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University News

Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design ranked 9th:

Washington University's Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design, part of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, has been ranked 9th in the nation, according to [DesignIntelligence](#), which publishes an annual survey on America's Best Architecture & Design Schools. The 2011 report, the 12th annual, surveyed deans and department chairs of 126 undergraduate and graduate programs accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board. In addition, leaders from more than 200 architecture, landscape architecture, industrial design, and interior design firms were polled on which programs have, over the last five years, best prepared students for professional practice.



Undergraduate research at Washington University gets a boost from Amgen Foundation grant:

Washington University has received a four-year, \$1 million grant from the Amgen Foundation to provide hands-on biomedical laboratory experience to undergraduates through the Amgen Scholars Program. The 10-week, intensive undergraduate summer research program, which will begin in May 2011, will allow U.S. citizens or permanent residents to participate in activities designed to build confidence and maturity as a scientist.

Washington University receives \$23 million grant, renewal of comprehensive status for Siteman Cancer Center:

The Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine has received renewal of its designation as a Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The designation recognizes Siteman's clinical research, basic science, community outreach, and education activities. The renewal includes \$23 million in research funding for the next five years. "NCI designation as a Comprehensive Cancer Center confers the highest recognition of our exceptional cancer-focused scientists, clinicians, and staff throughout Washington University and Barnes-Jewish Hospital," says Timothy J. Eberlein, M.D., director of the Siteman Cancer Center. "Most importantly, we are translating our cutting-edge science into better treatments for the more than 40,000 cancer patients we see each year."

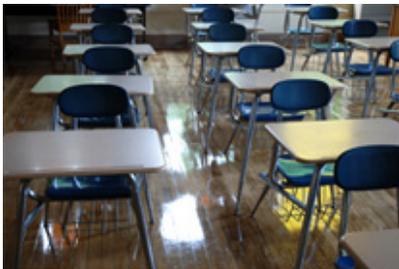
Research

Better teaching can help shrink achievement gap between black and white students:

The achievement gap separating black and white students has been known and studied for a number of years. However, new research focusing on black males shows the gap may be much bigger than originally thought. How to breach the divide? Better teachers, suggests expert in science education proficiency, William F. Tate, Ph.D., the Edward Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor in Arts & Sciences and chair of the Department of Education in Arts & Sciences.

Scientists identify antivirus system:

Viruses have led scientists at Washington University School of Medicine to the discovery of a security system in host cells. Viruses that cause disease in animals beat the security system millennia ago. But now that researchers are aware of it, they can explore the possibility of bringing the system back into play in the fight against diseases such as sudden acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), West Nile virus, dengue, and yellow fever.

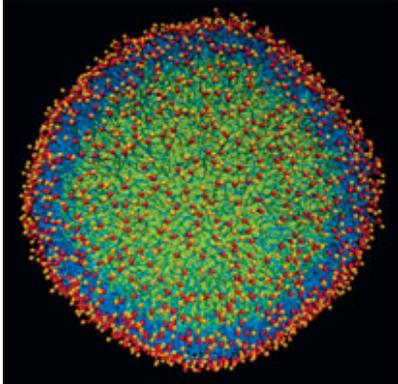


New research focusing on black males shows the achievement gap may be much bigger than originally thought.

### Modern humans emerged far earlier than previously thought:

Eric Trinkaus, Ph.D., the Mary Tileston Hemenway Professor in Arts & Sciences and professor of physical anthropology, has discovered well-dated human fossils in southern China that markedly change anthropologists' perceptions of the emergence of modern humans in the eastern Old World. The research, based at the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology in Beijing, was published October 25 in the online early edition of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

### Features



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

### Unconventional idea for antiviral contraceptive gel wins Gates Foundation grant :

A vaginal gel that affords both contraception and HIV protection using nanoparticles that carry bee venom is one of the bold, unconventional ideas that won a 2010 Grand Challenges Explorations grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Grand Challenges Explorations is a Gates Foundation initiative to foster innovative projects in areas where unorthodox thinking is most urgently needed. Recipients receive grants to explore creative solutions to global health issues. Sam Wickline, M.D., professor of medicine, of cell biology and physiology, of physics, and of biomedical engineering at Washington University School of Medicine, is one of 65 scientists selected in November to participate in the grant program.

### Olin helps students tackle tough job market:

What do elevator pitches, speed-dating, and Skype have to do with getting a job? Just ask a student at the top-ranked John M. Olin School of Business. Learning how to introduce yourself to a potential employer and making a good impression in two minutes via video conference or in person are just a few of the skills Olin undergrads and MBAs master in a new course offered in conjunction with the school's career center.

### Early computer for biomedical research subject of exhibit:

A piece of medical and computer history is at the center of a new exhibit at the Bernard Becker Medical Library at Washington University School of Medicine. Many computer scientists regard the new exhibit's focus, the Laboratory Instrument Computer (LINC), as one of the first personal computers. Before LINC, computers were massive high-maintenance units in multiple cabinets that filled most of a room and could only be put to work on problems by computer specialists.

### Kudos

Jason Qian, a senior biomedical engineering major, was named an Undergraduate Scholarship Program (UGSP) Scholar by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). As a UGSP Scholar, Qian will receive a \$20,000 scholarship for the 2010-11 academic year and will be a paid research trainee at NIH for Summer 2011.

Paul C. Paris, Ph.D., professor emeritus of mechanics in the School of Engineering & Applied Science, received an honorary doctorate from the University of Paris West on November 18. The honorary degree is given to "exceptional individuals" who "best reflect humanist values and the ideals of universal knowledge," according to the congratulatory letter Paris received from the president of the university.

Priya Mallika Sury, a 2010 summa cum laude graduate of Washington University with a bachelor's degree in anthropology and Spanish, has been named a Rhodes Scholar. Sury, 22, is among 32 students from across the United States chosen for graduate study at the University of Oxford in England. Since the first American scholars were selected in 1904, 26 Washington University students, including Sury, have won the Rhodes Scholarship, which is the world's oldest international fellowship.

### Heard on Campus

"Genocide and mass atrocities are not inevitable. It begins with a choice."

— Mia Farrow, acclaimed actress, UNICEF goodwill ambassador, and one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people in 2008, during her Assembly Series talk on the need for universal human rights and justice. The talk was part of the annual Elliot Stein Lecture in Ethics, held in Graham Chapel on November 17, 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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