



# Washington University in St. Louis

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

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## University News

### Scholars program gives high school students a taste of the medical field:

For Donald Woodson, taking part in the Ferring Scholars Program at Washington University School of Medicine in June was "the perfect opportunity." Woodson, a rising sophomore at Metro High School, was one of 25 high school students taking part in the three-year summer program for those interested in careers in health care or biomedical research. Students from four area high schools — Cardinal Ritter, Rosati-Kain, Metro, and St. Louis University High — are selected for the program by their science teachers or principals to begin the program after their freshman year.



Photo by Robert Boston

### New Injury Control Research Center at Washington University:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has designated the Center for Violence and Injury Prevention at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University as one of its newest Injury Control Research Centers. Preventing child maltreatment, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, suicide, and related injuries through community-based research and educational outreach is the goal of the Brown Center for Violence and Injury Prevention. The center will emphasize work that impacts families with young children and youth as they transition to young adulthood.

### Chancellor plays key role in report on energy challenges:

America has the potential to solve its energy crisis over the next decade, but doing so requires a substantial immediate investment in the development and deployment of emerging clean energy technologies, says Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, vice chair of a new National Resource Council report on America's energy challenges.

## Research

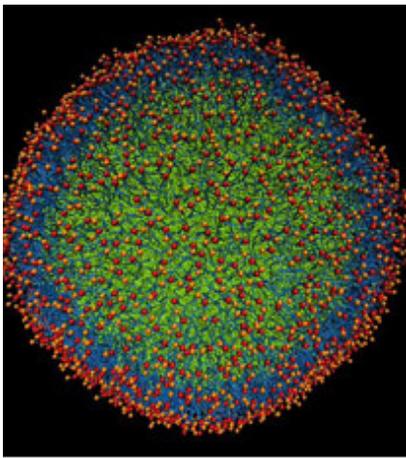
### Tumors feel the deadly sting of nanobees:

When bees sting, they pump poison into their victims. Now the toxin in bee venom has been harnessed to kill tumor cells by researchers at Washington University School of Medicine. The researchers attached the major component of bee venom to nano-sized spheres that they call nanobees.

### Killing Fields revisited:

Lessons learned from research into the societal effects of post-Apartheid "truth and reconciliation" hearings in South Africa are now being applied to a U.S. National Institute of Peace-sponsored study of the long-term mental health impact on Cambodians from human rights tribunals targeting the killing of millions by the nation's former Khmer Rouge regime, says James L. Gibson, Ph.D., the Sidney W. Souers Professor Of Government and co-author of a study published August 6 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.





A computer simulation of a nanoparticle showing its core of perfluorocarbon (green) and its lipid coating (red, orange and blue).

### Decoding leukemia patient genome another step forward in cancer fight:

Decoding the complete DNA of cancer patients is giving Washington University School of Medicine scientists a clearer picture of the complexity of the disease and allowing them to see intriguing and unexpected genetic relationships among patients. The scientists have sequenced the genome of a second patient with acute myeloid leukemia (AML), discovering a suite of genetic changes in the cancer cells.

### Features

#### Minding your meds:

Doing something unusual, like knocking on wood or patting yourself on the head, while taking a daily dose of medicine may be an effective strategy to help seniors remember whether they've already taken their daily medications, suggests new research from Washington University.

#### Was it over when the Germans bombed Pearl Harbor?:

Students who learn history by watching historically based blockbuster movies may be doomed to repeat the historical mistakes portrayed within them, suggests a new study from Washington University. Findings suggest showing popular history movies in a classroom setting can be a double-edged sword when it comes to helping students learn and retain factual information in associated textbooks.



Photo by Janet Gumpert

Remembering to take daily medications can be a challenge, but new research offers tips for strengthening those memories.

#### Digital natives:

Whether your child is going away to college this fall across town or across the country, there are more ways to keep in touch than ever before. With today's ubiquitous cell phones and access to Twitter, Facebook, and texting, it may seem as though your child has never left the house. For students, there is the ever-present possibility of an available parent at the end of a cordless tether, which has the potential to hinder the letting go process, claims an expert on the college transition at Washington University.

### Kudos

Alaji Bah, a graduate student in biochemistry, has been awarded the 2009 Etter Student Lecturer award from the American Crystallographic Association (ACA) and has been invited to present his work in the Structural Enzymology session at the 2009 ACA meeting in Toronto.

Chancellor Emeritus William H. Danforth, M.D., was presented the 2009 American Society of Plant Biologists Leadership in Science Public Service Award during the society's annual meeting in Honolulu.

Candace Girod, a junior in Arts & Sciences, has been selected as one of 50 United States students to the Oxfam America CHANGE Initiative. Oxfam America is an international relief and development organization that creates lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and injustice.

### Heard on Campus

"No great university can be built up and sustained unless the university can secure and keep a fair number of the strongest, greatest, most creative, and inspiring of the world's teachers and investigators... In addition to these things there must be a mature university student body, considerable leisure on the part of professor for research, a sympathetic environment, and absolute freedom in subject and method."

—David F. Houston, fourth Chancellor of the University, in his address to the Commercial Club of St. Louis, titled "A University for the Southwest," October 30, 1908

Lynn McCloskey, assistant provost-analysis, was presented the Distinguished Service Award during the 2009 annual meeting of the Association of American Universities Data Exchange.

Nancy Morrow-Howell, Ph.D., the Ralph and Muriel Pumphrey Professor of Social Work, and Stacey McCrary, project manager, both at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, are winners of the prestigious Generations United 2009 Brabazon Award for Evaluation Research.

Suzanne Till, a graduate student in international affairs in Arts & Sciences, has been selected by the Kiva organization as a Kiva Fellow. The Kiva organization alleviates poverty by connecting individual lenders directly to unique entrepreneurs around the world and using the Internet to showcase borrowers to match with potential lenders. Till will travel internationally for 10-12 weeks this fall to study microlending.

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.

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