



# @ Washington University in St. Louis

June 2011  
e-News for Alumni, Parents, and Friends

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## University News

### [Elie Wiesel's 2011 Commencement address at Washington University:](#)

Do not stand idly by if you witness injustice, Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and human rights activist, told the Class of 2011 during the 150th Commencement ceremony at Washington University. "You must intervene. You must interfere," Wiesel told the approximately 2,700 degree candidates gathered before him May 20 in Brookings Quadrangle on Washington University's Danforth Campus. Wiesel, winner of the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize, has worked on behalf of oppressed people for much of his adult life. His personal experience of the Holocaust has led him to use his talents as an author, teacher and storyteller to defend human rights and peace throughout the world.



Joe Angeles  
Elie Wiesel finishes his remarks to the Class of 2011 to a rousing ovation, including applause from Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton.

### [Washington University partnership with area middle school reaping benefits:](#)

School-university partnerships naturally develop around academic programs — and the partnership between University City's Brittany Woods Middle School and Washington University is no exception. However, as the Brittany Woods-Washington University partnership develops, programs that address students' values, motivation and attitudes are joining those that focus on academic subjects. Schools that combine academics with programs that support social development and healthy families are called community schools.

### [Washington University opens world's most modern zebrafish facility:](#)

Tiny tropical fish are helping scientists understand human development and disease, from birth defects and cancer to muscle and nerve disorders. Contributing to this effort, Washington University is now home to one of the largest zebrafish facilities in the world. And with robotic feeding and cleaning systems, it is the world's most modern, says Lilianna Solnica-Krezel, Ph.D., professor and head of developmental biology at Washington University School of Medicine.

## Research

### [Rice's origins point to China, genome researchers conclude:](#)

Rice originated in China, according to a study by a team of genome researchers from New





International Rice Research Institute Rice (*Oryza sativa*) had two major subspecies, the sticky short-grained japonica variety and the non-sticky long-grained indica variety. Scientists have long debated whether the varieties reflect independent domestication events.

York University's Center for Genomics and Systems Biology and its Department of Biology, Washington University's Department of Biology in Arts & Sciences, Stanford University's Department of Genetics, and Purdue University's Department of Agronomy. Their findings, which appear in the latest issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, indicate that domesticated rice may have first appeared as far back as approximately 9,000 years ago in the Yangtze Valley of China. Previous research suggested domesticated rice may have two points of origin — India as well as China.

**Restricting calories lowers body temperature, may predict longer lifespan:** Nutrition and longevity researchers, including Luigi Fontana, M.D., Ph.D., research associate professor of medicine, have found more evidence that eating less may help people live longer. They report that individuals who significantly reduce their calorie intake have lower core body temperatures. Mice and rats consuming fewer calories also have lower core body temperatures, and they live significantly longer than littermates eating a standard diet.

**Federal regulatory spending continues to increase, says new study:** Despite efforts to freeze non-security discretionary spending, the budgets of federal regulatory agencies are increasing in both 2011 and 2012. The estimated cost of running regulatory agencies in fiscal year 2011 is \$54.9 billion, a 5.7 percent increase over 2010 spending, according to a new study from the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government and Public Policy at Washington University.

## Features



**Kids with savings accounts in their name six times more likely to attend college:** Evidence supporting the link between savings and college success is growing. Three studies out of the Center for Social Development (CSD) at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work offer a connection between assets and college enrollment and completion. "This research underscores the importance of policies and programs that help Americans of all income levels to save for college," says Margaret Clancy, policy director and College Savings Initiative director at CSD. In a study forthcoming in the *Journal of Children and Poverty*, CSD researchers found that among youth who expected to graduate from a four-year college, those with a savings account in their name were approximately six times more likely to attend college than those with no account.

**Law professor lends expertise to new legal hiring service:** A new online service designed to "match" law students with potential employers is backed by a proprietary algorithm written by Andrew Martin, Ph.D., professor of law and director of the Center for Empirical Research in the Law at Washington University School of Law, and Kevin Quinn, Ph.D., professor at the University of California at

## Heard on Campus

"When you are now going into a world which is hounded, obsessed with so much violence, often so much despair — when you enter this world and you say the world is not good today, good! Correct it! That's what you have learned here for four years from your great teachers. Go there, and tell them what you remember. Tell them that the nobility of the human being cannot be denied."

— Elie Wiesel, Noble laureate, Holocaust survivor and human rights activist, in his Commencement address to the Class of 2011

Berkeley. JD Match, the brainchild of law firm consultants Bruce MacEwen and Janet Stanton, is loosely based on a medical school model, which is operated by the National Residency Matching Program and links medical students to available residency opportunities annually on Match Day.

### Olin B-school students tour fashion capitals to study luxury goods market:

Coco Chanel never took a marketing class, but she's helping teach one this semester at John M. Olin School of Business. Students in the new course, "Luxury Apparel-Marketing B53" are examining case studies of brands that make up the \$237 billion industry that has its roots in Chanel's famous perfume and little black dress. Researching the strategies, financials and business models of Europe's prominent luxe apparel and accessory marketers is in preparation for a two-week tour of fashion's Meccas — Milan, Rome, Paris and London — that will include meetings with executives from Armani and Prada to Hermes and Burberry.

### Kudos

Pascal R. Boyer, the Luce Professor of Collective & Individual Memory in Arts & Sciences, was selected from among 3,000 nominees by the Guggenheim Foundation to be one of its fellows for 2011.

Chike Croslin, a graduating Arts & Sciences senior, has received the Alumni and Friends of the London School of Economics Scholarship for 2011-12. The academic merit scholarship, given annually to an American citizen or permanent resident of the United States, covers full tuition fees for one year of graduate study at the London School of Economics.

Lihong V. Wang, the Gene K. Beare Distinguished Professor in Biomedical Engineering, was awarded the C.E.K. Mees Medal by the Optical Society for seminal contributions to photoacoustic tomography and Monte Carlo modeling of photon transport in biological tissues and for leadership in the international biophotonics community.

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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