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University News

Researchers move into BJC Institute of Health at Washington University:

After two years of eager anticipation, the first occupants of the BJC Institute of Health at Washington University moved in earlier this year. The \$235 million BJC Institute of Health is now the hub for Washington University's BioMed 21 initiative to speed scientific discovery and rapidly apply breakthroughs to patient care. BJC HealthCare supported construction of the 11-story building with a \$30 million gift.



Robert Boston

The two-story lobby of the BJC Institute of Health at Washington University.

Olin Cup awards innovative ventures with \$75,000:

All eyes are on entrepreneurs to help revive the economy, and the winners of this year's Olin Cup business competition got their very own \$75,000 stimulus package to jump-start their ventures and create jobs. Ken Harrington, managing director of the Skandalaris Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at Washington University, announced the winners February 5 at the annual award ceremony in Graham Chapel after the seven finalists presented two-minute "elevator pitch" descriptions of their companies. It was the culmination of a six-month competition that began with a record number of 45 contestants.

Asian countries get a boost from the Center for Social Development:

In East and Southeast Asia, a strong and growing interest exists in asset building as a social and economic development strategy. In its simplest form, asset building refers to strategies that increase financial and tangible assets, such as savings, homes, and businesses of all kinds. Asset building focuses on long-term development of families. The Center for Social Development at Washington University's George Warren Brown School of Social Work is advising and helping to test innovations in asset building in several countries.

Research

Chickens 'one-up' humans in ability to see color:

Researchers at Washington University School of Medicine have peered deep into the eye of the chicken and found a masterpiece of biological design. Scientists mapped five types of light receptors in the chicken's eye. They discovered that the receptors were laid out in interwoven mosaics which maximized the chicken's ability to see many colors in any given part of the retina, the light-sensing structure at the back of the eye.

Government-subsidized home loans seldom necessary, says professor:

Given ongoing agitation by a chorus of elected officials, the stage may be set for a major overhaul, if not outright abolishment of the nation's largest home mortgage financing operations, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Radhakrishnan Gopalan, assistant professor of finance in the John M. Olin Business School, tells Smart Money magazine that the private market should be able to meet home financing needs, in most cases.



Researchers discover new way to kill pediatric brain tumors:

Researchers at Washington University School of Medicine have shown once again that "ready, fire, aim," nonsensical though it may sound, can be an essential approach to research. The scientists robotically "fired" 2,000 compounds into culture plates containing tumor cells to see if the compounds had any effect. When the robotic screener found one substance had scored a hit by inhibiting growth of the tumor cells in its plate, researchers analyzed what that compound acted against. Follow-up studies showed that the drug slowed tumor growth in mice by inhibiting the function of a protein called STAT3.

Features



Courtesy photo

Yozamp with Jeopardy! host Alex Trebek after winning the 2010 College Championship.

Washington University junior wins \$100,000 grand prize in Jeopardy! College Championship:

Junior Nick Yozamp, a biology major in Arts & Sciences, won the 2010 Jeopardy! College Championship and a \$100,000 cash prize. The St. Cloud, Minnesota, native emerged victorious after the two-week competition by outplaying 14 undergraduates from across the country. Yozamp is the first Washington University student to win the title.

WUSTL program builds "Live3D" maps from webcams, GoogleEarth:

The Eiffel Tower and other world-class icons viewable online via webcams are getting a new three-dimensional look thanks to an innovative, browser-based application recently unveiled by Austin Abrams, a Ph.D. candidate at Washington University. "We wanted to make Google Earth and geospatial databases a little more alive," explains Abrams in a February 1 article published on the Web site of the science news magazine [New Scientist](#).

Heard on Campus

"We would found a University so strong in its faculty of instruction, so generous in its ideas, so thoroughly provided with all facilities of education, so hospitable to all comers and so rich in its benefactions conferred, that it should gather round itself a constituency of learning and science, and give tone to the educational movement of the region in which we live."

— William Greenleaf Eliot, third Chancellor of the University, his inauguration on February 29, 1872

Others may know us better than we know ourselves, study finds:

Since at least the days of Socrates, humans have been advised to "know thyself." And through all the years many, including many personality and social psychologists, have believed the individual is the best judge of his or her own personality. Now Simine Vazire, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology in Arts & Sciences, has shown that we are not the know-it-all that we think we are.

Kudos

Dorsey D. Ellis, Jr., dean emeritus and the William R. Orthwein Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus, has received a Fulbright grant to teach at Catholic University of Portugal in 2010–11.

Arye Nehorai, Ph.D., the Eugene and Martha Lohman Professor and chair of the Department of Electrical & Systems Engineering in the School of Engineering & Applied Science, is the recipient of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Signal Processing Society Meritorious Service Award. Nehorai has been a fellow of the IEEE since 1994 and received the award for exceptional and dedicated service as a leader in a broad range of activities for the society and profession.

Susan Rotroff, Ph.D., the Jarvis Thurston and Mona Van Duyn Professor in the Humanities in Arts & Sciences, has been awarded archeology's 2011 gold medal for achievement from the Archaeological Institute of America.

Yoram Rudy, Ph.D., the Fred Saigh Distinguished Professor and director of the Cardiac Bioelectricity and Arrhythmia Center, is the recipient of the 2010 Heart Rhythm Society Distinguished Scientist Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the field and to the society.

Leila Nadya Sadat, the Henry H. Oberschelp Professor of Law, has received a Fulbright grant to teach and conduct research at the law faculty of the University of Cergy-Pontoise in Paris, France.

Gregorio Sicard, M.D., the Eugene M. Bricker Professor of Surgery and professor of radiology,

executive vice chairman of the Department of Surgery, and chief of the vascular surgery section in the School of Medicine, is the recipient of the 2010 Hero with a Heart Award from the National Marfan Foundation.

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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