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University News

Entrepreneurship programs rank in top 10:

The undergraduate and graduate programs in entrepreneurship at Washington University have been recognized as among the top ten in the United States by *The Princeton Review* and *Entrepreneur* magazine survey of more than 2,000 schools. The annual ranking lists the nation's top 25 undergraduate and top 25 graduate programs for entrepreneurship. Washington University's undergraduate program was ranked No. 9 and the graduate program No. 10. The rankings are published in the October issue of *Entrepreneur* magazine which is available on newsstands and [online](#).



Class of 2014 profile: 50 states, 25 nations:

Approximately 1,600 members of the Class of 2014 arrived on campus in August. Nearly all graduated in the top 10 percent — with the majority in the top 5 percent — of their high school classes, and more than 60 percent traveled at least 500 miles to get to Washington University. They represent 50 states and 25 countries. "We are delighted to welcome the freshman class to campus, and we are honored that such talented students have selected Washington University," says Julie Shimabukuro, director of admissions. "We were impressed with their talents and abilities, as they stood out among the finest students in their high schools around the world."

\$30 million project will map the brain's wiring:

An unprecedented five-year, \$30 million effort to generate a first-of-its-kind map of all the major circuits in the human brain is being led by Washington University School of Medicine and the University of Minnesota's Center for Magnetic Resonance Research (CMRR). Thirty-three researchers at nine institutions will contribute to the [Human Connectome Project](#). Using powerful, custom-built brain scanners, a supercomputer, new brain analysis techniques, and other state-of-the-art resources, they will trace the anatomical 'wires' that interconnect thousands of different regions of the human brain's gray matter.

Research

Fairness fares best in legal negotiations:

It's not just the money; it's also the method when it comes to legal negotiations, according to Rebecca Hollander-Blumoff, J.D., associate professor of law at Washington University. Legal lore holds that attorneys must be adversarial to best represent their clients' interests. This approach encourages lawyers to disparage and minimize the interests of opponents. But Hollander-Blumoff's research — to be published in the *Washington University Law Review* in December 2010 and previously published in *Law and Social Inquiry*, the journal of the American Bar Foundation, in 2008 — suggests a winning-is-everything mindset has drawbacks.

Impact hypothesis loses its sparkle:

The warming that followed the last Ice Age was interrupted by a cold snap that killed off megafauna such as the giant ground sloth and the woolly mammoth. Could this crisis have been caused by an asteroid impact or a comet breaking up in the atmosphere? Unfortunately the geological evidence for such a dramatic event has not stood up to scrutiny. A team of scientists led by Tyrone Daulton, Ph.D., a research scientist in the physics department in Arts & Sciences, challenges



the catastrophists last, best hope: shock-synthesized nanodiamonds.

Researchers identify genetic marker of aggressive Alzheimer's disease:

An international team of Alzheimer's disease experts, led by Washington University School of Medicine, has uncovered a gene variation that appears to predict the rate at which Alzheimer's disease will progress. Whereas previous studies have focused on factors that influence the risk for developing Alzheimer's, the new research points to a way to determine how rapidly the disease will progress.

Features



Lissa Johnson (left), director of administration at the Center for Social Development, helps build a school in Haiti.

Do helping hands forge lasting ties:

International volunteer service is growing worldwide, but there is little substantive research about its impact. According to Amanda Moore McBride, Ph.D., assistant professor at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, the Brown School's Center for Social Development is leading research in this area and is the first organization to accomplish this kind of rigorous quasi-experimental work on the topic. "Because we partner with the Brookings Initiative on International Volunteering and Service, the research has already had direct influence on policy," McBride says. "Our research informed the 2009 Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act and the proposed 2010 Sargent Shriver International Service Act."

Ancient DNA identifies donkey ancestors, people who domesticated them:

Genetic investigators say that the partnership between people and the ancestors of today's donkeys was sealed not by monarchs trying to establish kingdoms but by mobile, pastoral people who had to recruit animals to help them survive the harsh Saharan landscape in northern Africa more than 5,000 years ago. The findings were reported in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* by an international research team, including Fiona Marshall, Ph.D., professor of anthropology in Arts & Sciences. The study paints a surprising picture of what small, isolated groups of people were able to accomplish when confronted with unpredictable storms and expanding desert.

Your dream job could be more like a day at the zoo:

We all aspire to do what we love and get paid for it, but landing your dream job might not be a walk in the park. It could be more like a day at the zoo. "The Call of the Wild: Zookeepers, Callings, and the Dual Edges of Deeply Meaningful Work," an award-winning study by Stuart Bunderson, professor of organizational behavior in the John M. Olin School of Business and Jeff Thompson of Brigham Young University, found that although it's great to believe passionately in your work, feeling that your work is a personal calling can complicate things.

Kudos

Eugene H. Rubin, M.D., Ph.D., professor of psychiatry, and Charles F. Zorumski, M.D., the Samuel B. Guze Professor and head of Psychiatry, received a first-place award from the American Medical Writers Association for their book *Demystifying Psychiatry*.

Mitchell G. Scott, Ph.D., professor of pathology and immunology and clinical research assistant professor of medicine, received the Transatlantic Lectureship Award from the Association for Clinical Biochemistry (UK) May 12, 2010, in Glasgow, Scotland.

Heard on Campus

"I have always been inspired by the peaceful teachings of my religion in doing my work. Just like all religions teach love and compassion, I use this motivation for all of my life work and also take further inspiration from all historical figures who have promoted tolerance towards other human beings during their lifetimes."

— Arsalan Iftikhar, an international human rights lawyer, prominent political commentator, and author of the popular blog, TheMuslimGuy.com, during his Assembly Series talk, titled "The Pacifist Fundamentalist," in College Hall on September 16, 2010

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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