Unraveling the mysteries of the gut microbiome

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Alumna Marylen Mann is the founder
of OASIS, a nationwide program (now
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for seniors, pg. 39.

The magazine now includes a
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by alumni and faculty, such as Carl
Phillips, pg. 4.
Celebrating the health of our community

The primary mission of our Leading Together campaign is to provide a strong foundation for the university’s future. One of the campaign’s priorities is to advance human health, and the work of Jeffrey I. Gordon, MD, is an excellent example. Gordon, the Dr. Robert J. Glaser Distinguished University Professor at the School of Medicine, has worked for more than three decades to identify and understand the gut microbiome. In fact, he is considered the “father of the microbiome.” In our cover story (pp. 10–17), you will read how he and his collaborators are exploring how gut bacteria impact two of the major public health crises of our time, obesity and malnutrition.

Advancing the health of our own university community is also paramount, and it was top of mind last fall when we dedicated the new Gary M. Sumers Recreation Center. In this issue, we give you a peek inside the extensive expansion of the Athletic Complex, which provides new spaces for intramurals, university-wide fitness programs, relaxation and more (pp. 22–27).

Prior to its official opening, however, the Sumers Recreation Center served as a hub to thousands of media personnel and two presidential campaigns as the university hosted the second presidential debate Sunday, Oct. 9. It was our fifth time to host such an event, and each debate has provided a great learning experience for our entire community (pp. 18–21).

In addition to the debate, this academic year we are celebrating milestone anniversaries of three of our schools. In September 2016, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, which serves as a hub for interdisciplinary programs among the College of Art, College of Architecture, Graduate School of Art, Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design, the Art & Architecture Library, Department of Art History & Archaeology in Arts & Sciences and the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum.

This year, Olin Business School turns 100. The school’s first graduating class of 10 students — 9 men and 1 woman — earned their degrees in 1920. Nearly a century later, Olin graduated 652 students in the 2015–16 academic year. Once considered a “streetcar” school, today Olin is a multinational community of faculty, students and alumni who teach and learn on several campuses around the world, including China, India, Israel, Singapore, South Korea and throughout Europe.

The School of Law is celebrating 150 years through gatherings scheduled across the nation and around the world — all to honor the school’s pursuit of outstanding legal education, cutting-edge research and impactful community outreach. At an anniversary party in fall 2016, Dean Nancy Staudt, the Howard and Caroline Cayne Professor of Law, stated: “We take seriously our role as the 12th oldest law school in the nation. We treasure our history, and we look forward to the hard work necessary to build for the future.”

And building for a brighter future will require the best of us all. By working and leading together across disciplines, we will develop the knowledge and the talent required to address society’s problems today and tomorrow.

As always, I hope you enjoy this issue. I invite you to visit The Source, source.wustl.edu, for more news of today’s discoveries and activities at Washington University. We welcome your comments and ideas; please email the editor at wustlmediateditor@wustl.edu.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Wrighton
Chancellor
Olin graduated 652 students and alumni who teach and learn on several campuses around the world, including China, India, Israel, Singapore, South Korea and throughout Europe through gatherings scheduled across the nation. And building for a brighter future will require the across disciplines, we will develop the knowledge.

Alumnus Ralph Nagel (left) and his wife, Trish — both pictured on pg. 52 — established the Ralph J. Nagel Deanship of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts. Carmon Colangelo (right) was installed as the first Nagel Dean of the Sam Fox School Nov. 18, 2016.
Must-reads

In the last year, dozens of books by university faculty and alumni hit the shelves. Here we share just a small selection of the noteworthy tomes that are making an impact on literature, research and best-seller lists.

Craig A. Monson

*Habitual Offenders: A True Tale of Nuns, Prostitutes, and Murderers in 17th-Century Italy*

Craig A. Monson, emeritus professor in music in Arts & Sciences, sifted through more than 4,000 pages of primary texts in order to tell the tale of two nuns who fled Bologna’s convent for reformed prostitutes in 1644. A search for the nuns went nowhere until their bodies were found a year later in the wine cellar of a Bolognese townhouse. The scandal touched priests, nobles, cardinals, a king and even the pope.

Carl Phillips

*Rec*”No contemporar

quite seduces like the work of the inimitable Carl Russ Spaar in the Angeles Review of Books about the 13th book of poems of English in Arts & Sciences. His poems are “subtle, nuanced, shifting negotiations of syntax, silence, and musing,” Spaar writes. “All of which can leave a reader breathless, envious, grateful.”

Garth Risk Hallberg

*City on Fire*

At its heart, Garth Risk Hallberg’s best-selling debut novel, *City on Fire*, is a detective story about a New York University student who is shot in Central Park. Hallberg, AB ’02, uses this event to connect a dozen New Yorkers and unveil a sinister plot. *City on Fire* has already been optioned for a film and has been compared to *Bleak House* by Charles Dickens, and the alumnus’ ability to evoke New York in the 1970s has been widely lauded.

Sowande’ M. Mustakeem

*Slavery at Sea: Terror, Sex, and Sickness in the Middle Passage*

Sowande’ M. Mustakeem, assistant professor in the departments of history and African and African-American Studies in Arts & Sciences, takes a new look at slavery in her book *Slavery at Sea: Terror, Sex, and Sickness in the Middle Passage*. Whereas much of the scholarship on slavery has focused on the plantation, Mustakeem shows how the oceanic transport of slaves, known as the Middle Passage, created the foundations of the “peculiar institution.”

William Paul

*When Movies Were Theater: Architecture, Exhibition, and the Evolution of American Film*

In his latest book, William Paul, professor of film and media studies in Arts & Sciences, writes about the evolution of theater architecture and the varied ways movies have been shown. “Viewing a movie in the past was also an experience of architecture, an experience of both the film image and the grand theatrical space that contained it,” Paul writes. He discusses how the theater shapes movie styles, business practices and even film technologies.
Kea Wilson
We Eat Our Own

Kea Wilson, MFA ’13, has been a writer and a fan of horror movies since her youth. Not surprisingly, her debut novel is inspired by the grisly horror flick, Cannibal Holocaust. The film, set in the Amazon rainforest, included rape, murder and cannibalism. It was so convincing that the director was accused of making a snuff film. In We Eat Our Own, Wilson offers a fictionalized account of a mad director creating a similar film, Jungle Bloodbath, in the Amazon.

Teddy Wayne
Loner

In Loner, a new novel by Teddy Wayne, MFA ’07, an academically gifted kid arrives on Harvard’s campus determined to be more popular than he was in high school. He decides that his best shot is getting an invite into the world of the beautiful Veronica Morgan Wells. But his interest soon becomes a horrible obsession, in this book that turns the typical campus novel on its head. Loner was hailed by the Kirkus Review, which found it “as absorbing as it is devastating.”

Ben H. Winters
Underground Airlines

In his best-selling novel, Ben H. Winters, AB ’98, takes us to an America where the Civil War never happened and slavery is still legal. Victor, the novel’s narrator, hunts down fugitives for the U.S. Marshals Service. As a former slave, Victor is good at infiltrating abolitionist groups, but his search for an escaped slave named Jackdaw forces Victor to confront his own dark past. The book generated some controversy because Winters is white, and he tells the story as Victor, an African American.

Carl Phillips
Reconnaissance

“No contemporary poetry quite seduces like the work of the inimitable Carl Phillips,” writes Lisa Russ Spaar in the Los Angeles Review of Books about Reconnaissance, the 13th book of poems from Phillips, professor of English in Arts & Sciences. His poems are “subtle, nuanced, shifting negotiations of syntax, silence, and musing,” Spaar writes. “All of which can leave a reader breathless, envious, grateful.”

John Hendrix
Miracle Man: The Story of Jesus

In his book Miracle Man: The Story of Jesus, award-winning illustrator John Hendrix, associate professor at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, depicts the miracles Christ performed in beautiful illustrations and custom fonts. The stories show Jesus’ words turning into lightning bolts, butterflies and stone letters as his stupefied disciples look on.

Miracle Man: The Story of Jesus

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When Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin in 1928, he changed the world. Infections that had killed people became treatable, and surgeries and other treatments became much safer.

Since 1928, however, bacteria have developed new mechanisms to resist antibiotics. The problem has become so prevalent that some experts say we are entering a post-antibiotic era, when all the antibiotics we have discovered will no longer be effective.

Fighting this trend is Gautam Dantas, associate professor of pathology and immunology and of molecular microbiology in the School of Medicine, and associate professor of biomedical engineering in the School of Engineering & Applied Science. His efforts are not only helping physicians come up with ways to fight antibiotic-resistant infections, but also allowing doctors to use antibiotics that were long ago deemed ineffective because of resistance.

**Where does antibiotic resistance come from?**

Almost everything we call an antibiotic that we currently use in the clinic is a natural product of soil-dwelling bacteria. One of the consequences of antibiotics existing in the soil is that they’re essentially as old as bacteria. The ability of a bug to evolve and avoid being killed by antibiotics is estimated to be just as old.

**What is your lab doing to fight against antibiotic resistance?**

We don’t look at a single bacterial gene but rather at all the genes in the genome at the same time, and we use that concept [to find] nodes we might be able to overwhelm, not by using single drugs but by drugs in combination. There really is something special about the interaction between multiple drugs, and one particular type of interaction that you can take advantage of is this idea of “induced synergy.” That is basically when components, like three different drugs, will work together better than the sum of their parts.

The other concept that we’ve harnessed is “collateral sensitivity.” It’s the concept that when we have two drugs, drugs A and B, and if the bacterium becomes resistant to drug A, it automatically becomes more susceptible to drug B. This is not true for all drug combinations, only some very special drugs. In my lab, we’ve decided a new way to go after drug resistance is to combine those two concepts of synergy and collateral sensitivity.

**How does it work in practice?**

We’ve combined these concepts to go after MRSA. It causes about 11,000 deaths in the U.S. each year, and it is one of the few bugs that we define by its resistance, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus. We’ve come up with a triple combination of drugs, where the individual components are already FDA-approved, that can treat MRSA, and the drugs together are synergistic and collaterally sensitive. That is to say even when we tried to force MRSA to become resistant to that combination, it couldn’t.

We think much more important than that specific discovery is the generality of the principle. Looking for this very special quality of drugs that can synergize and be collaterally sensitive, we might be able to rescue whole classes of old antibiotics that have gone by the wayside because individually there was resistance to them. So that’s a paradigm shift. It’s not just the fact that we need to come up with new compounds, which we absolutely need to do, but this allows us to repurpose compounds that we’ve forgotten about.
QUOTED: WASHU MEMORIES
Send us your memories of your times at WashU, and we’ll post them on our website, The Source. Visit source.wustl.edu, “WashU Memories: Feels like yesterday.”

“As manager of Fat Albert’s, I have so many wonderful memories. We had a great crew who learned to manage a business and provide customer service. And we had fun until midnight, occasionally [ending our shifts with] a food fight or someone streaking ‘naked as a jay bird.’” — Dean Shulman, AB ’77

“For the opening of Olin Library, we students formed a line from Brookings to Olin and passed all the books along, transferring them from one building to the other.” — Marianne Heinicke Gupta, AB ’63

“Despite all this daily changing controversy, there’s some stability in this world, and that’s what Washington University represents. Both of my parents went to school here, so I’ve been attached to this university for a long, long time.” — Robert Westerman, AB ’64, EMBA ’94

“I remember] being part of the group who plotted, planned and successfully accomplished the installation of a picture of Chancellor Danforth’s face on the Quad clock.” — Barbara Galler, AB ’75

“The morning that Alan Shepard was rocketed into space for the first U.S. manned suborbital flight, I was listening on my car radio. Just as the blackout of communications occurred on re-entry, my radio quit working. I then ran up and down [a WashU] parking lot until I found another person listening on his radio. Holding our breath, seemingly forever, the communication was re-established, and Shepard landed safely.” — Paul Fleetwood, BS ’65
If you want to start a business, but be sure — and that means building businesses, but it all starts with an idea — Mark the Women's brownies, the brownies that you love and launch a brownie business. —Mark Emre Toker

It’s always the right time

"The right time to start a business is the issue that almost always comes up when counseling students. Practically speaking, timing is not a factor that should be considered because it can’t be controlled. There will always be reasons why the personal timing could be better. If it is the right opportunity for you, you should jump on it. Likewise, you wouldn’t want to jump on the wrong opportunity just because the timing seems right. So don’t let personal timing prevent you from pursuing that big idea — your focus should be on evaluating the opportunity instead."

—Cliff Holekamp is the senior lecturer in entrepreneurship, academic director for entrepreneurship and director of the entrepreneurship platform in Olin Business School.

Test your business idea

“When someone is looking to start a new venture, she should ask herself these four basic questions: (1) Who is the (paying) customer? (2) What is the customer’s unresolved pain? (3) How does my proposed offering resolve this pain? (4) What is the customer’s next best alternative today to my proposed solution? Founders typically overvalue the benefits of their offering by threefold, and customers undervalue the benefits of the offering by threefold as compared to their current alternatives. To paraphrase Paul Graham, ‘Who wants your product or service so much that they will use it even when it is a half-baked version, made by a two-person startup they have never heard of? If you cannot answer this question, the idea is probably not so good.’”

—Emre Toker is the managing director of the Skandalaris Center for Interdisciplinary Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
Alumni and experts share tips about how to be a successful entrepreneur.

**3 Surround yourself with the right people**

“Hang around smart people, because smart people say smart things. Hang around interesting people, because interesting people do interesting things. And when you’ve got a collection of smart and interesting people, they will be intellectually curious in a way that is always solving a problem. You don’t want to be the sharpest tool in the group. You want to make sure that there are others who can relieve you and allow you to sharpen yourself.”

—Dedric Carter, vice chancellor for operations and technology transfer and professor of engineering practice, is a catalyst for cross-university initiatives and connects members of the university to the entrepreneurial community.

**4 Solve problems**

“If you want to start a social enterprise in a foreign country, know that country well. I didn’t choose Rwanda; I was assigned to Rwanda in the Peace Corps and spent two years there before starting The Women’s Bakery. Similarly, and perhaps more importantly, listen. It’s great to have a marvelous idea for a business, but be sure that marvelous idea is rooted in an actual need — and that a solution for that need has been found. I have helped create a social enterprise that educates women and builds businesses, but it all started because a group of Rwandan women asked me to teach them how to make bread and then launch a bakery.”

—Markey Culver is an MBA candidate at the university and director of The Women’s Bakery Inc., a nonprofit she started in Rwanda that helps women open and run bakeries offering nutritious bread made from local ingredients.

**5 Know when to give up**

“You need to identify the endpoint that you’re looking for and then the waypoints that you need to pass. So don’t say, ‘I’m going to do something that takes me 10 years, and then I’ll know whether it worked or not.’ Instead, say, ‘If I don’t hit this goal within six months, it’s dead.’ Or ‘I got to the first goal, but if I don’t hit my second goal within two years, then I stop.’ You have to detach emotion from objective data points.”

—Michael Kinch, associate vice chancellor and director of the Center for Research Innovation in Business, and professor of radiation oncology in the School of Medicine, studies the development of new therapeutic agents and devices.

**6 Don’t cave at every setback**

“You shouldn’t get discouraged just because people are telling you no. No doesn’t mean no forever. It means no right now. The response should be to say to the person who said no, ‘OK, I understand it’s a no at this time. What would you need to see from me to turn that no into a yes?’ And if you continue to iterate on that process and continue to ask those questions, then it gives you a lot of insight into what your next step should be.”

—Dana Watt, postdoctoral fellow in accelerated innovation at the Skandalaris Center, started her own diagnostics startup company while a graduate student and was an officer for the student-run BioEntrepreneurship Core.
Jeffrey I. Gordon, MD, directs the Washington University School of Medicine’s Center for Genome Sciences and Systems Biology. Along with talented students and colleagues, Gordon has harnessed the power of specialized mouse models to study the microbial communities that colonize the human gut.
The Father of the Microbiome

Jeffrey I. Gordon, MD, is expanding our understanding of human health into nonhuman realms, studying the bacteria that take up residence in the gut and help define who we become. Indeed, this research suggests you are what you — and your microbes — eat.

BY JULIA EVANGELOU STRAIT
The isolated living spaces of laboratory mice, especially those born with no exposure to bacteria, are a far cry from the way people actually live, whether home is in the suburbs of the American Midwest, the urban slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh, or the rural villages of Malawi. Nevertheless, studies of such mice — and the human gut bacteria they are given — have shed light on two of the major public health crises of our time — obesity and childhood malnutrition.

Spearheading efforts to understand the human gut microbiome is renowned researcher Jeffrey I. Gordon, MD, of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. Gordon has been called the father of this field as well as, arguably, the most influential human microbiome scientist working today. Along with talented students and colleagues, Gordon has harnessed the power of specialized mouse models to study the microbial communities that colonize the human gut. Over the past 20 years, this work has revolutionized our understanding of human biology, implicating the gut’s microbial residents in orchestrating healthy growth and development when these communities work well, and in causing disease when they do not. Gordon, the Dr. Robert J. Glaser Distinguished University Professor, directs the School of Medicine’s Center for Genome Sciences and Systems Biology. Over more than two decades, Gordon’s research has evolved from studying gut development from a human perspective to demonstrating that the human gut and its resident bacteria can’t be understood in isolation. Gordon often speaks of the gut’s nonhuman residents — the microbiota — as a microbial organ. Like the body’s other organs, Gordon has shown, the microbiota performs specific and vital functions. Without healthy development of the tens of trillions of microbes that make up this organ, the human gut does not work as it should. And this may have lifelong consequences.

The human gut also is a constant work in progress, with most cells of its inner lining renewing themselves every two weeks. The gut of a typical adult, including the large and small intestine, is more than 20 feet long, with different regions along its length performing different digestive tasks. “In my final year of medical school, I was fascinated by a lecture series on the gut and the renewal of the cells lining the gut,” Gordon says. “Cells in different regions of the gut produce different products and perform different tasks. How do these cells know where they are along the length of the gut and what they should be doing? And how do they maintain this ‘positional’ identity over time?”

Seeking answers to these questions, Gordon and his students performed an experiment in which they used genetic methods to slow down the gut lining’s cellular renewal process in mice. Specifically, they made some of the cells, but not all, take longer to migrate from their birth place — the stem cell niche — to their final positions. During this migration, they normally differentiate to mature cells that perform key functions.

The researchers found that even though some cells took longer to get where they needed to go, they did not start performing their designated tasks earlier than they should. In other words, the cells were not relying on an internal clock, waiting on a particular time to elapse to begin their work. Instead, the cells lining the gut did not start doing their jobs until they were in the right place, no matter how long their journey took.

“These results spawned a debate in the lab — where to look for the source of this spatial information,” Gordon says. “As developmental biologists, it made sense to look at the gut’s underlying tissues for signals that guide the differentiation of these cells. But we could not ignore the fact that, beginning at birth, the gut is colonized by a vast microbial community. It was conceivable that these microbes could be sending key signals to the cells lining the gut.”

Gordon credits the late David M. Kipnis, MD, who was head of the Department of Medicine when Gordon joined the Washington University faculty in 1981, with providing the support, trust and resources he needed to flourish as an independent research scientist. Gordon praised Kipnis for his willingness to take chances and provide long-term support for young faculty pursuing unconventional research.

“David was an inspirational mentor,” Gordon says. “He fostered the careers of several generations of physician-scientists because of his capacity to listen to them carefully at formative stages of their careers. He had the patience and wisdom to allow them to make the bold, unconventional investments needed to develop new technologies, create new model systems and acquire key observations, so they could succeed in the long term. He valued young people for their
renewal of the cells lining the gut,” Gordon says. “What do they do? And how do they maintain this ‘positional’ cellular renewal process in mice. They made some of the cells, but not all, take longer to migrate from their birth place — during this migration, they normally differentiate tasks earlier than they should. In other words, the cells were not relying on an internal clock, waiting on a particular time to elapse to begin their work.

Instead, the cells lining the gut did not start doing these results spawned a debate in the lab — it was conceivable that these microbes could be sending messages to the gut. Gordon credits the late David M. Kipnis, MD, University of Pennsylvania, generations of physician-scientists because of his new technologies, create new model systems and observations, so they could succeed in the long term. He valued young people for their vision and commitment, and for their capacity to make future contributions, not just what they produced in the short term. He made arrangements in thoughtful and creative ways, so these young scientists would be placed in special environments that would be most supportive of their early development as independent researchers.”

In Gordon’s case, that special environment was in the Department of Biochemistry, where he established his lab while completing his clinical training in gastroenterology. He later became head of the Department of Pharmacology and Molecular Biology. And that is where his team began exploring the relationship between the gut and the bacteria that live there.

At the time, Gordon’s lab lacked the ability to breed mice under sterile conditions and strictly control the bacteria that end up in their pristine gut environments. But the Karolinska Institute in Sweden had such a “gnotobiotic” mouse facility. With the help of then-postdoctoral researcher Per Falk, who had done his doctoral studies there, Gordon teamed up with the Swedish researchers. Together, they conducted a series of experiments comparing gut development in germ-free mice to mice raised with normal exposure to microbes. The studies, performed by then-graduate student Lynn Bry, suggested that gut bacteria cause the cells of the gut to produce a type of sugar.

“Lynn found evidence that gut microbes are directing the host to serve them a meal of complex carbohydrates,” Gordon says. “The gut’s production of this ‘meal’ begins near the end of the small intestine and progresses along its length. This progression would begin in both the germ-free animals and in conventionally raised animals. But in sterile animals, this progression would stop around the time the mouse pups were weaned from their mothers.”

Bry then showed that if she added gut microbiota from conventionally raised mice to the just-weaned germ-free mice, their gut cells would begin producing these complex carbohydrates again.

But the microbiota of conventionally raised mice is extraordinarily complex. To tease out more details of the interaction between gut cells and bacterial cells, Gordon and his students needed a simpler system that would give them
control over more variables. They chose to focus on a single type of bacteria, Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron, or B. theta, that was known to live in the human gut and to digest certain complex sugars that the human gut, lacking the proper enzymes, cannot break down.

The researchers found that B. theta alone could direct the gut to start this specific carbohydrate production program. But the program is dependent upon the organism’s ability to use that carbohydrate.

“We felt that this dynamic of nutrient sharing was an extremely important foundation for establishing and maintaining mutually beneficial relationships between members of the microbiota and their host,” Gordon says.

To gain insights into how B. theta was telling the gut to serve it a meal, Gordon and his students decided to sequence this bacterium’s genome. But they ran into a road block. At the time, in the late 1990s, major genome sequencing centers were not analyzing the DNA of friendly bacteria — they were focused on the human genome. So Gordon and his team took matters into their own hands and wrote a grant to purchase a DNA sequencer and set up a bacterial genomics pipeline in the lab.

“Arm...
The gut microbiome of obese individuals lacks the diversity seen in the microbial communities of lean individuals. The lab’s genome sequencing capabilities also demonstrated differences in the genes present in these microbial communities, including genes related to metabolism and nutrient processing.

Going a step further, the researchers, led by then-graduate student Vanessa Ridaura, took stool samples from twin pairs where one was obese and the other lean. The microbiota of the lean and obese twins were transplanted into separate groups of gnotobiotic mice. All mice were fed the same amounts of food.

“We saw that the human microbiota could transmit features of obesity or leanness to these mice,” Gordon says. “We saw that microbiota from the obese co-twin transmitted features of obese humans — increased body fat and metabolic abnormalities — to these mice, while recipients of the lean co-twin’s microbiota were leaner and metabolically healthier.”

And in a tantalizing observation, researchers also showed that when these mice were housed together, which allowed them to share their bacterial strains, the microbes associated with leanness were able to establish themselves in the guts of the mice that had been given the microbiota associated with obesity. This invasion prevented the development of obesity and metabolic abnormalities in mice harboring the obese donor’s microbiota. Importantly — perhaps enough that it bears repeating — Gordon and his colleagues knew these mice were not consuming different amounts of food. The features of obesity were associated with differences in microbiota, not the number of calories consumed. Moreover, the invasion revealed that the lean donor’s microbiota would perform jobs that were completely missing from the microbiota of the obese donor. Filling these job vacancies appeared to prevent obesity from developing, Gordon noted.

The findings raise the prospects of future probiotic treatments for obesity. They also suggest that the nutritional value of foods cannot be determined independently of the microbes present in the gut and how they process nutrients.

The microbiota, Gordon and his colleagues have hypothesized, should be considered a component of the energy-balance equation. But even if gut microbes have their own say in calories in, calories out, more research is needed before this knowledge could be used to help reduce the burden of obesity on human health.
NURTURING A MATURE MICROBIOTA

At the opposite end of the metabolic spectrum, these observations also have profound implications for understanding malnutrition.

Similar to the studies that demonstrated a causal role for gut microbes in obesity, Gordon and his students have laid out evidence that the microbiota also bears some responsibility for childhood malnutrition, and the poor growth and development associated with it.

Their first goal was to document development of the microbiota in infants showing normal growth over the first several years of life, an undertaking led by doctoral student Sathish Subramanian and colleagues in Bangladesh. After establishing there is, indeed, a pattern of healthy microbiota development that is shared across individuals, Gordon and his colleagues compared these patterns to Bangladeshi children experiencing varying degrees of malnutrition.

Researchers found that malnourished children’s microbiota failed to follow the healthy pattern they identified in healthy children. Gordon’s work suggests the microbiota of malnourished children is immature, lagging in development behind that of their healthy peers. Supplemenitng these children’s meals with widely used therapeutic foods that increase calories and nutrient density reduces deaths from malnutrition, but it does not fix their persistent microbiota immaturity.

Perhaps more insidious than slowing growth is malnutrition’s effect on less visible aspects of health, including impaired brain development and dysfunctional immunity, which follow these children throughout their lives. Like with obesity, Gordon and his students, led by doctoral student Laura Blanton, replicated the microbiota of healthy and malnourished children in young gnotobiotic mice. Again, eating the same food — food that mimicked the ingredients and low nutrient content of the meals available to the children whose microbiota they harbored — these mice recapitulated features of normal growth or of impaired growth, depending on which microbiota they received. And the differences went beyond the size of the mice to include differences in metabolism in multiple organs and in bone development.

Their results provided preclinical proof that microbiota immaturity was causally related to malnutrition and that healthy growth is linked to healthy development of the gut microbiota. Their studies not only identified members of the microbiota that were positively correlated with growth, but also demonstrated how the microbiota’s effects extend beyond the gut. In addition, their findings underscore how the nutritional value of food is heavily influenced by the gut microbial community.

Searching for factors that might help establish a healthy microbiota and influence healthy growth, Gordon and his colleagues looked for clues in nature’s first food — breast milk. Compared to the breast milk of mothers with healthy children, the researchers found that the breast milk of mothers with malnourished children had lower levels of sugars that carry sialic acid. To conduct mouse studies, Gordon and colleagues at the University of California, Davis used a similar compound found in cow’s milk, which they purified from the whey produced during cheese manufacturing.

Utilizing gnotobiotic mice with the gut bacteria of a malnourished child, the researchers, led by then-doctoral student Mark Charbonneau, showed that the animals receiving a low-nutrient diet supplemented with sialic acid from cow’s milk sugars showed improved growth, healthier metabolism and augmented bone growth compared to mice who received an unsupplemented diet with the same caloric density. These effects were dependent upon the microbiota: Germ-free mice who received sialic acid supplementation did not show improved growth.

As Gordon’s work has revealed the importance of the first few years of life and the exposures that shape the gut microbiota, he has turned his attention to identifying foods that can be given during the weaning period — when babies transition from mother’s milk to a typical diet — that will promote the development of a healthy gut microbial organ. With support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Gordon is beginning to investigate such foods in children.

“We are designing these next-generation therapeutic foods from the inside out, guided by the gut microbiota,” Gordon says. “In addition to finding foods that support formation of gut microbial communities associated with healthy growth and development, it’s vital that these foods also are culturally acceptable as well as environmentally sustainable and affordable to produce.”

Continuing their collaboration with the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research in Bangladesh, Gordon and his team will set up the first study site in Mirpur, located in the Bangladeshi capital city of Dhaka. The goal is to investigate whether these foods can durably ly improve growth and development, as well as reduce hospitalizations and other community health problems for Bangladeshi children experiencing varying degrees of malnutrition. Gordon and his students have laid out evidence that the microbiota also bears some responsibility for childhood malnutrition, and the poor growth and development associated with it.
Siddarth Venkatesh, a postdoctoral fellow in Gordon’s lab, is using novel gnotobiotic animal models to develop a new class of therapeutic foods. These foods are designed to repair the disordered maturation of the gut microbiota that occurs in children with undernutrition.

“We hope these studies will lead to food-based interventions for undernutrition that produce better clinical outcomes,” Gordon says. “Looking beyond malnutrition, the lessons learned may provide more informed and generalizable recommendations for feeding practices during the time infants are being weaned.”

The researchers are proceeding with caution, first with food-based therapies. In the future, according to Gordon, treatment of severely immature microbiota may also have to include administration of next-generation probiotics, consisting of defined collections of beneficial bacterial strains cultured from the human gut microbiota.

“There is a window in human postnatal development of the microbial organ that we may be able to modify in ways that promote long-term health,” Gordon says. “We need to consider not only the biological implications, but also the societal issues raised by these efforts.”

Gordon often speaks of the complexities of this work that go far beyond laboratory mice, including the need to form partnerships with local communities and with specialists in other important areas, including agriculture, food science, public health and business. Such expertise and partnerships are required whether seeking ways to empower mothers who may be struggling to breastfeed or ways to create local food-based industries. These industries should simultaneously support the economic health of a community and the healthy growth of its children, all while respecting cultural and culinary traditions.

Gordon’s idea of partnerships also extends beyond the human and into the microbial world.

“Being able to see ourselves as a splendid collection of interacting human and microbial parts teaches us that we do not travel through life alone, unaccompanied,” he says. “There is a microbial dimension to our development that offers an expanded view of the ‘self.’ Studying this expanded view of ourselves offers the possibility of entirely new approaches to human well-being.”

Julia Evangelou Strait is a senior medical science writer in Medical Public Affairs.
Hosting Another Historic Debate

On Oct. 9, 2016, Washington University played host to the second presidential debate between Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton and then-Republican nominee Donald Trump. The Commission on Presidential Debates has invited the university to host a presidential or vice presidential debate six times since 1992, although the 1996 debate at the university was canceled. To complement the debate, hundreds of students, faculty and staff participated in activities across campus, and many volunteered to support university efforts. The university also welcomed thousands of members of the national and international media and hundreds of special guests. Following are just a few images that showcase the excitement that surrounded last fall’s important event. For more, visit debate.wustl.edu.
skated) in front of Brooking Hall when it was lit Saturday, Oct. 1. Students gathered during cable and network news broadcasts to show their support for the candidates.
4. CNN broadcasted live from the Quad.
5., 6., 9. Students participated in a wide range of activities.
7. Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton welcomed the world to WashU.
The Budweiser Clydesdales paraded across Danforth Campus the Friday before the debate. Spin Alley was jammed post-debate.
At the Gary M. Sumers Recreation Center, the university encourages healthy living through state-of-the-art fitness and recreation facilities.

SPORTING A NEW LOOK

BY DIANE TOROIAN KEAGGY
The Gary M. Sumers Recreation Center debuted Oct. 29, 2016, and was embraced immediately as a place for all of Washington University — students, staff, faculty and alumni. To learn more about the facility and its popularity, Diane Keaggy, senior news director of campus life, spent a full day at Sumers, arriving before dawn and leaving long past sunset. During her Nov. 3 visit, she discovered a place where the university community comes together to play, exercise, de-stress and connect with one another.

6:30 a.m. — The Throw Wall

Bryan Lenz likes to get in a workout before heading into the office. So today, he rose before dawn for some weights and cardio at the new Gary M. Sumers Recreation Center. Then it’s off to his desk, just up the stairs and down the hall from the gymnasium.

“When you work at your gym, there are no excuses,” says Lenz with a laugh.

Lenz is Washington University’s first director of recreational sports and campus fitness. That makes him both a manager and a member of the Sumers Recreation Center. He helped select the center’s equipment, hire new instructors and build a class schedule.

“The goal was to create a place where everyone — regardless of age, interests or fitness level — would feel welcome,” Lenz says. “We did that. Personally, I feel very motivated here, and I’m so happy others do too.”

The $55 million Sumers Recreation Center is named for Washington University alumnus and trustee Gary M. Sumers, AB ’75, who committed $12 million to the project (see pg. 53 for more on Gary M. Sumers). Designed by acclaimed architecture firm Bohlin Cywinski Jackson in association with St. Louis firm Hastings+Chivetta Architects, the center comprises a transformed Francis Gymnasium, home to the 1904 Olympics, and a 66,500-square-foot addition. Features include 72 cardio machines, a spinning room, two fitness studios, a three-court gym with a suspended running track, and a “Zen Den” staffed by licensed massage therapists and outfitted with massage chairs.
But before its debut as a rec center, Sumers enjoyed a brief moment in the national spotlight. On Oct. 9, 2016, the Athletic Complex hosted the second presidential debate, making it the fifth debate hosted by the university since 1992. The Donald Trump campaign occupied the spinning room, and the Hillary Clinton campaign worked from a yoga studio. Some 2,000 journalists filed their reports from the gymnasium.

“What a way to break in this space!” Lenz says. “But I’m glad it’s ours now.”

Seth Alms, a technical support specialist who works on the West Campus, agrees.

“I couldn’t wait for this place to open,” says Alms, who is also here for a morning workout. “It’s got everything. More space? Check. Better equipment? Check. Longer hours? Check. And the people are family.”

Lenz marvels as Alms hurls a medicine ball nine feet in the air, drops for a burpee and springs to his feet in time to catch the ball. Alms then moves into a handstand and crosses the floor.

“Man, you should be on American Ninja Warrior,” Lenz says. “You could represent WashU.”

Alms laughs.

“I’m just happy to be here,” Alms replies. “I was stuck in traffic for 20 minutes, but now I’m having fun. Life is good, and this place helps it.”

“I couldn’t wait for this place to open. It’s got everything. More space? Check. Better equipment? Check. Longer hours? Check. And people are like family.”

— Seth Alms

3 p.m. — The Lobby

It’s easy to spot Jamie Kolker, university architect and associate vice chancellor; he’s the only one here in a tie. On this day, he’s meeting with architects to discuss locker room improvements.

“The response to Sumers has been overwhelming and not just from students,” Kolker says. “Staff, faculty and other members of the community are exploring all the facility has to offer.”

Sumers is the result of years of planning. University leaders studied recreation centers at peer institutions, surveyed students and employees, solicited donations and collaborated with architects and interior designers. The new center is a bright, functional space that meets today’s needs but also celebrates university history.

Imagine: Olympic athletes from 1904 entered through these very doors,” Kolker says.

Sumers represents the first major update to university fitness facilities since the renovation of the Athletic Complex in 1984. Back then, in the era of leg warmers and aerobics, only 13 million Americans belonged to a health club. Today, the number is 55 million.

“People exercised then, but the focus we see today on health and wellness and nutrition had yet to take root on a broader scale,” Kolker says. “We fell behind quickly. Sumers definitely brings us back up to speed.”

5:30 p.m. — The Zen Den

Sumers has been open less than a week and already Christal Zhu is a regular of the Zen Den.

An accountant on North Campus, Zhu sits in front of a computer all day.

“My shoulders get so tight,” says Zhu, stepping into the darkly lit room. As the chair expands to hug her frame, she adjusts the heat setting and exhales deeply. Zhu emerges refreshed and ready for her 6 p.m. energy sculpt class.

“I feel like a queen,” she says.

6 p.m. — The Three-Court Gym

Senior Sarah Taylor is setting up the volleyball net for the first intramural volleyball game of the season. Reigning champion SAE will face off against ZBT. The stakes couldn’t be lower.

“No one really cares who wins, but it’s fun,” says junior Brian Liebowitz, a member of SAE.
Staff, faculty and other members of the community. The Sumers Recreation Center honors Francis Gymnasium’s role in Olympic history and creates a new destination for students, faculty and staff to share.

Staff member Seth Alms (at right) works out at Sumers every morning before work. He calls Bryan Lenz, director of recreational sports and campus fitness, and his staff “family.” Lenz calls Alms the university’s “American Ninja Warrior.”
Lelandra Randle, along with a third of the class of 25, raises her hand.


Feely's class is modeled after SoulCycle, the wildly popular fitness craze that combines spinning and club music. Indeed, the studio, with its top-notch sound system and dark lights, feels like a nightclub — only this nightclub has wall-mounted monitors that display how fast and how hard every cyclist is pushing.

"Way to go, No. 24," Feely shouts to the class leader.

Feely — part coach, part emcee — keeps the party bouncing through 60 minutes of drills.

Before joining Washington University, Feely worked at private gyms, often with women who were dismayed by how weak and exhausted they had become in middle age.

"Fitness and wellness had never been part of their history," Feely explains before the class.

"So it's exciting to work with young people and to teach them how to take care of themselves now and for the rest of their lives."

— Meghann Feely

Still, Taylor wants to make sure the rules are followed, and the game is fair. As intramural sports supervisor, she will oversee the line judges and referees who will officiate the evening's eight scheduled games.

"A lot of people think it would be awful to ref their friends, but I love it," says Taylor, who is studying urban studies and Spanish in Arts & Sciences.

"I've discovered I kind of like being the boss.

Intramural sports (IM) have always been popular on campus — too popular given the Athletic Complex's limited space. But the dedicated three-court gym means a bigger and better IM program, says Jamaica Cannon, assistant director of intramural sports. Some 270 teams are currently signed up for 30 intramural sports, a number that she expects to grow in 2017–18.

During the 2016–17 season, the rec gym will host about 550 IM games, and they all need refs. Thankfully, she has Taylor.

"To be a great ref, you need more than knowledge of the rules. You need great leadership skills," Cannon says. "You have to manage conflict and be confident in your decisions. Sarah has all those qualities and more."

7 p.m. — The Dark Room

Cycling instructor Meghann Feely, assistant director of fitness and wellness, jumps on her bike and asks who is new to spinning. Freshman Lelandra Randle, along with a third of the class of 25, raises her hand.

"Fantastic," Feely shout. "Get ready to move."

Feely's class is modeled after SoulCycle, the wildly popular fitness craze that combines spinning and club music. Indeed, the studio, with its top-notch sound system and dark lights, feels like a nightclub — only this nightclub has wall-mounted monitors that display how fast and how hard every cyclist is pushing.

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"Fitness and wellness had never been part of their history," Feely explains before the class.

"So it’s exciting to work with young people and to teach them how to take care of themselves now and for the rest of their lives."

At the end of the session, Randle dismounts her bike and mops the sweat from her forehead.

"I've been so focused on school that I just haven't been able to work out the way I'd like to," says Randle, a pre-med student. "I'm so exhausted, but it's a good exhausted. And I can't wait to come back.

Diane Toroian Keagy, AB ’90, is senior news director of campus life.
Intramural sports supervisor Sarah Taylor, a senior studying Spanish and urban studies, sets up a volleyball net for the first intramural volleyball game of the season.

First-year student Lelandra Randle (right) attends her first spinning class with her roommates Millyn Breschke Robertson (center) and Tenille Tubbs. Their instructor, Meghann Feely, assistant director of fitness and wellness, says she loves helping students develop healthy habits early.

The new three-court gym will host 30 intramural sports and some 550 IM games this year. Sports range from favorites like basketball and flag football to untraditional games like bubble soccer and log rolling.
WashU alumni share their magical stories about working on Broadway, becoming part of a larger cultural conversation and, ultimately, making a difference.

FROM LEFT to RIGHT: Keith Sherman is owner of Keith Sherman & Associates Public Relations, and Michael Sinder is owner of his own law firm; both represent clients in the theater and entertainment industries. Eric Schnall, Steven Sater and Pun Bandhu are producers of such Tony Award–winning shows as Hedwig and the Angry Inch and Spring Awakening. Sater is also a writer of multiple genres, and Bandhu is an actor.
by Landscape

BY JEANNETTE COOPERMAN
We talk about Broadway as though it’s a vast place, its marquees’ stars rivaling the night sky. But in reality, the Great White Way is a strip two blocks wide and 14 blocks long, and it contains only 40 theaters. That said, this small slice of Manhattan has a boundless attitude.

Think about it: Musicals can often cost up to $30 million to mount. Shows like Fun Home and Hamilton play at the edge of society. Investors are so passionate (or crazy) that they keep pouring money into shows, knowing only one in five recoups its costs. And, truthfully, actors and directors would have a far more comfortable life, in every sense of the word, if they switched careers.

But they wouldn’t dream of it. They work in the most glamorous, adrenaline-charged field in America, and they all know each other, as we found when we talked to seven WashU alumni currently working on Broadway.

“Who else are you talking to? Oh, yeah, sure, I know that guy. I forgot he went to WashU too.” Pun Bandhu, AB ’96, and Terry Schnuck, MBA ’60, for example, were co-producers of Spring Awakening — a Tony Award winner written by another WashU alum, Steven Sater — and its airing of teenage sex and rebellion paved the way for shows like the Tony-winning Fun Home, co-produced by Schnuck and Mary Strauss, MA ’69.

On go the connections. Back in college, for all seven, Broadway was a faraway dream. But they made it. No matter where they’ve settled, emotionally, Broadway’s where they live. And with every production, these WashU alums leave their mark.

Steven Sater

A poet, playwright, lyricist and screenwriter, Steven Sater recently reinvented Alice in Wonderland (Alice by Heart, commissioned by the Brit’s National Theatre), wrote a play around Mahler’s “Songs on the Death of Children” (No One’s Sonata) and penned the screenplay for his Tony-winning Spring Awakening. He is matching words to Burt Bacharach’s first original score in years (Some Lovers), writing a play commissioned to accompany Hamlet in repertory, adapting his play New York Animals for British TV, launching a new version of the 19th-century Austrian play La Ronde, working on Murder at the Gates — a teen murder mystery/rock musical with British rock star James Bourne — and writing a novel.

The novel is, he’s realized, a way of remaking what he lost during his sophomore year at WashU. An English literature major, he’d written a day-in-the-life of himself and his teacher, modeled on Joyce’s Ulysses. The manuscript burned when his apartment caught fire.

Sater shattered multiple vertebrae jumping from his balcony to escape the flames. Strapped to a narrow bed and turned like meat on a spit, he distracted himself by clenching a page-turner between his teeth and, page by page, teaching himself ancient Greek. Had he not, he says, there would be no Spring Awakening: The Greeks made him understand that songs can forward a story in the way their choruses once did. In the wake of the Columbine shootings, he used that knowledge to turn an 1891 German play about the loss of innocence into a rock musical.

“The play was an outcry against social and religious hypocrisy, against parents who paid no attention to what was going on in the hearts of their children,” he says. “It was full of the yearnings of young people, and rock music had, for generations, been the outlet for that.”

Spring Awakening has since been performed in 52 countries. In 2015, it was revived by the Deaf West Theatre and became Broadway’s first commercial production of a deaf theater company’s work.

“It was genuinely moving,” he says. “In a way, the words became more primary. The choreography all came from the signs for the words: The words were becoming pictures before the audience’s eyes, and the songs became the dance.

“One thing Broadway allows you,” he adds, “is to set a sort of imprimatur on a play. By being part of the Broadway landscape, you become part of a larger cultural conversation.”

It was Sater’s parents who insisted on a liberal arts education — he’d wanted to go straight to a drama school. Instead, he went to WashU and then on to Princeton to do graduate work in literature. Today, his apartment is strewn with notepads (he writes longhand), Shakespeare editions, Tolstoy and Homer and Proust.

“I don’t think Broadway is like Ancient Greece at all,” he says. “We have lost that impulse of going to a theater as if to a temple, to cleanse our culture and to restore ourselves. Broadway is, of course, a commercial enterprise. And ticket costs are out of control — because the costs of mounting a show are so steep. Still, a single work can break through from Broadway to touch the heart of our country and make a big difference.”

Terry Schnuck

Terry Schnuck won’t invest unless a show resonates with him, and his favorites are shows, like Spring Awakening, that can make a difference. Broadway is intensely personal to Schnuck: He turned his life...
over to it at the age of 50, flabbergasting his family by leaving the Schnuck grocery business to finally follow his dream. He's since poured both his heart and his money into more than 26 Broadway and Off-Broadway shows, five of them Tony winners.

How does he pick so well? “Oh, you only hear about the good ones,” he says with a grin. “I’ve had plenty of others. But you go with your gut, and you learn with each one.”

He first saw *Falling* at the Mustard Seed Theatre in St. Louis. Written by Deanna Jent, a professor at Fontbonne University, the play is about a family that includes a severely autistic 18-year-old boy.

During those 25 years, he earned a law degree and an MBA, and gave expert counsel to the family business. And every summer, he saw every show at The Muny in Forest Park. When he wound up on the Muny’s board, the old spark flared too high to ignore.

“If I die without exercising the creative side of my mind,” he thought, “I’m not going to die happy.”

His family’s reaction? “At first they were shocked, and then they realized it made perfect sense. Now I think they’re enjoying my journey vicariously.”

Is producing as exciting as those limelit college days? “I didn’t think it would be,” he admits. “I was a character actor. You got all the immediate gratification, the adrenaline rush. But, today, I get a great sense of satisfaction, and a real rush, when a show opens.”

Schnuck’s latest winner was *Fun Home*, which he first saw with his daughter at the Public Theater in New York. The material was fresh and challenging — a memoir by a lesbian cartoonist who’s sure her funeral director father, a closeted homosexual, committed suicide — but in the end, “it’s about family,” he says, “and the secrets we keep from each other.”

Currently, he’s working on a musical called *Bandstand*, in which a World War II soldier comes home and enters a radio-station contest for swing bands. He’s as worried about the dialogue — “Would somebody have said it that way in the ‘40s?” — as he is the financing. “If you’re involved in the project early, you can weigh in on the creative aspects,” he says. “Some songs may blow you away; others you might ask for a re-do.” (*Bandstand* is scheduled to open at the Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre in April.)

## Pun Bandhu

Pun Bandhu, one of Schnuck’s fellow producers on *Spring Awakening*, talks on his dinner break; he’s in tech rehearsals at the Public, for the revival of *Plenty* by David Hare. In Bandhu’s WashU days, everybody figured he’d wind up in the diplomatic corps as an ambassador; he’d majored in political science and international studies, and he speaks five languages.

“The play [*Spring Awakening*] was an outcry against social and religious hypocrisy, against parents who paid no attention to what was going on in the hearts of their children. It was full of the yearnings of young people, and rock music had, for generations, been the outlet for that.” — Steven Sater

“The theme is, how do you love someone who is hard to love,” he says. “I saw it and thought: ‘Man, other people have to see this show.’”

His sense of urgency was so great, Schnuck took *Falling* straight to New York instead of mounting it as a regional production, which would have taken more time and lost him a little control. “We didn’t make a cent, but it’s the show I’m proudest of producing.”

It also had one of the best opening nights, Off-Broadway in Greenwich Village: “Earlier in the day, we’d gotten a copy of a great review by Rex Reed,” he says. “I was encouraged by my press guy and general manager to read it at the opening-night party, which was so old school; reading reviews is not done anymore, because nowadays they go online immediately after the show. I read it standing next to a grand piano; I felt like an old-time impresario.”

The after-party that was pure fun, though, was for *Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me*. “It was at Tavern on the Green, and he had all his friends there, including Tom Hanks and the guys from *Saturday Night Live*. I still have pinch-me moments, and that was one of them.”

Schnuck flashed back to childhood: playing DJ in his bedroom, writing skits, putting on puppet shows. “I acted in college,” he says, “but I knew I wanted to raise a family someday, and I didn’t think you could do both well at the same time. So I put theater aside.” For 25 years.
Theater bit, though, when Bandhu was a 5-year-old in Indonesia, watching the Jakarta International High School’s production of West Side Story. Like Schnuck, he did his own puppet shows, his inspired by the famous wayang kulit shadow puppets of Indonesia. At WashU, he performed in Performing Arts Department shows As You Like It and The Double Inconstancy, directed by Professor William Whitaker. He also collaborated with playwright Joan Lipkin on an original play, Stories from Generation XYZ, directed by Professor Annamaria Pileggi. Bandhu was also a part of the beginning years of All Student Theater. And at graduation, the truth hit: “I’d regret it for the rest of my life if I didn’t see how far I could take it.”

Bandhu went on to earn an MFA in acting from Yale School of Drama, and he has worked at theaters in New York and around the country, making his Broadway debut in 2011 in the revival of the Pulitzer-winning Wit. His Hollywood credits include the Oscar-nominated Best Picture Michael Clayton and the Coen brothers’ Burn After Reading. He started juggling a producing career in addition to his acting work when he formed ZenDog Productions in 2004 and brought together a network of investors to co-produce the revival of Glengarry Glen Ross, which went on to win a Tony in 2005. “That opened a lot of doors,” he says. “Spring Awakening was next, and it was so gratifying — it’s so highly artistic, of-the-moment and much more innovative than the typical, often fluffy, fare you see on Broadway.”

Bandhu is currently producing a documentary film called Real/Fake about the greatest master art forger of the 20th century, Elmyr de Hory, whose original creations masqueraded as Picassos and Matisses, among others, and caused unprecedented turmoil in the art world in the 1960s and ’70s. As to future ambitions, Bandhu returns to his first love: theater.

“I want to help tell more Asian-American stories, since there have been so few on Broadway,” he says. “There’s a huge renaissance in playwriting right now, with so many talented Asian-American writers innovating the form.” Broadway, though, is tough. Bandhu says that not every great project belongs on Broadway — that it takes a particular alchemy to create a show that can fill 1,000+ seats every night. A show must have universal appeal, and it must be something that critics will support and that theater-goers will be compelled to recommend to 10 of their friends.

“Typically, Broadway is not water-cooler conversation,” Bandhu concedes. “But the experience that theater brings — of sharing a moment in a single place with a community of people, experiencing that energy transference between the actors and the audience becomes even more valuable in this digital world. It’s not downloadable; you have to be there. The fact that the biggest cultural story right now is Hamilton says a lot. There are still certain things theater can do better than film or TV. It’s a forum for the debate of ideas, and there’s a catharsis involved. The best theater changes you.”

Offering an example, he describes Plenty as “probably the best-written work in the English language about the crumbling of the British empire.” And his role in the play? He’s the Burmese ambassador.

Keith Sherman

Keith Sherman, BSBA ’77, grew up in Jersey, and the bus to New York stopped in front of his high school. “I’d cut classes on Wednesday, go to Times Square, buy an SRO ticket, and be back on the bus and home before dinner,” he says. At WashU, he majored in business, but he worked at Edison Theater. “Watching Kevin Kline and Patti LuPone perform, I was so deeply moved,” he says, “that all
I could think was, ‘I want to be involved in that.’” Alas, he was “a terrible actor — a spear carrier, mainly.” So he found his niche helping theatrical clients convey their messages to the world.

His first job was “audience development” for the Roundabout Theatre. He worked for WashU alum David Merrick on the original production of 42nd Street, then formed his own PR company. He’s since represented more than 300 Broadway, Off-Broadway and touring productions. He did public relations for the Tony Awards for 18 years and for the entertainment division of Marsh & McLennan for a decade, represented famous theater illustrator Al Hirschfeld for the last 13 years of his life and represented the Royal Shakespeare Company. He currently represents the Drama Desk Awards.

But Sherman’s clients stretch beyond Broadway — to Masterpiece, The New York Times and the sports world (such as skater Brian Boitano). His favorites are “the ones who have their head screwed on right. There’s invariably a moment in any project when the dark clouds come in. The smart ones work through it. The others implode.”

Working through it together is key, because “everything about the theater is collaborative.” Sherman’s job is to strategize, to figure out how to get his clients into the greater media conversation. “You have to look at the elements of the creative team, what the show’s about, where it’s set, what its strengths are,” Sherman says. “Is there a star? Is the writer a star? The director? OK, nobody knows it — did it come from London?”

“This is a business of passion,” Sherman says. “I’ve handled so many shows that in my heart I’ve loved but that have been dismissed by critics. It’s not an easy business. There’s only one constant, and that’s change. In New York City in the ’20s, there were 18 newspapers. I can remember a time when all the TV stations had theater critics. What we have today are dozens and dozens of websites that report about theater. What we have today are niches.”

What project would he love to publicize? “The next hit,” he says, laughing. “But it’s a crapshoot.” You never know what’ll go viral, in live-audience terms. “I’m handling an Off-Broadway musical right now called Cagney, and the tap dancing, the whole gestalt of it, just makes people happy.”
Michael Sinder

The entertainment lawyer negotiating contracts for Cagney happens to be Michael Sinder, AB ’90, JD ’93. For five years, starting around age 7, Sinder attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Manhattan. “My parents would schlep me into the city from the suburbs. It taught me so much about how to present myself in public. But I went to auditions and ... I didn’t have it.”

In college, he majored in psychology, pre-law. His father was a lawyer; that would be his path too. Except he didn’t want to practice corporate law or courtroom law. He’d never heard of theater law, but he figured it had to exist. After working for a corporate firm and on Capitol Hill, he got his break: a job managing labor relations for what’s now The Broadway League, smoothing collective-bargaining negotiations with Broadway’s many unions. After that, Sinder worked several jobs in the theater industry, including as a lawyer with a boutique entertainment firm, a booking agent with the William Morris Agency and in-house counsel for a prominent team of Broadway producers. In 2014, he formed his own law firm.

Live theater is magic, he says. “A Broadway audience leans in. When you have live actors onstage, there really is an energy going back and forth. You can hear the actors breathing; you can see them sweat. In a movie theater, people are slumping in their seats, leaning their heads back.” Another difference is the atmosphere: Hollywood can be ruthless, but “there’s a connection that runs through the whole theater community, whether you’re a lawyer or a stagehand or a director.

“Broadway — it allows people to escape, but it also allows them to address some difficult topics,” Sinder says. “You can bring up some topics that people wouldn’t otherwise be able to talk about around the dinner table. It’s a way of pushing the envelope.” He offers Hairspray as an example: “On the surface, it’s just a fun, bubbly show. But think about the storyline: Baltimore in the ’60s, integration and segregation. They sort of sneak it in. You’re having fun, and then you think, ‘Oh my God, there’s some serious stuff here.’”

Sinder is currently juggling about 30 projects in various stages of development. Sometimes that means a yearlong struggle to acquire rights; sometimes it’s negotiating with a big-name director about how often his name has to appear, or how many comps he gets to opening night and in what rows. Asked what he’d love to rep next, Sinder says, “The next Hamilton — and not just for the financial success, but for the creative genius behind it. I love the collaborative process. There are so many cogs, and to have a show work, it all has to come together.”

Mary Strauss

“When you start out in New York and you’re not known, you have to pay your dues and earn respect,” says Mary Strauss, whose Fox Theatricals has had 25 Broadway productions and won 48 Tony Awards including six representing Best Musical, Best Play or Best Revival. She went so far as to hear a Tony Award ceremony in 1998. "Jekyll & Hyde, our first Broadway show, was up for some minor awards. There’s always at least a smattering of applause when you are mentioned for lighting or costume design," Strauss says, “but when Jekyll & Hyde was mentioned, there was dead silence.” She pauses for effect. “On the other hand, last year when Fun Home was the underdog for Best Musical, the audience went wild every time we were mentioned. What a difference 18 years make!”

Strauss originally wanted to earn a doctorate in art history at WashU and then teach. But after figuring out how to turn the grand old Fox movie palace into a theater, she couldn’t stop thinking in theater terms: “I saw Vanessa Redgrave in Long Day’s Journey Into Night. Her hands, the emotion they showed! A camera would never have cut to that. In 1954, I remember seeing Alfred Drake in Kismet — he had a glint in his eyes I’ll never forget. Do you remember those things about movies?”

Watching a film, she explains, you’re confined to the director’s vision. In a theater, your eyes can rove all over the stage. “The audience sees all the subtleties. And nothing’s canned. The actors are playing to a particular audience, giving a particular performance. You could go back a week later, and it would be a little different because no two performances are ever exactly the same.”

Every decade or so, Broadway is pronounced dead, but the reports are always exaggerated. And at the moment, it’s robust: “Attendance and revenue are up, and there are more shows than theaters,” Strauss says. “Shows like Hamilton are touching every aspect of our society. National tours are thriving. In today’s digital world, with everyone connected to a digital device, other forms of media have suffered. Theater gives you a live, communal, artistic experience that can evoke a spectrum of emotions.”

Strauss’ list of credits is long; the range, broad: Charlie Brown, a Death of a Salesman revival, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Red, Fun Home. “When Fox Theatricals is looking for its next production, we’re looking for something that is meaningful, that touches people. The Tony Award is icing on the cake,” she says. “I thought Caroline, or Change was wonderful, and it got an Olivier Award in England, but not a Tony. And that’s OK. It doesn’t change that it was good.
“It takes at least $13 to $15 million to mount a musical, and sometimes I think people invest in shows because it’s glamorous and they want to go to the opening-night party!”

Her own favorite party, or at least the funniest, was for *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. “It was at Leona Helmsley’s hotel. She came down in her pajamas with her dog, Trouble, and held court.” Someone gave Strauss a little bottle of champagne with a straw. “Have you ever drunk champagne through a straw? Don’t! It goes straight to your head!”

The giddiness only lasts a night, though, and then it’s back to work. Future projects include

He now lives on West 77th Street, and theater is his life’s work.

“As a kid, I went to what seemed like every Broadway show,” he says. “My grandfather would always take me to a matinee, a big musical or some intense Eugene O’Neill or Arthur Miller play. It wasn’t until I went to WashU that I realized what a leg up I’d been given.” He was studying plays he’d seen when they opened. Then in his first job after college, he assisted an agent at International Creative Management who was representing playwrights he’d just studied.

“All of a sudden, I was talking to Lanford Wilson on the phone,” he says. “But I didn’t want to be an

 Coal Miner’s Daughter, Moonshine and Mad Hot Ballroom, the show she wants most to see onstage.

“Fun Home winning five Tony Awards changed everything, because it wasn’t expected to win, and it was new subject matter. It made us a name on Broadway. We’re now a known commodity, and producers are coming to us.” — Mary Strauss

Eric Schnall

Eric Schnall, AB ’92, grew up on East 79th Street in Manhattan, in an apartment on the 15th floor. When a New Wave song came from the U.K. and he wanted it to go higher on the charts, he’d put his speaker in the window and blast the song at the New Yorkers on the sidewalk. “I thought I could influence them!” he says, laughing at the naiveté.

But actually he has.

Schnall is both producer and marketing director of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, for which he won a Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical. He was a producer of 33 Variations (starring Jane Fonda) and associate producer of *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Of Mice and Men* (with James Franco). He also did the marketing for *Of Mice and Men*, which opened on Broadway just six days before *Hedwig;* for *Lucky Guy* (starring Tom Hanks), the last project Nora Ephron worked on before she died; for *Red;* for *Hamlet* (with Jude Law); for *The Vagina Monologues;* for *Frost/Nixon;* and for Joan Didion’s *The Year of Magical Thinking.*

agent; I wanted to be more immersed in the creative process. Also, I was 22, and I wanted to have fun.” He quit, did odd jobs, read scripts for film producers and distilled them into single sentences. Then he saw *Rent.*

“There was a line of people my age and younger wrapping around the corner,” he says. “The show felt incredibly urgent and necessary, and it had a cool factor I’d never seen on Broadway. Characters my age, living in the East Village, dealing with AIDS and the struggle of living in a city that was becoming less hospitable to young people and artists.” He wrote the producer, Jeffrey Seller — “who’s gone on to produce a little show called *Hamilton*” — and said, “I would love to work with you.” A week later, on a Sunday night, his apartment phone rang.

Seller became his mentor, and Schnall met others working on *Rent* who played roles in his career. “The lesson I learned is, write that letter,” he tells anybody who asks advice.

*Hedwig* was another stroke of luck: It hit Broadway just as the zeitgeist caught up to its edgy, poignant story of a genderqueer East German singer. Neil Patrick Harris helped make the show an instant success, and the momentum has lasted through six other *Hedwigs.* And the show recently embarked on a national tour.

“The sister of my best friend from WashU saw it when we opened in San Francisco,” Schnall says. “When it ended, she was in tears. She said, ‘That was one of the most incredible experiences I’ve ever had.’ Then she looked at me and said, ‘This is your job. Do you realize how lucky you are?’”

Jeannette Cooperman is a staff writer for *St. Louis Magazine.*
We want to hear about recent promotions, honors, appointments, travels, marriages (please report marriages after the fact) and births, so we can keep your classmates informed about important changes in your lives.

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CLASSNOTES

Catch up on news of fellow alumni.

Lee Spetner, EN ’45, has four children, 30 grandchildren and 97 great-grandchildren — and more great-grandchildren are on the way. He taught engineering mechanics at WashU in 1946–47.

Charles M. Ross, HS ’50, was named a Living Legend for 2016 by the San Diego County Library, the Agency on Aging and Independence Services of the San Diego Department of Health and Human Services, and Living Well San Diego. The award goes to people “whose lives are a testament to the value of hard work, spiritual integrity and a commitment to others.”

Frank S. Thomas III, EN ’52, now retired, practiced engineering for 30 years before switching to finance for the second half of his career.

Claudia Chapline, GR ’56, published a memoir of her creative journey, Moving Out of the Frame (Norfolk Press), which includes a chapter on her experiences as WashU’s first full-time dance teacher.

Martha Mahon, FA ’56, was among 51 artists whose work was displayed at Art St. Louis XXXIII, The Exhibition. Her Pink and White Ectomy, a painting from her series about breast cancer, was among the 55 works chosen for the exhibition from a field of 577 submissions.


Robert Brooks, LA ’59, and his wife, Kathy, who divide their time between time between Florida, Texas, and Connestee Falls, N.C., frequently visit their children and 15 grandchildren, who reside across the South and in California, Missouri and Germany. Brooks spent nearly two decades in Europe as director or dean of university programs, followed by six “retired” years in Gaza and Jerusalem during which he co-authored or edited seven books.

Wally Holmen, AR ’59, was recently elected to the Construction Specifications Institute College of Fellows. Holmen has been active in the organization’s East Bay-Oakland, Calif., chapter for more than 30 years and received the Jim Butler Memorial Award for distinguished service in 2008. A retired architect, he says he is “still an artist.”

John Foster Dyess, FA ’61, was inducted into the Affton High School Hall of Fame in 2016. In addition, four monster fish illustrations, which he created for the Proceedings of the National Geographic Society, were selected along with 166 other works of art from a field of almost 4,000 entries worldwide for publication in Communication Arts Illustration Annual 57.

Susan [Grossman] Alexander, LA ’63, regularly posts items, some mentioning people and places at WashU, on her blog, “Susan Just Writes.” She has penned two novels — A Quicker Blood (2010), a legal thriller, and Jealous Mistress (2011), featuring a stay-at-home wife who reinvents herself as a savvy sleuth — and is finishing a third.

David Hoehn, LW ’65, was appointed to the Washington University Cleveland Regional Cabinet by Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton.

Allen Markowicz, LA ’67, is professor of medicine at the University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences, where he is chief of the Division of Community Internal Medicine, director of the Community Multispecialty Practice Sites and director of the Executive Health Assessment Program.

Natalie (Klausman) Young, LA ’67, reports that she has “lived in paradise in Hawaii” since 1981. She and her husband, Richard Liebmann, own Lokahi Garden Sanctuary, a 10-acre organic farm/botanical sanctuary, residential wellness retreat center and vacation spot. When not farming, the two lead plant-lover group tours.

Dennis White, GB ’63, is enjoying retired life in Sequim, Wash., which has no snow in winter and cool summers, and he is not far from his sons in Silicon Valley. An avid gardener and fisherman, White became a Mason at age 73. “Times have changed since Prince Hall of the mid-1960s,” White says.

Michael Hoeye, LA ’69, had an exhibit with Joanne Mulcahy, Angels Passing, on display at Rose Villa Senior Living Community, in Portland, Ore. His displayed works were portraits of people who had captured his choreographic eye on the sidewalks of Portland.

James H. Scott, GB ’70, was named by SAVOY magazine to its Power 300: The Most Influential Black Corporate Directors, in summer 2016. Scott, who serves on the board of Thrivent Financial as chair of the finance committee and member of the executive committee, has served as a director or advisory director on several corporate and mutual fund boards, and on civic, college and university boards.
Rusty Althermer Watson, FA ’71, published The Idler (Casa de Snapdragon LLC/JB Stillwater, 2014), a historical novel set on a whaling ship in 1845. She also illustrated two children’s books by Janet Yaeger, Matilda’s Upside-Down Smile (2012) and Matilda Takes Ballet (2013). Watson and her husband own a studio and gallery, Down Memory Lane Art Studio, in Mount Vernon, Ill., where they sell paintings and teach.

Jamie Spencer, GR ’72, published Modified Ruptures (Sentia Publishing, 2016), a love story set predominantly in St. Louis with scenes on the WashU campus, which were inspired by Spencer’s memories of his days as a grad student and teaching assistant.

Albert Y. Ip, EN ’73, CEO of Langham Hospitality Investments, was recently appointed a council member for the board of trustees of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. From 2009 to 2015, he was a council member of Lingnan University, and in 2016, he was appointed chairman of the finance program.

Michael Riggs, LA ’73, a research analyst in the Manhattan, N.Y., office of Egon Zehnder International, proudly reports that his son, William, graduated in May 2016 from the D’Amore-McKim School of Business at Northeastern University.

John Davis, LA ’74, and his wife, Jane (Tedrick) Davis, LA ’75, who reside in Huntsville, Ala., were honored by Global Ties U.S. with the Lorinne Emery Award for Volunteer Service for their work with Global Ties Alabama. The Davises lead domestic and international interfaith initiatives. And they have helped establish a sister university arrangement between the University of Berlin and Alabama State University.

Gregory L. Mixon, LA ’74, was promoted to professor of history in the history department at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where he has taught African-American history since 1999. He recently published Show Thyself a Man: Georgia State Troops, Colored, 1865–1905 (University Press of Florida, 2016).

Branch Morgan III, LA ’74, reports that he “keeps his passion for dance alive.” Morgan performed his latest self-choreographed dance, Ode to O.B.E. (Olufunmilayo Jomo, Barbara Sullivan and Eva Anderson), at the Patterson’s Ageless Grace Concert 2016 at the Creative Alliance in Baltimore.

Barbara Dunn, FA ’75, was tapped for the 2016 Calibre Circle of Excellence Award by the International Interior Design Association. A principal at Gensler, an integrated architecture, design, planning and consulting firm, Dunn works in the Los Angeles office.

Deborah Heilitzer, LA ’75, was appointed professor and founding dean of the University of New Mexico College of Population Health. She previously served as associate vice chancellor for research education at the university’s Health Sciences Center and as a professor in the School of Medicine’s Department of Family and Community Medicine.

Ellen Abraham, SW ’76, is caring for her 96-year-old mother after a long career as an elderly services social worker.

Scott Greenwood, MD ’77, HS ’80, retired from the practice of cardiology in April 2016.

Rick Eisen, LA ’78, a partner in the law firm of Growe Eisen Karlen Eilerts, was named a Super Lawyer for 2015 and 2016 in the area of family law. He and his wife, Marci, have three children: Jonathan (28, living in Chicago), Brett (26, living in Sacramento, Calif.) and Abby (24, living in Washington).

Abby Frucht, LA ’78, who has taught fiction writing at the Vermont College of Fine Arts for 20 years, published her seventh book, A Well-Made Bed (Red Hen Press, 2016), with Laurie Alberts. In early 2016, the co-authors and two invited guests, WashU creative writing fellows Aaron Coleman and Erin rose Mager, read from the book at Left Bank Books in St. Louis.

Nancy Ellis-Ordway, SW ’79, earned a doctor of philosophy in education and counseling psychology with a specialization in health education and promotion, as well as a certificate in public health, from the University of Missouri in Columbia. She lives in Jefferson City, Mo.

Gary M. Feldman, LA ’79, was recognized by the 2016 Chambers USA guide of recommended law firms and lawyers. Feldman practices in the business law, employment and litigation areas.

Dorothy Farrar-Edwards, GR ’80, is professor and chair of the Department of Kinesiology and director of the Collaborative Center for Health Equity at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health. In May 2016, she was awarded a Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professorship, an honor recognizing distinguished scholarship as well as standout efforts in teaching and service.

Brad Graber, HA ’80, released his debut novel, The Intersect. Set

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writes that he looks forward to the 35th Reunion in 2017.

Matt DeLand, LA ’83, works for Science Systems and Applications, leading a team at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center that creates ozone profile and aerosol profile data products from the OMI S Limp Profiler instrument on the Suomi NPP satellite. Deland recently received a NASA Agency Honor Award for his research work on polar mesospheric clouds and solar variability.

Jeanette Meyer, LA ’83, principal with Meyer and Associates at RE/MAX Alliance in Fort Collins, Colo., received the 2016 Service Certified Gold Award for exceptional customer satisfaction. Meyer has ranked as a platinum- gold-level service provider for 11 consecutive years.

David Popham, LA ’83, professor of biological sciences at Virginia Tech, was elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology. Popham researches structure, synthesis and hydrolysis of the mesh-like wall components of bacterial vegetative cells and endospores. Honorees are elected annually through a highly selective, peer-review process of their records of scientific achievement.

Kathy Weinberg, LA ’84, is one of 25 artists from a field of 780 whose work was included in the Center for Maine Contemporary Art’s 2016 Biennial Exhibition.

Pete Woods, LW ’84, managing partner at Haar & Woods, LLP in St. Louis, was recognized by The Best Lawyers in America in commercial litigation and as a Missouri-Kansas Super Lawyer in business litigation. Woods serves as vice president of the St. Louis Chapter of the National Football League Players Association (retired) and on the leadership team of the job training program of Mission: St. Louis.

Sanford J. Boxerman, BU ’85, an original founder of Capes Sokol and chair of the law firm’s White Collar Criminal Defense and Internal Investigations practice group, was elected to the Fellows of the American College of Tax Counsel.

Jeffrey Altman, LA ’86, accepted a position as a dermatologist at Mercy Health System in Woodstock and Barrington, III., after 20 years in private practice. Altman is a councilor on the 2015–17 executive council of the Rush Medical College Alumni Association.

Brenda (Westbrook) Barnicki, EN ’86, is celebrating six years of running Bellafina Chocolates, the “all-profits-to-charity” gourmet chocolate company she founded. She invites former classmates to contact her at BellafinaChocolates.com.

Alexander “Alex” S. Douglas II, LA ’86, a partner with Shuffield, Lowman & Wilson, P.A., was selected as a 2016 Florida Super Lawyer and a 2016 Legal Elite attorney by Florida Trend magazine. Douglas practices in the area of fiduciary and commercial litigation.

Lance Cage, EN ’87, was promoted to managing principal in HOK’s St. Louis practice, where he has worked for four years. He serves on the firm’s board of directors, management board and marketing board steering committee. Cage also is a member of the Washington University School of Engineering Alumni Advisory Council.

Nancy Drosch, PMBA ’87, launched WILLO LLC (Women in Leadership – Launching Opportunities), a business that helps companies gain thought diversity through the retention, development and advancement of their women leaders.

Sharon (Hyman) Weintraub, LA ’87, was named chief financial officer and head of risk for BPG’s North America Gas, Power & NGL trading and marketing, based in Houston. Previously, she was the company’s CFO and head of risk for Global Oil Europe, Russia and Africa. Her husband, Fred, is an executive producer of sports.

James Hammerschmidt, BU ’88, was named to the 2017 edition of Best Lawyers in America in the labor and employment law litigation area. He continues to serve as co-president of his law firm, Paley Rothman, in Bethesda, Md. Hammerschmidt and his wife, Jill Sacks Hammerschmidt, BU ’90, enjoy their three children and puppy.

Carl R. Tully, AR ’88, GA ’90, was promoted to principal at NBBJ in Seattle, where he leads complex health-care projects from urban high-rise developments to community hospitals. One of his projects — the functional, attractive and sustainable Denny Substation — has received recognition from several architectural publications.

Eric H. Rumbaugh, LW ’89, an attorney at Michael Best & Friedrich LLP, was selected for inclusion in the 2017 edition of The Best Lawyers in America.

Dennis Hagemann, BU ’90, recently joined BancStar, Inc., a $150-million bank holding company in Missouri. As director of accounting and finance, Hagemann manages all accounting and finance processes for the organization and its two independently chartered banks. Earlier, he served as vice president of finance at Lutheran Federal Credit Union.

Brian Youngberg, GB ’90, was appointed to the financial advisory board for the 2018 World Gas Conference.

Marcia Blachman, LA ’91, is director of agency fundraising at the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati and is serving a two-year term as chairman of the Indian Hill Public Schools Foundation. Her children, Joel and Renee, will soon turn 16.
Improving lives for seniors

You won’t find Marylen Mann, AB ’57, MA ’59, spending her time watching TV or working on arts-and-crafts projects. In fact, because of Mann, you won’t find as many senior citizens doing either of these activities. Why bother, when there are children to tutor, classes to take and new friends to make?

That’s the thinking behind OASIS, Mann’s nationwide program aimed at providing social and intellectual opportunities for seniors. Mann started the program in 1982, after seeing the sedentary activities offered at senior centers. With a grant from the U.S. Administration on Aging, OASIS was born. Now in its 35th year, the program is thriving in 50 cities with 30,000 annual participants. In 2005, Mann was named one of 10 national People Who Make a Difference by the AARP. She won a Founders Day Award from the university in 2006. And in 2007, she was asked to speak at the United Nations Conference on Aging and Economics.

Mann graduated from Washington University in 1957 with a philosophy degree, but “I got out of school, and there were no ads in the paper for philosophers,” she says. She earned her master’s degree in education in 1959 and worked in curriculum development.

This translated to her work with OASIS. Mann created focus groups to test new classes, and she developed a training curriculum for her prized intergenerational tutoring program, in which seniors tutor first- through fourth-graders in reading.

“Developing curricula to train teachers to train seniors to work with kids was just another extension of what I had done,” she says.

Originally located in four cities — St. Louis, Los Angeles, Baltimore and Cleveland — as part of a two-year pilot program, OASIS partnered with sponsors, such as May Co., and local hospitals, such as BJC, to expand and provide greater coverage across the country.

In St. Louis, Mann’s latest project is the Magnificent Theater of Life, a three-part seminar designed to introduce seniors to end-of-life topics like living wills and palliative care.

For this, Mann recruited the help of a number of Washington University educators, including Brian Carpenter, professor of psychological and brain sciences in Arts & Sciences, who studies processes related to aging.

“When people stay socially engaged and intellectually engaged, that really does yield rewards in terms of their physical health and well-being over time,” Carpenter says.

And working with Mann has a pleasant ancillary benefit. “Marylen is a force of nature,” Carpenter says with a laugh.

Marylen Mann, AB ’57, MA ’59, started OASIS, a nationwide program aimed at providing social and intellectual opportunities for seniors.

“She’s got a lot of ideas, a lot of energy. When she said that she was going to do a program like this, we knew we were on the train and there was no getting off.”

One of the most important benefits of OASIS is that it keeps seniors from becoming isolated. “We create mini-communities,” Mann says. “People meet folks who have similar interests or similar challenges, and they end up becoming friends and supporting each other.”

In her own life, too, the project has a key social component. “I’ve had some real tragedies in my life, and my involvement with OASIS has helped me overcome [them],” Mann says. Alongside family, “I feel that OASIS is also my community.”

Mann’s focus is also behind the scenes, making sure the program is addressing the needs of seniors.

“People at any age have to have somebody who says, ‘I really believe in you,’” she says. “That’s what I had in college. Professors thought that I was more capable than I was, so I was always trying to live up to their opinion of me.”

And nearly 60 years after her college graduation, Mann is still quoting the philosophers she read in school.

“Seneca said that there are pleasures in old age if we only know how to take advantage of them,” she says. “I think what we want to do is help people to make their older years as pleasurable and as interesting as possible.”

— Zach Kram, AB ’16, works as an editorial assistant at the sports, culture and tech site The Ringer.
Blachman and her family enjoyed her WashU 25th Reunion in April 2016. She writes, “Go Bears!”

Kim Potowski, LA ‘91, was promoted to full professor of Hispanic linguistics at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her most recent books are El español de los Estados Unidos (Cambridge University Press, 2014), Heritage Language Teaching: Research and Practice (McGraw Hill, 2014), and Inter-Latino Language and Identity: “Mexi-Ricans” in Chicago (John Benjamins, 2016).

Kristen Burns, LA ‘92, wrote a paper reflecting on several challenging years and a failed business after spending much time in prayer and thought (www.wholefamilies.net).

Chris Gloede, BU ’92, left life in Chicago for a yearlong sabbatical. He is traveling the world, meeting up with old friends in all corners of the world. Contact Gloede on Facebook at facebook.com/christopher.gloede.

Jake Ring, GB ‘92, closed on Series A funding of $15.5 million to grow a new data center business, dcBLOX Inc. His plans include building a new facility in Chattanooga, Tenn., and expanding existing network systems in Atlanta to enhance sales and marketing programs.

Scott Zimmerman, BU ’92, was appointed CEO of Greenway Health, whose health information platform reaches 100 million lives each year and supports coordinated, efficient, effective care that improves health.

Chris Boerner, LA ’93, LA ’93, president of U.S. commercial business at Bristol-Myers Squibb, cycled through St. Louis with a team of the firm’s oncology employees as part of The Coast 2 Coast 4 Cancer Ride. The ride benefits Stand Up To Cancer’s innovative cancer research. Eighty Bristol-Myers employees together rode some 2,800 miles during the 21-day relay.

Spencer Greene, LA ’93, LA ’93, hosted the Houston Venom Conference for the fourth consecutive year. He is director of medical toxicology and an assistant professor of medicine and pediatrics in the emergency medicine section at Baylor College of Medicine. Greene lives in Houston with his wife, Heather, and their two children, Cami and Riley.

Kathy Aoki, GF ‘94, is chair of the Department of Art and Art History at Santa Clara University in California. Aoki’s prints have won the Prix de Print and other competitions, and they have appeared in exhibitions at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Museum and the Janet Turner Print Museum at California State University, Chico.

Andy Mozina, GR ’94, GR ’98, published his debut novel, Contrary Motion (Spiegel & Grau, 2016), which tells the story of a divorced Chicago harpist who auditions for the St. Louis Symphony. An English professor at Kalamazoo College, Mozina also wrote a book of literary criticism, Joseph Conrad and the Art of Sacrifice, and two short-story collections.

Delvin Burton, LA ’95, Charlotte Jones-Burton, LA ’95, and Paul Schnapp, BU ’91, GR ’95, are co-owners of CycleBar, an indoor cycling franchise. CycleBar features CycleGiving, a philanthropic movement helping local organizations and charities raise donations via exciting indoor cycling rides.

Mark Salinas, FA ’95, relocated to Carson City, Nev., to be the city’s first director of arts and culture. Salinas is the owner of Arrows Up, a boutique design/fabrication/installation business, and he is founder of 7Train Murals, a volunteer, community-driven organization dedicated to beautifying vacant and vandalized public spaces along the 7Train subway system in New York City.

Melissa Jacobson, FA ’96, co-produced The Witness, a documentary that premiered at the 2015 New York Film Festival and was released in theaters in June 2016. The film follows Bill Genovese, brother of Kitty Genovese, as he investigates the facts surrounding Kitty’s 1964 death. Kitty was killed while 38 of her neighbors watched without calling the police.

David Cosloy, LA ’98, is founder and CEO of Bastien Capital, LLC, which focuses on student career acceleration (Bastien Prep), strategic planning and operating partnerships, and new venture incubation. Previously, he was in a leadership role at J.P. Morgan. Cosloy lives in Manhattan’s Upper East Side with his wife, Jessica, and their two daughters, Goldie and Birdie.

Stephanie Linn, BU ’98, and her husband, Seth Krantz, welcomed a son, Max Linn Krantz, in June 2016. The family resides in Wilmette, Ill., where Stephanie is a senior manager for Deloitte Tax LLP and Seth is an attending thoracic surgeon with NorthShore University Health System.

Adam Singer, LA ’98, formed the Law Office of Adam G. Singer, PLLC. The firm’s consumer practice is concentrated on litigating credit-report errors and class actions (nyconsumerlaw.com); the commercial practice provides legal counsel to individuals and small and medium-sized businesses (nycommerciallaw.com).

Shawn Johnson, BU ’99, and his wife, Rebecca (Krason) Johnson, BU ‘03, welcomed Nathan Dennis, their second WashU bear cub, in Chicago in June 2016.

Vincent D. Reese, LW ’99, specializes in labor and employment and education law as well as commercial litigation; he is an adjunct law professor at the WashU School of Law. A member of the National Black Lawyers Top 100, Reese is on the boards of the St. Louis Volunteer Lawyer Program, Catholic Charities Community Services and Lydia’s House.


Austin Bredow, EN ’00, was named to the Consulting Specifying Engineer 40 Under 40 List for his work as vice president of Environmental Systems Design’s Workplace Solutions Practice, which specializes in complex projects requiring resilient and flexible infrastructure for clients throughout the country.

Mark Liu, BU ’00, joined Akerman LLP as a partner focusing on cross-border corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, private equity investments and joint venture transactions with an emphasis on Asian markets. Previously, he was group legal counsel at Amcor Group.

Benjamin Myers, GR ’00, GR ’03, is the 2015–16 Oklahoma State Poet Laureate. Myers has published two books of poems, and his poetry has appeared in The Yale Review, 32 Poems and Image, among other publications. He teaches creative writing and literature at Oklahoma Baptist University, where he is the Crouch-Mathis Professor of Literature.

Ben Stone, LA ’00, was tapped for the 2016 Top 10 30-Somethings award program by the Association of Corporate Counsel. Stone, who is managing director and general counsel at MCE Social Capital based in the Boston office, in 2008 helped launch Indego Africa, a vendor of electric bikes.
Exploring space, together

On Sept. 8, 2016, as an Atlas V rocket fired up and away from Cape Canaveral on a seven-year journey to collect and return samples from the carbon-rich surface of the Bennu asteroid, two Washington University alumni on site sat anxiously watching the liftoff.

Mission chief Dante Lauretta, PhD ’97, and project data archivist Kate Crombie, PhD ’97 — the husband-and-wife team who met while in graduate school in earth and planetary sciences in 1993 — had a lot riding on that rocket: 12 years of intense, time-consuming work on NASA’s OSIRIS-REx mission.

“We had the SpaceX explosion a mile away from us a week before the launch. That provided a pretty stark reminder of the risk associated with the business we’re in,” Lauretta says. “We fortunately had a flawless countdown. I just froze, held my breath, watched the rocket go, and wished it Godspeed.”

Crombie describes the launch as “kind of nerve-racking. The entire team has been working on the OSIRIS-REx launch since 2004.”

Lauretta, professor of planetary science and cosmochemistry at the University of Arizona’s Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, is keen on understanding the origins of the solar system and life on Earth. The 2-ounce sample scooped up by the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft from the surface of Bennu, a 500-meter-wide near-Earth asteroid orbiting the sun in an elliptical path not unlike the Earth’s, may provide clues.

“We’re looking at Bennu as a time capsule from the very beginning of solar system formation,” he says. “Based on our telescopic data, we believe it is rich in carbon, and that’s the prime reason it was chosen as a target for our mission. We’re particularly interested in organic molecules and the role asteroids like Bennu may have played in seeding the surface of early Earth with the precursors for life.”

But collecting that sample still requires work, Lauretta says. “It’s not like I just sit back and wait for this pebble to come back. We have to fly the spacecraft. We will control it while exploring the asteroid, mapping the asteroid, selecting the site and getting the sample. That’s going to be a pretty intense and fun set of years.”

Meanwhile, Crombie will be working to ensure that all data collected by the project will be available to the scientific community through NASA’s planetary data system. She is president of Indigo Information Systems, which performs work for NASA and others, such as Japan’s space agency, JAXA.

“The data that come back from these missions is our national treasure,” Crombie says. “On OSIRIS-REx we have the additional bonus of bringing samples back, but with most missions only data come back. My job is to make sure that the flight data are properly formatted and comply with NASA standards. We have to work very carefully to make sure it’s all preserved and useful for future generations of scientists.”

Crombie and Lauretta aren’t the only ones from WashU’s earth and planetary sciences department making a mark, Lauretta says. “If you were to look across the classes graduating from Washington University in the late 1990s, you would see a lot of leaders in planetary science today. My colleagues have all gone on to successful professional careers, so WashU is certainly doing something right.”

Key to that successful learning, Lauretta believes, was the collegial culture of the department. “All of us were on a first-name basis. Nobody was professor so-and-so. They treated us like peers and colleagues. I had a lot of fun, got some great research done and really launched my career from there.”

Crombie concurs, singling out her prime mentor, Raymond E. Arvidson, the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor, and his group as crucial to her career.

“Being in Ray’s group and seeing people doing different pieces of the space-mission work puzzle were really important. It showed me the breadth of skills needed to do one of these missions.”

— Rick Skwiot is a freelance writer based in Key West, Florida.
social enterprise and lifestyle brand empowering female artisan entrepreneurs through global markets and education.

Vanessa (Chang) Fogg, GM ’01, is a freelance medical and science writer as well as a published writer of short fiction (vanessafogg.com). Earlier, Fogg worked as a research scientist. Her fantasy novelette, The Lilies of Dawn (Anorlunda Books, 2016), is about magical water lilies, a flock of demon cranes and a young woman’s coming-of-age.

Beth (Burke) Richardson, LW ’01, an attorney with Sowell Gray Robinson Stepp & Laffitte, LLC, in Columbia, S.C., was recently elected to the board of trustees of Central Carolina Community Foundation. Richardson’s law practice focuses on business and employment disputes, False Claims Act litigation, professional malpractice and appellate law.

Emily Weber, LA ’01, is on the board of directors of the Robert E. Loup Jewish Community Center in Denver, where she assists with fundraising and serves as a public ambassador for the center. She is a shareholder in Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck’s health-care group, providing counsel on complex health-care and clinical research regulations and transactions.

Trisha Young, BU ’01, owns a dental practice, Clayton Family Smiles in Clayton, Mo., with her sister, Vanessa (Young) Keller, LA ’98.

Kara Chan, LA ’02, married Antonio Zamartipa in January 2016 in Houston, with friends from WashU in attendance.

Eric Field, LA ’02, teaches English to eighth- and ninth-graders in the West Burlington (Iowa) Independent School District. Field also is the speech/drama director and directs a play and a musical every year. He and his wife, Erin, have two daughters, Ellen, 2, and Elise, 4 months.

Stefi (Kaplan) George, LA ’02, joined Akerman LLP as counsel in the tax practice group. George represents clients before the Internal Revenue Service and the New York State Department of Taxation, and in U.S. Tax Court and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

William Short, BU ’02, CEO of Ameriflex, was a finalist for EY (formerly Ernst & Young) Entrepreneur of the Year 2016 in the Southwest. Now in its 30th year, the awards program has expanded to recognize business leaders in more than 145 cities in more than 60 countries throughout the world.

Rebecca (Kraison) Johnson, BU ’03, and her husband, Shawn Johnson, BU ’99, welcomed Nathan Dennis, their second Washington University bear cub, in Chicago in June 2016.

Amy Likoff, LA ’03, married Dan Hemmati in October 2015 in Colorado. Two WashU alums were bridesmaids and several other alums were in attendance.

Malcah Effron, LA ’04, has accepted a position at MIT in the writing, rhetoric and professional communication program.


Tracey Kaplan, LA ’04, and Brian Golden, LA ’04, who met as students at WashU, were married in Chicago in October 2015, with Jordana Kritzler, LA ’02, officiating. Members of the wedding party included Emily Madison, LA ’04; Robin Kacyn, LA ’04; Tyler Street, LA ’04; Brian Stojak, LA ’06; BU ’06; and Eddie Kurtz, LA ’02.

Alice Kim-Morris, LW ’04, and her husband, Cody Morris, LW ’05, are excited to be back in St. Louis. Having graduated from a radiology residency at Emory University, Cody is now in the neuroradiology fellowship program at the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology.

Katrice M. (Hall) Matthews, LA ’04, has joined SmithAmundsen’s Commercial Transportation Group as an attorney, focusing on contract disputes, personal injury claims and risk avoidance in catastrophic loss scenarios. Outside the office, she volunteers as a coach for the Chicago-Kent Black Law Students Association and the Hillcrest High School Mock Trial teams.

Whitney McGuire, LW ’04, is now associate general counsel with Rayonier Advanced Materials, in Jacksonville, Fla.

Brian R. Shank, LA ’04, was recently elected to member at Evans & Dixon LLC, in St. Louis. One of the firm’s youngest attorneys to be elected as member, Shank concentrates his practice in business litigation and corporate services.

Jennifer (Renner) Whitten, FA ’04, of Melbourne, Australia, was recently accepted as an artist and art educator at the prestigious Abbotsford Convent in Victoria. Once occupied by one of the largest convents in Victoria, the site and its buildings today are occupied by and host artists.

Salina Greene, LA ’05, was promoted to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Headquarters Fraud Detection and National Security Division.

Amy (Katz) Kardon, LA ’05, and Jonathan Kardon, LA ’05, welcomed Violet Rosalie Kardon in October 2015 and recently relocated to New York City, where Amy is a fundraising officer for the Smithsonian Institution and Jonathan is vice president of development at Slate Property Group.

Rena (Goodman) Mizrahi, LA ’05, and her husband, Jonathan, joyfully share news of the birth of their son, Ayden Paul Mizrahi, in March 2016.

F. Joseph Goldkamp, UC ’06, established a civic sector advisory firm, River Cities Civic Engagement, LLC, in St. Louis. He serves on the Elliot Society committees for Arts & Sciences and University Libraries. And he and his wife, Kate Michelson Goldkamp, who is curatorial assistant for Rare Books in Special Collections for University Libraries, were challenge donors for the Class of 2006 Reunion Gift. The Goldkamps have pledged funding for the Goldkamp Family Scholarship in Arts & Sciences in memory of Joseph’s brother, Mark.

Orly Henry, LA ’07, was named to the fifth annual Double Chai in the Chi: 36 Under 36 list of young Jewish movers and shakers in Chicago.

Kevin Kiley, PMBA ’07, is manager of leadership development with Texas Health Resources in Dallas–Fort Worth. Before relocating from St. Louis with his wife, Gladys Tse, in 2011, Kiley was editor of the Record, produced by WashU’s Office of Public Affairs, and then an admissions director for Olin Business School. He referees college and high school football games in his spare time.

Christine Garvey, FA ’08, recently completed a Fulbright Research Grant in Florence, Italy, exploring how the body and technology have shaped each other throughout history. Garvey also developed her own drawing course work, Tuscan Drawing Excursions, which blends drawing and traveling.

Alex Chinn, LA ’09, accepted a position as staff hospitalist at the University of Tennessee Methodist University Hospital after graduating from an internal medicine residency at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Amanda Lee, GR ’09, GR ’14, is visiting assistant professor of French at Colgate University.

Andrew Malick, GA ’09, GA ’09, runs Malick Infill Development, a design, build and development firm in San Diego.

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Empowering women around the world

At 24, Rebecca van Bergen, MSW ’06, founded Nest, a nonprofit that connects artisans to the commercial marketplace. Artisan craftwork is the second largest industry after agriculture in the developing world. Done primarily by women, and at home, craftwork is rife with exploitation, unsustainable practices and low pay. Nest works to alleviate these conditions by helping artisans establish relationships with reputable retailers, which provide many of these women with stable, well-paying work. Nest’s artisans — nearly 170,000 globally — typically see a 76 percent increase in income.

Not bad for an idea that started out on a cocktail napkin. “I was struggling to decide what I wanted to do,” van Bergen says, “and I went to my favorite wine bar and wrote the attributes of my dream job on a cocktail napkin.” She was finishing up her master’s of social work degree at the Brown School, having entered graduate school to learn about international social work focused on women and children. And in 2006, the year van Bergen graduated, Muhammad Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize for pioneering the idea of microfinance, making small loans to business owners too poor to qualify for bank loans.

“Microfinance seemed like an interesting model,” van Bergen says. “But it didn’t seem like there were many approaches that were more holistic and invested in training and infrastructure and market development.” Nest would provide that more holistic model. Van Bergen developed a business plan and entered the Skandalaris Center’s Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Competition, winning $24,000 in seed capital.

“In so many ways, Nest really was born through WashU,” van Bergen says. “The university feels close to my heart.” With the seed money in hand, van Bergen enlisted the help of her family and started her company, forming a partnership with the Peace Corps to help her locate artisans and forging relationships with fashion companies to get them to hire artisans. The company had its first big break when it partnered with FEED Projects, designer Lauren Bush Lauren’s company that helps feed children worldwide, to find artisans to create handbags.

“The idea hit a cord, and van Bergen has won fellowships, was named a CNN “Young Person Who Rocks,” has appeared on PBS’s Agents of Change and was featured in The New York Times. Nest was also honored by the White House as one of the Top 100 Entrepreneurial Enterprises led by a young person.

For van Bergen, though, the most important part of the mission is to see lives change. “Our mission is using craft employment as a way to empower women,” van Bergen says. “When women are able to earn income, they invest in their children. They become community leaders and community activists. At its root, all our work is about creating that ripple effect by empowering women to be able to work for themselves.”

— Rosalind Early, AB ’03
Elizabeth Caravati, LA ’10, relocated to San Francisco to become public relations manager of Luxury Wine Brands at Constellation Brands, Inc., an international wine, beer and spirits company. Caravati writes that she looks forward to connecting with WashU alums in the area.

Jordan French, LW ’10, is co-founder and chief marketing officer of BeeHex, Inc., a 3D food printing company that in 2016 was nominated for the IEEE Ernst Weber Managerial Leadership Award, the Vice Magazine Taste Talks Award for Best New Tech and the TIMMY Award for Best Technology in the Silicon Valley.

Mark Specht, SW ’10, recently was hired as an environmental specialist in the Air Pollution Control Program at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Elliott Weiss, MD ’10, completed fellowships in neonatology at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and in advanced medical ethics at the University of Pennsylvania. He is an assistant professor in the pediatrics department at Seattle Children’s Hospital and a faculty member of the hospital’s Teman Katz Center for Pediatric Bioethics.

Kurt DeSoto, GR ’11, GR ’15, is assistant director for policy at the Washington-based Association for Psychological Science (previously the American Psychological Society).

Elizabeth Miller, LA ’11, is doing research for a doctorate at King’s College in London on the representation of the modern woman in 1960s French cinema outside the New Wave. Miller earned a master’s degree in film curating from the University of London Film School.

Cassandra Newburg, EN ’11, moved to Addison, Texas, with her fiancé—a fellow engineering graduate of WashU—for a residency in emergency medicine.

Scott L. Rempel, LA ’12, graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 2016, winning several awards along the way: the Family Medicine Award, Kansas Association of Family Practice—Foundation Husetter Award—Salina, Rural Medicine Award and Lawrence E. Lamb Prize for Medical Practice. Rempel, who married Anna Scheuffele in June 2016, is now doing a Smoky Hill Family Medicine Residency in Salina, Kan.

Drew Hargrave, BU ’13, is head volleyball coach at Haverford College in Philadelphia. Hargrave earned a master’s degree from Smith College in May 2016.

Jacob Siewert, BU ’13, relocated from St. Louis, where he had worked three years at J.P. Morgan, to San Francisco to join private equity firm Iconiq Capital as a senior financial analyst.

Linda Nguyen, SW ’15, is in community development with Park Central Development Corporation in St. Louis. Nguyen works with residents, business owners, service providers and other stakeholders to attract investments to St. Louis and make the city accessible and exciting for all. “St. Louis is an exciting city with a lot of potential,” she writes.

Priyanka Reddy, FA ’16, joined Coach, Inc. fashion company in its New York City headquarters as an apprentice in the handbag division for runway collections.

Allison Zuck, GB ’16, GA ’16, joined HOK’s design team, supporting urban mixed-use projects. Previously, Zuck was an architectural intern at FGM Architects in O’Fallon, Ill.

Shana Zucker, LA ’16, is enrolled in the MD/MPH program at Tulane University.

In Memoriam

1930s

Martha (Moseley) Nielsen, LA 31; Feb. ’16 • Willard D. Rowland, LA 36, MD 40; March ’16 • Norma (Wahlbrink) Dobratz, LA 38; July ’16 • Marie (Matthey) Wilson, LA 38; March ’16 • Mary (Willert) Bristow, LA 39; June ’16 • Edith (Lampert) Larsen, LA 39; July ’16 • Elaine (Foerster) Maxeiner, LA 39; March ’16 • Benjamin Milder, MD 39; May ’16

1940s

Maria (Szymanski) Bailey, BU 40; Aug. ’16 • Leonard Chod, BU 41; April ’16 • Elizabeth (Wilcox) Fribance, LA 41, May ’16 • Bernard A. Lange, AR 41; July ’16 • Samuel Benson, LA 42; June ’16 • May (Ruester) Decker, LA 42; July ’16 • Anne (White) Jones, LA 42, GR 44, Jan. ’16 • Marjorie E. Stauss, LA 42, Feb. ’16 • Glenn O. Turner, MD 42, Aug. ’16 • Sara (Bermi) Weinhaus, LA 42; May ’16 • Georgene (Otto) Ferring, BU 43; March ’16 • John R. Flint, BU 43; June ’16 • Joseph C. Hogan, EN 43, Aug. ’16 • William M. Jones, DE 43; June ’16 • Alvin L. Schorr, SW 43, Feb. ’16 • John A. Wilson, MD 43, Feb. ’16 • Shirley (Martin) Bassett, LA 44; June ’16 • Malcolm Deisenroth, EN 44; April ’16 • Helmut W. Friz, LA 44, May ’16 • Maylouise (Lehman) Hubbell, BU 44; Aug. ’16 • George Matsumoto, AR 44; June ’16 • Maryann (Eustice) Spangler, LA 44; June ’16 • Jack C. Taylor, BU 44, GR 01; July ’16 • S. Ernest Torrice, DE 44, Feb. ’16 • James H. Alexander, LA 45; April ’16 • Malvina (Isach) Brooks, NU 45; April ’16 • Gloria (Moore) Donnell, LA 45; March ’16 • Jean-Louise (Thuenen) Funck, LA 45; April ’16 • Mildred (Weiner) Poletsky, LA 45, UC 56; May ’16 • Robert W. Sauer, EN 45; June ’16 • Harold M. Scheer, DE 45; Jan. ’16 • Mary (Sherwood) Stewart, NU 45; Jan. ’16 • Dorothy A. Brockhoff, LA 46; Aug. ’16 • Phyllis (Murphy) Heggi, NU 46; Jan. ’16 • Florence (Greiman) Hoey, LA 46; March ’16 • Elizabeth K. House, GR 46; Aug. ’16 • Lindsay J. Kirkham, MD 46; Aug. ’16 • Madeline (Kish) Lindstrom, NU 46; March ’16 • Arthur E. Schmidt, MD 46; Aug. ’16 • Benjamin M. Schulein, BU 46; June ’16 • Kenneth S. Teel, LA 46, GR 50; Oct. ’16 • Mary (Farris) Tubbesing, LW 46; June ’16 • Richard V. Tucker, DE 46; Jan. ’16 • Irl B. Baris, LA 47, LW 48; Jan. ’16 • Joye (Siroky) Baumann, UC 47, PT 48; Feb. ’16 • Edward D. Bleich, BU 47; March ’16 • Dean W. Duston, EN 47, EN 48; Feb. ’16 • Marvin J. Fisher, EN 47; Jan. ’16 • Robert A. Frei, FA 47; Jan. ’16 • Edward D. Golterman, BU 47, GB 48; April ’16 • Marjorie (Gould) Hendricks, LA 47, Jan. ’16 • Rita (Turley) Hustava, NU 47; April ’16 • Sumio Kudo, DE 47; March ’16 • Mary (Matheny) Leonard, NU 47; March ’16 • Marvin E. Levin, LA 47, MD 51; April ’16 • Mary (Patrinqui) Lowe, LA 47; May ’16 • Donald V. Petrovich, BU 47, LA 47, GR 57; March ’16 • Vivian L. Piller, NU 47; March ’16 • Albert Price, BU 47; April ’16 • Dorothy (Viehweg) Reinsch, NU 47; May ’16 • Alloycce (Schwartz) Ross, BU 47; May ’16 • Jacqueline (Bickel) Schapp, LA 47, GR 54; April ’16 • Warren H. Schmidt, GR 47, GR 49; May ’16 • Gerry A. Smyth, MD 47; May ’16 • Jean (Schaeferinger) Allen, LA 48; Aug. ’16 • Paul Birenbaum, BU 48; April ’16 • Virgil R. Bleisch, MD 48; Feb. ’16 • Hester (Warfield) Conrad, BU 48; May ’16 • Michael G. Fandos, BU 48; Feb. ’16 • Robert R. Gard, LA 48; April ’16 • Fleta (Scott) Hallums, LA 48; July ’16 • Richard W. Halteman, EN 48, EN 49; June ’16 • Richard W. Halteman, EN 48, EN 49; June ’16 • Robert W. Halteman, EN 48, EN 49; June ’16 • Robert W. Halteman, EN 48, EN 49; June ’16 • Richard W. Halteman, EN 48, EN 49; June ’16 • Richard W. Halteman, EN 48, EN 49; June ’16 • Richard W. Halteman, EN 48, EN 49; June ’16 • Richard W. Halteman, EN 48, EN 49; June ’16 • Richard W. Halteman, EN 48, EN 49; June ’16 • Richard W. Halteman, EN 48, EN 49; June ’16 • Richard W. Halteman, EN 48, EN 49; June ’16
1960s

James O. Bright, SI 60; Feb. '61 • Thomas M. Ellis, GR 60; April '61 • Amiel G. Forshree, EN 60; July '61 • Norman Frager, BU 60; May '61 • Olliean (Tesreau) Goggins, UC 60; Aug. '61 • David E. Graves, EN 60; April '61 • James G. Hascall, EN 60; Aug. '61 • Ronald H. Pitz, LA 60; Feb. '61 • David K. Sirola, MD 60; April '61 • Richard L. Turner, LA 60, LW 62; Feb. '61 • Keith L. Williams, SW 60; May '61 • Marvin E. Works, FA 60, GA 74, SW 74; April '61 • Norma (Flaks) Barach, LA 61; Jan. '61 • William G. Buckner, GB 61; May '61 • William M. Burt, UC 61; April '61 • Dan H. Clendenin, UC 61; April '61 • George L. Crowder, EN 61; Aug. '61 • Charles P. Derleth, FA 61, GR 74; May '61 • Phyllis (Hannah) Ellis, SW 61; March '61 • Edward D. Gillespie, UC 61; Feb. '61 • Arthur R. Grumman, AR 61; July '61 • Sandra S. Huff, UC 61; July '61 • Kenneth E. Maag, UC 61; May '61 • Philip W. Majerus, MD 61; June '61 • George E. Phelps, GB 61; March '61 • William E. Schmittner, EN 61; May '61 • Ferdinand F. Switzer, LA 61; April '61 • William P. Ahlbrand, GR 62, EN 68; Feb. '61 • Archie M. Bankston, LW 62, GB 64; Jan. '61 • William J. Brennan, EN 62, EN 64; April '61 • Jan G. Gilbert, EN 62, GB 64; Jan. '61 • Sandra (Steinback) Gold, LA 62; March '61 • Walter M. Hewiston, GR 62; Jan. '61 • Joe R. Jeter, UC 62; Aug. '61 • David J. Mahan, GR 62, GR 68; March '61 • Barbara (Thompson) Moody, GR 62; Aug. '61 • Peter E. Nathan, GR 62; May '61 • A. William Rudge, UC 62; May '61 • Richard H. Schlake, UC 62; Feb. '61 • Arthur J. Steiger, UC 62; Feb. '61 • Doug Strole, FA 62, Aug. '61 • Gage Von Weise Jr., EN 62; June '61 • Lary Baker, GR 63; Jan. '61 • Ina Fitzhenny, LA 63, GR 70; May '61 • William D. Hoskins, UC 63, EN 64; Jan. '61 • Janet (Berman) Mayfield, LA 63; March '61 • Lois (Parish) O'Brien, UC 63; May '61 • Mary B. O'Leary, LA 63; Aug. '61 • Bert J. Stewart, UC 63; July '61 • Charles W. Wiggins, GR 63, GR 64; May '61 • Joseph E. Zirnsick, UC 63; July '61 • J. William Baker, LA 64, LW 67; Jan. '61 • Robert M. Capstick, LA 64; Feb. '61 • Marilyn R. Dannacher, SW 64, Aug. '61 • Eve (Armour) Dilweg, LA 64; May '61 • Gerald J. Huffman, EN 64; Feb. '61 • William J. Kimmick, TI 64; Feb. '61 • James F. Magneze, LW 64; Aug. '61 • Frederick W. Scherrer, LW 64; July '61 • Richard E. Schrick, UC 64; April '61 • Norma Wiley, UC 64; Jan. '61 • C. Alan Beeler, GR 65, GR 73; April '61 • Joseph J. Haburjak, BU 65; March '61 • Susan (Stringham) Hall, LA 65; June '61 • Daniel H. Kohl, GR 65; March '61 • Anne (Cumming) McCormick, GR 65; Jan. '61 • Robert L. Melcher, GR 65, GR 68; June '61 • Vernon W. Schroeder, UC 65; July '61 • Dorothy L. Shippey, GR 65; Jan. '61 • Soldan Tolpen, UC 65; April '61 • Frank G. Vanek, TI 65; July '61 • Jerold L. Vesper, DE 65; Aug. '61 • Donald J. Gray, UC 66; Aug. '61 • Mabel (Perry) Howell, HA 66; March '61 • Tommy R. Kirkendall, UC 66; July '61 • John O. Porbeck, LA 66; May '61 • Sheldon H. Roodman, LW 66; Jan. '61 • Daniel K. Schiffer, LA 66, GR 72; Jan. '61 • Edward J. Shanahan, UC 66, UC 74; Aug. '61 • James H. Sporerley, UC 66, SW 73; March '61 • Barbara (Eiland) Walker, SW 66; Aug. '61 • Glen R. Winans, EN 66; July '61 • E. (Cohen) Bernstein, LA 67; April '61 • Merle C. Bone, EN 67; June '61 • Orville C. Brinkmann, GR 67; March '61 • Charles M. Dye, GR 67, GR 71; Feb. '61 • Paul M. Garavaglia, UC 67, UC 71; Jan. '61 • Laddie H. Hamilton, LA 67; May '61 • H. Joan Hartwig, GR 67, March '61 • Robert N. Klos, TI 67; April '61 • Carol H. Kun, PT 67; Aug. '61 • James T. Renshaw, UC 67; July '61 • Brian J. Bailey, SI 68; June '61 • Robert W. Bills, SI 68; Feb. '61 • Jon B. Bruton, LA 68; May '61 • Gary T. Carr, LA 68, EN 72, LW 75; June '61 • William C. Colbert, GB 68; Jan. '61 • Henry Lenoir, SW 68; Feb. '61 • Bernard V. Moore, UC 68; Feb. '61 • David R. Smith, GR 68; July '61 • Ted R. Sparling, HA 68; Jan. '61 • Lawrence O. Wilson, BU 68; Aug. '61 • Carl R. Zugmayer, UC 68; May '61 • Judith E. Anapol, SW 69; April '61 • Stephanie (Brooks) Dains, LA 69; June '61 • Gerald A. Kientzel, UC 69; May '61 • Robin (Kopolow) Lowy, LA 69, NU 69; May '61 • Derek A. Shackleton, UC 69; Jan. '61 • Sara (Bass) Thal, LA 69; April '61 • Paul W. Hoyleick, HA 69; March '61
In Remembrance

Charles B. Anderson
Charles B. Anderson, MD, a former professor and director of the Division of General Surgery at the School of Medicine, died Nov. 7, 2016. He was 78.

Anderson established the kidney transplant program at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and the pediatric kidney transplant program at St. Louis Children's Hospital.

In the early 1970s, Anderson proposed using presurgical blood transfusions from organ donors to provide the recipients with protective antibodies and immuno-suppression. Though greeted with skepticism, the practice is now accepted internationally.

Anderson was also instrumental in developing Barnes-Jewish's vascular surgery service.

Anderson is survived by his children: Kristin A. Redington (Jim), Cheryl A. Colonnello (Jamie) and Beth A. Stiska (Matt); and eight grandchildren.

Seth Carlin
Seth Carlin, an internationally renowned pianist who taught at the university for 37 years, died July 28, 2016, following a swimming accident in France. He was 71. Carlin began playing piano at the age of 6 and made his public debut when he was 9 on the New York public radio station WNYY. He studied for three years at the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris, after which he earned a master's degree in piano from the Juilliard School. Carlin taught at Hiram College in Ohio and Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire before joining the piano program at Washington University in 1979.

Over the course of his career, Carlin played with acclaimed conductors and famous classical musicians. He also was featured as part of the prestigious “On Original Instruments” series at New York’s Merkin Hall, performed with the Boston Pops, and won the International Busoni Competition in Bolzano, Italy.

Carlin is survived by his wife, Maryse; their two children; his brother, Elliot; and a large extended family.

Sam B. Cook
Sam B. Cook, a longtime trustee of the university, died July 15, 2016. He was 94.

Cook served as chairman of the board for the Central Trust Bank and Central Bancompany. Under his leadership, Central Bancompany became one of the largest bank-holding companies in Missouri, with $12 billion in assets.

Cook worked to improve his community. While on the board of commissioners of the Jefferson City Housing Authority, Cook helped expand the availability of affordable housing in Jefferson City. He worked on the city’s Environmental Quality Commission, helped create the Jefferson City YMCA, and supported the building of a second bridge across the Missouri River.

His work to improve higher education in Missouri led him to the university’s Board of Trustees from 1977 to 1987. He also sat on the boards of William Woods University in Fulton and the University of Missouri.

Cook is survived by his wife, Donna, and his four children born of his marriage in 1949 to Lois Marguerite McAdam.

Pearlie Evans
Pearlie Evans, MSW ’56, a political strategist and civil rights leader, died Nov. 18, 2016. She was 84.

When she attended Washington University’s Brown School in 1955, Evans was one of only two African-American women in her class. She later served as a practicum instructor.

After graduating, Evans became increasingly engaged in civil rights, working to integrate places around St. Louis including Howard Johnson’s, White Castle and Jefferson Bank. In 1965, she marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., to protest voting rights. By 1968, she had been recruited to work for U.S. Rep. William Clay as his district aide and run the William L. Clay Scholarship and Research Fund. She ran his office for 26 years.

She eventually became a political strategist for many African-American officeholders in the region.

Evans was preceded in death by her parents, brother and former husband, Johnnie P. Evans. She is survived by her cousin, Toni Featherstone.

Edward Greenberg
Edward Greenberg, professor emeritus of economics, died Aug. 24, 2016. He was 80.

Greenberg came to Washington University in 1963 shortly after earning his doctoral degree in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He soon established himself as an expert in econometrics and microeconomic theory.
In 1995, Greenberg co-authored a seminal article that helped spread Bayesian statistical techniques to many fields including statistics, engineering, biostatistics and ecology. The article was published in the American Statistician and has been cited more than 3,000 times.

Greenberg also wrote the popular textbook *Introduction to Bayesian Econometrics* (2008).

In addition to being a Ford Foundation Faculty Fellow in 1965 and '66, Greenberg had the distinction of being a visiting professor at the University of Warwick, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and the University of Bergamo. After his retirement, friends, students and family created the Edward Greenberg book prize, which is awarded annually to an outstanding undergraduate economics student.

Greenberg is survived by his daughter, Lisa Greenberg, and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Joan, who worked at Washington University for 26 years and died in 2005. His son, Arthur, a 1982 graduate, died in 2010.

**Eugene J. Mackey III**

Eugene J. Mackey III, founder of Mackey Mitchell Architects, died Nov. 27, 2016, after a long battle with cancer. He was 77.

In 1960, Mackey earned a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Sciences and, in 1962, a Bachelor of Architecture from Washington University. He went on to earn a master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Design and, in 1966, won Washington University’s James Harrison Steedman Memorial Fellowship in Architecture for study abroad in Europe.

Back in St. Louis, Mackey worked with Murphy & Mackey, a firm founded by his father. (Its projects included the university’s Olin Library.) Following his father’s death, in 1968, Mackey opened his own firm, Mackey Mitchell, which restored or renovated many significant projects in the St. Louis area, such as the Pershing/DeBaliviere neighborhood, the Lammert Building, Hotel Majestic, Park Plaza, the Post Office Annex, Saint Louis University’s Chaifetz Arena, the Missouri Botanical Garden’s Spink Pavilion and the LEED Platinum Alberici corporate headquarters.

At Washington University, Mackey Mitchell designed and completed dozens of projects, beginning with a transformative residential-life master plan. Other major works include the South 40 House, College Hall and Eliot House; renovations to Mallinckrodt Center; Knight, Bauer and Hillman halls, in partnership with Ruble Yudell Architects; and the firm’s current work on Jubel Hall, in collaboration with MRY Architects.

In 2002, Mackey received a Washington University Distinguished Alumni Award and, in 2007, joined the National Council of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts. Serving twice as president of the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects, he received the chapter’s Gold Honor Award in 2008.

Mackey is survived by his wife, Ann; daughters, Elizabeth Perrin and Augustine Shodeen; sons, Philip Mackey and Eugene Mackey IV; stepchildren, Clint Whitemore, Barbie Mattie and Katie McAllister; and sister, Ellen Mackey.

**Richard B. Teitelman**

Missouri Supreme Court Judge Richard B. Teitelman, JD ’73, an affable jurist and advocate for the poor who was the state’s first legally blind appellate judge, died Nov. 29, 2016. He was 69.

Teitelman had served on the court since March 2002 and was chief justice from July 2011 to June 2013. He previously served four years on the Missouri Court of Appeals Eastern District and spent nearly two decades at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, a nonprofit that provides legal services to low-income residents.

Throughout his career, Teitelman always looked out for the interests of the poor and disadvantaged. When the seven-member high court deliberated cases behind closed quarters, Teitelman often would implore colleagues to “look for the justice in the case,” said Michael Wolff, a former Supreme Court colleague and now dean of the Saint Louis University School of Law.

Former Gov. Bob Holden described Teitelman as a “ground-breaking appointment” when he named him to the high court. Teitelman was also the first Jewish member of the state’s high court. Teitelman had been visually impaired since birth — able only to see shapes and movements. He used a magnifying glass to read and dictated his court opinions to a clerk.

He typically began court sessions by meandering through the courtroom, shaking hands with attorneys and briefly chatting with guests before rejoining the other judges to formally enter the chamber for arguments. It was a ritual that was both affable and practical, allowing him to meet those he could not see from the bench.

Teitelman is survived by a brother, Gilbert Teitelman, of Philadelphia.

**Jessie L. Ternberg**

Jessie L. Ternberg, professor emerita of surgery and surgery in pediatrics, died July 9, 2016. She was 92.

Ternberg won many awards including honorary doctor of science degrees from Grinnell (her undergraduate alma mater), the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Washington University. Former surgical residents and colleagues established the Jessie L. Ternberg Award, given to a female medical graduate who has shown perseverance and determination. Friends and admirers also established a professorship in Ternberg’s name. Ternberg is survived by many friends and family.

**Joseph R. Williamson**

Joseph R. Williamson, MD ’58, a diabetes researcher and former professor of pathology, died June 9, 2016. He was 84.

Williamson joined the Washington University faculty in 1962, and his work helped advance the fields of diabetes, metabolism and vascular pathophysiology. He also helped refine how clinical trials were conducted.

Williamson was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, chaired the World Conference on Diabetes and was a Pfizer visiting professor at Boston University. He published more than 150 peer-reviewed articles in medical journals and was a veteran of the U.S. military.

Williamson is survived by his wife, Janet; daughters, Catherine and Sherry; sister, Luella Claire; and two granddaughters.
Ed deZevallos Jr., GB ’67
Chair, Planned Giving
Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University

Ed and Pam deZevallos are helping prepare students to become tomorrow’s leaders. Their decision to name the university as beneficiary of Ed’s IRA is a tax-wise strategy that will significantly reduce their income taxes and estate taxes. The distribution will add to the endowment of the scholarship they established in Olin Business School.

An estate gift through your will or trust, or a beneficiary designation on life insurance or a qualified retirement plan, is a simple yet significant way to support students and Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University.

Learn more:
800-835-3503
plannedgiving.wustl.edu

Please consult with your tax and legal advisors before making a charitable gift.
For the love of WashU

Alumna Marissa Hockfield has recruited and interviewed talented students for 15 years.

BY LAURA JOSEHART

Marissa Hockfield, AB ’01, has not lost her enthusiasm for Washington University in the 15 years since graduation. Now living in San Francisco with her husband, Josh Steinfeld, AB ’01, Hockfield has interviewed prospective Washington University students for the Alumni and Parents Admission Program (APAP) since 2001. “I stay involved to stay connected. I had such a great time as a student, and volunteering keeps those wonderful memories from becoming too removed and distant,” Hockfield says. “I always mention this to students I interview: Here I am, 15 years out of college, and I still volunteer for Washington University. This shows how much I love and care about it, and I want to share it with other people.”

What was your first volunteer role with WashU?

I started volunteering with APAP in Chicago the same year I graduated. I was asked to attend interview days and interview prospective students. I loved meeting new students, sharing my experiences with them and encouraging them to choose WashU. In 2004, a chair position opened up, and now my APAP role is more administrative. As a chair, I serve as a facilitator between alumni and students, and I send interview assignments to the committee every year. Through my work with APAP, I have also served on the Alumni Board of Governors and the Regional Cabinets for Chicago and San Francisco.

Have you had opportunities to meet with Washington University parents?

Yes, parents often come with their students to interviews, and sometimes we have parent volunteers. One of my first experiences as a volunteer was an interview day at the high school my mom attended in the north Chicago suburbs. She was excited that I was going to be there on behalf of WashU. APAP volunteers invited her to come along and talk to parents, and she jumped at the chance. Some parents are nervous about the possibility of sending their student to a place they haven’t even seen, so it’s helpful to have WashU parents available to answer their questions and provide firsthand knowledge about the campus.

You celebrated your 15th Reunion last year. What was it like?

It was fantastic! I’ve been back to campus frequently, so all the changes weren’t as surprising to me. My husband, Josh, and I served as chairs on our executive reunion committee. It is always such a great feeling to be back on campus with your classmates, and we get that opportunity only during Reunion. What I have noticed about WashU is that so many alumni look forward to coming back to campus because they have such great memories. And when we come back, it’s like we all still belong and no time has passed.

What advice would you give to alumni who want to reconnect with Washington University but don’t know where to start?

All you have to do is express an interest, and the Washington University staff will help you from there. Josh and I moved to San Francisco a little over a year ago, and as soon as we let WashU know we were relocating, they helped us get connected with other alumni in the area. We’ve had such a smooth transition because of that. I definitely recommend getting involved with your local WU Club or volunteering with APAP — it is the easiest way to get started.

Laura Josehart is associate director of development communications in Alumni & Development Programs.

Interested in becoming a volunteer for the Alumni and Parents Admission Program?

Contact apap.wustl.edu or 800-935-4826.
Fall, families and football

The Washington University Alumni Association welcomed more than 1,000 alumni, parents, students and friends to Fall Festival on Oct. 29, 2016. The annual event began with the grand opening and open house for the new Gary M. Sumers Recreation Center. Participants also enjoyed brunch and children’s activities before the Bears took on the Case Western Reserve University Spartans at Francis Field.
Every gift, of any size, plays a vital role in Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University. I would like to thank everyone who has helped to raise more than $2.4 billion to date. We have surpassed $400 million for new scholarships and fellowships, which will open doors of opportunity for qualified students from all walks of life. Endowed professorships, deanships and directorships all provide critical resources to help recruit and retain distinguished faculty. Generous donors have established 118 new endowed positions so far.

We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed to Leading Together, and I encourage the rest of our alumni and friends to join us. Your generosity will help transform the lives of students and the world in which we live.

For more on all gifts to the campaign, please visit together.wustl.edu.

Alumni Ralph and Trish Nagel (pictured at left) established an endowed deanship for the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts. Carmon Colangelo was installed as the first Ralph J. Nagel Dean of the Sam Fox School Nov. 18, 2016 (see pg. 3).

“It’s all about empowering the school to move beyond its current boundaries in inspiring the next generation of leaders to take creative risks,” Ralph Nagel says. “The Sam Fox School has the legacy, scale and depth to support this critical need in society.”

The Nagels are longtime supporters of the university and co-chairs of the Denver Regional Cabinet. Trish Nagel serves on the School of Medicine National Council, and Ralph Nagel serves on the national council of the Sam Fox School.

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton says, “I am deeply grateful that Ralph and Trish have chosen to establish this prestigious position at Washington University. Their generosity will help ensure the continued excellence and growth of the Sam Fox School.”
Sumers Recreation Center supports fitness and well-being for all

On Friday, Oct. 28, 2016, Washington University dedicated the new Gary M. Sumers Recreation Center, a spacious, modern 60,000-square-foot facility for sports, recreation and fitness on the Danforth Campus. The center was made possible through a $12 million lead gift from Trustee Gary Sumers, AB ’75, and the many alumni, parents, friends, faculty and staff who have made gifts to revitalize the university’s athletics and recreation facilities. The Sumers Center provides state-of-the-art facilities for physical fitness, recreational sports and varsity athletics, and it serves the physical and emotional well-being of the entire campus community. (See feature, pp. 22–27.)

‘Washington University has been a defining part of my life’

Trustee and alumnus Gary M. Sumers says, “Washington University has been a defining part of my life.” He has long supported scholarships at Washington University to ensure that future generations of students will benefit from the top-notch learning experience that meant so much to him. He has committed an additional $3 million to provide scholarships for undergraduate students from families with high financial need.

Sumers also has made a $7 million commitment to support construction of a new 25,500-square-foot building to house the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Student Financial Services. Part of the transformation planned for the east end of the Danforth Campus, the Gary M. Sumers Welcome Center will provide beautiful gathering spaces to better serve visitors, prospective students and the university community. To offer sweeping views of Brookings Hall, the welcome center is scheduled for completion in 2019.

Sumers graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1975 with a double major in history and political science. In 1995 he joined New York–based Blackstone Group, a leading global alternative asset manager and financial advisory firm. He retired in 2014 as senior managing director and chief operating officer in Blackstone’s Real Estate Group.

A member of the Arts & Sciences National Council and the New York City Regional Cabinet, Sumers received a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2009. The university honored him with the Robert S. Brookings Award at Founders Day in 2016.

“From his long-term support for scholarships and the Sumers Recreation Center to the new Sumers Welcome Center, Gary’s extraordinary generosity and leadership will have lasting impact on the future of Washington University and its students,” says Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. “It is truly fitting that his name will be associated with a building that will welcome and serve students and other visitors to our campus.”

Members of the Sumers family gathered at the dedication of the Gary M. Sumers Recreation Center Oct. 28, 2016: (from left) James Sumers; Katie Sumers; Brian Sumers; Elizabeth Fowler; Gary Sumers, AB ’75; Marsha Goldberg; and Stephen Goldberg.

Gary M. Sumers, AB ’75
Alicia McDonnell, JD '95, is a former prosecutor. Today, she encourages law students to pursue careers in public service.

BY SUSAN WOOLEYHAN CAINE

Like many college students, Alicia McDonnell was interested in public service, but she was still unsure what her career path should be. After graduating with a degree in political science from the University of Rochester, she joined her older sister in Boston.

“I had no plan,” she says. “My mother suggested that I get some experience as a volunteer, so I opened up the Boston phone book and called the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office. I asked if I could do an internship. I don’t think they had too many requests like that — they didn’t really know what to do with me!”

She was assigned to the White Collar Crime Unit as an investigator for Bob McKenna, one of three prosecutors in the unit. McKenna became her mentor, and he encouraged her to consider law school.

After a year, McDonnell was assigned to Dorchester, one of the most crime-ridden areas in Boston. “All the attorneys were kids right out of law school,” she says. “They let me help prepare for trials, interview witnesses, and see what it’s really like to be a lawyer. I was totally hooked.” She applied to law school a year later.

“I had the option of going to school in Boston at night and working during the day, but that seemed overwhelming. Fortunately, I also applied to Washington University School of Law. I was so grateful that they let me in, and I resolved to do my best so they wouldn’t regret their decision!”

A clear goal

“I wanted to become a prosecutor and go back to Boston,” she says. “Washington University Law did not emphasize criminal law, but the other law schools that admitted me simply prepared students to pass the bar exam. The School of Law trained us to think like lawyers. The approach was analytical and rigorous, and I had wonderful professors, like David Becker, who took a real interest in their students. It was wonderful preparation.”

The law school did not have a clinical program in prosecution at that time, so McDonnell did an internship in the U.S. Attorney’s Office. “They kept me in the library,” she recalls. In 2014, she made a generous gift to establish a Prosecution Law Clinic as part of the law school’s highly ranked Clinical Education Program.

The Prosecution Law Clinic works in partnership with the St. Louis Circuit Attorney’s Office to enable talented law students to gain hands-on experience. McDonnell says, “Students learn how to prepare a case, work with witnesses, introduce exhibits into evidence, and sort out the ethical issues. It doesn’t get more real than this — until
“I have enormous respect for the people who dedicate themselves to safe and just communities. Our society needs the very best professionals in these fields.” — Alicia McDonnell

A university citizen

McDonnell has received a Young Alumni Award from the School of Law and a Distinguished Alumni Award at Founders Day for her many contributions. In addition to serving on the law school’s national council and as programs chair for the Eliot Society, she is vice chair of scholarships and fellowships for Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University.

“Today, many students would like to have careers in public service, but high student debt makes that difficult, if not impossible,” she says. “When they asked me to help raise money for scholarships, I said yes immediately. I knew this was something I could really get behind.”

She has supported scholarships at the School of Law since she graduated. “I want to help more young lawyers achieve their career goals while serving the public.” She also established the John McDonnell Scholarship in the School of Engineering & Applied Science in honor of her father, the retired chairman of the board of McDonnell Douglas Corporation and a Life Trustee of Washington University.

“Education is the key to a successful life,” Alicia McDonnell says. “Washington University is an amazing place, an amazing asset for St. Louis, and any company or institution that hires a Washington University graduate is fortunate. I am so grateful for the outstanding professional education I received at the School of Law, and I’m glad to help provide that opportunity for others.”

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton says, “Alicia is a great citizen of Washington University. Her dedication and generosity are extraordinary. Her leadership has helped to galvanize support for scholarships in the campaign. By carrying on her family’s longstanding tradition of service to the university, she will have lasting impact on the leaders of tomorrow, and we are profoundly grateful for her loyal support.”

Susan Wooleyhan Caine is executive director of development communications in Alumni & Development Programs.

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The women's soccer team posted a 5–4 shootout victory over Messiah College to claim the 2016 NCAA Division III National Championship. The game — played Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016, at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia — ended in a 1–1 tie after 110 minutes of play. Converting penalty kicks in the shootout were sophomore Caroline Dempsey, junior Kelly Von Zup, sophomore Jessica Kovach, junior Gillian Myers and junior Megan Wolf, who converted the game-winner. The national championship is the first for the women's soccer team and the 20th in the history of the WashU Department of Athletics.

Getting a kick out of winning

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WINNING FORMATION  Head football coach Larry Kindbom continued his winning ways during the 2016 season, with the Bears finishing with an 8–3 record. Along the way, Kindbom picked up career win No. 200 in a thrilling 31–28 victory at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016.