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University News

\$14 million in stimulus funds to Washington University for construction:

Washington University School of Medicine has received a \$14.3 million grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to expand its high-powered data center for genomics. The facility's sophisticated computer networks store massive amounts of genomic data used to identify the genetic origins of cancer and other diseases. The project is expected to create more than 350 jobs, including 200 in local construction, and accelerate the pace of genomics-based discoveries, for which Washington University is widely known.



A new grant to Washington University will double the size of its data center for genomics.

German literature center celebrates 25th anniversary:

The Max Kade Center on Contemporary German Literature celebrated its 25th anniversary by hosting the 20th St. Louis Symposium on German Literature, "The Ethics of Literature: Contemporary German Writers," March 26-28. The symposium was organized by Paul Michael Lützeler, Ph.D., the Rosa May Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities and professor of German and of comparative literature in Arts & Sciences, and Jennifer Kapczynski, Ph.D., assistant professor of German.

Retired NFL players being treated by Washington University neurologists:

Washington University neurologists at Barnes-Jewish Hospital will be part of a new neurological care program for retired professional football players, the National Football League and NFL Alumni Association announced March 24. The program, one of a series of NFL initiatives addressing the quality of life of retired players, makes available neurological specialists at five leading medical centers nationwide, including Washington University School of Medicine, to evaluate and treat possible neurological conditions.

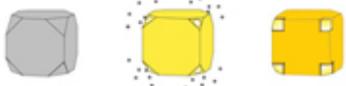
Research

Nanoparticles: A golden bullet for cancer:

In a lecture he delivered in 1906, the German physician Paul Ehrlich coined the term Zauberkugel, or "magic bullet," as shorthand for a highly targeted medical treatment. Magic bullets, also called silver bullets because of the folkloric belief that only silver bullets can kill supernatural creatures, remain the goal of drug development efforts today. A team of scientists at Washington University is currently working on a magic bullet for cancer, a disease whose treatments are notoriously indiscriminate and nonspecific. But their bullets are gold rather than silver. Literally.

Confidence is key to gauging impressions we make:

The gift of "seeing ourselves as others see us" is particularly beneficial when we judge how we've made a first impression — in a job interview, during a sales pitch, or on a first date. Yet, many come away from these situations with at best a vague notion of how that first impression was perceived or at worst no clue at all. Now, psychologists at Washington University and Wake Forest University have tested people in first impression settings in the laboratory and have found that confidence makes all the difference in knowing whether you've hit a home run or struck out.



Gold nanocages (right) are hollow boxes made by precipitating gold on silver nanocubes (left). The silver simultaneously erodes from within the cube, entering solution through pores that open in the clipped corners of the cube.

Giant 'microscope' will use neutrons to study glass transition:

The National Science Foundation has awarded \$1.65 million to a project led by Washington University physicist Ken Kelton, Ph.D., the Arthur Holly Compton Professor in Arts & Sciences, to build an electrostatic levitation chamber that will be installed at the Spallation Neutron Source in Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Using neutrons as a probe, the instrument will allow scientists to watch atoms in a suspended drop of liquid as the drop cools and solidifies.

Features



Joe Angeles

Coach Nancy Fahey and her Bears celebrate in Bloomington, Illinois, after winning the program's fifth national title March 20, 2010.

Women's basketball team wins national title:

After nine years, nine consecutive trips to the NCAA tournament, and two setbacks in the national championship game, Washington University returned to the pinnacle of NCAA Division III women's basketball, capturing the program's fifth national championship with a 65-59 victory over Hope College March 20 in Bloomington, Illinois.

Jennifer Smith helps solve 'blue' mystery:

Jennifer Smith, Ph.D., associate professor of earth and planetary sciences in Arts & Sciences, was belly crawling her way to the end of a long, narrow tunnel. The tunnel was carved in the rock at a desert oasis by Egyptians who lived in the time of the pharaohs. "I was crawling along when suddenly I felt stabbed in the chest," Smith says. "I looked down and saw that I was pressing against the broken end of a long bone. That freaked me out because at first I thought I was crawling over bodies, but I looked up and saw a sheep skull not too far away, so I calmed down. At least the bones weren't human."

Heard on Campus

"One day this all will change, treat people the same
Stop with the violence, down with the hate
One day we'll all be free and proud to be
Under the same sun singing songs of freedom"

— "One Day" by Matisyahu, acclaimed singer/songwriter, who performed and discussed his latest album, titled "Light," at the Assembly Series in Graham Chapel on March 18, 2010

Stimulus package 'Making Work Pay' credit may lead to bigger tax bills this year:

The small increase in take-home pay that began in April 2009 through the Making Work Pay Credit could mean an unexpected bump in your tax bill, says Cheryl Block, tax law expert and professor of law at the School of Law. The problem, according to Block, is that the Treasury Department's new withholding tables do not take several individual employment circumstances into account. Some joint filers, college students, and retirees, among others, may end up repaying all or part of the credit this tax season.

Kudos

The John M. Olin Business School's BSBA program ranked No. 13 in the nation in *BusinessWeek's* 2010 rankings of undergraduate business schools. Compared to the more than 100 other undergraduate business school programs ranked, Olin was:

- No. 1 in average SAT score of incoming freshman for fall 2009
- No. 1 as a feeder school of students who enroll in the top 35 ranked MBA programs in the country
- No. 7 for the highest median starting salary for Class of 2009 graduates
- In the top 10 for job placement of the top 50 schools ranked, with 94 percent of 2009 BSBA graduates reporting job offers within three months of graduation

Alex Baron, a senior in Arts & Sciences, has been named Washington University's first-ever winner of the prestigious Luce Scholarship. Baron is one of 18 scholars chosen nationwide for the program, which provides stipends, language training, and individualized professional placement in a country in Asia.

Alex Beyer, a senior in Arts & Sciences, placed first in the 400-individual medley at the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships held March 20 at the University of Minnesota Aquatics Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Beyer finished the race in 3:52.94, becoming the first student/athlete in Washington University history to win two individual swimming championships; he also won the 400-IM at the 2009 NCAA meet.

William Michael Dunne, Jr., Ph.D., professor of pathology and immunology, medicine, and molecular microbiology in the School of Medicine, received the 2010 TREK Diagnostic American Board of Medical Microbiology/American Board of Medical Laboratory Immunology Professional Recognition Award for his leadership in clinical microbiology and for revolutionizing the delivery of the American Board of Medical Microbiology certification examination.

David S. Law, professor of law, has received a Fulbright award to conduct research in Taiwan during the fall of 2010 and spring of 2011.

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 Section of Vascular Surgery in the School of Medicine, received the 2010 Hero with a Heart Award from the National Marfan Foundation.

T.J. Tarn, professor of systems science and mathematics in the School of Engineering & Applied Science, is the recipient of the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Einstein Chair Professorship Award.

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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