



# @ Washington University in St. Louis

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e-News for Alumni, Parents, and Friends

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## University News

### Washington University law dean to oversee \$20 billion BP Gulf fund:

Kent D. Syverud, J.D., dean of the Washington University School of Law and the Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor, has been named a trustee of the \$20 billion Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Trust. Syverud, who also serves as Washington University's associate vice chancellor of Washington, D.C., programs, is one of two appointees who will oversee the newly established trust. The other trustee is John S. Martin, Jr., a retired federal judge in New York.



Kent Syverud

### Olin and Brown schools offer new dual degree:

A new dual masters degree program in business administration and public health (MBA/MPH) is being offered to meet the growing demand for business-savvy, public policy-minded health care managers, announced officials from the John M. Olin School of Business and the George Warren Brown School of Social Work. The two schools will administer the program that offers students a

uniquely interdisciplinary approach to understanding and managing the complex challenges in the health care industry. "The time is right for this degree," says Timothy D. McBride, Ph.D., professor and associate dean for public health at the Brown School. "Implementing national health reform will be a key priority for many years."

### \$2 million grant to examine a parent's role in children's behavior:

A five-year, \$2,050,300 grant awarded to the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University will be used to evaluate a parent-training program in the vulnerable child welfare population. The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development award will fund research regarding Pathways Triple P, an innovative parent training program. Investigators will determine whether Triple P is effective when applied to families in the child welfare system, compared with treatment as usual.

## Research

### Couch potatoes of the animal kingdom:

Pass the chips and hand over the remote. In a study involving the first-ever daily energy expenditure measurements in apes, a researcher from Washington University and his team have determined that orangutans living in a large indoor/outdoor habitat used less energy, relative to body mass, than nearly any eutherian mammal ever measured, including sedentary humans. All this despite activity levels similar to orangutans in the wild. "It's like finding a sloth in your family tree," says Herman Pontzer, Ph.D., assistant professor of anthropology in Arts & Sciences and lead author of the study. "It's remarkably low energy use."

### Good breakfast key to being calm on first day of class:

Want your student to stay calm and focused as he/she begins the new school year this fall? Make sure he/she eats a quality breakfast including protein and quality carbohydrates, says a nutrition expert at Washington University. While many children experience some anticipation and anxiety about the first day of school, eating something in the morning is essential. "It is key to how they perform in that classroom," says Connie Diekman, M.Ed., RD, director of University



Wikipedia Commons

A new study by Herman Pontzer, Ph.D., assistant professor of anthropology in Arts & Sciences, suggests that orangutans use less energy than even sedentary humans.

Nutrition and former president of the American Dietetic Association.

### Seeing melanoma:

Melanoma is one of the less common types of skin cancer, but it accounts for the majority of skin cancer deaths (about 75 percent). The five-year survival rate for early stage melanoma is very high (98 percent), but the rate drops precipitously if the cancer is detected late or there is recurrence. So a great deal rides on the accuracy of the initial surgery, where the goal is to remove as little tissue as possible while obtaining "clean margins" all around the tumor. So far no imaging technique has been up to the task of resolving the melanoma accurately enough to guide surgery. Instead surgeons tend to cut well beyond the visible margins of the lesion in order to be certain they remove all the malignant tissue. Two scientists at Washington University in St. Louis have developed technologies that together promise to solve this difficult problem.

### Features

#### Dining with laureates:

As scientific conferences go, the Lindau Meeting isn't bad. The participants travel to Germany's Lindau Island in Lake Constance at the foot of the Alps, where Nobel laureates have convened to inspire and enlighten them. This summer, two Washington University students, Claire Cobley and Eric Feczko, were among the 75 American students selected in nationwide competition to attend the laureates' gathering. Cobley, a graduate student in the lab of Younan Xia, Ph.D., the James M. McKelvey professor of biomedical engineering in the School of Engineering & Applied Science, is working on the development of nanoscale materials with medical applications. Feczko, a graduate student in the neurosciences program, works with John Pruett, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry in the School of Medicine, on autism and face recognition.



Sam Held

Washington University graduate student Claire Cobley (far left) dining with Nobel laureate Robert Horvitz (far right) and other Lindau attendees.

### Heard on Campus

"I have a vision of a great university. Its structures are grand, and its surroundings are beautiful. The public esteem it, because its high aims, its great utility, its magnificent results are known. To support it is considered a duty, to aid in its development a pleasure, and to have one's name connected with it an honor."

— Winfield Scott Chaplin, Fourth Chancellor of Washington University, in his inaugural address on January 11, 1892

#### CityArchRiver designs unveiled:

The Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts will host a traveling exhibition of design concepts by five architectural teams vying to reshape the area surrounding Eero Saarinen's iconic Gateway Arch. The teams — which between them include seven faculty from the Sam Fox School's College of Architecture and Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design — are finalists in an international competition organized by the CityArchRiver 2015 Foundation. Titled "Framing a Modern Masterpiece," the competition aims to improve connections and transitions between the Arch grounds, downtown St. Louis, and the Mississippi riverfront.

#### MBA students trade classroom for boardroom:

MBA students at the John M. Olin School of Business will be spending less time in the classroom this fall and more time in the boardroom as part of an innovative new program geared to involve students with nonprofit agencies supported by the United Way of Greater St. Louis. The Olin United Way Board Fellows Program is the result of a brainstorming session between Gary Dollar, president and CEO of the United Way of Greater St. Louis, and Mahendra Gupta, Ph.D., dean and the Geraldine J. and Robert L. Virgil professor of management and accounting. The two were eager to find a mutually beneficial way for students and community groups to work together.

### Kudos

Alan I. Glass, M.D., assistant vice chancellor and director of the Habib Health and Wellness Center on the Danforth Campus, was named president of the American College Health Association at the organization's annual meeting in early June.

David B. Gray, Ph.D., professor of occupational therapy and of neurology, received the Distinguished

Service Award from the National Association of Rehabilitation Research and Training Center at the 32nd Annual Conference May 3 and 4 in Alexandria, Virginia. The award honors an outstanding individual for service to people with disabilities, research, and administration of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. Gray also received the President's Award from the Missouri Rehabilitation Association, Eastern Chapter, for generous contributions to improving the lives of people with disabilities and their families.

James Myles, senior auditor in the Office of Internal Audit, received the William S. Smith Certificate of Honor Award from The Institute of Internal Auditors for his outstanding performance on the 2009 Certified Internal Auditor examination.

Matthew V. Smith, M.D., assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery, received the Excellence in Research Award from the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine for his paper "The Effect of Acetabular Labral Tears on Hip Stability and Labral Strain in a Joint Compression Model."

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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