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University News

Noble laureate Elie Wiesel to deliver Commencement address:

Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor and human rights activist, will deliver the 2011 Commencement address at Washington University. The University's 150th Commencement will begin at 8:30 a.m. May 20 in Brookings Quadrangle on the Danforth Campus. Wiesel will address approximately 2,800 members of the Class of 2011 and their friends and family members. He will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from the University.



Elie Wiesel

Danforth Campus named a Tree Campus USA by Arbor Day Foundation:

Washington University has been named a Tree Campus USA for 2010 by the Arbor Day Foundation. Washington University is among the first schools in Missouri to receive the honor. Tree Campus USA is a distinction given by the Arbor Day Foundation to recognize schools across the United States for their dedication to healthy campus forestry management and engaging the community in environmental stewardship. The Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit conservation organization that seeks to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees.

Washington University in the running as a 2012 presidential debate site:

The Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) announced April 1 that it has received proposals from 12 potential 2012 debate sites, including Washington University. The CPD will conduct site surveys during the next several months and plans to announce the final sites later in the year. "Hosting debates has been one of the great traditions of Washington University during the past two decades," says Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. "In a small way, this has been our contribution to the national dialogue surrounding important issues of our time."



Research

Decoding cancer patients' genomes is powerful diagnostic tool:

Two new studies in the Journal of the American Medical Association by Washington University researchers, including Timothy Ley, M.D., and Richard Wilson, Ph.D., highlight the power of sequencing cancer patients' genomes as a diagnostic tool, helping doctors decide the best course of treatment and researchers identify new cancer susceptibility mutations that can be passed from parent to child.

New index measures financial stability:

What does it take for a family in the U.S. to have long-term economic security and not just "get by"? This question inspired the creation of the Basic Economic Security Tables Index (BEST), a joint effort of Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) and the Center for Social Development (CSD) at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work. The BEST is different from other 'living wage' indexes in that it aims to capture what is needed for household stability and development rather than focusing on subsistence. Findings suggest that families' largest economic security challenges are rent and utilities, transportation, and childcare. The report calls the high cost of quality childcare "the greatest threat to many families'



Robert Boston Timothy Ley, M.D., left, and Richard Wilson, Ph.D., and their Washington University colleagues have shown the power of sequencing cancer patients' genomes as a diagnostic tool.

security." Childcare is so expensive that income needs for a one-parent family with two preschoolers are equivalent to those of a one-parent family with five teenagers.

Measuring political bias of network news:

That FOX Broadcasting Company has a conservative slant and MSNBC skews liberal may reflect widespread opinion, but a Washington University study suggests that news networks' biases can be measured. Published in March 2011 in the journal Behavioral Research Methods, the findings are important in their validation of a new research tool developed by Washington University psychologists, according to lead author Nicholas Holtzman, a graduate student in psychology in Arts & Sciences.



Ray Marklin Joan Schmidt created this acrylic painting as part of an Arts as Healing class held at the Center for Advanced Medicine at Washington University Medical Center.

Features

Creativity heals:

A group of adults meets regularly in a room at the Center for Advanced Medicine at Washington University Medical Center to learn how to shade with charcoals, master watercolor strokes, and mold and shape clay. These students may be rediscovering art after many years or learning techniques for the first time. But they also share another common bond — battling cancer.

Mellon Foundation gives WUSTL \$550,000 to preserve Eyes on the Prize:

Washington University has received a four-year, \$550,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to preserve Henry Hampton's award-winning civil rights documentary Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965, as well as Hampton's complete, unedited interviews recorded on film for the documentary. The grant is the largest ever received by the University Libraries.

Heard on Campus
"[For] people today who are coming up in the next generation, Wikipedia is going to be something that is always there and is the default standard way we go to get information. That means that we have an enormous responsibility at Wikipedia within our community to be open, to be transparent, to be accountable, and above all, to be as good as we possibly can."
— Jimmy Wales, co-founder of Wikipedia, British ambassador to the United States, during his Assembly Series talk, titled "Democracy and the Internet" in Graham Chapel on March 4, 2011

Playing hardball in negotiations: Home field provides advantage:

Planning to negotiate a raise? Try not to discuss it with the boss in his or her office, suggests a new study by an organizational behavior expert at Washington University. "Parties who negotiate on their home field can be expected to claim between 60 percent and 160 percent more value than the visiting party," says Markus Baer, Ph.D., assistant professor of organizational behavior at the John M. Olin School of Business.

Kudos

Alex G. Anderson, a junior majoring in mathematics and physics, and Suchita Rastogi, a junior majoring in molecular biology and biochemistry, are recipients of the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship for the 2011-12 academic year. The scholarship is considered one of the most prestigious awards for undergraduates planning careers in the sciences, engineering or math. It covers as much as \$7,500 annually toward tuition, fees and books in their junior or senior year.

Mara Gandal-Powers, a third-year student in the School of Law, has been granted a prestigious Health Law Fellowship at the National Women's Law Center (NWLC). The highly competitive two-year fellowship focuses on projects related to the NWLC's Health and Reproductive Rights Program.

Adam R. Hasz, a junior majoring in environmental studies and urban studies, is a recipient of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship for the 2011-2012 academic year. The scholarship is granted to students who demonstrate a commitment to fields related to the environment or to Native American or native Alaskan students in fields related to health care and tribal public policy. It covers tuition, fees, books and room and board to a maximum of \$5,000 a year.

Helen Liapis, M.D., professor of pathology and immunology and of medicine, received the Jacob Churg Award for outstanding contributions in Renal Pathology on February 26 at the 100th U.S. and Canadian Academy of Pathology Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

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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