## University News

### Danforth University Center is LEED Gold certified

The William H. and Elizabeth Gray Danforth University Center has received a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold rating from the U.S. Green Building Council. The LEED rating system is a third-party certification program and a nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of environmentally friendly buildings. The Danforth University Center is the first LEED Gold and second LEED-certified building on the Danforth Campus.



Photo by Joe Angeles

**Beneath the Danforth University Center is a 50,000-gallon tank, which collects excess rainwater and groundwater. The water is then used to irrigate the building's landscaping.**

### Historic international justice meeting at WUSTL

At the 1904 World's Fair, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), an international organization of national parliaments, met at the Hall of International Congresses to issue its appeal for world peace and to adopt a resolution calling for a second Hague Peace Conference. This resolution, adopted in what is now known as Ridgley Hall, ultimately led to the 1907 Hague Convention Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land, one of the most important humanitarian law treaties of the past century. Building on this legacy, a distinguished group of international law experts from around the world will gather at the law school April 12-15 to begin work on a Specialized Convention on Crimes Against Humanity as part of the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute's Crimes Against Humanity Initiative.

### Larry Haskin honored with named crater on the moon

The home pages of the Washington University's Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences and the Lunar and Planetary Institute feature a picture of the late Larry Haskin, Ph.D., professor of earth and planetary sciences in Arts & Sciences from 1976 to 2005, and the moon with this caption: "Welcome home, Larry." Haskin, who devoted much of his distinguished career to studying the moon, has joined cosmological luminaries like Copernicus, Kepler, and Galileo with the naming of a crater in his honor.



National Science Foundation  
A Washington University biologist and his Donald Danforth Plant Science Center collaborator have discovered a technology that reduces infection by the virus that causes Rice Tungro Disease. Ultimately this knowledge could lead to increased rice crop yields.

## Research

### Less invasive glaucoma surgery allows faster return to normal activity

Surgeons at the Washington University Eye Center and Barnes-Jewish Hospital are among the first to use a new surgical device to treat glaucoma. Surgery with the device, called a Trabectome, is an outpatient procedure that takes less time to perform and offers a shorter recovery than traditional glaucoma surgery. The device reduces pressure in the eye without the need for the filtration or shunts used in traditional glaucoma surgery, allowing surgeons to remove tissue so fluid more easily drains out of the eye.

### Technology identified could reduce the spread of rice virus

Building on plant virus research started more than 20 years ago, a biologist at Washington University and his colleague at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis have discovered a technology that reduces infection by the virus that causes Rice Tungro Disease, a serious limiting factor for rice production in Asia.

### People who exercise lower their risk of colon cancer

An ambitious new study has added considerable weight to the claim that exercise can lower the risk for colon cancer. Researchers at Washington University School of Medicine and Harvard University combined and analyzed several decades worth of data from past studies on how exercise affects colon cancer risk. They found that people who exercised the most were 24 percent less likely to develop the disease than those who exercised the least.



Photo by Mary Butkus  
Virtual Nerd co-founders Josh Salcman (left) and Leo Shmuylovich kiss the Olin Cup after receiving the \$70,000 investment award from the Skandalaris Center and the Olin Business School for a promising startup.

## Features

### Student entrepreneurs awarded \$75,000 in annual Olin Cup

An online tutoring service and a device designed to make custom-fit earbuds are the winners of the 2008 Olin Cup competition for entrepreneurs sponsored by the John M. Olin Business School and the Skandalaris Center for Entrepreneurial Studies. Two winning companies, Virtual Nerd and Verto, emerged from a record, original field of 38 entrants to earn a \$70,000 investment award and a \$5,000 cash prize, respectively.

### Readers build vivid mental simulations of narrative situations, brain scans suggest

A new brain-imaging study is shedding light on what it means to "get lost" in a good book — suggesting that readers create vivid mental simulations of the sounds, sights, tastes, and movements described in a textual narrative while simultaneously activating brain regions used to process similar experiences in real life.

### Heard on Campus

"I consider fairy tales to be of tantamount literary importance — perhaps the single most influential body of work on hundreds of years of literature. I also think fairy tales contain the secret of the world, which is that it is violent, insane, beautiful, transient, fated, almost gone, and so ever-after."

— Kate Bernheimer, author and assistant professor in the MFA Program of Creative Writing at the University of Alabama, on why she writes about, studies, and supports the fairy tale genre

### Biologist discusses sacred nature of sustainability

The hot topics of global warming and environmental sustainability are concerns that fit neatly within the precepts of religious naturalism, according to Ursula Goodenough, Ph.D., professor of biology in Arts & Sciences. A renowned cell biologist, Goodenough is also a religious naturalist and the author of *The Sacred Depths of Nature*, a bestselling book on religious naturalism published in 1998.

## Kudos

Professor Ramesh Agarwal, the William Palm Professor of Engineering, is the recipient of a 2009 James B. Eads Award. The award recognizes a distinguished individual for outstanding achievement in engineering or technology. Professor Agarwal is only the second recipient of the James B. Eads Award from academia, an award normally given to CEOs and senior level executives of aerospace companies worldwide.

Steven C. Hause, Ph.D., senior scholar in the Humanities in Arts & Sciences, has received the Innovative Entrepreneurship Education Course Award from the U.S. Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship for his course, "Economic History and Entrepreneurialism in Modern Western Civilization."

David G. Mutch, M.D., director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology and the Ira and Judith Gall Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the School of Medicine, has been elected the 41st President of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists.

Marcus Raichle, M.D., professor of neurobiology, neurology, radiology, and biomedical engineering, has been awarded the Ralph W. Gerard Prize in Neuroscience from the Society for Neuroscience.

#### 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.

Copyright 2006, Washington University in St. Louis  
One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130  
(314) 935-5000

