BACK AT THE LAB

Biomedical engineer Lori Setton is looking at novel ways biomaterials could provide relief for those suffering from neck and back pain.
Biomedical engineer Lori Setton’s collaborative research is pioneering new ways of providing relief to those who suffer neck and back pain.

Archer Alexander, a fugitive slave, found refuge in the home of William Greenleaf Eliot Jr., the university’s first president. Their story is one of a remarkable friendship, pg. 18.

Alumni architects discuss how they transform the world through their dreams, plans and designs, ultimately remaking old spaces and creating new ones.

Washington magazine asked five architecture alumni to discuss their favorite projects. The first, John Mike Cohen, shares details about building his own home in Santa Barbara, California, pg. 24.

Washington magazine is the magazine for Washington University in St. Louis. The digital edition is available at magazine.wustl.edu.
FRONT RUNNERS

NEWS

Acknowledging Achievement

In this issue, we are sharing the impact of faculty researchers, historical figures, alumni, students and coaches. In the cover feature, renowned biomedical engineering professor Lori Setton shares the latest on her collaborative research on relieving neck and back pain. Recruited from Duke University — along with her husband, Farshid Guilak, professor of orthopaedic surgery and co-director of the Center of Regenerative Medicine at the School of Medicine — Setton is already working across disciplines in engineering and medicine, investigating new materials that have the potential to advance human health by relieving chronic pain for millions (see pg. 12).

The story “Of Friendship and Freedom” recounts the relationship between Archer Alexander, a fugitive slave, and the university’s first president, William Greenleaf Eliot Jr., a staunch abolitionist. In learning about their friendship, one also learns about the power of courage and compassion (see pg. 18).

In our third feature, five distinguished architecture alumni share striking images of their favorite projects and describe how their dreams and designs create new possibilities and new spaces that enhance the quality of life. Their impact can be found in residential design, federal park planning, construction management, landscape architecture and more (see pg. 24).

Turning to athletics, our women’s soccer team had a magical season. The Bears finished with a 20-3-1 record and a second-place finish at the… National Championships.”

— Mark S. Wrighton

On Feb. 12, 2016, we dedicated the court in the Athletic Complex as the Edwards-Fahey Court, named for the longtime coaches of the men’s and women’s basketball teams, Mark Edwards and Nancy Fahey. Both coaches have inspired from the sidelines, mentoring student-athletes for 35 and 30 years, respectively. Their coaching legacies are nearly unparalleled in the history of NCAA Division III athletics. I am so pleased with the naming of our home court in their honor, paying tribute to the coaches’ impact on student-athletes now and for generations to come (see pg. 33).

On the campaign front, the university announced the Board of Trustees’ decision to increase the goal of Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University to $2.5 billion (see pg. 48). With unprecedented support from our alumni, parents and friends, the university has already raised $2.12 billion of the campaign’s original goal of $2.2 billion nearly two years ahead of schedule. The increase, announced Jan. 22, 2016, will help the university along the path toward the $4 billion needed to fully realize our strategic plans for the future — preparing leaders of tomorrow, advancing human health, inspiring innovation and entrepreneurship, and enhancing the quality of life for all.

As we achieve these goals, we will continue to share stories of discovery and accomplishment through the pages of the magazine and through our new digital storytelling site, The Source, which brings together the digital edition of Washington University Newsroom and the Record. I encourage you to explore source.wustl.edu.

As always, I hope you enjoy this issue of the magazine. We welcome your comments and ideas; please email the editor at wustlmageditor@wustl.edu.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Wrighton
Chancellor

With Flying Colors

20-3-1
Women’s soccer team tied the single-season school record

1 Finished as the 2015 NCAA Division III National Runner-up

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Brain networks reveal behavioral traits

What can you learn by looking at a brain scan? For starters, a person’s likelihood of being successful, says a new study released by the Human Connectome Project (HCP), a multi-institutional brain imaging initiative funded by the National Institutes of Health. Using noninvasive technology, the study collects brain scans from volunteers.

The consortium is led by scientists at Washington University, University of Minnesota and Oxford University in the United Kingdom. “The quality of the imaging data is really unprecedented,” says Steven Smith, PhD, a biomedical engineer at Oxford University and lead author of the study discussed below.

The study, published in the journal Nature Neuroscience, looked at brain scans of almost 500 volunteers, focusing on regions of the brain involved in high-level cognition work, like memory and imagination. The study also mapped a network of regions of the brain involved in high-level cognition work, which includes regions that remain active when the brain is relatively idle called “default mode network,” which Marcus E. Raichle, MD, the Alan A. and Edith L. Wolff Distinguished Professor of Medicine, helped discover.

Raichle calls the findings “impressive” and says scanning the brain’s anatomy allows us to “distinguish people with successful traits and successful lives from those who are not successful.”

Deanna Barch, PhD, who is professor and chair of the psychological and brain sciences department in Arts & Sciences and professor of psychiatry and of radiology at the medical school, co-authored the study. Barch says these findings reflect a multi-faceted interaction of biology and environment. She hopes that as the HCP progresses, they’ll be able to design interventions to move the brain and behavior to the positive end of the spectrum.

University launches new medical humanities minor

What can art, history, music or philosophy teach us about illness and medicine? A lot, according to Rebecca Messbarger, PhD, professor of Italian, and Corinna Treitel, PhD, associate professor of history, the founders of a new medical humanities minor.

The new minor is aimed at anyone who wants to understand health, medicine and healing as aspects of the human experience. Students will study topics such as the ethical dimensions of medicine, illness narratives, and the role of medicine in war, empire- and nation-building.

Treitel, who majored in chemistry as an undergraduate, wants to bring two fields that have drifted apart back into conversation. “As an undergraduate, I was frustrated because my science professors didn’t have anything intelligible to say about the humanities, and my humanities professors had nothing to say about the sciences,” she says. “The sciences and the humanities both offer important methodologies for understanding and improving the world. This new minor allows students to choose both.”

Gun violence study shows children in danger

Nearly 400 children suffered gun-related injuries in a five-year span in St. Louis, a new study shows. Begun in 2008, the study tracked cases at two area hospitals. It did not include children who never sought medical attention, who went to other hospitals or who died before reaching the trauma center.

Still, the data starts to form a picture of who is affected by gun violence in the St. Louis area, and it could offer physicians and policy makers insights into how to keep children safe.

“Children getting injured by firearms is a major health crisis in this city,” says Martin S. Keller, MD, the study’s senior author, associate professor of surgery in the School of Medicine and director of trauma at St. Louis Children’s Hospital. “If we took a public health approach to the problem and treated gun violence as we do any other danger facing children, we could decrease gun injuries and deaths. St. Louis is the focus of this study; however, it’s representative of many other regions in the U.S.”

Nearly 75 percent of accidental shootings occurred in the home.

Almost 78 percent of the children were African American.

35 percent of the injuries resulted from accidental shootings. The median age of accidental shooting victims was 12.5.

395 children were treated, 20 of whom died from their injuries.

About 82 percent of all firearm injuries, including deaths, occurred among boys. The majority were African American, with a median age of 15.

The majority of firearms used were handguns.
A new way to see atoms

Alexander Barnes, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry in Arts & Sciences, is revolutionizing structural biology and pharmaceuticals with his research in biological molecules.

Barnes, along with researchers in his lab, recently measured the roughly 0.00000002-inch distance between two atoms. It took 42 days and $18,000 scans. The goal? To discover how biological molecules interact with each other.

Although it may seem esoteric, Barnes’ work could help find a cure for diseases like AIDS. How? Well, when it enters the body, HIV hides a DNA copy of its RNA core in cell chromosomes. Antiretroviral drugs prevent the virus from replicating itself, but once the drugs are stopped, the virus can re-emerge from its hiding place in healthy cells. So doctors can never say that AIDS is cured—even when they don’t see it in a person’s bloodstream.

Barnes, in conjunction with researchers at Stanford University, is hoping to change that by creating a drug that will dock on cells and make them release the RNA copy of the virus, so antiretroviral drugs can then destroy it.

“To do this, we need to know exactly how this drug is structured and how it moves at room temperature,” Barnes says. He is working to learn that by improving dynamic nuclear polarization, a method of scanning biological molecules to help determine their structure. Barnes is also working to reduce the time it takes to measure an atom from 42 days to 42 minutes.

“If we can determine the structures and motion of biomolecules 100 times faster than we do now, there’s going to be huge time it takes to measure an atom from 42 days to 42 minutes.

Moving during high school increases dropout rate

Although moving to that McManus in the suburbs might be many families’ dream, it can prove a nightmare for high school-age children. This according to a study from lead author Molly Metzger, PhD, assistant professor at the Brown School. She and other researchers studied data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, a survey started in the mid-1990s that tracked then 7th- to 12th-graders into early adulthood.

One of the questions asked was if the student had moved in the previous 12 months.

Metzger found that kids who had moved at least once in the previous 12 months were 50 percent less likely to attain a degree by age 25. It didn’t matter if the move was to a better or worse neighborhood.

“Our findings support prior research that demonstrates the strain mobility places on academic attainment after accounting for other academic risk factors,” says Metzger, who is also faculty co-director of the Inclusive Housing Initiative at the Brown School’s Center for Social Development.

“Weeks results suggest that housing policies and programs promoting mobility must consider potentially meaningful unintended consequences for youth and families,” she says.

New novel soars

In her new novel, Margaret the First, Danielle Dutton, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of English, writes about 17th-century English author Margaret Cavendish, who was called “Mad Madge” for her eccentric personality. In addition to refusing to write under a pen name like other women of the time, Cavendish designed her own clothes, including topless gowns, and she was the first woman invited to join the Royal Society of London (and the last for 200 years).

“Each subsequent detail I learned about her … made her seem more magical and enigmatic, and so I wanted to try to know her,” Dutton says.

Although Cavendish was a historical person, Dutton’s book is less historical fiction, more experimental novel, and it has been praised widely in the press, including Publishers Weekly, Vanity Fair and The Boston Globe. The Millions named it one of the most anticipated books of 2016, saying “the taut prose [is] irresistible.”
What it’s like to win the Nobel

About W. E. Moerner

> Moerner is the 25th person associated with the university to win the Nobel Prize.

> Though an electrical engineering major and Langsdorf Engineering Fellow, Moerner enjoyed his physics and math courses so much that he earned degrees in all three, all with honors.

> While still an undergraduate, Moerner co-authored scientific papers with his mentor, James G. Miller, PhD, the Albert Gordon Hill Professor of Physics, and attended professional conferences.

In 1989, alumnus W. E. Moerner, AB ’75, BS ’75, became the first scientist in the world to measure the light absorption of a single molecule, a task long thought to be impossible. Twenty-five years later in October 2014, Moerner won the Nobel Prize for chemistry for his breakthrough.

Moerner, PhD, the Harry S. Mosher Professor of Chemistry and professor by courtesy of applied physics at Stanford University, along with 2014’s two other chemistry Nobel laureates, advanced the field of super-resolved fluorescence microscopy. Now, microscopes can see cells on a nanolevel, thanks to techniques that Moerner and others pioneered.

Moerner returned to WashU in fall 2015 to give the Weissman Lecture, giving us a chance to find out what it’s like to win the world’s top prize.

What was it like to get the call? When I got the call, I was in Brazil. I was there for a conference, but my phone was not working, and so the Nobel committee couldn’t call me directly. So I did not get the call. My wife got the call from the Associated Press in California. She sent me a quick message on WhatsApp, which works on Wi-Fi. This was about 1 o’clock in the morning. I quickly canceled going to the conference and tried to grab a jacket and tie, because I knew there was going to be a flood of interviews. It was incredibly exciting, an incredible moment to realize, “Wow, can this really be true?” There was a lot of evidence it was, so I had to believe it.

What is the ceremony like? Winning the prize involves going to Stockholm, Sweden, and spending a number of days there, very exciting days filled with amazing events. There was a concert. There was a huge banquet in the city hall of Stockholm for 1,200 people. There was another banquet the day afterward in the palace with the king and the queen, and there, of course, was the ceremony, which was the most important part of the week. It always occurs on December 10. And it does get rehearsed properly, because you have to do these very difficult things like walking toward the king, taking the prize, bowing properly, and turning and not doing anything too high fives. [Laughs]

How has the honor changed your life? I have a responsibility because of the prize to communicate science to the public to help explain some of the complexities of this particular prize [as well as] science on a broader level. There’s also an opportunity to learn about some other important areas that I might not have been an expert in before. One of the issues that I’m concerned about is climate change. So I’ve been to a couple of meetings where Nobel laureates work with atmospheric scientists to try to understand some of the key issues. And there [have been] some public declarations by the Nobel laureates. So that’s an important aspect of winning the Nobel Prize. I have to weave my research in with other responsibilities to the larger community.

See the “Three Questions” video at source.wustl.edu/2016/02/moerner.

’We’re seeing these improvements within an hour and a half to two hours after ingestion. It’s dramatic.’

— LINDA PETERSON, MD, associate professor of medicine and radiology, to NPR on results of a study she helped conduct in which participants were given beet juice and saw a 13 percent increase in muscle power

’It’s nice to know that you’re part of this continuum of black students on a predominantly white campus who are trying to figure out ways to support each other and to excel in the things they want to do.’


’The Supreme Court, over 100 years ago, did uphold racial discrimination in immigration.’

— STEPHEN LEGOMSKY, JD, DPhil, the John S. Lehmann University Professor in the School of Law, to The Huffington Post about the legality of blocking the immigration of certain people. The Supreme Court once upheld the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, which prohibited Chinese laborers from entering the United States.

’For people who care about religious freedom, ignoring the real challenge of U.S. Muslims is making a huge tactical blunder. … You have to stand up for others, or everything you say is going to look like special pleading.’

— JOANNA MACAU, JD, PhD, associate professor of law in the School of law and of political science in Arts & Sciences, to the Washington Post on advocates for religious freedom staying quiet when it comes to the rights of U.S. Muslims.

’Springs’ is a feature that’s closely tied to the current issue’s cover. It provides our readers with the most recent updates of what’s happening at WashU.’

In WashU News, IDA K. FOX, MD, assistant professor of plastic and reconstructive surgery, to Scientific Blogging about her pioneering nerve-transfer surgical techniques

For more information, visit scientificblogging.wustl.edu.

Aging better

1 Make a plan.

“People need to plan as they age to be in an environment that gives them the freedom they want: maybe you need to be on one level so you don’t have to deal with steps, or need safety features like a covered garage. One of the things that people ought to be really thinking about is a driving retirement program. As people age, there are issues that make driving safety sometimes a problem. And if you think about it, you can choose a place to live where you have transportation options. You don’t need to feel that if you don’t drive, you’ll be isolated. As you go into older adulthood, you have to think about what’s the most important thing to you and how you can continue to do it.”

—Carolyn M. Baum, PhD, OTR, FAOTA, is the Elias Michael Executive Director and professor of the Program in Occupational Therapy at the School of Medicine. Baum studies how engagement in daily activities supports health.

2 Improve your memory.

“There are certain mnemonic techniques that people can use to produce some benefits in memory. One of the most common and frustrating problems that older adults experience is name retrieval difficulties, such as remembering the name of a person you were just introduced to. One of the techniques that researchers have shown benefits people is retrieval practice. So if I’m introduced for the first time, I say, ‘Nice to meet you, John Doe.’ And then I carry on the conversation, and a little bit later, I retrieve that name again. And then I wait a little bit longer to retrieve that name again. So practicing and spacing turns out to be really important in laying down memory traces, not just for healthy individuals but also for individuals with early-stage Alzheimer’s disease.”

—David Babcock, PhD, professor of psychological and brain sciences in Arts & Sciences and of neuroscience in the School of Medicine, conducts research on attention, memory and visual word recognition in young adults, older adults and individuals with dementia.

3 Understand your risks.

“The primary risk factor for Alzheimer’s disease is increasing age. The older we get, the greater the risk. Some studies suggest that by age 85, close to 50 percent of people may be at risk for developing symptomatic Alzheimer’s disease. Family history (genetics) is the second-greatest risk factor. However, in general, the increased risk for offspring diminishes greatly if symptoms for the parent developed after age 80.”

—John C. Morris, MD, is the Harvey A. and Dorisimo Hocker Friedman Distinguished Professor of Neurology and the director of the Charles F. and Joanne Knight Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center at the School of Medicine.

4 Talk about the future.

“Have [end-of-life-care] conversations with people you care about before there is an urgent need. These conversations are hard to have — and they’re even more challenging when in the midst of a crisis or some emergency that is emotional and demands quick decisions. So start talking about end-of-life preferences early. And to get the conversation started, it’s less intimidating to start with broad questions — such as ‘What would matter to you the most if you were near the end of your life?’ — rather than asking people for specifics right off the bat.”

—Brian Carpenter, PhD, professor of psychological and brain sciences in Arts & Sciences, conducts research on family decision-making and communication.

5 Expect some positive changes.

“There’s good news about personality as people get older. The expected pattern of change is positive. As people approach the latter part of middle age to later life, conscientiousness goes up and the experience of positive emotion goes up. The propensity to experience strong negative emotions goes down. I should qualify this by saying these are small changes, but they are characteristic of the average person.”

—Thomas Oltmanns, PhD, the Edgar James Swift Professor in Arts & Sciences and professor of psychiatry and director of clinical training at the medical school, is conducting a longitudinal study on the impact of personality pathology in later life.

6 Find meaning.

“Psychologists have determined that as we approach later life, our orientation to time changes, and we begin to understand the finiteness of life. Although there seems to be a natural tendency toward reorienting in the face of the limits of life, we might more purposefully decide how to use our energies to make the most of these years. There are many challenges, but there are also many opportunities in later life. We must decide what is most important to us, what our purpose is as an older adult. It may be relationships with family and friends; it may be a work or volunteer position; it may be a hobby — whatever brings us meaningful engagement. With this focus on what’s important to us, we can assess the barriers and resources that we have and determine the best way to achieve these goals. Now or never…”

—Nancy Morrow-Howell, PhD, is the Betty Balfinger Brown Distinguished Professor of Social Policy at the Brown School and director of the Harvey A. Friedman Center for Aging. She studies how older adults can remain engaged and productive in later life.
Biomedical engineer Lori Setton’s collaborative research is pioneering new ways of providing relief to those who suffer neck and back pain.

Whatever the case, it is likely that you have experienced the agony of low-back pain. One study estimates that 80 percent of the U.S. population will experience a back problem at some point in their lives. And according to the 2010 Global Burden of Disease study, low-back pain is the top contributor to disability both in the United States and globally.

Lori Setton, PhD, the Lucy and Stanley Lopata Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Engineering, has made it part of her life’s mission to help solve this problem. Much of her research focuses on developing materials for soft-tissue regeneration, which could unlock a cure for many back problems. After a successful two-decade tenure at Duke University, Setton arrived at Washington University in summer 2015 to zero in on this issue. With the help of a new set of campus collaborators, her already remarkable work has risen to a new level.
THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE SUFFERING

One of the most detrimental changes that contributes to serious low-back problems — as well as many serious neck problems — is time itself. As people age, many experience degeneration of the intervertebral disc, a complex soft tissue between the vertebral bones of the spine. This degeneration can be exacerbated by demanding physical work.

Compounding the problem is that, unlike many other cells in the body, cells in the intervertebral disc stop regenerating as we get older. (It’s why your back problem might never seem to go away, but your kid’s back heals quickly.) It’s a vexing problem for scientists and patients with low-back pain.

“Basically, we have these really large structures that support our entire body — our skeletons — but they have no means to regenerate or repair themselves,” Setton explains.

What’s more, as we get older, the environment for these cells in the intervertebral disc gets increasingly inhospitable, as oxygen levels dwindle and pH levels rise in the tissue. Together, these changes make it more difficult for even the remaining cells to thrive.

For years, scientists and medical device companies tried to solve this problem by simply replacing damaged structures with artificial materials, such as polymers including polyurethane. “We thought we could just develop strong materials, inject them and solve the problem,” Setton explains.

There was one troubling detail: It didn’t work. Again and again, researchers and medical device companies failed to find a solution that improved patients’ conditions. So they returned to the drawing board.

Scientists, including Setton, are now taking a new approach. “We’re asking different questions,” she says. “Why are these cells dying? And how can we get a cell in this [unfavorable] environment to survive and do its job?”

These types of questions are opening an entirely new field of research that leans on biology and biomechanics from Columbia University. It’s a background that gives her special insight into how our bodies work — and how they can be fixed when they break down.

Now she uses her expertise to understand why cells in our intervertebral disc regenerate when we’re young, and what they lose over time that prevents them from regenerating as we age.

During the past few years, for example, she and others have learned that certain proteins within the disc shift over time. One protein, called laminin, appears to be particularly important in early development: It exists in juvenile structures, but it’s absent in adults.

“We started to ask questions about the effect of reintroducing laminin,” Setton says. “So we built two- and three-dimensional polymers that are capable of presenting laminin back to these cells when we grow them in culture,” she says.

The process of building these structures — known as cellular engineering — is complex. First, she and her team take nonfunctioning cells from human subjects. Then they grow them in tissue culture wells (similar to petri dishes) that have been modified with specific proteins and polymers known as biomaterials. Once she and her team have grown the cells and introduced the laminin, they study them to see if the cells are reverting to juvenile behavior.

The results so far have been encouraging. “It’s been pretty exciting to see these cells [regain] a lot of the behaviors of the juvenile cells,” Setton says. “They become biosynthetically active, and they do a good job repairing themselves in this environment.”

Although it’s a long way from petri dish to clinical solution, it appears to be one very big step in the right direction.

“Steps like these are possible because of the combination of skills that Setton brings to the table,” says Aaron Bobek, dean of Washington University’s School of Engineering & Applied Science. After all, the real-world problems we face have never respected the artificial boundaries that humans place between engineering and medicine, biology and chemistry.

“One of the things that makes her so special is her ability to collaborate with others,” says Bobek, also the James M. McKelvey Professor. “It’s at this interdisciplinary boundary that the advancements happen, and a lot of what goes on in biomedical engineering requires these multidisciplinary efforts. Lori brings that all together in her laboratory.”

COLLABORATION FUELS SUCCESS

Though Setton brings a wealth of scientific tools to her work, perhaps her most remarkable skill is her ability to collaborate with other researchers on projects that leverage everyone’s expertise in unique ways.

For example, before Setton had officially started at her position at WashU, she tracked down Don Elbert, PhD, associate professor of biomedical engineering, whose work on biomaterials she had long admired from afar. The two quickly saw how his work on polyethylene glycol could link up with her own work in biomaterials. In a matter of weeks, they pulled together an application for an NIH grant.

In December 2015, the grant that the pair developed scored in the top 1 percent of all applications for the cycle, and they were recently awarded $1.2 million in NIH funding to further develop their ideas and innovations.

The two will also collaborate with Munish Gupta, MD, the Mildred B. Simon Distinguished Professor of Orthopedic Surgery and chief of Pediatric and Adult Spinal Surgery in the School of Medicine. Gupta, who arrived at WashU in summer 2015 as well, brings deep expertise in complex spinal deformities, and he is eager to work on these types of collaborative projects.

Elbert says that Setton makes for an ideal partner in such projects. “[She] is great at recognizing where other people have expertise that’s complementary to hers,” he says. “But even better, she’s a very generous collaborator. She shares both the credit and the accolades, and that matters.”

Setton’s generosity, paired with her holistic approach to mentorship, was what helped her...
Indeed, Setton has long been praised for her mentorship. And, in 2004, Duke Graduate School honored her with the Dean’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring. But Setton says her best advice will be valuable to students long after they leave her lab. “I want to help them build a lifetime approach to asking, ‘Where am I now and where am I going to go next? What do I need to get there?’” Setton says. “I want to prepare them to succeed in any number of settings.”

Leimer also has been grateful to have a female mentor. “I’ve had many male mentors, but I knew Professor Setton could bring a different perspective, including what it means to be a successful woman in science,” Leimer says. Setton recognizes that she can play a particularly valuable role for women, which is a responsibility she takes seriously. “Even though fully half of our students in biomedical engineering are women — the pipeline is deep — we still don’t see women rising to the level of leadership,” she says. “Recently, I’ve been focused on building mentoring networks with more senior women. When you have a big cohort of successful senior female leaders, then you’re in a much better place to prepare the next generation of female students to succeed.”

Setton will have another significant opportunity to guide the field now that she’s the new president of the Biomedical Engineering Society, the premier professional society for the discipline. In addition to accrediting degrees and overseeing the process of education, the organization connects industry and academics and runs career development programming. “The organization defines new directions — where the field is going,” Setton says. “Because this is a really young and dynamic field, it’s an exciting time to be president.”

THE ROAD AHEAD

As Setton looks to the future, she sees many opportunities to strengthen her research, find additional collaborators at WashU, and build better opportunities for the students in her lab and for women scientists more generally.

She’s particularly eager to build collaborative working relationships with many colleagues she’s known through professional meetings and networks for years, and who now work just down the hall. Her plate is full, but she’s determined to make the most of it. “There are things that I can do now that I could never have dreamed about doing before,” she says. The opportunities are enormous. And Lori Setton is just getting started.

NAME: Lori Setton
TITLE: The Lucy and Stanley Lopata Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Engineering

RESEARCH SPECIALTIES: The role of mechanical factors in the degeneration and repair of soft tissues of the musculoskeletal system, including the intervertebral disc, articular cartilage and meniscus. Her lab work includes engineering and evaluating novel materials for tissue regeneration and drug delivery to treat musculoskeletal disease.

RECOGNITION: Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (1997); Dean’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring, Duke Graduate School (2004); American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering Fellow (2005); American Society of Mechanical Engineers Van C. Mow Medal (2007); Biomedical Engineering Society Fellow (2009); President, Biomedical Engineering Society (2016–18)

FUNDING: NIH, National Science Foundation, Whitaker Foundation, Coulter Foundation, The Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation, to name a few
The histories of Archer Alexander, a fugitive slave, and William Greenleaf Eliot Jr., the university’s first president, intersect in a dramatic and inspiring story of courage and compassion.

By Liam Otten

Archer Alexander possessed dangerous knowledge. Confederate sympathizers aimed to sabotage a bridge over which Union soldiers were soon to pass. The situation was hazardous, especially for Alexander. He was a slave. His owner was among the saboteurs.

So one night in February 1863, Alexander snuck out of his quarters. He conveyed warning. Disaster was averted. But secessionist suspicion fell quickly on him.

And so Alexander left again, fleeing St. Charles, Missouri, one step ahead of the slave catchers. In downtown St. Louis, a sympathetic butcher directed him to Abigail Adams Eliot. She took Alexander home and introduced him to her husband, William Greenleaf Eliot Jr. — a Unitarian minister, staunch abolitionist and first president of Washington University.

“Dr. Eliot called Archer ‘the most Christian man he ever encountered’,” says Errol Alexander, Archer’s great-great-grandson. “On Sundays they would walk together to church.” And when the slave catchers finally caught up, “Eliot rescued him.”
The spirit of freedom

Many details of Alexander's early years have been lost to history. For more than a century, the primary source about his life has been The Story of Archer Alexander: From Slavery to Freedom, a biography Eliot wrote in 1885.

Eliot reports that Alexander was born into slavery around 1813 on a large Virginia farm owned by a Rev. Delaney. When Delaney died, Alexander was brought to Missouri by the reversion's son, Thomas Delaney, and later sold to a St. Charles farmer named Hollman.


According to Errol — who has spent three decades combing historical archives — Archer was born in December 1816, the unacknowledged son of a white family, the Alexanders, who owned his mother. It was the Alexanders who brought him to Missouri in 1829, but in 1837, they sold him to a cousin named Ferrill. He was then sold again to Louis Yosti and finally, in 1844, to Richard Pittman.

In either case, Archer spent most of his adult life in St. Charles working on a farm, where he largely oversaw daily operations. Although unions between those enslaved were not recognized by law, Alexander in mind and spirit married a woman named Louisa, with whom he raised 10 children.

Here, too, Errol adds fresh detail. Drawing on family accounts and slave oral histories, he says that the couple’s youngest child — Alfred, born in 1862 — was likely fathered by Louisa’s owner, a man named James Naylor.

Like Pittman, Naylor was a Confederate sympathizer. Thus, reporting the conspirators — who also had secreted a cache of weapons — was not only a valorous act, it was also retribution for the treatment of Archer’s wife, says Errol.

The capture

For Eliot, Alexander's arrival at Beaumont Place, as the family home was called, represented a moment of truth. Though he’d long preached against the return of fugitive slaves, Eliot believed in obedience to the law. “What, then, was I to do?”

This: Within hours, he obtained a 30-day order of protection from Lt. Col. Franklin Dick, the Union provost marshal of St. Louis. The order allowed Alexander to remain in Eliot's employ until legally claimed.

A few days later, Eliot went to Judge Barton Bates, an acquaintance of Alexander's master. Eliot explained that he wished to purchase Alexander's freedom and could pay up to $600. Bates relayed the message, but Eliot received no answer.

Until, that is, one fine spring morning not quite a month later. Leaving for class, Eliot noted a peaceful scene: Alexander working in the yard, children trailling happily behind, all under the seeming protection of nearby Union barracks. But on the street loitered three rough-looking characters. They gave Eliot pause but seemed to be leaving, and Eliot, with his mind on his lessons, continued to campus.

That evening, Eliot realized the enormity of his mistake.

The house was in disarray. The children were crying, and the nurse was distracted — only Abigail remained calm in the crisis. The men had been slave catchers, armed with clubs, with knives, with pistols. They bludgeoned Alexander. They kicked him in the face. They handcuffed him. They hauled him away. The family thought Alexander had been killed before their eyes.

Reading Eliot's account, one feels his guilt and fury, and also his resolve. “They had caught him, sure enough, and had probably got him far beyond my reach already. But, if so, it should not be for want of effort, on my part, to rescue him.” —WILLIAM GREENLEAF ELIOT JR.

‘Shoot them dead’

The Old City Jail, located at Sixth and Chestnut, was a strange architectural affair. First-floor gentility — even proportions, a classical cor-nice — was undone by a ramshackle second, which appeared deposited by tornado.

It was here that Alexander was taken, here where he lay unconscious. But Eliot had one more card to play. Alexander's 30-day order of protection was 29 days old. Under military law, the fugitive slave had been grabbed too soon.

“Eliot came from New England; his friends were all radical abolitionists,” says Laurie F. Malfly-Kipp, PhD, the university’s inaugural Archer Alexander Distinguished Professor in the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics. But as a transplant to a more conservative, slave-holding state, “Eliot learned to work the system.”

Eliot took his case to the provost marshal's office. Capt. James F. Dwight examined the document, interrogated Eliot and summoned local police. Dwight then charged John Egan, who would later become St. Louis' first detective supervisor, with ensuring Alexander's return. Eliot reports the exchange between Egan and Dwight:

“What shall we do, captain, if they refuse to give him up?”

“Shoot them on the spot.”

“We are to understand that, Captain Dwight, shoot them on the spot?”

“Yes, shoot them dead if necessary.”

By 10 p.m. the slave catchers were in custody, and Alexander, beaten and bruised, was back at Beaumont Place.

“They had caught him, sure enough, and had probably got him far beyond my reach already. But, if so, it should not be for want of effort, on my part, to rescue him.” —WILLIAM GREENLEAF ELIOT JR.
Safety

The next day, Eliot obtained a full order of protection. But the political situation remained volatile. Though President Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation in January 1863, it did not apply to slave-holding border states. In Missouri, the “peculiar institution” stood until 1865.

And so, once he’d recuperated sufficiently to travel, Alexander went by steamboat to Alton, Illinois, a free state. There he worked as a farmhand, saved his wages and waited for things to settle down across the Mississippi.

Six months later, when Alexander returned to Eliot’s employ, he deposited $120 in the Provident Savings Bank. It was a good sum. Over the same period, a Union private would have earned $78. He then sent word to Louisa, whose freedom he hoped to purchase.

“My dear husband,” Louisa wrote back.

“I received your letter yesterday, and lost no time in asking Mr. Jim if he would sell me, and what he would take for me. He flew at me, and there was no use in my ever speaking to him any more about it. I don’t see how I can ever get away except you get soldiers speaking to him any more about it. I don’t see the [bayonet], and there was no use in my ever looking scared-like, as if they were waiting for somebody,” the farmer coolly replied. “But I have not seen them since.”

As Eliot would later observe, “Literal truth is sometimes the most ingenious falsehood.”

Mother and daughter arrived before dawn. Alexander paid the farmer $20.

VI

A literate man

Archer and Louisa were soon reunited with two more daughters. They learned that a son, Tom, had been killed in action while serving in the Union army. Archer was grieved but proud. “I couldn’t do it myself,” he told Eliot, “but I thank the Lord my boy did it.”

Louisa died shortly after the war ended, under suspicious circumstances. Returning to “Mr. Jim’s” house, to collect her few belongings, Louisa reportedly took ill and died two days later. Alexander mourned a year, then remarried.

Alexander stayed at Beaumont Place for a time, then took rooms of his own. Still he and Eliot remained close. According to Errol Alexander, on Sunday mornings, the pair would walk together to Eliot’s First Unitarian Church. Alexander worked the organ bellows while Eliot addressed the congregation. When Eliot’s mother died in 1875, “Archer was the only person he’d talk to.”

Alexander acquired a pocket-watch, which he passed on to Christopher. “Reading was a political act, once you develop skills of literacy, you’re able to tell your own history. It’s a way of organizing and establishing political legitimacy.”

—LAURIE F. MAFFLY-KIPP, THE INAUGURAL ARCHER ALEXANDER DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

“The fact that Archer could learn to read, as a man in his 50s … he symbolized what is best about education. He died a literate man.”

—ERROL ALEXANDER, AUTHOR, THE RATTLING OF THE CHAINS: A TRUE STORY OF AN AMERICAN FAMILY

“Reading was a political act,” says Maffly-Kipp, an authority on slave narratives and author, most recently, of Setting Down the Sacred Past: African-American Race Histories (Harvard University Press, 2010). She points out that in 1847, when Missouri legislators banned education for blacks, the Rev. John Berry Meachum, himself a former slave, opened his Floating Freedom School in a steamboat on the Mississippi River.

“One you develop skills of literacy, you’re able to tell your own history,” Maffly-Kipp explains. “It’s a way of organizing community and establishing political legitimacy.”

For the Alexander family, Archer’s values still echo today. “My grandfather used to quote Shakespeare,” says Errol, who taught business and psychology at the University of Stirling, Scotland, before retiring in 1996. “He didn’t go to college. Where did he get that?”

“The fact that Archer could learn to read, as a man in his 50s … he symbolized what is best about education,” Errol adds. “He died a literate man.”

Archer Alexander passed away in 1879. The funeral was held downtown, at the African Methodist Church on Lucas Avenue. Eliot officiated. Alexander left his watch to Christopher.

Laurie F. Maffly-Kipp is the Archer Alexander—Laure F. Maffly-Kipp, the Archer Alexander Distinguished Professor.

Errol Alexander is a retired university professor, Errol Alexander is the great-grandson of Archer Alexander. (Sid Hastings)
Alumni architects discuss how they transform the world through their dreams, plans and designs, ultimately remaking old spaces and creating new ones. **BY RICK SKWIO**

Washington magazine recently asked five architects — all graduates of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts — to talk about one of their favorite projects. The work they discussed spans the country, from Carnegie Hall in New York to the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, and spans disciplines, from landscape architecture to construction management, residential design to federal park planning. In the following vignettes, meet the alumni and learn of their favorite projects in their own words.

### Location: Santa Barbara, California

**Architect:** John Mike Cohen, BSAS '67, MArch '69

Cohen practiced architecture in St. Louis for some 30 years, heading a small firm specializing in multifamily housing, historic renovations, and commercial and institutional facilities before leaving the firm in 2002 to do private residential consulting.

**Description:**

“My wife, Marcia (a three-time alum of the university, AB ’69, MA ’71, MSW ’84), and I had never built a house for ourselves, and when we began thinking about it, we thought it would be a good time to find a new place to live. We ended up in Santa Barbara, overlooking the Santa Barbara Channel. We were lucky to find a site that is very private and very green. It took us five years to get the necessary permits. The biologists were the most difficult. To build the house, we needed to remove 21 scrub oak bushes (like big sagebrush) and had to replace them 10-to-1 with plants grown from on-site acorns because of their unique DNA. The house has a somewhat severe design composed of three large concrete volumes. We refer to it as three whales heading out to sea. We went to great lengths to keep it simple. The roofs have no penetrations; usually there would be vents and pieces of equipment located there. The house is dug into the hillside of this canyon location to minimize its visual impact on the environment. It turned out well. The home has been featured in books and magazines nationally and internationally. If it looks simple, then you know someone spent a lot of time getting it that way.”
LOCATION: SAN FRANCISCO
ARCHITECT: CATHERINE MEEHAN BARNER, BArch ’75
Barner is vice president of projects and stewardship for the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, where she directs a 60-person team responsible for project design and construction in the national park that covers 80,000 acres of Northern California coastline.

DESCRIPTION:
“My team and I do a lot of work at Presidio and Muir Woods; we are restoring buildings at Alcatraz; at Land’s End we’ve created a whole new visitor experience — it’s a dramatic site overlooking the Pacific Ocean. A favorite project is the Cavallo Point ‘post-to-park’ conversion at Fort Baker — a military post built at the turn of the 20th century that sits on the north side of the Golden Gate Bridge in an absolutely beautiful setting looking back at San Francisco. After a thorough planning process, the idea of a retreat and conference center emerged as the best option for re-use that would bring in enough money to restore the buildings while also serving a community need. Successful implementation of the high-profile project called upon my skills as a team leader, designer, partner with the National Park Service and supporter of the private developer who restored the site. Cavallo Point opened in 2008 — a place now enjoyed by visitors from around the world as well as the Bay Area. This new national park lodge offers visitors experiences such as hiking, enjoying wonderful food and comfortable accommodations, and taking in amazing views.”

Cavallo Point, San Francisco

©Bob Eckert

Max Morse
LOCATION: NEW YORK
ARCHITECT: KEN LEVIEN, AB ’74, MArch ’76, FAIA
Levien leads Levien & Company, a New York firm of 23, providing clients complex capital-projects management and owner’s representative services.

DESCRIPTION:
“The Carnegie Hall renovation was extensive and exciting. The main concert hall, built in 1891, had been renovated in 1986, but the two towers — about 160,000 square feet, previously used as rental properties for musicians and others — had never been. Ten years ago, it was decided the buildings would be used to create rehearsal space and a school, as well as an education center, archives and new office space. We repurposed the roof to become a meeting place, and we completely reconfigured the back of the house, behind the stage, with new elevator systems. Serving as owner’s reps and project manager, we oversaw design and construction. The concert venues put on more than 800 programs a year, plus rehearsals, so the building could not close during renovation. We had to create a safe environment for thousands of people and ensure no performances were missed. The hardest part was the logistics.”

LOCATION: CHICAGO
ARCHITECT: MARSHALL BROWN, BArch ’95
A licensed architect and urban designer, Brown is an associate professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology College of Architecture. He’s worked on large urban projects, such as the Chicago Navy Pier redevelopment, and architectural representation projects.

DESCRIPTION:
“In 2014 and 2015, I created a series of 100 collages, a selection of which will be exhibited at the Western Exhibitions gallery in Chicago this spring. I used fragments of other works — it’s about making new architecture from existing architecture. The collages are very small, 14 by 17 inches, and are small-scale acts of what I call ‘world making.’ Everything that’s real was once a dream. For architects, the built environment always begins with the making of images, models, drawings and things like these collages. To begin, I use the technique of cutting and pasting, taking found artifacts and first kind of butchering them, but then reassembling them into something new. I create new possibilities for new spaces and what spaces can be in the future. One collage is actually being translated into a built project, a pavilion I’ll build at the Arts Club of Chicago.”

“World-making” collages (Courtesy Marshall Brown)
September 11 Memorial Garden at Loyola University Maryland, landscape architecture, Hord Coplan Macht

LOCATION: BALTIMORE

ARCHITECT: CAROL MACHT, BArch '73, FASLA

Macht is a landscape architect and founder/principal of Hord Coplan Macht Inc., which focuses on educational, health-care and multi-family/mixed-use residential projects and employs 200 architects, landscape architects, planners and designers in its Baltimore; Alexandria, Virginia; and Denver offices.

DESCRIPTION:

“We’ve worked with Loyola University Maryland for over 20 years. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work with the Loyola team over these many years and to see the impact this collaborative effort has had on the quality of the campus environment. Our efforts have included a range of work from master planning to detailed garden design, including the design of roadways, walkways, planting, lighting, signage and special open spaces. Representative projects are a September 11 Memorial Garden, perennial gardens for the Alumni House and the redesign of the Academic Quad walkways.

As the campus landscape architects, we have enjoyed working closely with many architects on varied building projects. We strive to enhance and enliven the outside spaces surrounding these individual buildings while creating a sense of cohesiveness for the campus as a whole. The campus is surrounded by two very beautiful, historic neighborhoods in north Baltimore originally laid out by the Olmsted Brothers firm. In recent projects, our work has extended to the perimeter of campus, where we have improved the exterior frame.”

Rick Skwiot is a freelance writer based in Key West, Florida.
Nina Stég, MD 55, is enjoying snow-free Florida and her grandchildren.

George Banaji, JI 56, BA 60, retired more than two decades ago from Howard Community Hospital in Kokomo, Indiana, after serving as its CEO. Since retiring, he has lived in Asheville, North Carolina.

Gail Bate, LA 56, is involved in a variety of volunteer activities in Warwick, New York. A former president of the Warwick Valley Community Center’s board of directors, she is working on a mural design for the exterior of a restored 200-year-old church in conjunction with her membership in the Warwick Art League. She also is busy planning a party to celebrate her 60th birthday.

Claudia Chapline, GR 56, received the 2015 Poetry Book Award from the Area Independent Publishers Association for her haiku collection, Bird Watch (available at info@chapline.com). She operates an art gallery in Stonwell Beach, California.

Richard E. Browning, EN 59, is president of Industrial Technologies Inc., in Pacific, Missouri. A member of Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth, he speaks frequently to professional and civic organizations about the engineering facts surrounding the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

David Dohrmann, LA 61, is grateful to Washington University for the education that enabled him to enter medical school and eventually become a pediatrician. He hopes his contributions to the university can help others attain their goals and encourage other alumni to contribute to the Annual Fund.

John R. Hundley III, BU 64, GR 71, submitted his doctoral application to the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SNSAR) documenting his ancestors’ service in the Revolutionary War. Twenty-eight of his SNSAR applications have been approved, and 12 are pending review. According to the 2015 SNSAR Membership Directory, only 10 of SNSAR’s 32,000 members are under 25.


Harry L. Ringeimer, EN 68, GR 77, GR 80, retired from the General Electric Global Research Center as senior research physicist in materials science and as an adjunct professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Southern Mississippi, in Hattiesburg. He most recently published articles in Astronomical Journal and Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Theodore (Ted) Roche, LA 68, was inducted into the U.S. Synchronized Swimming Hall of Fame as a contributor. Roche served as an officer, a committee chair and a national judge before retiring in 2014. He was on the staff of the WashU Athletic Department from 1970 to 1975 and served as swim coach from 1971 to 1975. He resides in the Salt Lake City area.

Robert Scheweining, LA 68, GR 71, retired in July 2015 after 25 years as chief information officer for three retail companies. His last position was with Total Wine & More. He is looking forward to splitting his retiree years between Bethany Beach, Delaware, and Bethesda, Maryland.

Max G. Margsch, BU 69, received the Melton L. Mels equal Justice Award from Legal Services of Eastern Missouri in recognition of his contributions to the common good of the St. Louis community. He was also recognized by Washington University School of Law for his contributions to the clinical education program.

Michael B. Smith, EN 72, is the author of The Power of Doathood: Become the Father Your Child Needs (Familius, 2015). Smith is a retired U.S. Air Force colonel, B-52 pilot and civilian engineer in the aerospace industry.

Sanford V. Tiptonstky, LA 72, an attorney with Ober|Kaler in Baltimore, was selected as a Maryland Super Lawyer in the health-care practice area.

Anita Diamant, LA 73, is the author of The New York Times bestseller, The Boston Girl: A Novel (Scribner, 2015). The book tells the story of Addie Baum, who was born in Boston in 1900 to Russian Jewish immigrants. In the book, Diamant draws on her own experiences at WashU, where she says Harry Martin in the English department mentored her during her early writing career and changed her life.

William H. Hochstetler III, EN 73, retired from Franklin University, in Columbus, Ohio, after a 23-year teaching career. He was named professor emeritus and continues teaching as an adjunct professor of computer science. He is also on the faculty of Antioch University, where he develops programs for data analytics and information technology.

Branch Morgan III, GR 74, teaches foreign languages and professional dance at Baltimore’s senior centers. He danced a self-choreographed solo work, Because You Closed Your Eyes, at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum and performed three dance concerts at Goucher College’s Jane Austen Festival.

Robert S. Baum, LA 76, LW 80, teaches a course on the politics of crime and organized crime at Fairleigh Dickinson University’s Teaneck, New Jersey, campus.

Pat Purcell, LA 76, was inducted into the St. Louis Tennis Hall of Fame in mid-April. After graduating from Washington University, she became a tennis club owner. Purcell returned to competitive tennis after a 20-year break, winning national titles in women’s 55 singles and doubles.

Eric L. Reiss, LA 76, lives in Copenhagen, Denmark, with his wife, Dorothe. He is chairman and CEO of the FarDuck Group, an international design agency with offices throughout Europe and the Americas. He has several books to his credit, and he says, “a more-or-less accurate biography” on Wikipedia.

Lisa Ring, LA 76, MD 80, HS 85, has been in private practice in dermatology for 30 years in St. Louis. She and her late husband, who died of bone cancer, had a daughter, now 25. Ring and her current husband, Gregory Storch, HS 81, a researcher, teacher and diagnostician, have traveled extensively the past six years. Now active in WashU alumni affairs, Ring says she is proud of how strong the university has become.

Ann Friedman Calandra, GR 77, has written and illustrated her first children’s book, Never Stop Drawing (Shanti Arts Publishing, 2015). She is currently working on two new children’s books.

Coaches by the numbers

On Friday, Feb. 12, Washington University dedicated the court in the Athletic Complex as Edwards-Fahey Court, named for the longtime coaches of the men’s and women’s basketball teams, Mark Edwards and Nancy Fahey. The coaches have mentored Washington University student-athletes for 35 and 30 years, respectively. Their coaching legacies are nearly unparalleled in the history of NCAA Division III athletics.

Mark Edwards

35 Number of seasons Mark Edwards, AB ’79, has coached men’s basketball at his alma mater

2 Number of national championships for the Bears under Coach Edwards

625+ Number of wins under Edwards, who ranks sixth in active wins by a Division II head coach

Nancy Fahey

30 Number of seasons Nancy Fahey has coached the women’s basketball team

5 Number of national championships for the Bears under Coach Fahey

700+ Number of wins under Fahey, who was the second-fastest coach in NCAA men’s and women’s basketball history to reach 700 wins.
Briefing the nation

Eric Schultz’s first campaigns were for the Congress of the South 40 (CS40).
His next: the U.S. Senate.

After his sophomore year at WashU, Schultz, AB ’02, spent the summer working for Hillary Clinton during her inaugural run for the Senate in 2000. The job offered him the rare opportunity to learn from some of the brightest minds in American politics. But when the campaign asked Schultz to stay in New York through the election, he was torn.

“I loved being on campus and was not interested in spending time away from the university,” says Schultz, who was then a CS40 executive and a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity. “But when I spoke to people on campus, they all said, ‘We’ll be here when you get back. Take this experience and run with it.’

It was great advice. I got to see all the components of a campaign — field work, fundraising, research and the tech side. It made me realize my interest lay with communications.”

Today, Schultz is principal deputy press secretary and special assistant to President Barack Obama. You’ve seen him on television taking questions from the White House press corps.

But that’s a small part of his job.

“Most of what we do happens outside the briefing room,” Schultz says. “We are working around the clock, whether it’s talking to the reporters making the morning network shows or to the reporters who are putting their stories to bed late at night.”

That’s called “rapid response,” and Schultz, a veteran of some of Washington’s top press offices, is considered a master.

“Given the hyper speed of the media environment right now, being able to respond effectively and credibly to any type of story that is out there is incredibly important,” says Schultz, who has worked for powerful Democratic senators Chuck Schumer (New York), John Edwards (North Carolina) and Al Franken (Minnesota). “Unfortunately, when you are dealing with the federal government, sometimes retrieving the information takes some time. You won’t always have all of it at your fingertips the moment someone is blogging or tweeting about it. So we do our due diligence on the front end so we have the best information ready. The last thing you want is a story that will be contradicted later.”

The stakes couldn’t be higher, says Wall Street Journal reporter and Washington University alumna Laura Meckler, AB ’90.

“An errant or ill-considered comment can create tensions with other world powers and offend friends and enemies alike at home,” says Meckler, who covered President Obama’s first term. “That sort of pressure renders some people virtually mute. But the best of them, Eric included, find a way to serve both the president they represent and the reporters who count on them every day.”

Those days are coming to a close with the approaching end of President Obama’s second term. Schultz says he has no idea whom he will serve next.

“It will be difficult, if not impossible, to top working at the White House,” Schultz says. “I’ve been given a front-row seat to history. I was with the president when he gave that amazing speech in Charleston, South Carolina, and when the Supreme Court upheld the health-care act. These are moments of history that I’m fully aware very few people get to witness. Even now, I still get chills every time I walk through the [White House] gate.”

— Diane Torano Krugger, AB ’90

For more with Eric Schultz, visit source.wustl.edu/2016/02/briefing-the-nation/, where Schultz tells us what Obama is really like, which television show gets D.C. right (hint: it’s not House of Cards), and how to go from WashU to the White House for students who might want a career in politics.

Profile

Eric Schultz, AB ’02

Alumni join admissions to recruit students

The Black Alumni Council and the university’s Office of Undergraduate Admissions celebrated the 20th anniversary of their annual student recruitment program and dinner in fall 2015. At the event, alumni and parent volunteers joined individuals from admissions to meet and greet prospective students and families from the Maryland, Washington, D.C., and northern Virginia areas. Held in Howard County, Maryland, the annual dinner was hosted by Nellie Anderson-Hutt, AB ’75, JD ’78, and Louis Hutt, BSBA ’76.

TOP: Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton and members of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions prepare to welcome alumni, parents, students and friends to the 20th annual celebration dinner. From left to right are Jordan Peters, AB ’14; Akosua Yeboah, AB ’11; Chancellor Wrighton; Julie Shimabukuro, AB ’87; and Chrysalis Okonta, AB ’10. Peters, Yeboah and Okonta are admissions officers, and Shimabukuro is director of admissions.

BOTTOM: From left to right: WashU alumni Louis and Nellie Hutt, Chancellor Wrighton and alumnus Joe Madison, AB ’71 — all of whom attended the first recruitment event in Maryland 20 years ago — were present last fall to continue their efforts to recruit talented students from the area.
Tiffany Harper, JD ’08, in-house counsel in the Chicago office of Grant Thornton LLP, one of the country’s top-grossing accounting firms, says she had the professional “pedigree” to succeed at a top firm: an Ivy League undergraduate education, top-tier law school training at Washington University and mentors eager to help. But she found few other black women attorneys among her colleagues, despite widespread efforts by firms to recruit minority associates.

Through her long-term involvement with the Black Women Lawyers’ Association of Greater Chicago (BWLA), Harper saw that when African-American women got a shot at top firms, few stayed. Nationwide, black women make up less than 3 percent of associates and less than 1 percent of partners.

“I talked with a lot of people about it. Why can’t we stay at firms? Why can’t we rise in the ranks?” Harper says. “But I never got a good answer.”

“Most law students of color are concentrated in third- and fourth-tier law schools,” says the Chicago native and Dartmouth College graduate. Students there often don’t have the same opportunity to compete for “big law” summer associate positions and top internships.

However, she also saw that those schools frequently turn out great lawyers. “I know plenty of outstanding lawyers of all racial and ethnic backgrounds who came from third- and fourth-tier law schools. I thought I could develop and mentor black, female law students to be marketable to firms and to succeed in firms no matter where they go to school.”

So in 2014, Harper and Chasity Boyce launched the Pilot Pipeline Program, partnering with Loyola University Chicago and, in 2015, with Chicago’s John Marshall Law School. BWLA attorneys volunteered to conduct workshops to improve students’ test-taking and writing skills and offer chances for professional development.

The program is working out “phenomenally” according to Harper. “We had three young women in the program last year, all of whom earned competitive PGPs and class rank with the academic support, professional development and mentoring provided by the program,” she says. “Each student also completed top-notch internships at law firms and in the chambers of federal and state court judges by their 1L year. It’s our hope that these opportunities put these students in the best position to be the next generation of diverse law firm partners, general counsel and judges.”

The program also places students in summer internships with large law firms or federal court judges — opportunities they likely would not have otherwise, says Harper.

Building a legal pipeline

One of the Loyola students benefiting from that support, Charity Thibodeaux, says Pipeline is more than just mentoring.

“If Tiffany continues to support every aspect of my life: preparing for tests, networking, finding a job, boosting my confidence, giving me advice on my personal life. I would not be in the position I am now if it wasn’t for the program and all the people who donated their time to make sure I’d be a successful lawyer.”

That early success has Harper and Boyce thinking big.

“We want the program to operate on a national level within the next five years,” Harper says. That would benefit not only the program students but also large law firms whose “diversity initiatives to this point just have not been successful.”

Harper has been notably successful in her work as a litigator and in corporate bankruptcy and restructuring work. She believes that her hybrid skill set of litigation and transactional work will serve her well throughout her career, which will include, she hopes, law firm or corporate management and diversity positions.

“I can’t tell you how many recruiters have told me, ‘I want to hire somebody like you.’”

Now, thanks to the Pilot Pipeline Program, they may have a chance to do just that. — Rick Skidow
University, in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. After graduating from WashU, Doane practiced law and joined the faculty at Northwestern University. He earned a master’s degree in learning disabilities from Northwestern before joining the National Board of Medical Examiners. Doane resides in Voorhees, New Jersey, with his wife and their two dogs. He has a son, a daughter and four stepchildren.

Elineo Leo, BU ’94, HA ’96, who moved to Arkansas for medical residency training in psychiatry, reports that she finds patient care challenging and fulfilling.


Sharon (Stuber) Jackson, SW ’96, was honored with an Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award for her achievements and dedication to education. Jackson is an associate professor and chair of the Social Work Department at Fontbonne University, in St. Louis.

Mindy Kronenberg, LA ’96, and Richard Rice, GB ’00, welcomed their daughter, Grace Riegan Rice, on May 16. Baby Rice joins her big brother, Zachary, 6.

Jeremy Kamtji, OT ’99, is an occupational therapist and an advocate for his dad’s farm, Karmiya Papaya, in Hawaii. He recently completed a fellowship with the Cornell Alliance for Science Global Leadership Fellows Program, which works to promote access to scientific innovation as a means of enhancing food security, improving environmental sustainability and raising the quality of life globally.

Mayor Shah, LA ’97, started a health-care consulting practice targeting small businesses. Previously, he was involved in health informatics.

Maria Ferrer, LA ’98, relocated from Puerto Rico to Columbus, Ohio. She is an associate at Stoner Portoridic Specialists and also works in private practice. She has two daughters, Cristina, 5, and Amelia, 14 months, and would love to connect with other WashU alumni.


José Kamtji, OT ’99, is an occupational therapist and an advocate for his dad’s farm, Karmiya Papaya, in Hawaii. He recently completed a fellowship with the Cornell Alliance for Science Global Leadership Fellows Program, which works to promote access to scientific innovation as a means of enhancing food security, improving environmental sustainability and raising the quality of life globally.

Lindsey (Wursel) Glass, BU ’00, and Brian Glass, GB ’06, welcomed a daughter, Sadie Emerson, in October 2014. She joined big brother Charlie, now 8. The family resides in Chesterfield, Missouri.

Michelle Nasser, LW ’01, was a federal prosecutor in Chicago, received the Department of Justice Director’s Award from U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch in Washington, D.C., in June 2015. She was honored for her investigation and prosecution of the highest-ranking members of a fraud organization in the United States that generated annual revenues of $2.5 million and used violence and murder to protect its enterprise.

Sara (Fleming) Hovy, FA ’00, and her husband, William C. Hovy III, welcomed their first child, William Charles Hovy, in July 2015. They reside in southern Delaware, where Sara is facility director and a physical therapist at an outpatient clinic.

Christyn (Chambers) Avary, LA ’03, was named director of athletics at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, follow- ing a nationwide search. Before she joined Lawrence University, she had been athletics director at Buena Vista University, in Storm Lake, Iowa, since June 2012.

John Ryan Fischer, LA ’01, is a visit- ing assistant professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, wrote Cottie Colonolion: An Environmental History of the Conquest of California and Howw’s (The University of North Carolina Press, 2015).

Douglas Harrison, GR ’01, GR ’05, was appointed associate dean for faculty affairs in the College of Arts & Sciences at Trinity Washington University, in Washington, D.C.

Edward Shin, LW ’01, was named vice president, general counsel and secretary for Cloway Building Products, a manufacturer of residential and commercial garage doors.

Emily (Kaufman) Weber, LA ’01, joined Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck’s regulatory health-care practice in the firm’s Denver office. Previously, she was associate general counsel for University of Colorado Health, associate coun- sel for Temple University Health System Inc., and associate counsel and compliance officer for Vail Valley Medical Center.

Renata Beaman, PT ’02, is a physical therapist at OrthoRehab Specialists Inc., in Minneapolis and Eden, Minn. She combines orthopedic work with lymphedema prevention and treatment to protect its enterprise, optimize outcomes for patients following cancer treatment.

Margaret Eileen Rincker, GR ’02, GR ’06, received the Outstanding Teaching Award from Purdue University Calumet (Indiana). Rincker, an associate professor of political science, was described by her peers as “an innovator in the classroom whose teaching empowers students.”

Sarah (McCarty) Berry, LA ’03, and her husband, Lee, returned to their hometown of New Orleans in 2013 after relocating to Wisconsin following Hurricane Katrina. Sarah is the assistant registrar for academic scheduling at the University of New Orleans. The recipient of the 2013 LA ’14 First Year Student Advocate Award, she is an advisor for the National Society of Black Engineers.

Cathy Lander-Goldberg, SW ’03, is the author and illustra- tor of Photo Explorations: A Girl’s Guide to Self-Discovery Through Photography, Writing and Drawing (CLG Photographics, 2015). Through fun, creative assignments, this resource encourages girls ages 9 to 15 to better understand themselves, strive for a balanced life and set meaningful goals for the future.

The recipient of the 2013-14 First Issue Literature Award for an emerging artist is Alex Katz (CLG Photographics, 2015).

The winning title earns a lo/f_ty £50,000 ($75,800), split equally between author and translator. Medin and the four other jurists pored over 160 novels and met several times throughout the winter and early spring to create the prize’s longlist and then select the winner. “What I’m doing doesn’t feel like work,” he says. “It’s a privilege.”

Warm, self-effacing and raise-your-eyebrows smart, Medin works in three languages — German, French and English — allowing him to read fiction by authors famous in their own countries but underrepresented or completely unknown by Anglophones. When a novelist or poet impresses him, Medin gracefully labors to expose that person’s prose to English-language readers. He publishes translated selections of their work in Music & Literature, The White Review and The Cahiers Series, the three literary magazines that he helps edit. He also sends copies to publishers, critics and writers all over the world.

“Reading these books is a pleasure,” Medin says. “It’s similar to having something delectable to eat; the delight is enhanced by sharing it with others.”

In 2014 NPR book critic Juan Vidal called each issue of Music & Literature “a gem … especially useful for those interested in breaking their parochial American reading habits.”

In its 250-plus pages, Music & Literature showcases a wide variety of material that has never before appeared in English. For instance, one of the most recent issues, No. 6, contains a lengthy excerpt from Croatian author Dubravka Ugresic’s work-in-progress, “A Story About How Stories Come to Be Written.” The first now fiction from the author in years, it appeared before the original Croatian edition.

“Daniel brings a fierce intelligence to the project,” says Taylor Davis-Van Atta, publisher of the biannual literary magazine. “It’s similar to having something delectable to eat; the delight is enhanced by sharing it with others.”

Along with teaching history and literature classes, Medin is also associate director of AUP’s Center for Writers and Translators. The center is known for hosting distinguished writers such as Hungarian László Krasznahorkai, whose works are now widely translated into English thanks in part to Medin’s efforts.

Medin credits William H. Gass, his mentor at Washington University, for fostering his literary vision. Back when Medin was a doctoral student, Gass, now the David May Distinguished University Professor Emeritus in Humanities, headed the university’s International Writers Center (now the Center for the Humanities). “Many of the writers Gass invited became famous,” Medin says. “By Davis and Ha. Jin were speakers at the center during my time, before they began to collect awards.”

The team that wins the 2016 Man Booker Prize will have no shortage of exposure, but other exciting writers that Medin discovers through being a jurist will also benefit. Medin’s aim is to make sure that innovative contemporary authors, no matter what language they write in, are known to a wide audience.

“Gass’ vision as a literary advocate,” Medin says, “and I can think of no greater model to follow as a reader, editor and judge.”

— Laura S Volk FROST
Ebeny Patterson, GF 06, is a multimedia artist and painter — many weaving intricate patterns, jigsaw photo tapestries and glitter — are prominently featured in the current season of the TV show, Empire. Patterson was recently featured in an article in *The New York Times*.

Annette F. Richter, LA 06, an attorney with Farnell & Richter, was named to the 2015 New York Metro Rising Stars list in the area of estate and probate.

Orly Henry, LA 07, and Ezra Hilton, EN 08, were married in August 2015. Orly is an attorney at Dykema Gossett, and Ezra is a senior attorney at Thompson Coburn. The couple reside in Chicago.

Erica (Thompson) Hines, GL 07, OR 08, and Michael Hines, LA 08, who met as students at WashU, were married in Chicago in August 2015. The attendees at their wedding included Toni Cross, LA 07, and Andrea Holmes, LA 07.

Dan Koboldt, GL 07, is the author of the Rogue Traveler (Harper Voyager Impulse, 2016), his debut science fiction book featuring a Las Vegas magician who infiltrates a worldwide to look at the shape of things to come.

Sarah Stanojevich, GL 07, and Richard Daniel, EN 08, both student leaders of WashU’s Dance Marathon, were married at St. Patrick Center, where they reside in Chicago.

To learn more, visit plannedgiving.wustl.edu

Einstein, the affectionate 20-year-old Clydesdale, is a graduate of Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, in Medford, Massachusetts.

Brian Stratton, EN 13, is transitioning from The Boeing Company’s Defense Division to the company’s Commercial Division to help launch 787s to the market. The Boeing team is receiving a three-month relocation to Seattle to learn the scope of the work.

Jenny Weng, EN 13, is an architect at William Reue Architecture in New York City, an award-winning design firm recognized for its innovative projects and pragmatism.

Jeffrey Alexander Morris, LA 14, is in the Peace Corps, serving as a teacher and community-education promoter in Linden, Guyana. He teaches literacy and reading to students with special needs in the lower grades and helps run empowerment camps for boys and girls.

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In Remembrance

Timothy Blair Burnight

Timothy Blair Burnight, a doctoral student in the Program in Physical Therapy at the School of Medicine, died Sept. 4, 2015. He was 28.

Burnight was a native of Illinois and earned his bachelor’s degree cum laude from Purdue University in 2013. He also attended the University of Houston, where he earned a master’s degree in psychology and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

He entered Washington University’s physical therapy program in 2013 and was expected to graduate with a doctorate in physical therapy in May 2016. Burnight was survived by his sister, Jessica Lynn Burnight; his grandparents and several aunts, cousins and uncles; he was predeceased in death by his mother, Judith Lynn (Main) Burnight.

Patrick Burton

Patrick Burton, BS ’85, MBA ’95, director of financial administration in the Division of Medical Education, died Feb. 16, 2016, after a four-year battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 54.

Burton spent nearly 30 years at Harbortown Group, the operating company founded by his father. As he moved through several different management positions, he rose to the position of group president, responsible for several of the company’s divisions.

As a service-oriented leader, he served as board president of the Community School Foundation and on the boards of Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Jewish Hospital and the associate program director of the hospital’s internal medicine residency program. In 2005, he was named program’s Teacher of the Year. Burton was also an active civic leader. He served as board president of the Community School Foundation and on the boards of Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Jewish Hospital, the Center for Contemporary Arts (COCA), Logos School, MCID, Shaine Temple, Emeth Einai, Achievement, Westminster Country Club and Kids Under Twenty-One.

Born and raised in St. Louis, Burton graduated from Harbour High School and earned his B.A. at the University of Colorado. He then spent two years working for the NCR Corporation in California before joining McFarland in 1986. After two years at Harbortown, he returned his education at the Dilin Business School, where he earned his MBA in 1990. He was a strong supporter of the school, he was presented in 2011 with its Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Survivors include his wife, Merle Cotter; four children, Matthew, Peter, Megan and Eli; his parents, Ambassador Anthony Burton Fox and Widman Fox, two sisters, Cheri Fox and Pamela (Abba) Claman; two brothers, Jeff (Lolita) Fox and Steve (Nancy) Fox; and several in-laws, nieces and nephews.

Jason S. Goldfelder

Jason S. Goldfelder, MD, FAAP, a professor of pediatrics, passed away Dec. 25, 2015, after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 61 years old.

Goldfelder’s interest in condensed matter physics was sparked during an internship at Xerox. After earning his doctorate from Washington University, he held a postdoctoral appointment at Harvard University and then worked at the Research Laboratory of McDonnell Douglas Corporation.

In 1994, Leopold returned to Washington University’s physics department as a faculty member and worked with Professor James Buckley. Together, they studied high-energy physics and astrophysics. Leopold’s work helped lead to the creation of very sensitive light detectors that could help in the detection of dark matter, in biology, and in other areas.

Goldfelder is survived by his wife, Nguyet Khong Nguyen; his mother and stepfather; and his father and stepmother.

Robert J. Iversen

Robert J. Iversen, a third-year law student in the School of Law, died Oct. 10, 2015. He was 39.

Iversen was remembered as a stellar student. He was the staff editor of the Washington University Law Review and was named its senior executive editor in 2015. He was a Scholar in Law Award recipient and vice president of the Student Law Association of Metropolitan St. Louis from 2014 to 2015.

Iversen also won the law school’s oldest and largest moot court competition, the Wiley Rutledge Moot Court Competition. He and his team were quarterfinalists in the 2015 Evan A. Constitution Law Moot Court Competition at the University of Wisconsin Law School.

In addition, Iversen won the St. Louis County Bar Association’s Legal Practice Excellence Award in 2014. He is survived by his parents, Jeffrey and Deborah Iversen, and a stepsister, Rebecca Matthews.

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Daniel J. Leopold, PhD ’93, MA ’79, a research physicist, passed away Dec. 20, 2015, after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 61 years old.

Leopold’s work helped lead to the creation of very sensitive light detectors that could help in the detection of dark matter, in biology, and in other areas.

Leopold is survived by his wife, Mary; four children; and four grandchildren.

Gary A. Fox

Gary A. Fox, a business executive and community leader, died Feb. 16, 2016, after a four-year battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 54.

Fox was also an active civic leader. He served as board president of the Community School Foundation and on the boards of Barnes-Jewish Hospital, BJC Healthcare, the Center for Contemporary Arts (COCA), Logos School, MCID, Shaine Temple, Emeth Einai, Achievement, Westminster Country Club and Kids Under Twenty-One.

Born and raised in St. Louis, Fox graduated from Ladue High School and earned his B.A. at the University of Colorado. He then spent two years working for the NCR Corporation in California before joining MassMutual in 1986. After two years at Harbortown, he returned his education at the Dilin Business School, where he earned his MBA in 1990. He was a strong supporter of the school, he was presented in 2011 with its Distinguished Alumnus Award.

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Lisa Simone

Lisa Christine Simone, a doctoral candidate in the Program in Physical Therapy at the School of Medicine, died Sept. 29, 2015. She was 25. Simone earned her bachelor’s degree in biological sciences from the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, where she graduated summa cum laude. She was also a ballerina and played the role of Clara in The Nutcracker at age 15. She later suffered a dance injury and was treated by Lynnette Kho-Summers, DPT, an associate professor of physical therapy at the university. This inspired Simone to enter the physical therapy program herself. She is survived by her parents, Tom and Tina Simone; her brother, Nick Simone; and her grandparents.

Stuart Weiss

Stuart Weiss, AB ’50, MD ’54, professor of clinical neurology at the School of Medicine, died Oct. 17, 2015. He was 85. A native St. Louisan, Weiss earned both his bachelor’s and medical degree at Washington University and completed his neurology residency at Barnes Hospital. After a fellowship at New York Presbyterian-Columbia University Medical Center, Weiss returned to St. Louis to practice medicine first at St. Louis City Hospital and then at St. Louis Children’s Hospital. He also maintained a private practice.

Eventually, Weiss came back to the medical school and Barnes-Jewish Hospital, where he worked for 51 years as an attending physician and a professor in the School of Medicine. In 1994, he won the Alumni Faculty Award. In 2002, he won the Medical Staff Association Appreciation Award and the Dr. Neville Grant Award for Clinical Excellence. Weiss is survived by his wife, Marita Wenneman Weiss; his daughters, Lori and Debra; his son, Michael, and several grandchildren.

Herbert Weitman

Herbert (Herb) Weitman, AB ’52, MA ’71, former director of photographic services at Washington University, died Jan. 12, 2016. He was 89. Weitman began taking pictures as an undergraduate, and his photos were published in Student Life and the Hatchet yearbook. In 1952, he graduated and was immediately hired by the university’s public affairs office.

His work helped shape university photography (see right). Ron Walk, founding editor of Education Week and Teacher Magazine, said, “Herb Weitman has done more to raise the standards of photography in college and university publishing than any other single photographer.” In 1965, the American Alumni Council (AAC) named him “Photographer of the Decade” for all of U.S. higher education. He again received the honor in the 1980s from CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education), the successor to AAC.

Weitman also founded the Visual Arts photography program. The university hosted two retrospectives of his work, one when he retired in 1994 and another in 2008 to celebrate the Sam Fox School naming its photo exhibit gallery for him. Weitman was also the official photographer for the football Cardinals during the team’s 28-year tenure in St. Louis, and he photographed Super Bowl Games V to XXVIII for the NFL.

Weitman is survived by his wife, Diane; son, Gary (Christine), stepdaughter, Gail Armstrong; stepson, Bill Greenblatt (Karin); five grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren. For more, see sidebar at right.
Members of the Class of 1966 reflect on their memories of campus as they prepare to celebrate their 50th Reunion.

**The time of our lives**

BY LAURA JOSEHART

The Class of 1966 arrived on campus during a time of great change and growth for Washington University. As incoming freshmen in 1962, they were the first class under the leadership of the 12th chancellor, Thomas Hopkins Eliot. The university was increasingly attractive to out-of-state students, and by 1964, about 67 percent of entering freshmen came from outside the St. Louis area. Several new dormitories south of Forsyth were completed in 1962 to accommodate the growing need for housing. The new John M. Olin Library was also completed that year and quickly became a popular location for students to study and meet.

In the winter of 1963, the last streetcar to campus stopped running, bringing the university’s reputation as a “streetcar college” to a symbolic end. The United States was also experiencing a great deal of change in the fall of 1962. President John F. Kennedy was finishing his second year as president, and the Cuban Missile Crisis was gripping the nation. The United States was in the midst of the Space Race, and President Kennedy had recently announced plans to send an American to the Moon. The civil rights movement was in full swing, and civil rights activist James Meredith enrolled at the University of Mississippi’s first African-American student in October 1962. Even with all of the national and international developments and tensions, Bill Finnie, BS ’66, recalls that time period as idyllic. “Our college years didn’t reflect what people generally think of when they think of the ’60s.” Jack Kennedy had just been elected president, and it was an idealistic time — before the student demonstrations came along. “It was a very different time,” he says.

In contrast, Bill’s wife, Glenda Lewis Finnie, AB ’66, remembers the mood on campus immediately following President Kennedy’s assassination. “It was immensely somber. It was as if a blanket of sadness had fallen over the entire campus. We all were in disbelief,” she says.

Luckily, the Class of 1966 had plenty of opportunities for distraction from politics and current events — Thurtene Carnival, Bearskin Follies, Greek Sing, campus concerts, dances, films, the Washington University Choir and Madrigal Singers, and intramural sports were all popular with a wide cross-section of students.

Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg, AB ’66, recalls performing with the university choir under the guidance of Choir Director Orland Johnson as some of her most treasured Washington University memories. “The choir tours were wild and wonderful, and singing in Town Hall in New York was the tops!” she says. Performing in plays and writing skits for Bearskin Follies and Thurtene were favorite activities for many students, including Marilyn Dann Steinback, AB ’66, who minored in drama. “Being able to write entertaining and competitive skits was a sought-after skill on campus at that time. I remember working on a Bearskin skit with Harold Rams (AB ’66) and Michael Shamberg (AB ’66) and just sitting in awe of their talent and creativity. I knew right away they were geniuses,” Steinback notes.

Students often gathered to socialize off campus too. Santoro’s was a convenient and popular hangout, as well as the Puppet Pub. In the early ’60s, the campus cafeteria in Wohl Center was closed on Sunday evenings, so students would walk to the Parkmoor Restaurant or The Flaming Pit for dinner. The Hilltop Campus — as it was known then — did not have all of the student-centered social and dining spaces that students on the Danforth Campus enjoy today.

Women living in the dormitories followed strict curfews in the early 1960s. “There was a reception center,” remembers Glenda Finnie, “and that was the only way to access your dorm room. You had to check in by a certain time, and if you accured too many ‘late minutes,’ you were penalized. So we tried very hard not to hit that number!” Steinback remembers it clearly: “When curfew approached, everyone with their dates would be kissing and carrying on in the lobby. It was an uncomfortable scene at best!” By 1966, the curfews in one South 40 dormitory had been relaxed, and female students were allowed to determine their own dormitory rules, curfews and men’s visiting hours.

It may be difficult to believe now, but for the Class of 1966, smoking cigarettes was permitted virtually everywhere on campus — on the Quad, in dorm rooms, even in classrooms. “You could light a cigarette in the middle of class, and it was not a big deal,” Bill Finnie says. “Glenda and I met as sophomores, and she was impressed by the smoke rings I blew in English class,” he recalls with a laugh.

The absence of personal computers might be equally difficult to imagine, but students who attended Washington University in the early ’60s did not have the convenience of Microsoft Office. They hand-typed their midterm papers. “Skilled typists made a lot of money at the end of the semester by typing papers for their classmates,” says Martha Wohler Bickel, AB ’66. “And if you had to make a change or addition, you had to pay to have the entire paper retyped!”

In 1963, Time magazine described Washington University as one of four “Take-Off Universities.” Members of the Class of 1966 have taken great pleasure in watching the university receive increased recognition from the media and rise in national rankings over the years. “When I attended Washington University, it was in the midst of a transition from being a ‘streetcar college’ to the ‘Harvard of the Midwest,’ a respectable backup for students who weren’t accepted at Ivy League schools,” says Scott Homan, BS ’66. “Now, the university is often the top choice for talented students across the country and the world! I feel privileged to have received such a premier education, and I am thrilled to attend our 50th Reunion, May 19–21.”

The Class of ’66 was first freshman class under the 12th chancellor, Thomas H. Eliot. By 1964, about 67 percent of student body came from outside St. Louis. Santoro’s, the Puppet Pub, Parkmoor Restaurant and The Flaming Pit were popular off-campus hangouts and Sunday dinner venues.

Pre-computers, lots of money could be made typing term papers for fellow classmates.

For more, visit reunions.wustl.edu.
To enhance our leadership today to benefit America and the world tomorrow.

Great research universities and academic medical centers are shaping the future of our world today. … and few institutions deliver more significant, critical contributions to the future of humankind than Washington University.

A LASTING IMPACT ON ST. LOUIS AND THE WORLD
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> Washington University School of Medicine is leading innovative research to understand the genetic origins of diseases ranging from cancer and diabetes to autism and Alzheimer’s, with the aim of developing more effective diagnoses and treatments.

> The Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine has earned the highest possible rating — “exceptional” — from the National Cancer Institute. The center serves nearly 9,000 newly diagnosed cancer patients each year.

> As the top-ranked school of social work in the nation, the Brown School is an international leader in policy and procedures addressing challenges from poverty to productive aging.

> The Institute for Public Health harnesses the multidisciplinary strengths of Washington University to address complex health issues facing St. Louis and communities worldwide.

> Each year, Washington University physicians provide clinical care to nearly 500,000 children and adults at 49 clinical sites across the St. Louis metropolitan area.

> Research initiatives across the university are laying the scientific groundwork to help meet the global need for clean, abundant and economical energy.

> Washington University was one of the founders of the Cortex Innovation Community in midtown St. Louis, which so far has attracted more than $550 million in investment and generated more than 3,600 permanent jobs in the Cortex District. In the last 48 months, Cortex development resulted in an additional $500 million in private investment and development in 20 surrounding neighborhood projects.

> Washington University collaborates with 29 leading institutions worldwide to educate future leaders and address global challenges such as energy and sustainability, public health, education and international understanding. These efforts are carried out through the McDonnell International Scholars Academy, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

Chancellor Wrighton says, “Our alumni and friends have worked together to make Washington University a world-renowned center of learning and discovery. Their generosity will have a lasting impact — on human health, on a sustainable environment, on economic prosperity, on quality of life and on the young people who will lead our society in the future. Together, we will build on our accomplishments to contribute even more to our community, our nation and our world.”
Leading Together

Seeking change is a way of life for entrepreneurial philanthropist Cash Nickerson.

BY MARY LEE

As a youngster, Cash Nickerson, JD ’85, MBA ’93, spent hours watching Perry Mason prove his clients’ innocence in the courtroom. The fictional TV defense attorney was a role model for Nickerson, who decided he wanted to be a lawyer, despite his father’s disapproval.

Nickerson’s father was an engineer and computer scientist with an entrepreneurial streak. Jobs in the business and academic worlds took him and his family across the country, which left a lasting impression on his son.

“I learned that change is OK and that stability is not something you cling to,” says Nickerson, president and chief financial officer of PDS Tech Inc., an award-winning specialty recruiting company based in Irving, Texas. The influence of both Perry Mason and his father are reflected in Nickerson’s career, which has taken some unconventional turns.

His résumé includes time as a corporate attorney, associate and partner with one of the largest law firms in Chicago, and founder and chairman of two business outsourcing companies.

A big factor in his success, Nickerson says, is the education he received at Washington University. “The university really put me in a different world. My two degrees gave me the versatility to take advantage of many opportunities and see issues from more than one angle.”

Nickerson came to Washington University School of Law from Carleton College, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy and English. His early law course work — particularly a class in criminal law — reinforced his desire to become a prosecutor. “That first year is such a special time. It’s stressful, exciting, challenging, mind-boggling and disruptive. It’s like a yearlong boot camp for your brain.”

His plans began to shift in his second year. “I found the rules of evidence to be confining, and I didn’t completely agree with them,” Nickerson says. He spent the following summer as a legal intern with Bryan Cave in St. Louis, which pointed him in a new direction. “I learned what law could do for business, which intrigued me,” he says. “Working with clients, I thought, ‘I’m more like them.’” So I jumped into the business school at Washington University.”

Before he finished his MBA, Nickerson earned his law degree and accepted a position with the Union Pacific Railroad as an attorney focused on mergers and acquisitions. The company quickly moved him into business positions, including running Union Pacific ExpressAir in St. Louis, where he continued taking courses at the Olin Business School.

In 1990, Nickerson joined Jenner & Block in Chicago as an associate. He made partner in 1993 — the same year he earned his MBA — and soon began thinking about another career move. “Many people didn’t understand why I wanted to make a change after I made partner,” he says. “But I couldn’t imagine staying. I was like, what’s next?”

His answer involved founding a series of companies that provided specialized business services. He sold his first entrepreneurial venture, human resources outsourcing startup Workforce Strategies, for $8.5 million in 1995. “That will add to you to entrepreneurship,” he says. He took the online business portal company Mucho.com public through a reverse merger in 2000.

Nickerson joined PDS Tech in 2003. During his 12 years with the company, one of the nation’s largest temporary staffing firms, he has satisfied his urge to start new things by nurturing outside interests. He has written five books of essays, three of them focused on employment and the workplace. After the first book, he created his own publishing company to maximize profits.

In 2008, he established the David H. Nickerson Foundation in memory of his father, who died of prostate cancer in 1996. The foundation hosts an annual golf tournament and other events to raise awareness about the disease and funds for research. To date, the organization has contributed about $200,000 to the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine.

Nickerson supports his alma mater in many ways. As a member of the Board of Trustees and the School of Law National Council. And he serves as chair of the Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Cabinet and the North and Central Texas Region for Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University.

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Nickerson's three children have earned degrees from Washington University: Kate, BS '07, Stephanie, AB '09, JD '13, and Andrew, AB '13. Kate's husband, Daniel O'Connell, BS '07, also is an alumnus. "I'm going to have my wife take classes so she doesn't feel left out," Nickerson says.

Beyond his family, Nickerson has a powerful motive for continuing his philanthropy and service at Washington University. “The university is a force for change, and it’s at the forefront of creating tomorrow’s leaders. Who wouldn’t want to invest in that?”
Serving the whole child

As part of her practicum in social work, Keyria Jeffries (center) works with elementary students at Fairview Primary in the Jennings School District. Jeffries is part of the Brown School’s Urban Education Initiative, which prepares students to take leadership roles in city schools, creates partnerships with public and charter schools across the St. Louis region, and helps schools implement and measure programs to improve the social, emotional and community health of their students. The university’s outreach efforts to the school district also include health-care programs through the medical school and science curriculum assistance through the Institute for School Partnership. Visit source.wustl.edu/2016/02/lost-cause-national-model for more.
GETTING THEIR KICKS    The women's soccer team won their semifinal game in the NCAA Division III Championships, defeating Messiah in a dramatic penalty shoot-out, Dec. 4, 2015, in Kansas City, Missouri. Although the team lost the championship game the next day to Williams College, 1-0, the Bears finished second in the country and ended their season with an impressive 20-3-1 record. (Photo: James Byard)

Casting long shadows over Mudd Field, the sun sets over Harry and Susan Seigle Hall on a lovely spring evening. Anheuser-Busch Hall and the Knight Executive Education and Conference Center can be seen at right.