Transitions: Arts & Sciences looks to the future

by Judy H. Watts

Four respected members of the Arts & Sciences community — teachers and mentors, intellectual pioneers, and talented administrators, all — are engaged in dynamic change as Arts & Sciences develops a 10-year plan for excellence in every area.

Edward S. Macias, executive vice chancellor, dean of Arts & Sciences, and the Barbara and David Thomas Distinguished Professor in Arts & Sciences, has been named provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs. After a six-month sabbatical, he assumes his new responsibilities on January 1, 2009. Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton says the provost position, which Macias held previously but which has been vacant since Macias’ appointment as dean in 1995, is crucial as the University moves to strengthen, expand, and further develop its momentum and achievements.

Ralph S. Quatrano took the reins as dean on July 1, 2008. Quatrano, who arrived in 1998 as the Spencer T. Olin Professor and was chair of the renowned Department of Biology in Arts & Sciences, is known for his ability to connect people and ideas and guide them toward a common goal.

Robert E. Thach, has concluded his remarkable 15-year deanship of the Graduate School of

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Biology & Biomedical Sciences achieves milestone: 35 years, 1,000 PhDs

by Steve Kohler

When Zhen Mahoney received her PhD in molecular genetics and genomics in May 2008, it marked more than a huge personal accomplishment. Her degree was determined to be the 1,000th PhD awarded by the University’s Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences (DBBS). And, serendipitously, the milestone came during the division’s celebration of its 35th year.

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Greetings. This will be my last communication with you as Dean of Arts & Sciences, a position I have held for 14 years (1994-2008). Starting January 1, 2009, I will be Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Washington University. This will be my second term with the title of Provost, the first being 1988-1995. I have served as chief academic officer of the University continuously since 1988 even after being named Dean of Arts & Sciences in 1994.

Many have asked, “What is a provost?” Synonymous with “chief academic officer,” this role will have overall responsibility for the academic operations of the Danforth Campus, including Arts & Sciences, Engineering, Law, Business, Social Work, and Art/Architecture. As you know, the entire University has been engaged in a strategic planning effort, and I look forward to helping determine where there is significant overlap in the various academic units’ plans. Interdisciplinary and inter-school collaboration are hallmarks of Washington U., and we want to maximize our potential in this important area.

Arts & Sciences is crucial to these endeavors, and I expect to continue to rely quite significantly on leadership from Dean Quatrano and eventually, the new dean. Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve you over these past 14 years. I look forward to new interactions.

Previously as provost, Macias chaired the campus-wide committee to prepare for the 21st century; then, as executive vice chancellor and dean, he helped make those initiatives possible. A faculty member since 1970, the environmental and nuclear chemist specializes in the chemistry and physics of particulate matter in the atmosphere and its effect on air pollution.

As biology chair, Quatrano oversaw the hiring of 12 new faculty members and until recently directed the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences. An internationally known plant scientist, he is corresponding author of a watershed paper about the mapping of a moss genome — which may yield information ultimately critical to the development of new energy sources.

Thach’s service since 1970 includes directing the Graduate Program in Molecular Biology and the Center for...
Momentum continues in Arts & Sciences
by Ralph S. Quatrano
Dean of Arts & Sciences, and the Spencer T. Olin Professor

I always welcome the new year with its new beginnings and new challenges for faculty and students. Stepping into the Dean’s Office presented a new challenge for me this year, and I am impressed with what I have seen so far across the whole school. We have an amazing collection of renowned scholars! Ed Macias’ leadership has built a strong foundation for the future. This year we are moving forward with key initiatives in Arts & Sciences, including reviewing departments, searching for outstanding faculty, and searching for a new dean of Arts & Sciences. I am pleased to serve as dean for this interim period, until a successor has been named, and feel that my 10 years as chair of the Department of Biology have prepared me for this leadership. I look forward to returning to the ranks of the faculty and to continue my research once the new dean arrives.

That said, I welcome your feedback and thoughts about how we can continue to move forward and maintain the momentum. This issue of the newsletter presents highlights from Arts & Sciences. We can’t possibly cover everything that has happened, but I hope you will sense a bit of the activity and energy that stems from this campus. We are moving ahead on many fronts, and the excitement among students and faculty is obvious. I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can this year. Please keep in touch and feel free to contact me with ideas, questions, or concerns.

Timothy J. Bono, graduate student representative to the Board of Trustees, a PhD student in psychology
Lingchei Letty Chen, associate professor of modern Chinese language & literature, director of East Asian Studies
John Michael Clear, an Arts & Sciences alumnus, National Council member, partner at Bryan Cave LLP
Mary Ann Dzuback, associate professor of education; director of Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies
Gerald L. Early, the Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters, director of the Center for the Humanities

Smith brings to the graduate school strong credentials in leading complex environments. With a degree in dentistry from Tufts University and a PhD in anthropology from Yale, Smith served as dean of the University’s former School of Dental Medicine. He subsequently joined the anthropology department, and for 15 years was a unifying department chair and popular professor. Recipient of a Distinguished Faculty Award, Smith’s research in physical anthropology investigates the validity of claims about fossil evidence.

For more on the proposed strategic plan, which was submitted for synthesis into a University-wide plan, visit http://theplan.artsci.wustl.edu.
Stephen Williamson: Teaching “frontier research” in economics

by Jan Niehaus

According to economist Stephen Williamson, “Washington University students are extremely sharp and highly motivated. The undergraduates in particular are very high quality.” He continues, “Washington University students want to move quickly, and it’s very exciting to be around them.”

Williamson was installed as the first Robert S. Brookings Distinguished Professor in Arts & Sciences in February 2008, just two years after joining the Department of Economics faculty.

His textbook Macroeconomics, now in its third U.S. edition, is the foundation for his undergraduate macroeconomics courses. Williamson says, “I pick up different ideas from students’ feedback about how to teach the material. These are intellectual students. They ask interesting questions.”

In the same vein, Williamson relishes the lively debates with his graduate students. In addition to macroeconomic theory and field courses in monetary economics, “I am also teaching frontier research, bringing materials from my research to students in the PhD classes. Defending your ideas with students is very good for your thinking.”

“I enjoy collaborative research,” Williamson says. He and PhD candidate Daniel Sanches have co-authored two academic papers. Williamson summarizes, “One looks at the roles of currency and credit in transactions and the impact of theft on those roles. The other studies how informational frictions in transactions are conducted. Both of them explore the implications for monetary policy.

“Daniel teaches me things, and I teach him some things,” he says. “The collaborative process is necessary. For students who expect to take academic positions, the ability to do joint research is valued. A lot of joint work is done in publications.”

In addition to publishing in academic journals, Williamson serves as co-editor of Economic Theory, associate editor of the Journal of Monetary Economics and the Review of Economic Dynamics, and the Economists’ Voice.

Research Fellow at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. “My interactions with the researchers at the St. Louis Fed are an important input to my research in general,” he says.

Being named the Robert S. Brookings Distinguished Professor in Arts & Sciences “is an important recognition,” Williamson says, adding, “Brookings was an interesting character. He contributed to education and research across the United States, not just at Washington University.”

Brookings served as the president of the University’s Board of Directors from 1895 till 1928. He was instrumental in bringing Washington University from downtown St. Louis to the Danforth Campus and in modernizing the School of Medicine.

Honors & Awards

Achievement: Each year, a faculty member is presented with the University’s Arthur Holly Compton Achievement Award in recognition of their research, teaching, and service. The 2007 award was given to Carl Bender, the Wilfred R. and Ann Lee Konneker Distinguished Professor of Physics. The 2008 award will be presented to Henry L. “Roddy” Roediger, III, the James S. McDonnell Distinguished Professor in psychology.

Biology: The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded the following research grants in biology: Jonathan M. Chase, associate professor of biology, five-year grant, “The Role of Fish Introductions and Eradications on Community Assembly in Ponds.” Chase and Peter Raven, the Engelmann Professor of Botany and director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, five-year grant, “Making Natural Connections: An Authentic Field Research Collaboration.” Bruce Carlson, assistant professor of biology, three-year grant, “Collaborative Research: Mechanisms of Signal Diversity in Communication.” Himadri Pakrasi, the George William and Irene Koechig Freiberg Professor of Biology, five-year grant, “Dynamic Regulation of the Form and Function of Photosystem II, a Membrane Protein Complex.” Tiffany Knight, assistant professor of biology, four-year grant, “Interactive roles of predation and hybridization on population dynamics of an endangered Lupinus species.” Elizabeth Haswell, assistant professor of biology, three-year grant, “Mechanosensitive Channels and Organelle Morphology.”

Dance: On April 30, faculty from the Performing Arts Department (PAD) gathered in Whittemore House to celebrate the 90th birthday of Annelise Mertz, professor emerita in dance. Mertz spearheaded the creation of the dance program, which she directed for some 31 years. In 2001 the PAD named its primary dance rehearsal/performance space, the Annelise Mertz Dance Studio, in Mallinckrodt Center in her honor.

Ecology: The Ecological Society of America honored Jonathan M. Chase, associate professor of biology and director of Tyson Research Center, with the George Mercer Award. The Mercer Award is given for an outstanding ecological research paper published within the past two years by a researcher 40 years or younger at the time of the publication. Chase’s paper was published in
Jean Allman: Teaching about Africa’s past
by Kristin Tennant

At the start of each semester, history professor Jean Allman gives her new students the opportunity to anonymously write down any question they have for her. The most common question she gets is, “How did you become interested in African studies?”

As a white woman who grew up on the south side of St. Louis, Allman herself says she was an unlikely person to become a scholar of West African history.

“Throughout high school, I understood Africa only as geography,” Allman says. “That’s how it was taught.”

Then she took her first African history course, as a freshman at Northwestern University. Everything changed.

Not only was Allman compelled to take many more courses on Africa, she was inspired to apply to live in Ghana for a year through the Richter International Scholarship Program. Allman was 19 years old when she went; it was the first time she had ever traveled outside of the United States.

“I was completely on my own in every way — finding a place to live, meeting and interviewing people, and figuring out how to buy food in the markets,” she says. “It was hard, but it was transformative. Living in another country gives you so many opportunities to transform how you understand the world, and to question your assumptions about how the world operates.”

It was when Allman returned to Ghana in the 1980s — when the country had, as she puts it, “hit rock bottom” — that her particular areas of academic interest began to coalesce.

“I began looking at colonialism, and that morphed into an interest in gender, and how women experienced colonialism. That evolved into my interests in dress and in religion.”

Allman’s work is clearly interdisciplinary, which is the only way to study Africa, she says. While the six books she’s written or edited might seem to be focused on completely different topics, Allman says they actually overlap and are cumulative. Ultimately, they are all about how African men and women, in their homes and communities, through their belief systems and material cultures, have positioned themselves as central actors in the making of the modern world. Her area of study is anything but static.

“What’s interesting to me is to take something that has been treated as static, like an indigenous belief system, and consider how it can be mapped onto gender, colonialism, or economic change.”

Allman, who in February 2008 became the inaugural holder of the J.H. Hexter Professorship in the Humanities, is known for how she translates her approach to scholarship to the classroom.

“Undergraduates don’t gravitate to disciplines, they get disciplined into disciplines,” Allman says. “But, the students at Washington University are always encouraged to stick their academic necks out, so to speak, and they do it eagerly.”

While there is much Allman wants her students to understand about Africa and how it fits into the world, she has other, overarching goals for her students.

“I want to help students understand what evidence is and how to use it,” she says. “I want to help them learn how to make an argument and how to write effectively for different audiences. I want them to understand the role of the historian and the limits of that role. And, in return, my students push me in my own work.”

Jean Allman with juniors Mindy Sher and Juliana Sullam

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Daniel Bornstein: Listening to the many voices of Catholicism

by Betsy Rogers

In his wide-ranging research into medieval and Renaissance Catholicism, Daniel E. Bornstein, the Stella Koetter Darrow Professor in Catholic Studies, finds a startling breadth of voices and traditions that challenges the conventional view of a centralized, monolithic institution.

“There is a whole multiplicity of traditions within an institution that, at any given time, may tend to privilege one or another,” he explains. “What I listen for is not so much the univocality of that mainstream but the many voices going through the tradition.”

These many voices found expression in what Bornstein calls “local inflections” of the universal church — the way faithful Catholics lived out their religion in their small towns and villages.

So, for instance, when the church hierarchy sought to enforce the 11th-century Gregorian reformist mandate for priestly celibacy, it encountered stiff resistance not just among the clergy but among laity as well. Indeed, 300 years later in Cortona, the town now made famous by Under the Tuscan Sun, the local bishop, querying parishioners about their priest, found a willing acceptance of his common-law wife and children.

Though both Protestant and Catholic reformers later denounced these widespread domestic arrangements as moral failures, Bornstein finds quite a different view of them among the laity. “It’s very clear that the villagers looked on this favorably,” he says. “If their priest has a companion, if he’s domestically settled, the church will be better cared for, he will be better cared for, and he will be anchored to the community.”

Similarly, Bornstein’s research has uncovered a powerful role for women amidst the church’s deeply patriarchal structures. Convents amassed considerable power in the medieval church and often had the right to name parish clergy. “In early 15th-century Florence,” he says, “about half the city’s population belonged to parish churches controlled by female institutions.” The same was true in cities across Catholic Europe, in Germany, France, Spain, and elsewhere. “There’s a way that these women were able to negotiate the institution that confined them,” he observes, and thus wield power in the wider church.

Bornstein’s current projects include research into the life, work, and influence of Dominican reformer Giovanni Dominici, and a long-running investigation of religious, culture, and society in Cortona. “I’m looking at religious practice in Cortona from the late 13th century through the 15th century, tracing the impact of the Black Death and other epidemics, then in the 15th century, as Cortona becomes incorporated into the Florentine regional state, how institutions and religious life get reoriented by political change,” he says.

He is also editor of one volume of a seven-volume work titled A People’s History of Christianity. His 2007 volume, on medieval Christianity, is forthcoming in German translation.

Bornstein, who holds appointments in both religious studies and history, is an enthusiastic teacher who loves “the give and take” of classroom discussions and finds that, just as his research brings new ideas to the classroom, so his students’ questions often give him new perspective on research topics.

Bornstein earned a bachelor’s degree at Oberlin College and his master’s and PhD at the University of Chicago. He taught at the University of Michigan, the University of California at San Diego, and Texas A&M University and held visiting professorships at the University of California at Santa Barbara, the University of Milan, and the Central European University in Budapest before coming to Washington University in fall 2007.

Honors & Awards

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Writing Program, was awarded the 2007 National Book Critics Circle Award in poetry for Elegy, her fifth book of verse. The award was announced on March 6, 2008, at a ceremony in New York City. Bang said she was “surprised” to learn that her book had been chosen from among five “very impressive” finalists. “I was touched to be honored by people who read widely and take writing seriously,” she said. The poems in the book were written in the year following the death of Bang’s son and, according to her, were intended as “a way of continuing a conversation that had been going on with my son for 37 years and had been suddenly interrupted.”

Psychology: The Society of Experimental Psychologists awarded its highest honor, the Howard Crosby Warren Medal, to Henry L. “Roddy” Roediger, III at a ceremony in April. Roediger, the James S. McDonnell Distinguished Professor in psychology and dean of academic planning, was cited for “his creative experimental investigations of false memory and its underlying processes that have led to a new understanding of human memory.”

Teaching: Six faculty members were honored by the undergraduate ArtSci Council at the Faculty Awards Recognition Ceremony on April 15: Jonathan Chase, associate professor of biology; Tili Boon Cuillé, assistant professor of French; Richard Loomis, associate professor of chemistry; Jill Pasteris, professor of earth & planetary sciences; Bradley Stoner, associate professor of anthropology and of medicine; and Wei Wang, lecturer in Chinese.
Select Arts & Sciences Faculty Books, 2007


Daniel Bornstein, the Stella K. Darrow Professor of Catholic Studies, Medieval Christianity, vol. 4 of A People’s History of Christianity, general ed. Denis Janz. (Fortress Press, 2007).


Rebecca Copeland, professor of Japanese language and literature, Grotesque. (Knopf, 2007).


Frank Flinn, adjunct professor of religious studies, Encyclopedia of Catholicism. (Facts on File, 2007).

Seth Graebner, assistant professor of Romance languages and literatures, History’s Place: Nostalgia and the City in French Algerian Literature. (Lexington Books, 2007).


Robert E. Hegel, the Liselotte Dieckmann Professor of Comparative Literature, Writing and Law in Late Imperial China: Crime, Conflict, and Judgment. (University of Washington Press, 2007).


Framing Attention: Windows on Modern German Culture. (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007).

Window I Interface. Screen Arts and New Media Aesthetics 2. (University of Chicago Press, 2007).

Paul Michael Lützeler, the Rosa May Distinguishe University Professor in the Humanities, Continentalization: The Writer’s Europe. (Suhrkamp, 2007).

“Women’s Stories”: Herman Broch’s Letters to Paul Federn. (Suhrkamp, 2007).


William McKinnon, professor of earth and planetary sciences, Jupiter. (Cambridge University Press, New Ed. 2007).


Thomas Oltmanns, the Edgar James Swift Professor in Arts & Sciences, Abnormal Psychology (5th Ed.). (Prentice-Hall, 2007).


Evidence uncovers earliest use of donkeys for transport

Led by anthropology professor Fiona Marshall, an international group of researchers has found the earliest evidence of donkeys used for transport, bolstering evidence that the process of domestication may have been slower than previously thought. The findings are based on a study of 10 donkey skeletons found in the funerary complex of one of the first pharaohs at Abydos, Egypt. Though the donkeys’ skeletons resemble those of wild asses, they display joint wear that is consistent with load carrying. The observation that the animals were being used as beasts of burden even before they were domesticated confirms recent studies about the timing and complexity of domestication.

Sequenced bacterium makes rare form of chlorophyll

Biology professor Robert Blankenship, the lead investigator of a team of researchers from Washington State University and Arizona State University, has sequenced the genome of a rare bacterium, Acaryochloris marina, that harvests light energy using an uncommon form of chlorophyll, chlorophyll d. Chlorophyll d absorbs “red edge” light, which is invisible to the naked eye. The Acaryochloris marina genome is 8.3 million base pairs long, notably large for a cyanobacteria. Now the research team’s goal is to find the enzyme that causes the structural change distinguishing chlorophyll d from chlorophyll a, chlorophyll b, and the other nine forms of chlorophyll. According to Blankenship, if the gene that causes that chemical change is found and inserted successfully into other plants or organisms, it could potentially represent a five percent increase in available light for organisms.

Data show Antarctic ice stream radiating seismically

Together with colleagues at Pennsylvania State University and Newcastle University, earth and planetary sciences professor and chair Douglas A. Wiens has combined seismological and global positioning system analyses to reveal two daily bursts of seismic waves from an ice stream in Antarctica. Each burst is roughly equivalent to a magnitude seven earthquake and causes the ice stream — which is about 60 miles wide and one-half mile thick — to move 18 inches within 10 minutes. This data changes the understanding about how glaciers and ice streams move. Previously, it was thought that the ice moved with a slow, steady creep, but the new data suggests motion occurs in a fast slip. Wiens plans to examine historical seismic records to better understand this phenomenon and how it will impact the pace of the ice sheet’s melting.
Alumnus Michael Salem: Healing others and giving back
by C.B. Adams

Hippocrates, who crafted the Hippocratic Oath that guides the efforts of many physicians worldwide, also instructed, “Declare the past, diagnose the present, foretell the future...” These three phrases succinctly define the career of physician Michael Salem, AB ’82. Since January 2006, Salem has been the president and CEO of National Jewish Health in Denver, an institution named by U.S. News & World Report as the number-one respiratory hospital in America for the past 11 years. Yet, the career path that led him to this position was not a straight line.

Declare the Past
“When I was attending Washington University, my focus was on a potential medical career, getting into medical school, and enjoying a liberal arts education. I did not foresee what I eventually went into, though I knew early on that I wanted to become a surgeon,” Salem says.

After graduation, Salem returned to his hometown, Washington, D.C., to study for his medical degree at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. He completed his surgical residency training at Boston University Hospital and George Washington University Hospital. He also completed research and clinical fellowships in critical care medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

He spent five years as a faculty member at George Washington University medical school and as a surgeon and critical care physician at its associated hospital, where he became the director of trauma and surgical critical care, co-director of the Intensive Care Unit, and vice chairman of the Department of Surgery.

Diagnose the Present
In 1999, Salem helped launch GMP Companies Inc., a Florida-based company that develops and commercializes biotechnology and medical technology products made primarily by academic researchers. He helped develop EyePass®, a microsurgical implant device for glaucoma sufferers, and the LifeSync® Wireless Medicine System, an electrocardiographic monitoring system.

“I love patient care and I love teaching young residents, but the idea behind starting GMP was that we could potentially help many, many more people by commercializing great new medical discoveries compared with individual patient care,” Salem says.

Foretell the Future
In 2005, the year he began negotiating with National Jewish, Salem joined medical missions to Vietnam and Israel, where he delivered surgical care and worked with local medical staff. In that spirit of “giving back,” Salem accepted his current position.

“National Jewish is a unique health-care institution. Approximately six percent of our care is charity care. A third of our prescriptions are free. And, the board invests $1.5 million in operating a unique K-8 school for chronically ill children on campus,” he says.

Salem is also helping current and future Washington University Arts & Sciences students as a member of the National Council. “I define my time at the University as the best time I have ever had. I made lasting friendships, learned how to really study, absorb information, and achieve my goals. I want to help make that kind of difference with the students today,” he says.
Alumni

Arts & Sciences presents Alumni Awards, Dean’s Medal

Arts & Sciences recognized the achievements of five alumni on May 16 in the Jerzewki Family Auditorium in the Arts & Sciences Laboratory Sciences Building. Edward S. Macias (center), executive vice chancellor, former dean of Arts & Sciences, and the Barbara and David Thomas Distinguished Professor in Arts & Sciences, also presented the Dean’s Medal to Robert E. Thach.

This year’s recipients (left to right) are: Horace Mitchell (A.B. ’68, M.A.Ed. ’69, Ph.D. ’74) has been president of California State University, Bakersfield, since 2004. Ira J. Kodner (A.B. ’63, M.D. ’67), the Solon and Bettie Gershman Professor of Colon and Rectal Surgery, is founding director of WUSTL’s Center for the Study of Ethics and Human Values. Andrew M. Bursky (A.B. ’78, B.S. ’78, M.S. ’78) is a founding and managing partner of Atlas Holdings LLC, as well as a member of the University’s Board of Trustees and the New York Regional Cabinet. He and his wife, Jane Miller Bursky (A.B. ’78 in French), established the Spirit of Washington University Scholarship. Macias. Chezia Thompson Cager Strand (A.B. ’73, M.A. ’75) is a poet-scholar-artist-activist. A faculty member at the Maryland Institute College of Art, she formerly served as executive vice president and senior consultant to two major community development corporations. Dean’s Medal recipient Robert E. Thach, professor of biology in Arts & Sciences and of biochemistry and molecular biophysics at the medical school, stepped down after 15 years as dean of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences on June 30. His innovative and much-emulated programs have greatly enhanced the experiences of WUSTL’s graduate students. Sherman A. James (Ph.D. ’73) is the inaugural Susan B. King Professor of Public Policy Studies at Duke University. He holds faculty appointments in sociology, in community and family medicine, and in African & African American studies.

Arts & Sciences is now accepting nominations for the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Awards. To nominate someone, please visit http://artsci.wustl.edu/alumni/distinguished-alumni/nomination and fill out the nomination form.

35 years, 1,000 PhDs

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Founded in 1973 by educational visionaries William Danforth, Max Cowan, P. Roy Vagelos, and others, Washington University’s DBBS set a radical new direction for graduate education in biology and biomedical sciences that has been widely emulated. Characterized by collaboration between the schools of Arts & Sciences and Medicine, across departments and campuses, it was designed as “a place with few barriers to working together,” in the words of Chancellor Emeritus Danforth. Another key to the division’s success has been its adaptability — regularly combining or removing programs and initiating new ones to focus on changing questions in biology.

Recently, this has expanded to include the School of Engineering & Applied Science, as many of their faculty are now integral parts of new programs.

And now, making the most of the anniversaries, DBBS leaders have completed a self-evaluation and are undertaking a major reorganization that adds even more flexibility. For example, any faculty member at Washington University with a research focus compatible with programs in DBBS can apply for membership.

Plans call for expanding the concept of special emphasis pathways that “break out of the silos we’ve grown up in,” according to John Russell, associate dean for graduate education. Pathways — courses of study outside the 12 formal doctoral training programs — have an organic nature that expands the original concept of crossing departmental and school lines. They add value, refresh student perspectives, and provide mechanisms for ideas to grow quickly into action, pulling people and disciplines together seamlessly.

The DBBS also aims to grow from 80 incoming students per year to 100, to build a larger community of scholars — like Zhen Mahoney — to meet the challenges of the 21st century by integrating biology and biomedical research into the physical and engineering sciences.

“This is essential for us to compete with other PhD and MD/PhD programs elsewhere,” says Ralph S. Quatrano, dean of Arts & Sciences and the Spencer T. Olin Professor.

The ideals of community and collegiality that always have underpinned the DBBS were on display when Mahoney received her award: The presentation was made by Steven Wise, the recipient of the division’s first PhD, and by Quatrano, then the DBBS director. It was Quatrano who discerned Mahoney’s potential when she asked insightful questions after a lecture he gave in China five years ago and recruited her as a student.
Honors & Awards

Scholarships

**Harry S. Truman Scholarship**: Junior Kelley Greenman, environmental studies. Scholars, who receive $30,000 toward two or three years of graduate study, are selected based on leadership potential, intellectual ability, and the likelihood of making a difference.

**Udall Scholarship**: Kelley Greenman was also one of 80 students nationwide to be recognized with a Udall Scholarship, granted to undergraduates who demonstrate a commitment to fields related to the environment. She will receive up to $5,000 for one year of graduate study.

**Beinecke Scholarship**: Junior Greg Gandenberger, philosophy major with a minor in physics. One of 22 students nationwide to be named a Beinecke Scholar, he will receive $34,000 in support of graduate study. The Beinecke Scholarship Program encourages and enables motivated humanities and social sciences students to pursue graduate opportunities and be courageous in selecting a course of study. Gandenberger will combine his major and minor to pursue the philosophy of physics.

Other Honors

**Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society 2008 Inductees from Washington University**: Keona Ervin, graduate student in history; Henrika McCoy, graduate student in social work; and Tracy Nicholson, graduate student in molecular microbiology and microbial pathogenesis. The society recognizes outstanding scholarly achievement, and promotes diversity and excellence in doctoral education and the professoriate.

**Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition**: First-place team: Senior Igor Konfisakhar, mathematics major; and juniors Alon Brodie, with majors in mathematics, economics, and history; and Huajia Wang, physics and mathematics majors. Second-place team: Senior Justin Gilmar, mathematics major; junior Alex Cloninger, physics and mathematics majors; and junior Jeremy Diepenbrock, mathematics major.

**William Lowell Putnam Mathematics Competition Team places 12th**: 2007 Washington University team consisting of senior Eric Wofsey, majors in mathematics and Spanish, with minors in political science and linguistics; junior Jeremy Diepenbrock, mathematics major; and junior Huajia Wang, physics and mathematics majors.

**P.E.O. Scholar Award**: Allyson Gibson, a doctoral student in physics, has received a prestigious P.E.O. Scholar Award for the 2008–09 academic year. P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization), one of the pioneer societies for women, was founded in 1869 by seven students at Iowa Wesleyan College. The $15,000 merit-based award is given to women who are either pursuing a doctoral-level degree or are engaged in postgraduate study or research and show potential to make significant contributions to their field of study.

**USA Today’s 2008 All-USA College Academic Second Team**: Senior Lonia Friedlander, chemistry and earth & planetary sciences

**USA Today’s 2008 All-USA College Academic Third Team**: Senior Lauren Bernstein, history

**Gerry and Bob Virgil Ethic of Service Award**: Sophomore Priya Sury, anthropology and Spanish

Dance students take top honors at Central Region conference

A group of 18 student dancers from the Performing Arts Department in Arts & Sciences took top honors at the Central Region Conference of the American College Dance Festival Association (ACDFA). At the conference, held March 4-9 at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas, the students were recognized for their performance of Grid, an original work choreographed by Cecil Slaughter, senior lecturer in dance.

There is no national champion for the festival. However, Grid was one of only two works selected from the Central Region for presentation at ACDFA’s biennial National College Dance Festival, held June 4-6 at Barnard College in New York. “The ACDFA festivals are to college dance what the NCAA tournament is to college basketball, but this competition focuses on creativity in choreography and performance,” says Mary-Jean Cowell, associate professor of dance and coordinator of the Dance Program.

Black Anthology
A student-run performance art show that celebrates black culture, Black Anthology — with the theme “Syncopated: Can You Keep the Beat?” — took place February 1-2 in Edison Theatre.

Guitar Ensemble
Three members of a guitar ensemble — César Lazarraga, Michael Browning, and Matthew Covey — practice together at the new 560 Music Center.

Chinese New Year
Students celebrated Chinese New Year on February 12, 2008, with performances including a dance by Xiaoqi Shi and Tingting Tu (above) and a comedy skit featuring Yi Ding, Jiangang Zhu, and Zhe Zhang.

Undergraduate Research Symposium
Washington University students presented their research projects at a symposium in April, including this dance routine performed at the Saint Louis Art Museum.

Jazz at Holmes
Members of the Washington University Jazz Band (above and left) perform as part of the Jazz at Holmes series.
At the May 16, 2008, Commencement ceremony, 2,655 Washington University candidates received 2,790 degrees—1,163 were in Arts & Sciences. Above: Trustee Barbara Schaps Thomas, AB ’76, congratulates her son, Jeremy, who received his bachelor’s degree.

At the May 16 Commencement ceremony, Washington University conferred an honorary doctor of humane letters degree on Egon Schwarz (left), the Rosa May Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Humanities, professor emeritus of German, and a leading scholar of 19th- and 20th-century German literature.

Above: Nathan Tulloch Ruggles, BM ’99, MM ’03, teacher of applied music, sang “America the Beautiful.”
Harry and Susan Seigle Hall Dedicated
The opening of Harry and Susan Seigle Hall on the west end of the Danforth Campus provides bright, light-filled teaching, office, and meeting spaces for the law school and the departments of Economics, Education, and Political Science in Arts & Sciences. The new building, dedicated on October 25, 2008, “will foster a collaborative environment and encourage exciting new education, research, and scholarship,” says Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. Named for alumnus, philanthropist, and Trustee Harry Seigle, AB ’68, and his wife, Susan, the four-story, 145,736-square-feet building features four seminar rooms and 139 offices for faculty, staff, and graduate students.

“For the departments of economics, education, and political science, and for such intellectual clusters as the Weidenbaum Center and Applied Statistics, the impact of this building on Arts & Sciences is transformative,” says Ralph S. Quatrano, dean of Arts & Sciences and the Spencer T. Olin

Symposium Highlights Teaching
ITeach 2008, hosted by the Teaching Center, University Libraries, and the College of Arts & Sciences, took place on January 10, 2008, in Eads and Ridgley halls. The biennial symposium, which helps faculty learn about new teaching methods and technology, offered 16 classroom sessions about topics ranging from “Teaching with GIS” to “Web-Based Homework in Large Courses.” “This becomes a great occasion for faculty to talk to one another about the art of teaching,” says Dennis Martin, associate vice chancellor and associate dean of Arts & Sciences.

560 Music Center Opens with “Piano Extravaganza”
“Piano Extravaganza,” presented by the Department of Music on October 28, 2007, marked the formal opening of the University’s newly renovated 560 Music Center, located at 560 Trinity Ave. in University City. The evening featured acclaimed conductor Leonard Slatkin, music director of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C., and conductor laureate of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. More than a dozen student, faculty, and alumni pianists took part in the concert, including Seth Carlin, professor of music, and Hugh Macdonald, the Avis H. Blewett Professor of Music. Washington University acquired the 560 building from Webster University in 2005; renovations created ensemble rehearsal rooms, practice modules, and teaching studios for the Department of Music. Work was also done to refurbish a small recital hall and the 1,115-seat E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall.

Outstanding Staff Honored
Outstanding Staff Awards are presented annually to non-teaching personnel, based on outstanding creative contributions and exemplary performance that have contributed significantly to the effectiveness of the teaching, advising, counseling, and research efforts in Arts & Sciences. This year’s winners are:

Debra Barco, Center for Inquiry in Science Teaching & Learning (CISTL)
Henry Biggs, College of Arts & Sciences
Mindy Danner, Department of Philosophy
Andrew Johnstone, Department of Biology
Donna Kepley, Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies
Jane McConnell, Department of Psychology
Christine Monteith, Department of Physics
Krystel Mowery, International & Area Studies
Dean’s Award
Paul Norman, Physical Facilities
University College Adds New Programs
Since 1931, University College has been providing the finest in adult continuing education to the St. Louis region. Offerings include undergraduate and graduate programs and courses, certificate programs, short courses, and other workshops for personal enrichment and professional development.

The following new programs are now available. For a full range of programs, visit ucollege.wustl.edu.

- Applied Behavior Analysis, Certificate
- Biology for High School Teachers, Master of Science
- Clinical Research Management, Bachelor of Science
- Clinical Research Management, Certificate
- Entrepreneurship, Leadership, and Creativity, Certificate
- Global Leadership and Management, Bachelor of Science
- Health Science and Administration, Bachelor of Science
- Nonprofit Management, Master of Arts
- Public Policy and Administration, 15-credit concentration
- Somatic Studies, Certificate
- Strategic Communication, Certificate

On Saturdays in February 2009, the Master of Liberal Arts program is offering a lecture series on "Democracy and the University."

The 14th annual Washington University Summer Writers Institute and third annual Young Writers Institute will be held in St. Louis June 15-26, 2009. Workshops will include fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction.

In Memoriam
Merle Kling died April 8 at the age of 89. A scholar of Latin America and comparative politics who was active professionally, Kling, AB ’40, MA ’41, PhD ’49, wrote The Soviet Theory of Internationalism and A Mexican Interest Group in Action.

He joined Washington University in 1946 as a lecturer in political science, later rising to full professor. Kling also served as dean of the faculty of Arts & Sciences twice, provost, and executive vice chancellor. He retired in 1983.

“Merle Kling was one of the greats of Washington University. In every role, his insights, his clarity of mind, and his wisdom guided his colleagues and students,” recalls William H. Danforth, chancellor emeritus and Life Trustee. “More than any other person, he taught me what a university is and how we could all join in making it better.”

Among Kling’s Washington University honors were an Alumni Board of Governors’ citation for outstanding teaching, an honorary degree, and naming of the Merle Kling Professorship in Modern Letters.

Jane Loevinger Weissman, professor emerita of psychology, died January 4 at the age of 89. She received numerous honors for her contributions to the study of personality, development, and assessment.

“Loevinger was best known for developing the Washington University Sentence Completion Test, which is a widely used measure of ego development,” says Randy Larsen, chair of psychology in Arts & Sciences.

Loevinger earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology at age 19 and a master’s degree in psychometrics one year later from the University of Minnesota, then a doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley.

Married to chemist Samuel Weissman, Loevinger went with him to the Manhattan Project research facility at Los Alamos. She subsequently taught at Stanford University and Berkeley before moving to St. Louis when her husband joined Washington University as a chemistry professor.

Loevinger also joined the University. Beginning as a statistics instructor in the mid-1940s, she eventually became the William R. Stuckenberg Professor of Human Values and Moral Development before transitioning to professor emerita in 1988.

Jarvis A. Thurston, professor emeritus of English, died February 4 at the age of 93. David Lawton, professor and former chair of English, called Thurston “one of the most important figures in the history of the English department. His contribution, especially in bringing together critical and creative writing, was transformative.”

Thurston received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Utah, and master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Iowa.

He married poet Mona Van Duyf, later the nation’s first female poet laureate. Thurston began his academic career at the University of Louisville. In 1947 he and Van Duyf founded Perspective: A Quarterly of Literature; they continued to publish the magazine, discovering some of the nation’s best literary talent, until 1975. Thurston joined Washington University’s faculty as an assistant professor in 1950, rising to full professor and then chair before being named professor emeritus in 1982. The co-author of Short Fiction Criticism, 1800-1958, he edited two books on short stories, and published literary articles and short stories.
Students have rare opportunity: helping NASA explore Mars

by Sam Guzik
Arts & Sciences Class of 2010

As most students prepared to mark the start of summer with new jobs and internships, four students from Arts & Sciences got ready to work alongside NASA researchers to explore the Red Planet.

Together with earth & planetary sciences professor Raymond Arvidson and computer systems manager Thomas Stein, spring 2008 graduate Tabatha Heet, doctoral candidates Selby Cull and Amy Shaw, sophomore Kirsten Siebach, and junior Rebecca Greenberger worked to chronicle all that was done on the mission and named geological sites in the area.

“Landing Day was extremely exciting, especially when we got confirmation that Phoenix was on the ground and saw those first images of the open solar arrays,” Heet says. “As documentarians, we were in charge of recording all of the important aspects of planning and executing each sol [Martian day]. Scientists are good at coming up with great ideas, but somebody has to write them down or they get forgotten in the excitement of the day.”

Washington University students have been involved with the lander project for more than two years; long before the craft began to beam back data in May, they scoured images of the Martian surface looking for an ideal landing spot.

Students became involved with the lander project through NASA’s Earth and Planetary Remote Sensing Laboratory (EPRSL), part of the Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences. EPRSL helps develop science objectives and plans for missions across NASA’s planetary exploration program. It also archives and distributes data relevant to characterizing and understanding planetary surfaces and interiors.

Arvidson, the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor, has a long history of working with NASA, dating back to the two Viking Lander missions in 1976.

On this mission, Arvidson was responsible for choosing the landing site and served as co-investigator for the Phoenix robotic arm, the lead for archiving mission data, and one of the science leads during the crucial first week.

“I was the ‘dig czar,’ helping organize the science team’s desires for digging and sampling with the robotic arm,” Arvidson says. In June, the NASA team announced that they had found ice on the surface of the Red Planet.

Using the data acquired through Arvidson’s digging and the lander’s other activities, scientists hope to be able to make inferences about Mars’ geological history and to better understand Mars’ climate. Their work will continue even though the Phoenix Mars Lander ceased communication in November.