WashU MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2024

HALTING HIDDEN HUNGER

In the highlands of Ecuador, Lora Iannotti and collaborators investigate the effects of diet on brain development in the earliest phases of life, pg 20.

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Contents

DEPARTMENTS

IN EVERY ISSUE

FROM THE CHANCELLOR 2
FEEDBACK 3

IN ST. LOUIS 4
NEWS FROM AROUND THE UNIVERSITY

CAMPUS NEWS 6
RESEARCH ROUNDUP 8
ON TOPIC 10
QUOTED 11
COURSEWORK 12
BOOKSHELF 14
POINT OF VIEW 16
BIG IDEA 18

NEXT 42
THE WORLD OF OUR WASHU ALUMNI

ALUMNI PROFILES 44
FIRST PERSON 49
MY WASHINGTON 50
ALUMNI ACTIVITIES 52
CLASS NOTES 54
IN MEMORIAM 60
LASTING IMPRESSION 64

FEATURES

20
Halting Hidden Hunger

Can improved nutrition during pregnancy help prevent stunted growth in children around the world? With partners in Ecuador, Lora Iannotti studies the effects of maternal diet on infant brain development.

30
The Potential of Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy

WashU Medicine researchers are helping transform mind-bending psychedelics into treatments for devastating mental illnesses.

36
Bridges to the Moon

WashU and lunar exploration go way back — *even further than you think.*

On the cover: With funding from the Children's Discovery Institute, a partnership between St. Louis Children's Hospital and WashU Medicine, Lora Iannotti and collaborators at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Ecuador are testing to see if tackling malnutrition before a child is born, starting with a pregnant woman's diet, shapes growth. Here, Gabriela Vintimilla, MD (left), gathers information from a mother at a clinic in Yaruquí, Ecuador. Photo: Whitney Curtis

Background image: Convocation, which takes place the Saturday before classes start, is a time-honored tradition at WashU. Held in Brookings Quadrangle, Convocation gives university leadership the chance to officially welcome new students to the university. Photo: Whitney Curtis

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Photo: Joe Angeles

Only one 'WashU'

Chancellor Andrew Martin (left) and Anna Gonzalez (right), vice chancellor for student affairs, welcome students in the Underpass during the first day of classes, Aug. 26.

St. Louis is a city that loves its nicknames. We can find a way to abbreviate almost anything, from the Arch, the Loop and the Grove to the Lou. Our alumni may fondly recall reading *StudLife* in a booth at the Rat or Blue Hill. I think this affinity for nicknames is, at its heart, a reflection of the regional culture: warm and welcoming, informal and inviting, even downright homey.

So perhaps it comes as no surprise that when Washington University started looking at ways to refresh our identity, we concluded that nothing represents us more powerfully than the way we refer to ourselves. We debuted the new "WashU" logo this fall with a new washu.edu website, updated signage on campus, and, of course, fresh swag such as T-shirts and laptop stickers for our new and returning students. We even lit up Brookings Hall with the new logo to mark the occasion (see photo pg. 19).

What's in a name, you ask? I feel that our new logo demonstrates confidence and community, a means of making WashU's public face match how we already feel and speak about our university. As we considered ways to distinguish ourselves from the other university systems that use the "Washington" moniker, we realized that our homegrown nickname made us unique. There are many "Washingtons." There is only one "WashU."

This campaign, our first visual identity update in decades, reflects more than an official name change. We are telling our story in new ways as well, highlighting not only what we have achieved but also how we accomplish our goals, with an emphasis on diversity, collaboration and respect for all. At washu.edu — and here in the pages of the newly renamed *WashU Magazine* — you can learn about the forward-thinking ways in which we marry the principles that we teach in our classrooms to real-world practices. We celebrate the ways in which we welcome rigorous discourse as part of intellectual growth. We stake a claim as a university that is large enough to produce innovative and important research but close-knit enough to make those breakthroughs because of collaboration between students and faculty members.

That's a lot to ask of one little logo. But we are betting it will make a big difference in helping us advance our global reputation as a world-class institution.

Andrew D. Martin, PhD '98
Chancellor

FEEDBACK

"I read 'Reconciling With Our Past' in the August issue with interest and am pleased with WashU's efforts that confirm humans are complicated.

"As a genealogist, revealing the past is just that: revealing truths lost over time.

"There are two ways of reconciling: rename or not.

"Rename everything. Does this clean up or cover up the past? Both views have merit.

"Rename some or none. Does renaming some maintain slaveholder or benefactor distinction? I admit glee to the reaction they would have to the current roles at WashU of Black, women and 'others.' And a Walter Moran School of Law has a particularly poignant ring to it.

"No matter what decisions are made, it will be vitally important for each building and space to have a conspicuous plaque, and professorships and scholarships to include verbiage in some form, notating the individual's slaveholder and benefactor status. This history will then be revealed for posterity, never to be lost again."

— **CRYSTAL A. BINGHAM, MSOT '99**

THE AUGUST 2024 ISSUE

The "Lasting Impressions" photo from the August issue prompted lots of responses:

"I can identify one of the people. In the back row, the Black guy with the cheerleader on his shoulder is Howard Stewart. I believe he was a 1973 graduate, maybe from the School of Architecture. Howard was one of my fraternity brothers in Sigma Nu."

— **MIKE DARK, BSME '74**

"The cheerleader on the far right is BJ Jeffe. I was a cheerleader also."

— **JOYCE (KIRSHNER) ROSE, AB '71**

"I was reading through the latest edition and saw the photo of 1971 football cheerleaders. The gentleman on the left was Howard Stewart, a fraternity brother of mine at Sigma Nu. Howard was a great guy who unfortunately passed away some time ago. The woman second from the right also looks familiar and may have been with Gamma Phi Beta sorority, possibly Nancy Swihart, but I am not sure. Fun recollection of the past."

— **C. ALAN CARTER, BS '72, MS '73**

"I can identify two people: Second from left, standing male with curly hair, is Gary Lisch; seated on Gary's shoulder is Claire Simmons. Hope this helps."

— **WILL HANSEN, AB '74, MA '78**

"I believe the guy at the far right of the photo is Chuck Abrams. (I won't use the word 'gentleman' because I don't know if he ever held a door open for a lady.)"

— **HARVEY GORDON, AB '68**

"I was having a pretty boring day yesterday, and about 4 o'clock I went to get the mail. Your magazine was mixed among the bills, political requests and *The New Yorker*. For the next two hours, I learned, thought about how to deal with past cultural norms, wished I had been in school during a time when there were high expectations for women in math and science, and wondered if the Henry Shaw photo was used as an example for casting Ebenezer Scrooge in films. What a delight it was to hop from one topic to another! ... I admire your work along with the academic work done by the people in your articles/stories."

— **POLLY BURTCH, WEBSTER GROVES**

"The guy with the Elliott Gould mustache is me. The lady on the shoulder to my left is Barbara (BJ) Jeffe, and the lady on my shoulder is Nancy Swihart. Don't remember the rest of the people."

— **ROBERT EINSOHN, AB '71**

"The male cheerleader second from left is my good friend and sophomore year roommate at the Beta Theta Pi fraternity house, Gary Lisch. He was a bright guy, wonderful athlete and dear friend."

— **DAVID ASKINAS, AB '73**

We want to hear from you!

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In ST. LOUIS

Children's diabetes care on the move

The St. Louis Children's Hospital Healthy Kids Express Diabetes Program mobile unit launched in 2023 as the first mobile pediatric diabetes unit in the nation. The modified RV brings diabetes experts including WashU physicians to underserved area schools. So far, 10 school districts have partnered with the mobile unit.

Photo: Vanessa Abbitt/POST DISPATCH/POLARIS

Rendering by Weiss/Manfredi)

Above: "The Street," viewed from the south entry into Riney Hall, is envisioned to be the heart of Arts & Sciences faculty and student life.

'MORE THAN A BUILDING'

A ceremonial groundbreaking for the first dedicated home for Arts & Sciences on the Danforth Campus took place Oct. 8. Michael W. and Quirsis V. Riney Hall, named in recognition of **Michael, BSBA '08,** and **Quirsis "Kaisy" Riney,** St. Louis–area business leaders and philanthropists, will house some of Arts & Sciences' premier departments and programs, and serve as a cornerstone for scholarly and educational partnerships with other schools and units across campus.

When it opens in 2028, the approximately 110,000-square-foot, two-story building, located just west of Olin Library, will be home to the departments of African and African American Studies and of Sociology; the undergraduate advising function of the College of Arts & Sciences, serving WashU's largest undergraduate body; and the Office of Graduate Studies, which administers and awards all doctoral degrees in Arts & Sciences.

Space in the building will also support faculty research. Dubbed "The Incubator," Riney Hall will support a host of collaborative research opportunities for faculty and students, and house two signature initiatives of the Arts & Sciences Strategic Plan — the Incubator for Transdisciplinary Futures and the Transdisciplinary Institute in Applied Data Sciences — among others.

"Riney Hall will be more than a building," says **Chancellor Andrew D. Martin, PhD '98**. "It will establish our future as the standard-bearer for what an innovative, connected liberal arts education should look like."

A VISIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE

In May, WashU's women's outdoor track and field team won the NCAA Division III national championship in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. It was the university's 25th national team title. Two months later, on July 22, the team had the honor of visiting the White House, where it was recognized alongside other NCAA national championship teams. During the visit, the Bears met with **Vice President Kamala Harris** and celebrated their success with a White House tour and a special ceremony honoring the athletes. "Wherever you all go from here, you will always be champions," said Harris, just days prior to becoming the Democratic nominee for president of the United States.

A PRESCRIPTION FOR HEALTHY EATING

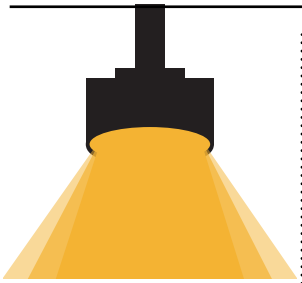
A project to promote healthy eating in the St. Louis area is underway through a collaboration with regional grocery chain Schnucks, the School of Medicine and BJC HealthCare. NutriConnect, a study supported by the American Heart Association's Health Care by Food Initiative, is comparing two produce prescription approaches for underserved populations: One provides grocery coupons so participants can purchase their own food; the other delivers biweekly fruits and vegetables directly to the home. The coupon approach gives participants a choice of dietitian-approved food items, while the delivery method provides a preselected mix of fruits and vegetables. The research project, led by **Jing Li, MD, DrPh,** will assess which approach is more effective in promoting health and alleviating food insecurity.

Leading the way in fighting climate change

The McKelvey School of Engineering is poised to become a leader in technologies that will minimize the impact of man-made climate change thanks to a $26 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The school will lead a powerhouse collaboration of universities and industry on a bold plan to transform manufacturing toward zero or negative emissions by converting carbon dioxide into environmentally friendly chemicals and products that create a circular economy. The Carbon Utilization Redesign for Biomanufacturing-Empowered Decarbonization (CURB) Engineering Research Center (ERC) is funded by the five-year NSF grant — the largest in McKelvey School history.

NEW CENTER FOR AIDS ESTABLISHED

Each year, about 500 people are newly diagnosed with HIV in Missouri, and nearly 200 die of disease related to HIV infection. This fall, researchers at WashU Medicine and Saint Louis University opened the Midwest Developmental Center for AIDS Research with funding from the National Institutes of Health. The center hopes to create a platform for researchers and public health workers to collaborate and coordinate their efforts to fight the HIV epidemic.



WASHU HONORS

Mary and **Tom Stillman** were the recipients of the 2024 Jane and Whitney Harris St. Louis Community Service Award, which recognizes those who contribute to the betterment of the greater St. Louis community. **Christina Gurnett, MD, PhD,** and **Fred Ssewamala, MSW '99, PhD '03,** were chosen by their academic peers to receive 2024 Faculty Achievement Awards. The pair was honored at the Founders Day dinner in November. And **Mark Oppenheimer,** a well-known religion journalist and author, is the new executive editor of *Religion & Politics*, an online journal published by WashU's John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics.

STARS NETWORK DOUBLES IN SIZE

In 2023, WashU was one of 16 institutions that founded the STARS College Network to help students from small towns and rural areas enroll in, thrive and graduate from college. Now in its second year, the network has doubled, with 16 more universities from around the country joining the effort. STARS members include state schools, HBCUs, and Ivy League and other selective institutions. Thanks to STARS, recruiting efforts and the Rural Scholars Academy — a summer program that introduces high school sophomores to college life — WashU has seen a 53% increase in enrollment of students from rural communities.

FULBRIGHT AWARD WINNERS

Eleven young alumni are working abroad this academic year after earning Fulbright awards. Alumni are doing research or teaching in Taiwan, South Korea, India, Brazil and Northern Ireland. Created in 1946, the Fulbright Program has granted more than 400,000 awards to students and scholars of diverse fields. Over 2,200 U.S. students and 900 university faculty receive Fulbright awards annually to travel and to advance international collaboration.

NOTTAGE AWARDED INTERNATIONAL HUMANITIES PRIZE

Two-time Pulitzer Prize–winning dramatist **Lynn Nottage** will receive WashU's 2025 International Humanities Prize next April. Awarded by the Center for the Humanities in Arts & Sciences, the biennial prize honors the lifetime work of a noted scholar, writer or artist. "Lynn Nottage is a masterful storyteller of the human condition," says Stephanie Kirk, director of the Center for the Humanities. "Her work addresses some of today's most complex and difficult issues, including industrialization, globalization and the legacies of colonialism."

Alzheimer's blood test created by WashU startup proves 90% accurate

A simple blood test to diagnose Alzheimer's disease soon may replace more invasive and expensive screening methods such as spinal taps and brain scans. WashU Medicine researchers have found that PrecivityAD2, a blood test based on technology licensed from WashU and developed by the WashU startup C2N Diagnostics, is more accurate in identifying molecular signs of Alzheimer's disease than FDA-approved cerebrospinal fluid tests. For more than 1,200 patients in Sweden, PrecivityAD2 proved 90% accurate when used at both memory clinics and primary care offices. In a separate study, it also outperformed five other Alzheimer's blood tests. The ease and accuracy of the test may allow for earlier diagnosis, a critical development that would allow patients to sooner begin treatments to slow the progression of the disease.

PUBLIC HEALTH APPEAL

The public health system in the United States needs an immediate "transformation," writes **Ross C. Brownson,** the Steven H. and Susan U. Lipstein Distinguished Professor at the Brown School. In a special issue of *Health Affairs*, Brownson and co-author **Jonathan Samet,** of the Colorado School of Public Health, explained how the decentralized U.S. public health system can result in an uneven allocation of resources. They made recommendations in seven areas, including accountability, climate change, politicization and polarization.

EARLY FARMING EVIDENCE

A trove of ancient plant remains excavated in Kenya helps explain the history of plant farming in equatorial eastern Africa, a region long thought to be important for early farming but where scant evidence from physical crops had been previously uncovered. **Natalie Mueller, PhD '17,** assistant professor of archaeology; **Steven T. Goldstein, PhD '17** (now at the University of Pittsburgh); and collaborators found evidence for a gradual introduction of crops originating from different parts of Africa. One example, a cowpea plant, dated back 2,300 years.

TRAINING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

WashU researchers have uncovered an unexpected psychological phenomenon at the intersection of human behavior and artificial intelligence: When told they were training AI to play a bargaining game, participants actively adjusted their own behavior to appear fairer and more just. "The participants seemed to have a motivation to train AI for fairness, which is encouraging, but other people might have different agendas," says **Lauren Treiman,** a doctoral student in the Division of Computational & Data Sciences and lead author of the study. "Developers should know that people will intentionally change their behavior when they know it will be used to train AI."

NASAL COVID-19 VACCINE HALTS TRANSMISSION

The lightning-fast development of COVID-19 vaccines saved millions of lives, but the shots couldn't stop the spread of the virus. A new WashU Medicine study indicates that next-generation vaccines that target the virus's points of entry — the nose and mouth — may be able to do just that. Using a nasal COVID-19 vaccine based on WashU technology, the researchers showed that vaccinated hamsters that developed infections did not pass the virus on to others, breaking the cycle of transmission.

For more on university research and faculty achievement, visit source.washu.edu/news.

Prenatal cannabis exposure

As cannabis use during pregnancy rises, WashU researchers are trying to understand the long-term impacts of cannabis exposure in the womb. **Ryan Bogdan,** the Dean's Distinguished Professor of Psychological & Brain Sciences in Arts & Sciences, and senior scientist **David Baranger, PhD '18,** looked at brain scans of children ages 9 to 12 who were exposed to cannabis before birth. The team found patterns pointing to potential reductions in neuroinflammation. Much has been touted about the anti-inflammatory effects of cannabis, but too large of a reduction at the wrong time could affect brain development and contribute to mental or behavioral issues.

XL-CALIBUR SOARS

For 5 days, 16 hours and 2 minutes this July, a stadium-sized scientific balloon floated above the northernmost part of Sweden. The balloon carried XL-Calibur, a 3,500-pound telescope designed to unlock the secrets of some of the most extreme objects in the universe. XL-Calibur is an international collaboration led by **Henric Krawczynski,** the Wilfred R. and Ann Lee Konneker Distinguished Professor in Physics in Arts & Sciences. With data from the balloon's instruments, scientists will study neutron stars and black holes.

SCALING UP CARBON DIOXIDE CONVERSION

Feng Jiao, the Elvera and William R. Stuckenberg Professor in the McKelvey School of Engineering, developed a two-step process to convert carbon dioxide into acetate and ethylene, valuable carbon-based materials used in the production of food, plastics and more. Acetate is a close relative of the more familiar acetic acid, or vinegar, which can be used as food for microbes used in biomanufacturing. Ethylene is a common component found in plastics. Jiao recently demonstrated that this process successfully scales up to produce a kilogram of chemicals per day (a 1,000% increase over previous demonstrations), offering a pathway to industrial feasibility.

RESEARCH FUNDING SURPASSES $1 BILLION

For the first time, annual research funding surpassed $1 billion in the fiscal year that ended June 30. The money supports WashU investigators tackling challenges from Alzheimer's disease to air pollution to childhood depression. The reasons for the increase are many, says **Mark Lowe, AB '73, MD, PhD,** vice chancellor for research and the Harvey R. Colten Professor of Pediatric Science at WashU Medicine, and include the growth in WashU's research faculty and the quality and the urgency of the research conducted at WashU. "The reason we can attract top-notch researchers to St. Louis is because of the science and the collaborative atmosphere that is here," Lowe says. Funding from federal agencies, foundations, donors and other sources has nearly doubled in the past decade, growing from $532 million in fiscal year 2014 to this fiscal's $1 billion.

Illustration: Monica Duwel

Politics and fairy tales

How do origin stories influence political campaigns? Arts & Sciences professors illuminate 'The Stories That Win.'

In 2018, more than 1,700 candidates ran for the U.S. Congress. And 98% had websites. Most featured lengthy biographies.

"So here's a dataset for a behavior that encompasses almost everyone in Congress," says **Betsy Sinclair,** professor and chair of political science in Arts & Sciences. "And no one in my field was studying it."

Billy Acree, professor of Spanish in Arts & Sciences, noticed something else. The biographies followed certain rules. "Beginnings are always humble. The politician leaves home. They gain experience. They return to fight a dragon," whether that's big business or big government or simply the other party.

In other words, political biographies belong to a distinct literary genre: the fairy tale.

Sinclair and Acree might seem unlikely collaborators. Sinclair analyzes big data related to U.S. elections. Acree studies how narrative influences daily life. But in 2022, they were appointed co-directors of Arts & Sciences' Incubator for Transdisciplinary Futures, which supports collaborative research. And through the incubator, they discovered a shared interest in storytelling.

"Stories are built into almost everything," Acree says. "Stories shape our sense of purpose."

In the spring, with backing from the university's strategic plan, "Here & Next," and the Frick Initiative, Sinclair and Acree co-taught "The Stories That Win," a seminar focusing on origin stories. How do people talk about their lives? Do politicians tell the same kinds of stories as CEOs, athletes or academics? Why do particular stories survive over time?

The class collected thousands of origin stories: myths and fairy tales and personal biographies, but also the stories of places and artifacts and moments in time. With programmers in WashU's Digital Intelligence & Innovation Accelerator, they built an extensive — and still growing — online database. Students also wrote stories about their own origins: where they're from, what brought them to campus, their values and experiences.

Amidst the data, Sinclair and Acree spotted measurable trends. Political incumbents tend to tell stories of accomplishment; challengers emphasize future possibilities. A similar split characterizes the origin stories of established companies and startups.

Surprisingly, they found little difference in the type of stories told by winning and losing candidates. "The required formula is so pervasive, it's almost a test for office," Sinclair says. Within the formula, the emotion of the storyteller and small differences in plot points stand out. "This is why we say, 'It's the story that wins,'" she says.

One brave candidate visited the class. "We gave him two and a half minutes to tell us his origin story," Sinclair remembers.

The candidate was good. His delivery was folksy yet practiced. He had a firm gaze. The students paid attention. After finishing, he asked the group, "What do you think?"

"The students tore it apart," Sinclair says. "'You should reorganize the structure.' 'You should expand this detail.' 'You need to start with humble beginnings.'"

The candidate listened. His campaign manager took notes. The next morning, his website had been updated.

"He didn't change the facts of the story," Sinclair says. "But he changed the way he told it."

■ LIAM OTTEN, BFA '93

WASHU IN THE NEWS

WashU experts weigh in on major topics of the day.

Courtesy photo

"Have we made progress? Yes, but the regression is real and threatens to deepen. The work of lasting and meaningful reform is far from over. The struggle continues."

KIMBERLY NORWOOD, THE HENRY H. OBERSCHELP PROFESSOR OF LAW AND EDITOR OF THE 2016 BOOK *FERGUSON'S FAULT LINES: THE RACE QUAKE THAT ROCKED A NATION*, ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUG. 9, 2014, KILLING OF MICHAEL BROWN.

"No-fault divorce is critical to the ability, particularly the ability of women, to be able to exercise autonomy in their own relationships, in their own lives."

DENISE LIEBERMAN, AN ADJUNCT PROFESSOR AT THE SCHOOL OF LAW AND AN EXPERT ON POLICIES CONCERNING GENDER, SEXUALITY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE, SPEAKING TO *THE GUARDIAN* AFTER IT WAS REVEALED LAST SUMMER THAT SOME LAWMAKERS IN THE U.S. THINK DIVORCE IS AMORAL AND TOO EASILY OBTAINED.

Photo: Jerry Naunheim Jr.

"I teach that constraint can be a catalyst to be creative, and I had to take my own advice."

ROBERT MARK MORGAN, SCENIC DESIGNER AND TEACHING PROFESSOR OF DRAMA IN ARTS & SCIENCES, IN THE *ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH*, ON HOW HE PIVOTED TO TEACHING STAGE DESIGN VIA VIRTUAL REALITY DURING THE PANDEMIC — AND HOW HE'S CONTINUING TO PUSH THE VIRTUAL ENVELOPE IN THEATER.

"Most college admissions offices are pretty good at recognizing the authentic 17-year-old from the dad who took over and wrote everything."

GRACE CHAPIN JAMES, ASSISTANT VICE PROVOST AND DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS, IN *LADUE NEWS*, OFFERING ADVICE FOR FAMILIES STARTING OUT ON THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS JOURNEY.

"Presidents don't have a lot of direct effect on the economy because they don't control monetary policy. They can't control the amount of money in the system, which affects inflation primarily. They also cannot control interest rates, which affects economic activity, consumption, business investment, etc. At most, presidents can try to persuade the Federal Reserve with public statements."

JOHN HORN, PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE IN ECONOMICS AT OLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL, ON JUST HOW MUCH POWER U.S. PRESIDENTS HAVE ON THE U.S. ECONOMY.

Courtesy photo

EnSt 3060: Community-Based Conservation: Madagascar Sustainability Initiative

Saving forests and alleviating poverty

WashU sophomores work with villagers in rural Madagascar to conserve biodiversity.

Walking 7.5 miles in the rain to gather information from a fishing village in Madagascar isn't every college student's cup of tea.

But the nine sophomores in the Pathfinder Fellows in Environmental Leadership program were ready for this type of challenge. A spring 2024 course, "Community-Based Conservation: Madagascar Sustainability Initiative," prepared them to work with community members to conserve and protect portions of the fragile Madagascar ecosystem from overexploiting of its valuable biodiversity, which includes species of rosewood and ebony. And the students' previous three semesters as Pathfinder fellows prepared them for the rigors of field research.

"They're putting on their rain jackets and hiking 12 kilometers out to the communities, getting their work done while dealing with heat and blisters and more, and there was barely a complaint," says **Froggi VanRiper,** lecturer in environmental studies, who co-taught the course and accompanied the students on the trip.

The Pathfinder program is a multiyear program providing a small cohort of undergraduates with field experience around the themes of environmental science, policy, humanities and sustainability. For more than a decade, Pathfinder students went to Madagascar in coordination with a program led by Olin Business School's **Judi McLean Parks**. This year's trip was the first designed solely for Pathfinder students.

The course and trip were made possible by a partnership with the Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG), which has been doing conservation work through its Madagascar program for decades. In fact, the course was co-taught by **Armand Randrianasolo,** a senior curator at MBG and native of Madagascar who has established long-term relationships and trust with rural villagers.

"Deforestation is a big problem in Madagascar," Randrianasolo says. "To protect biodiversity, we need to protect forests. Yes, people can still use the forest, but they need to use it sustainably so we can have it for a long time and for future generations."

This year's trip had been redesigned to emphasize community-based conservation, which acknowledges that communities living in and relying on ecosystems need to be active leaders in conserving the resources.

During the semester, four student teams developed research proposals based on MBG priorities: fishing/food security, sanitation/fertilizer, improved cookstoves and malaria education. They also studied the culture of Madagascar and learned about qualitative research methods. Then, at the conclusion of the spring semester, the nine Pathfinder students left for Madagascar.

On the first day of the students' two-week stay, elders and community representatives came to hear their proposals. The well-received presentations — along with help from MBG cultural advisers/translators — ensured that the students were welcomed when they visited surrounding villages. During the visits, the students conducted focus groups and gave presentations to school children.

Aiden Warner, a Pathfinder fellow majoring in microbiology, coached middle school children on malaria prevention and how to explain it to elementary students. "It was very nice to see them so excited to teach their younger classmates," Warner says, "and for the younger students to be so engaged with the material."

Elizabeth Swords, a Pathfinder fellow majoring in environmental analysis, showed villagers how to make fuel-efficient stoves from clay mud. "I was very humbled by the superior craftsmanship of their stoves compared to our demo," she says. "But more than anything, I was thrilled to see their excitement for the project."

VanRiper says the students performed master's level research that will eventually be published. "This is the baseline year, so moving forward they can be as involved as they want to be," she says. "All of them have the ability, if they elect, to maintain involvement and be one of the top authors when it goes to publication."

And thanks to the efforts of these students, Pathfinder classes for years to come will work with villagers to evaluate and improve the projects launched this year.

Randrianasolo was impressed by the commitment shown by this class. "They weren't there for the grade," he says. "They were thinking, 'If I get this right, maybe I can impact people in a positive way.'"

JULIE KENNEDY, MA '22

Courtesy photos

MADAGASCAR
AFRICA

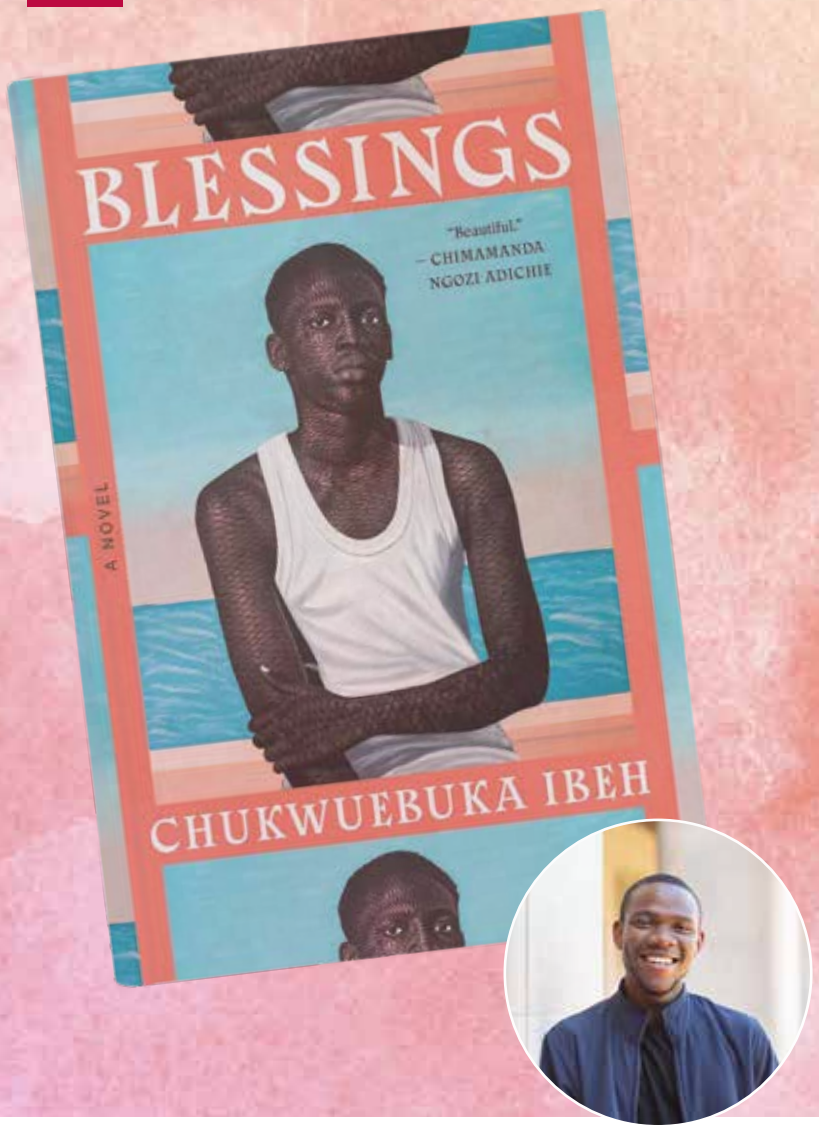
30+
HOURS OF TRAVEL TO MADAGASCAR

2.5
DAYS ON BUS OVER ROUGH ROADS

7
VILLAGES VISITED

300+
ADULTS CONTACTED

200+
CHILDREN ENGAGED



Counting *Blessings*

Chukwuebuka Ibeh's debut novel, set in his home country of Nigeria and published just weeks after Ibeh earned an MFA, weaves a universal tale of love, family and acceptance.

Chukwuebuka Ibeh, MFA '24, grew up in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, in what he calls "a family of storytellers." First enthralled by his grandmother's tales, he later took over her role with stories of his own.

But after reading Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus*, a coming-of-age novel set in Nigeria, Ibeh realized two things: First, there was a path for a young person from his home country to become a writer; second, talent alone wasn't enough. He knew he needed more training beyond his bachelor's degree in history and international studies from Nigeria's Federal University and began researching MFA programs worldwide. "WashU's MFA program kept coming up again and again, so I applied with no hope or expectation of getting in," he says. But he did. "The best day of my life," he says.

So Ibeh, who had never traveled out of Nigeria, arrived in St. Louis in 2022 with a few published short stories and a first draft of a novel. And it was on the Danforth Campus — beginning in the class of **Kathryn Davis,** the Hurst Writer in Residence in Arts & Sciences — where he began workshopping *Blessings*, published by Doubleday in June. It's a story of a young man in Nigeria coming to grips with his homosexuality at a time when such tendencies were not only marginalized but also ostracized and, eventually, criminalized.

Blessings' protagonist, Obiefuna, is a teenager when the story begins in 2006 and an adult when it culminates with Nigeria's Same Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act of 2013. Along the way, he deals with a disapproving father who sends him to boarding school after witnessing him and another boy in a chaste, intimate encounter; an understanding mother who is battling breast cancer; and a series of relationships that open up Obiefuna's world, offering at times hope and love, pain and devastation.

It's a coming-of-age story about being queer in a country where no one wants to acknowledge queerness, and it's also about family, lost and found. Obiefuna is a layered, textured character who has the reader rooting deeply for him yet frustrated over some of his choices.

"I didn't want to make Obiefuna one-dimensional," Ibeh says. "As much as I wanted to portray him as a victim of circumstances, I wanted to show that victims can also be bullies. I wanted to show that somebody could be both good and evil."

The novel is particularly compelling in the aftermath of the Nigerian law that criminalized same-sex marriage as a response to gay rights being broadened in the U.S. and around the world. Ibeh is able to capture how it feels to live in a country where basic human rights — in this case whom and how to love — are taken away.

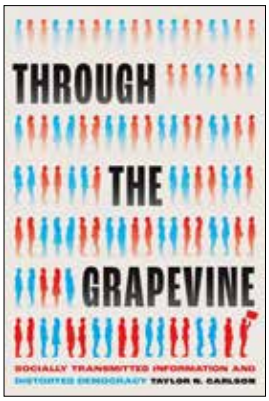
"It wasn't just criminalizing gay marriage," Ibeh says. "It criminalized pretty much any form of LGBTQ+ rights advocacy."

That was 11 years ago. Since then, the law has been challenged in Nigerian courts, and Ibeh says his home country is making small steps toward progress. Yet he admits to having been nervous about the book's publication and how it would be received in Nigeria. But the reception has been positive there as well as in the U.S., where it was included on *USA Today*'s "Best Books by Black Authors to Read in 2024" list.

Ibeh was most gratified by the reaction of his fellow Nigerians. "When people come up to me and say, 'Obiefuna is me' or 'I would never have the courage to write this but I'm glad it exists,' that makes me happy," says Ibeh, who remains at WashU on a teaching fellowship. "I did what I set out do."

■ LESLIE GIBSON MCCARTHY

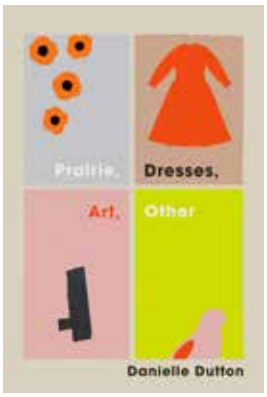
FACULTY



Through the Grapevine: Socially Transmitted Information and Distorted Democracy

TAYLOR N. CARLSON

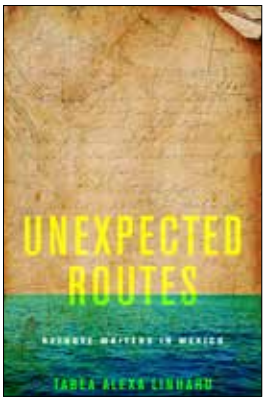
Do we rely too much on family and friends to stay on top of politics? Drawing on evidence from surveys and social media, Taylor N. Carlson, associate professor of political science, finds that as information flows from the media on down, it becomes sparse, biased, less accurate and more mobilizing. The result is a citizenry underinformed, polarized and disengaged.



Prairie, Dresses, Art, Other

DANIELLE DUTTON

In the four eponymous sections of *Prairie, Dresses, Art, Other*, Danielle Dutton, professor of English, imagines new models for literature in modern times: stories set in the disappearing prairieland of the Midwest, portraits of literary fashions, essays examining how works of visual art and fiction might relate to one another, and "Other" essays that defy category. Dutton builds a haunting landscape of wildflowers, megadams, black holes, violence, fear, virtual reality, abiding strangeness and indefinable beauty.

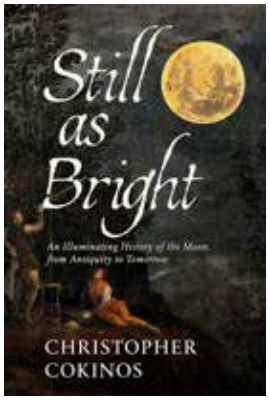


Unexpected Routes: Refugee Writers in Mexico

TABEA ALEXA LINHARD

In a study of six writers, Tabea Alexa Linhard, professor of Spanish and of comparative literature, draws connections between colonialism, the Spanish Civil War, World War II and the Holocaust to shed light on the histories and literatures of exile and migration. In it, she draws connections to today's refugee crisis and asks larger questions around the lived experience of exile.

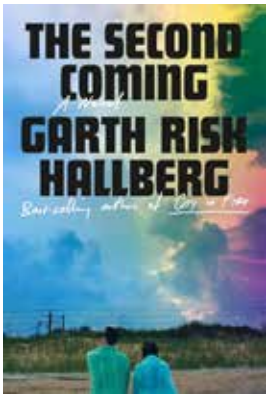
ALUMNI



Still as Bright: An Illuminating History of the Moon, from Antiquity to Tomorrow

CHRISTOPHER COKINOS

In *Still as Bright: An Illuminating History of the Moon, from Antiquity to Tomorrow*, Christopher Cokinos, MFA '91, personifies the Moon, which traverses time and space, rendering a range of human experiences — including the beliefs of ancient cultures, the science of Galileo's telescopic discoveries and our modern astronauts. Readers may never look at the Moon the same way again.



The Second Coming: A Novel

GARTH RISK HALLBERG

The story of Jolie and Ethan, a father and daughter apart and then together, stretches from the Manhattan of the Great Recession to a remote beach on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Soaring, aching and full of revelation, *The Second Coming* by Garth Risk Hallberg, AB '01, is an incandescent feat of storytelling and asks if the people we love can ever really change.

SCRAM: Society of Creatures Real and Magical

RORY LUCEY

In the hopes of learning more about local cryptids, three friends — Jenny, Emiko and Brian — start the Society of Creatures Real and Magical. As they venture into the unknown, the young heroes in this story by Rory Lucey, BFA '07, learn valuable lessons about friendship, perseverance and the importance of keeping a fish head in an old boot.

Lessons from a random world

Social scientist **Mark Rank,** a nationally renowned expert on poverty, inequality and social justice, examines the role of chance and luck in our lives.

We live in a world often influenced by accident rather than design. As detailed in my latest book, *The Random Factor: How Chance and Luck Profoundly Shape Our Lives and the World Around Us* (April 2024), the ways in which our lives unfold are frequently shaped by chance events. A happenstance encounter, a missed subway connection, a last-minute cancellation, a serendipitous discovery — all of these and more can profoundly affect how our lives turn out. So, too, with the world around us. From the random mutations that drive natural selection to the vagaries of the weather, randomness is a key element underlying process and change.

As another year comes to a close, what lessons might be learned through a greater appreciation of chance and luck? Although there are many, three in particular stand out.

First, an awareness of chance in the world around us helps foster a heightened sense of gratitude. The recognition of randomness in our lives ensures that we don't take the good things in life for granted, while also enabling us to better understand the precarious nature of good fortune.

Consider the fact that we were born in the first place. Our parents had to find each other among millions of people, their parents had to find each other, and so on through the generations. The odds of our existence are one in a zillion. The result is that we should be incredibly grateful for the time we have been given and make the most of it.

Second, recognizing the importance of chance helps kindle a greater sense of humility regarding our accomplishments. While there is no denying that hard work and skills are important in life's journey, there is also no denying that luck and chance may be every bit as important in helping to shape the course of our lives and our achievements. This understanding splashes a bit of cold water on the belief that we live in a world of strict meritocracy, where we deserve all that comes our way.

Finally, by recognizing the ubiquitous reach of the random factor, we are in a much better position to empathize with the misfortunes of others. The familiar phrase "There but for the grace of God go I" captures this spirit. Because bad breaks can strike anyone at any time, it allows us to imagine ourselves in the position of the less fortunate. In doing so, it creates the possibility for more meaningful and caring connections with each other.

This awareness also has policy implications since it underlies the importance of social insurance. Strong social safety nets become essential because they provide protection from the bad luck of economic hardship that often strikes individuals at some point during their lives.

For the ancient Romans, the goddess of chance, Fortuna, would spin her wheel of fortune, causing some to rise and others to fall. Two thousand years later, she is still spinning her wheel. By better understanding the ways in which chance exerts itself, we can begin to make the most of our relationship with our random partner as we make our way across life's journey.

■ MARK RANK

WHO

Mark Rank, the Herbert S. Hadley Professor of Social Welfare with joint appointments in the Brown School and in the Department of Sociology in Arts & Sciences

A FEW OTHER TITLES

Poorly Understood: What America Gets Wrong About Poverty (2021); *Chasing the American Dream: Understanding What Shapes Our Fortunes* (2014); *One Nation, Underprivileged: Why American Poverty Affects Us All* (2004)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Founders Day Distinguished Faculty Award; inducted as a Fellow into the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare; Outstanding Research Award from the Society for Social Work and Research; Outstanding Faculty Award from the Brown School's Alumni Association

IN ADDITION

Plans are underway to produce a six-part documentary TV series with worldwide distribution based on *The Random Factor*.

Photo: Whitney Curtis

What WashU can do

By embracing its well-known moniker 'WashU,' the university marks a new way to distinguish itself in higher education.

"WashU has a proud history and a strong reputation as a top university, but we definitely fly under the radar relative to some of the institutions we consider to be our academic peers," **Chancellor Andrew D. Martin, PhD '98,** said in a statement to the community Aug. 16. "Members of the WashU community — students, faculty, staff and alumni — are impacting the world daily, often in ways that are imperceptible to the public. We have an opportunity and an obligation to tell these stories in new ways and to the right audiences, to share with the world what WashU is and what we can do."

To this end, as the new academic year began, Washington University in St. Louis unveiled a new visual identity and an enhanced effort to communicate its important contributions in the areas of education, research and patient care to key internal and external audiences. The update includes a new university logo and website and the official adoption of the widely used, shortened version of the university's name, "WashU."

"While there are many 'Washingtons,' there is only one 'WashU.' This update allows us to lean into who we are and what distinguishes us from our academic peers," said **Julie Hail Flory, MA '17,** vice chancellor for marketing and communications, as part of the universitywide announcement. "One of the limiting factors in broad-based awareness of the university is that there are many institutions with a similar name, which creates confusion about who — and where — we are."

Part of the effort to build broad-based awareness for WashU is a storytelling campaign organized around the theme "This Is What WashU Can Do." A collection of written and multimedia vignettes will demonstrate WashU's impact on the world and its distinctive approach to building community on campus and beyond.

"If you know WashU, you know there's something unique about our culture — an uncommon mixture of creativity, advocacy, rigor and empathy — that makes our work stronger and more impactful," Martin added. "WashU people are energized by possibilities and work together generously to get things done. I believe WashU is the most collaborative place to study and work in higher education, and I'd like us to be known not just for *what* we accomplish, but also for *how* we accomplish it."

University administrators weren't alone in expressing enthusiasm and approval for the brand refresh. **Pamella Henson,** executive vice chancellor for university advancement, received feedback from alumni voicing their appreciation.

Jason Kint, BSBA '96, CEO of Digital Content Next, for example, wrote: "As the developer/designer/programmer for the original WashU website sometime around 1994, I just wanted to say it [the new website] looks fabulous ... I also love the embracing of the WashU. Own it. Congrats on the wonderful work to steward WashU into the future."

Susan Patterson, MSW '79, a psychotherapist for Creative Insight Counseling, quipped: "WashU is better than fine. It's as fresh as the park breezes that play across its vast front yard. Magic happens here!"

And **Scott Markman, BFA '81,** who is founder and president of MonogramGroup, a Chicago brand agency, and who was the designer of the previous logo and brand design system in 1986, wrote Chancellor Martin directly, praising the transformation: "I am writing today as a proud alumnus of (the newly branded) WashU, as I have been every day since I graduated in 1981 with my BFA in graphic design.

"The refreshed brand conveys a sense of confident, modern, 'comfortable-in-our-skinness' that is in sync with the way millennials think and what they connect with. It's who WashU is but was never confident enough to express." (See magazine.washu.edu for more of Markman's response.)

The update is the result of a collaborative, multiyear process led by University Marketing and Communications in partnership with schools and units across the university, informed by conversations with key internal and external stakeholders, and with strong support from Martin, **Provost Beverly Wendland,** the deans of all eight schools and a Board of Trustees–led task force.

"From day one, we enlisted the help of university leadership and our colleagues across WashU to make sure a wide range of voices were heard and that we had strong support for the new direction for WashU," Flory said. "It has been a team effort, and we're proud to be able to share the results with our campus community, the St. Louis region, our alumni and friends, and, importantly, to introduce WashU to new audiences and show them what makes it such an amazing place."

A full transition to the new visual identity will likely take two to three years, and in certain physical spaces the full, formal name of the university will remain for posterity.

"WashU is a complex organization. It's important that we're responsible stewards of university resources and that this update causes as little disruption to campus operations as possible," said **Mike Bulthaus,** associate vice chancellor for university marketing. "Our longer timeline means we'll be living in a 'mixed-brand' environment for the near term, but this will allow us to prioritize sustainability, tap into existing budgets and give our schools and departments adequate time to update their materials. It won't be long before everything is 'WashU,' and we know it'll be worth the wait."

“While there are many ‘Washingtons,’ there is only one ‘WashU.’”

Following Convocation Aug. 24, new WashU students enjoyed a party in Tisch Park with a concert, food and a Brookings Hall lighting showcasing the new WashU logo.

Photo: Whitney Curtis

See what WashU can do.

HALTING HID

DEN HUNGER

Can improved nutrition during pregnancy help prevent stunted growth in children around the world? With partners in Ecuador, Lora Iannotti studies the effects of maternal diet on infant brain development.

■ STORY BY CLAIRE GAUEN
■ PHOTOS BY WHITNEY CURTIS

Previous spread: Lora Iannotti (right), founder and director of the E3 Nutrition Lab and a professor at WashU's Brown School, tours Amazonic Gardens organic farm with owner Karen Ballardes in Baeza, Ecuador.

UNDER A LARGE TENT OUTSIDE A MEDICAL CLINIC IN EL QUINCHE, ECUADOR, SHINY PINK STREAMERS SWAY IN THE APRIL BREEZE. It seems like an unlikely place for a baby shower, but the women gathered here are familiar with the spot. They first entered the tent months before as newly expectant mothers, referred by their health-care providers to register for the Mikhuna Project, a WashU-led study on maternal nutrition and infant brain formation.

The participants returned to the tent throughout their pregnancies to pick up food, learn about nutrition and receive medical exams. On this day, they gather to celebrate some of the babies soon to arrive — infants whose brain scans may help countless more children in the future.

Here in Ecuador, 25% of young children experience stunted growth, usually due to malnutrition. Among the country's Indigenous children, the number jumps to 40%. Globally, nearly 150 million children are stunted. Participants in the Mikhuna Project and their babies are contributing valuable data that may help reduce these troubling statistics.

Lora Iannotti, founder and director of the E3 Nutrition Lab and a professor at WashU's Brown School, has been combatting childhood malnutrition and stunted growth for decades. Her research projects in Haiti, Ecuador, Kenya and Madagascar have focused primarily on a child's critical first 1,000 days of life.

"The consequences of being undernourished in that period can be irreparable," Iannotti says. "If nutrition is compromised by poor-quality diet,

infectious disease or otherwise during the first 1,000 days of life, children will likely never reach their full genetic potential."

Stunting is defined by a child's height-for-age relative to growth standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO), but the effects go far beyond physical stature. Stunted growth can lead to issues with cognition and school performance. It's associated with lower productivity and wages later in life and may even result in intergenerational impacts.

With funding from the Children's Discovery Institute, a partnership between St. Louis Children's Hospital and WashU Medicine, Iannotti and collaborators at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ) in Ecuador are testing the effects of an intervention that aims to reset the starting clock. The researchers want to see how tackling malnutrition before a child is born, starting with a pregnant woman's diet, shapes growth. And rather than relying on proxy measures like height, they seek to directly understand how maternal diet affects infant brains.

"What's exciting about Mikhuna is that it introduces measures of the brain that are often hard to capture at the community level," Iannotti says. "It's a fascinating and understudied area."

"What's exciting about Mikhuna is that it introduces measures of the brain that are often hard to capture at the community level. It's ... [an] understudied area."

— LORA IANNOTTI

Opposite page: Iannotti (center) and researcher Shirley Tipanquiza (right) talk with expectant mothers about maternal and infant nutrition at El Quinche Clinic. Above: Iannotti (left) speaks with a mother after presenting preliminary results from the Mikhuna study to a group of study participants in El Quinche.

Hidden hunger in the highlands

The Mikhuna Project takes place in a peri-urban area outside Quito, Ecuador's capital. The project's home base, the small city of El Quinche, has food markets, businesses and a Catholic shrine that attracts hundreds of thousands of pilgrims per year. At first glance, El Quinche may not seem like a hot spot for chronic malnutrition. But as in many areas of the world, including the United States, some residents experience what researchers call "hidden hunger."

Children need calories to grow, but they also need several critical nutrients. Hidden hunger arises when diets lack limiting nutrients such as iron, zinc, iodine, and vitamins A and B12 — nutrients that are also crucial for brain development. It can happen when a family eats mostly a single food, like rice, or overconsumes ultra-processed foods. Often, poverty and the cost of healthy foods play a role.

In an earlier pilot study, Iannotti and the Mikhuna Project's co-principal investigator, Iván Palacios, MD, evaluated the specific dietary problems found near Quito. In addition to commonly missing micronutrients like zinc and choline, maternal diets lacked high-quality proteins and omega-3 fatty acids that usually come from eating fish or other animal-source foods. The pervasive presence of convenient and affordable processed food also contributed to a high rate of pregnant women who were overweight or obese.

As a public health specialist at USFQ, Palacios had deep knowledge of the local health-care system. He led the selection of research sites and arranged approval and logistics with the national Ministry of Health, which runs health clinics for lower-income families. After years of study design and planning, the Mikhuna Project was underway.

A sustainable, evolutionary dietary pattern

With referrals from the state-run health clinics, the Mikhuna Project recruited 200 lower-income pregnant women on a rolling basis over the course of more than a year. Half of the women received a basket of food to bring home every week during their second and third trimesters, as well as targeted messaging about healthy eating. The other 100 women received standard prenatal care, messaging for other health outcomes and social support from the Mikhuna team. At a handful of intervals throughout their pregnancies, all participants gave blood and had ultrasounds conducted to measure fetal growth, brain development and other parameters such as placenta volume.

Maternal nutrition studies in low-resource settings often rely on supplements or fortified foods, Iannotti says. In this project, she wanted instead to test whether adding sustainably grown, "evolutionarily appropriate" foods — fish, eggs, fruits and vegetables — to a pregnant woman's diet would measurably improve fetal growth.

Providing real food rather than supplements benefited the participating mothers as well. "The basket was very useful, very practical," says Mercy Vasquez, one of the project's first participants. "I was able to easily cook with it for the day. And I could stretch it for a week because they would give us enough food." Vasquez's son, Liam, is now a healthy toddler, and she traces his love of strawberries to all the fruit she ate during pregnancy. "This project was a fundamental pillar for me during my pregnancy," she says.

The idea of evolutionarily appropriate food has long been a core value of Iannotti's work. (Alongside "environmentally sustainable" and "equitably accessed," it's one of the three Es in the E3 Nutrition Lab's name.) The term

> "This project was a fundamental pillar for me during my pregnancy."
>
> — MERCY VASQUEZ

points to foods that humans ate for 99.5% of our hominin history, most of which happened long before the existence of processed foods and even before the emergence of agriculture.

Tens of thousands of years ago, humans had larger brains and longer lifespans than in some later eras. They likely consumed a diverse diet that included animal sources like fish and other marine life. Hypothesizing that a return to some of those trends might result in better childhood growth, the Mikhuna Project selected food for both overall diversity and specific nutrients. (Evolutionary appropriate food doesn't equate with fad-driven "paleo" or "primal" diets, Iannotti notes.)

For the group of women receiving food, each weekly pickup included two fish and eight eggs, along with fruits and vegetables. The produce varied from week to week and included foods like locally grown naranjilla, gooseberry, blackberries, kale and spinach.

To source the food, Iannotti and the Mikhuna field team, led by USFQ's Gabriela Vintimilla, MD, worked with owner Karen Ballarades of Amazonic Gardens, a local supplier. Her wholesale garden grows native fruits and vegetables and harvests trout from spring-fed ponds.

Every week, Vintimilla orchestrated schedules with those receiving food. She and her team carefully documented the contents and nutrients of each delivery, and they asked participants to share what they had eaten the week before.

Some unexpected struggles arose. "We had civil unrest that lasted almost three weeks, at which point we couldn't travel to the clinics to take data," Vintimilla says. "We managed to move deliveries to Saturday, when the strikes were less intense, but we lost a window of three weeks for the recruitment part. So after that, we included a new clinic to have more participants."

In another case, a flood interrupted trout delivery, and the researchers pivoted to providing tilapia. They also made changes to accommodate personal needs, like the food aversions that often come with pregnancy.

"Because I saw the moms every single week, they were able to tell me, 'I really can't have more trout,'" Vintimilla says. "So we tried to look for solutions, like giving them tuna or sardines — things that they would eat instead of the usual fish."

The research team always documented these types of changes, but by design, the challenges didn't diminish the study's overall effectiveness. Diversity of food was always part of the plan.

"We're testing a dietary pattern," Iannotti says. "Malnutrition is usually not about a single food. While my other trials have looked at eggs or fish separately, in this case, it was a whole pattern — one that we hope extends into the future, too."

TEAM EFFORT
WashU researchers from across the university are involved in the Mikhuna Project.

Biomarkers: At the WashU Metabolomics Facility led by Xuntian Jiang, associate professor of medicine, blood samples from the Mikhuna Project were analyzed to determine concentrations of choline, methionine, ALA, DHA and more.

Minerals and metals: The lab of Jay Turner, DsC '83, the James McKelvey Professor of Engineering Education, also assessed the blood samples for iron, zinc, copper, selenium, and other minerals and metals.

Ultrasounds: Manu Goyal, MD, associate professor of radiology, and Marcus Raichle, MD, the Alan A. and Edith L. Wolff Distinguished Professor of Medicine, provided expertise in the study design for brain images.

Breast milk: In a follow-up study, E.A. Quinn, associate professor of biological anthropology in Arts & Sciences, analyzed samples of breast milk from some of the participating mothers.

Opposite page: Clouds roll over the Andes Mountains as Iglesia y Santuario de la Virgen de El Quinche is illuminated at dusk in El Quinche, Ecuador. The city is located an hour northeast of Quito. Above: Mercy Vasquez, a study participant, takes a break from cooking dinner to feed her then 16-month-old son, Liam, in their apartment.

A window into the growing brain

Many parents recognize the thrill of the 21-week ultrasound, sometimes called the anatomy scan, when providers measure a fetus's growth. Mikhuna participants experienced these scans at both 21 and 35 weeks. In addition to typical ultrasound data like body length and head circumference, the WashU researchers, in collaboration with Jennifer Nicholas, MD, a pediatric radiologist at Cincinnati Children's, sought to gather hyper-specific brain measurements like the volume of the gangliothalamic ovoid (the combined area of two brain parts, the basal ganglia and the thalamus), biparietal and cerebellar diameters, and the length of corpus callosum. A few weeks after the child's birth, a final ultrasound examined the newborn directly.

These measurements were possible thanks to infants' natural development. The two soft spots in a newborn's skull, called the fontanelles, provided the researchers a window into the growing brain. Skilled ultrasound technicians can peer through this soft tissue in a way that's not possible in the toddler stage going forward, once the fontanelles have hardened.

Using ultrasound has other advantages. Compared with large and expensive MRI machines, ultrasound is very "field friendly," Iannotti says. For a trained radiologist, it's relatively easy to perform on both pregnant women and newborns.

In addition to the brain scans, the Mikhuna researchers conducted a neurological exam called the Hammersmith on all the babies. The Hammersmith captures information about reflexes, muscle tone and more. It's one way to start piecing together the dots between nutrition, brain morphology and behavior.

"By using the ultrasound and measuring parts of the brain, we're looking at what I would consider to be the biological mechanism, or the pathway. But what we really care about is the child's actual functional development," Iannotti says.

"When the newborn comes back to the clinic for the first time, there's a whole battery of tests for those different domains of development. Those measures tend to be 'noisy' and hard to capture. But I want to be very clear: We're not stopping at the point we say 'this part of the brain is bigger than that part.' We want to know: Did learning and memory improve? Did motor development improve?"

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Early analyses show the Mikhuna Project's dietary intervention significantly increased the growth of subcortical brain structure, the gangliothalamic ovoid (GTO).

What it is:

The GTO comprises a cluster of nerve cells (basal ganglia) and the thalamus.

Roles in the brain:

The GTO affects motor control, decision-making, memory and information transmission.

What it could mean:

Previous studies have linked a small GTO volume with affective disorders and attachment disorganization in infants, suggesting an increased GTO size as found in the Mikhuna results could be protective for child developmental outcomes.

The power of partnership

On paper, the Mikhuna Project is a randomized research study. In practice, it's a wide web of partnerships and trust connecting Iannotti, the USFQ research team, Ecuador's Ministry of Health, undergraduate and graduate students, WashU research collaborators and, perhaps most importantly, the mothers in the study.

Vintimilla's local team hosted the baby shower in April, along with several more throughout the project. They set up a WhatsApp chat for the moms to build ongoing friendships. They organized regular workshops, and the mothers chose what they wanted to learn about. When participants expressed interest in self-esteem and self-care during pregnancy, for example, Vintimilla found someone in the USFQ psychology department to lead a session.

The parties and workshops provided a service to the mothers, including the 50% who did not receive weekly food baskets but still chose to participate for the duration of their pregnancies. They also were important for keeping the trial running smoothly.

"The moms who didn't go to workshops were more likely to drop out of the project," Vintimilla says. "But with the moms with whom we created a connection, they were always willing to continue. For them, it was not a matter of being in the intervention group or control group. Creating that community was key to keeping participants in the study."

Erika Viana, one of the participating mothers, found Mikhuna to be "a beautiful experience" as she navigated a high-risk pregnancy. With two daughters already at home and few friends or extended relatives living nearby, she turned to her fellow participants for connection and understanding.

"They understood how I was feeling, something that others outside didn't," Viana says. "Every time I went there, I released all my stress from the situation and all the bad things the doctors would say about the pregnancy. I would go there, release all the negativity, and come back home feeling renewed. Going there was like therapy for me."

Mercy Vasquez, the participant whose son is now a toddler, calls Mikhuna "a life-giving project." "I learned that there are many supportive people who think about others, who help other people," she says. "They looked for ways to help us during a time when we were in a vulnerable state. I send many hugs from Ecuador to the people who made this project possible and helped me with my nutrition during pregnancy and with my baby."

This type of intentional relationship-building doesn't happen in all studies, Vintimilla says. "Most research is based on numbers and data, but tends to leave the people out," she says. "Mikhuna is different. We did create a connection between each participant and the team."

Rachel Zimmerman, MPH '24, credits the success of these community-building efforts to the local field team in Ecuador. Now the WashU-based project coordinator for Mikhuna, Zimmerman started working on the project as a graduate student. She connects regularly with the USFQ team and spent three months in Ecuador for the project last year, focusing mainly on data management. She believes that having teams embedded in the community is essential in public health research.

"As a lab, we focus on having teams that are local, who understand the people we work with, who can build trust, and who are going to be there long term," Zimmerman says. "Working with the USFQ team has been fruitful and encouraging. They're very meticulous but also very caring toward all the participants we have in our study."

Opposite page: Paul Silva Hidalgo (left) performs an ultrasound on an infant's brain as Lora Iannotti (right) looks on with the mother at El Quinche Clinic. Above: Gabriela Vintimilla, MD (center), and Pamela Camana perform a Hammersmith infant neurological examination at a clinic in Yaruquí, Ecuador.

Beyond the data

As in all of her work, Iannotti hopes the information gathered in the Mikhuna Project will inform health-care practice and lead to real-world benefits for children. From the start of the project, she and Palacios intentionally partnered with the Ministry of Health in Ecuador, the agency ultimately responsible for policy change.

"We are working with a couple of clinics that belong to the Ministry of Health," says Palacios, who serves as the project's primary government liaison. "They are helping us to advance on the study, and we are sharing the methodology of intervention with them and discussing the findings of the study. This is a very team-based and participatory approach."

"Through years of research, we've learned it's really important to involve the policymakers early on," Iannotti says. One of her earlier randomized trials, the Lulun Project, proves the point.

In Lulun, Iannotti's team introduced eggs to babies during the complementary feeding period — the months when infants begin shifting from breast milk to solid foods. Especially in low-resource settings, it's a vulnerable moment when growth can falter. Sometimes families aren't quite sure what's safe or healthy to feed their weaning babies, or they don't have access to healthy foods.

In Ecuador and around the world, Iannotti found that nutrient-rich, low-cost eggs can be a lifeline. By giving babies one egg per day starting at 6 months old, earlier than previously recommended, Lulun reduced stunting in the intervention group by a staggering 47%. The infants' blood also contained higher concentrations of choline and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), which are important for brain development.

As a direct result of Lulun, the Ministry of Health in Ecuador changed its national recommendations on when to introduce eggs to babies. The partnership worked.

Iannotti and her collaborators spent this summer and fall organizing and cleaning up data collected from the hundreds of ultrasounds, blood tests and physical exams conducted in the field. They've been working meticulously, ensuring the anonymity of the intervention and control groups as long as possible. Once thorough analysis is completed in 2025, the team is hopeful that the Ministry of Health will follow the data to consider changes to dietary recommendations, as it did with Lulun. The researchers also point to other potential policies that might make a difference in infant health and growth, beginning in Ecuador but potentially around the world.

"If the results are important in terms of the comparison group, we will probably use them to advocate for policy changes to ensure access to animal protein, especially for women who live in rural and Indigenous communities," Palacios says.

Ensuring access means addressing affordability, as inequity and malnutrition go hand in hand. "The idea in Mikhuna was to introduce food that you could find everywhere here in the market and that is easily accessible," Vintimilla explains. "But when we did focus groups with the moms, they told us that, yes, they can buy it, but they cannot afford it."

"In public health, context means everything," Iannotti says. It's a grounding belief that she will continue to champion in her lab's many projects around the globe, as well as in her public health leadership roles at WashU. In 2023, Iannotti became the first director for planetary health and environmental justice at WashU's new Center for the Environment. As the previous associate dean for public health at the Brown School, she also played a major role in the planning of WashU's soon-to-launch School of Public Health.

"Public health is fundamental to human well-being, and it's also fascinating as a field of study in its connections to other disciplines and schools already at WashU," Iannotti says. "If this isn't the moment for public health, then what is?"

> "Through years of research, we've learned it's ... important to involve the policymakers early on."
>
> — LORA IANNOTTI

Opposite page: Erika Viana carries her daughter, Seleny Geovana, as she collects eggs from her backyard chickens. Above: Viana walks with her daughter to a neighborhood shop looking for plantains. Many of the small, neighborhood stores sell mostly processed foods.

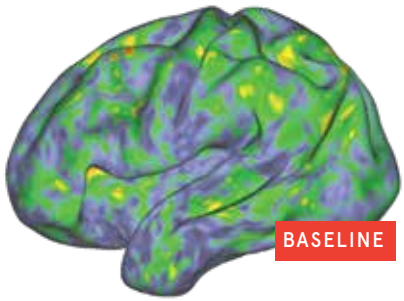
E3 IN THE WORLD
Malnutrition, particularly nutritional stunting, is a global problem. Iannotti's current projects can be found in the following countries:

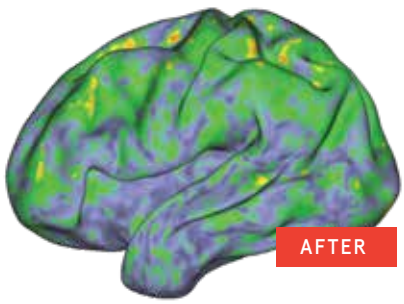
Ecuador: Partnering once again with USFQ, the E3 Nutrition Lab is combatting childhood obesity and increasing healthy habits among school-age kids with the 10-5-2-1-0 public health intervention: 10 hours of sleep; 5 servings of fruits and vegetables; 2 hours of screen time; 1 hour of physical activity; and 0 ultra-processed foods.

Haiti: The E3 Nutrition Lab is carrying out a replication trial, Grandi Byen ("Grow Well" in Haitian Creole), for the egg intervention with an added parenting component, funded by NIH. There is also ongoing formative research for the five-year Ayiti pi Djanm project, led by Catholic Relief Services and USAID, which will catalyze private-sector investments to help augment local food production.

Kenya: The Samaki Salama ("Secure Fish" in Kiswahili) cluster randomized controlled study worked with small-scale fishers to modify their traps, examining the effects on both ecosystem health and on child nutrition in nearby communities.

Madagascar: In partnership with the Missouri Botanical Garden and WashU's Living Earth Collaborative, Iannotti studies biodiversity and diet diversity in a nutritionally vulnerable population. The project assesses wild edible plant species in the Alandraza-Agnalavelo sacred forest.





The Potential of

Psychedelic-assisted Therapy

WashU Medicine researchers are helping transform mind-bending psychedelics into treatments for devastating mental illnesses.

STORY BY TAMARA SCHNEIDER
PHOTOS BY MATT MILLER

Ginger Nicol, MD, an associate professor of psychiatry at WashU Medicine, says that psychedelic drugs hold enormous potential for healing currently untreatable mental disorders, but the only way to transform that potential into reality is through rigorous scientific research. As WashU's only faculty member authorized to work with Schedule 1 drugs, Nicol is the hub through which all such research at WashU must pass.

More than half a century after the U.S. government deemed psychedelic drugs to be of "no medical use," scientists have begun re-evaluating that dismissive assessment with the tools of modern science. Dozens of clinical trials of psychedelic-assisted therapies for depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other conditions are underway or planned. So far, the results largely verify what Indigenous peoples with cultural traditions of psychedelic use have long known: Psychedelics are best treated not as party drugs but as potent medicines that can provide unique healing benefits when used appropriately.

Even as evidence grows of the drugs' medicinal uses, however, little is known about how they work, or how best to harness their power in a way that benefits the people who need it most. As national leaders in neuroscience and implementation science, WashU Medicine researchers are poised to help solve these puzzles and transform psychedelics into safe, effective and accessible therapies for some of the most challenging conditions.

"We desperately need new approaches to treating mental health disorders," says Ginger Nicol, MD, an associate professor of psychiatry at WashU Medicine. "The therapies we have do some good, but not enough. For PTSD, for example, our best therapies help only about a third of patients, which is tragic because PTSD causes enormous suffering. It literally kills people.

"Psychedelic-assisted therapy is something people want. They are already self-medicating, which can be really dangerous," Nicol adds. "Psychedelic drugs have enormous potential to help people whom we can't currently help, but the only way to turn that potential into reality is to conduct scientific research."

Over the summer, a study by Nicol and two other WashU Medicine neuroscientists went viral for its colorful depiction of the effects of a psychedelic drug on the brain. *The New York Times* ran a story on it with the headline "This Is Literally Your Brain on Drugs"; comedian Stephen Colbert cracked a joke about it on his TV show, *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*. Published in *Nature*, the world's leading scientific journal, and illustrated with brightly colored brain maps, the study showed that psilocybin disrupts typical patterns of brain activity, and that the degree of disruption correlates with the depth of the mystical experience felt by the participant. In short, it made psychedelic trips — famously difficult to put into words — visible to others through the magic of modern neuroimaging techniques.

The study could have been done only at WashU Medicine. It relied on a technique developed in 2017 by a group of WashU Medicine neuroscientists including Nico U. F. Dosenbach, MD '08, PhD '08, a professor of neurology and one of the co-senior authors on the 2024 study. Known as precision functional mapping, the technique uses data from hours of brain scans per person to construct personalized brain maps.

Opposite page: Nico U. F. Dosenbach, MD, PhD (left), a professor of neurology at WashU Medicine, reviews data with postdoctoral researcher Samuel Krimmel, PhD. Dosenbach led the brain imaging part of a 2024 study that showed psilocybin temporarily obliterates a key brain network.

"Some people take psilocybin and see God. I'm an atheist and a neuroimager, so I saw Marc Raichle."

— Nico U. F. Dosenbach, MD, PhD

One way to think about the brain is as networks of areas that become active under the same conditions, such as while looking at an object or moving the body. One of the most important such networks is the default mode network, the set of areas made active when the brain is doing nothing in particular. The default mode network was discovered in 2001 by Marcus Raichle, MD, the Alan A. and Edith L. Wolff Distinguished Professor of Medicine at WashU Medicine and one of the world's leading neuroimagers, when he noticed that a set of brain areas shut off in concert when a person began a task and then turned back on when the task was completed and the person's mind was allowed to wander. Subsequent studies demonstrated the role of the default mode network in introspective thinking such as daydreaming and remembering. Using precision functional mapping, Dosenbach and colleagues showed that each person's default mode network pattern is as unique and as stable as a fingerprint.

As part of the 2024 study, the researchers scanned the brains of seven healthy adults before, during and after taking high doses of psilocybin. They discovered that the drug temporarily obliterated the participants' unique default mode network patterns.

"The brains of people on psilocybin look more similar to each other than to their 'untripping' selves," Dosenbach says. "Their individuality is temporarily wiped out. This verifies, at a neuroscientific level, what people say about losing their sense of self during a trip."

Dosenbach would know better than most what that means. Along with being one of the leaders of the study — with Nicol and Joshua Siegel, MD, PhD, then an instructor in psychiatry at WashU Medicine and now an assistant professor of psychiatry at New York University — Dosenbach was also a study participant. During his trip, he lost his sense of self, becoming by turns his son, his daughter, the universe and Raichle. "Some people take psilocybin and see God," Dosenbach says. "I'm an atheist and a neuroimager, so I saw Marc Raichle."

After falling out of sync, the network re-established itself when the acute effects of the drug wore off, but small differences from pre-psilocybin scans persisted for weeks. This observation jibes with other research studies showing that a single dose of psilocybin can have lasting effects.

Above: Nico U. F. Dosenbach, MD, PhD (left), confers with Marcus Raichle, MD, the Alan A. and Edith L. Wolff Distinguished Professor of Medicine at WashU Medicine. One of the world's leading neuroimagers, Raichle discovered the default mode network in 2001, and new research has shown that psychedelic drugs profoundly disrupt this network.

During their trips, participants were asked to rate their feelings of transcendence, connectedness and awe using the validated Mystical Experience Questionnaire. The 30-item questionnaire provides a systematic way to assess the four core elements of a mystical experience — sacredness, positive mood, transcendence of time and space, and ineffability — and it is widely used in psychedelics research. The magnitude of the changes to the functional networks tracked with the intensity of each participant's subjective experience.

For Dosenbach, the experience was at times electrifying, eye-opening and terrifying. And months later, he's still not sure he'd ever do it again. He lost his ability to judge the passage of time or measure space, an unsurprising effect, he later said, of the disruptions to the parts of his brain involved in computing time and space.

For a few glorious moments, he even thought he had achieved every neuroscientist's dearest dream: a deep and nuanced understanding of how the human brain works.

"Waves," Dosenbach remembers telling Siegel, who was functioning as his guide during his psychedelic experience. "It's all just waves." Once the drug wore off, he recognized his earth-shattering insight as an illusion.

Nobody really knows how psychedelics ease suffering. A common hypothesis is that by disrupting established networks in the brain, the drugs create a window of opportunity to lay down new neural connections that translate into healthier ways of thinking and more appropriate neurological responses. Many researchers believe that successfully rewiring the brain requires the assistance of a trained therapist or facilitator.

"The psychotherapy component is indispensable," says Leopoldo J. Cabassa, AB '98, MSW '01, PhD '05, a professor of social work at the Brown School and co-director of the Center for Mental Health Services at Brown. "It's about preparing someone for this experience, helping them through it, and then helping them integrate and learn from what has happened. These medicines create powerful experiences that can be frightening and confusing. Without proper support, these medicines can do additional harm to vulnerable people who are already suffering."

This unique combination of a psychoactive medicine and talk therapy is a new paradigm in mental health treatment. Its proponents hope that blending two modalities, each effective in its own way, will create treatments more powerful than either one alone.

"People say that psychedelics are useful because they change the brain, but all psychiatric treatments change the brain to some extent," Nicol says. "Talk therapy changes the brain, too;

it just does so very slowly. But when people are suffering from potentially lethal psychiatric disorders, we don't have that long to wait. Psychedelics work more rapidly than other available treatments."

Psychedelics are classified as Schedule 1 drugs, meaning they are officially considered to have no medical use and a high potential for abuse and, therefore, are tightly regulated. As WashU's only faculty member authorized to work with Schedule 1 drugs, Nicol is the hub through which all psychedelic research at WashU must pass. ("I don't want to be the rate-limiting factor, but I am," she says.) To increase the institution's capacity to provide regulatory support for other investigators to conduct research with psychedelics, earlier this year Nicol and Cabassa co-founded the Center for Holistic Interdisciplinary Research in Psychedelics (CHIRP). Supported by a grant from WashU's Transcend Initiative that aims to promote universitywide, interdisciplinary collaborations, CHIRP includes faculty from WashU Medicine, the Brown School and Arts & Sciences. The center's goal is to provide the infrastructure so WashU researchers in all fields can help build the body of knowledge needed to get these powerful therapies not only into the hands of doctors and therapists, but also into the lives of the people who need them.

Historically, researchers have developed treatments first and then started thinking about how they will be implemented, Cabassa says, and sometimes that means that a therapy that works great under controlled conditions turns out to be impractical. "Since the field of psychedelic-assisted therapy is so new, we have the opportunity to incorporate equity and implementation science components into all research from the beginning," Cabassa says. "As we're thinking about a psychedelic-assisted treatment, we're also thinking about how we would get the treatment into practice in a way that is equitable, affordable and useful to the public."

Nicol is also the WashU Medicine site leader for two clinical trials led by pharmaceutical companies to evaluate psilocybin-assisted therapies for depression. One of the goals of CHIRP, however, is to help WashU researchers design and lead their own studies of psychedelic-assisted therapies, taking full advantage of the university's deep expertise in neuroscience, health equity and implementation science. Interest in doing such studies is high; CHIRP leadership is already considering proposed studies related to chronic pain, anxiety among people living with terminal diagnoses and burnout among health-care providers.

Earlier this year, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) accepted the first-ever new drug application for a psychedelic-assisted therapy when MDMA was submitted as a treatment for PTSD in conjunction with talk therapy. Evaluating the application created a unique challenge for the FDA, which regulates drugs but not psychotherapy. Arguing that it was neither equipped nor authorized to assess the psychotherapy element, the FDA focused on MDMA alone. In August, the agency rejected the application, saying that the sponsors had failed to prove MDMA safe and effective.

"We're trying to do good science, in partnership with our community, so that the questions that get asked are the right ones and we learn how to use these drugs as safely, effectively and equitably as we possibly can."

— Ginger Nicol, MD

The failure hasn't dampened public enthusiasm for the mind-bending drugs. Once a symbol of youth counterculture — and a traditional part of many Indigenous cultures for millennia before that — psychedelics have entered mainstream U.S. society in a big way. Celebrities such as Miley Cyrus, Elon Musk and Prince Harry have spoken publicly about their experiences with microdosing — taking tiny doses too low to trigger a psychedelic trip — and the benefits they see in terms of improving mood, enhancing creativity and promoting empathy. Oregon became the first state to decriminalize psychedelics in 2020. As of 2023, Oregon residents can visit regulated clinics to obtain psychedelic-assisted therapy, no doctor's note required. Missouri lawmakers submitted bills in the state House of Representatives to legalize psilocybin therapy for veterans in 2023 and 2024, though neither bill was enacted into law.

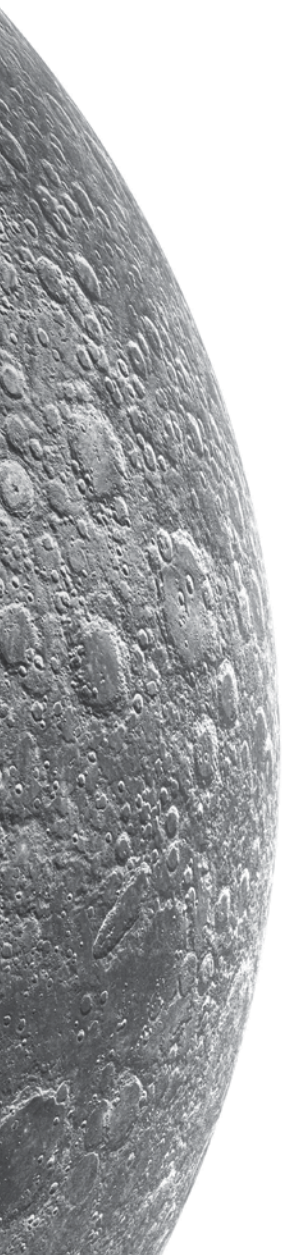
The pace of scientific research doesn't look likely to slow down. In January, the Veteran's Administration announced that it would start supporting psychedelic studies for depression and PTSD. In April, the Department of Health and Human Services announced a $22 million funding opportunity for research on psychedelic-assisted therapy for chronic pain in older adults.

"This is a new treatment paradigm, and it's going to take some time for us to learn how best to use it," Nicol says. "But it's a new paradigm with ancient roots. Indigenous people have been using these medicines for thousands of years. There's a lot of wisdom and experience already out there. We're trying to do good science, in partnership with our community, so that the questions that get asked are the right ones and we learn how to use these drugs as safely, effectively and equitably as we possibly can."

Bridges *to the* MOON

WashU and lunar exploration go way back — *even further than you think.*

BY LESLIE GIBSON MCCARTHY AND JESSICA DAUES



IT'S A WASHU STORY WELL-KNOWN: How, on July 20, 1969, a group of Washington University scientists gathered at the home of Robert M. Walker, then the McDonnell Professor of Physics, to watch Neil Armstrong step onto the Moon.

How three weeks later, Walker and a couple of colleagues traveled to Houston to collect Moon rocks and bring them back to the Danforth Campus. How the team worked night and day to study the samples to prepare a paper in time for the first Apollo 11 Lunar Science Conference five months later. How lunar research at WashU exploded from there, attracting renowned scientists and establishing the McDonnell Center for the Space Sciences in 1974.

Fast forward to the present. WashU space scientists continue to play a key role in lunar research with Artemis III, the planned crewed return trip to the Moon in 2026. Among them, Arts & Sciences' Bradley Jolliff, the Scott Rudolph Professor of Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences and current director of the McDonnell Center for the Space Sciences, is part of the Artemis mission geology team; Jeff Gillis-Davis, research professor of physics, is working on a device to measure the chemistry of rocks, minerals, soil and ices on the Moon's surface; and Paul Byrne, associate professor of Earth, environmental, and planetary sciences, is working on the geological data that will be collected by the Artemis mission and archived at the university in the NASA-supported Planetary Data System.

WashU has much to be proud of when it comes to space sciences, and it has so for decades. "Planetary science at WashU really began in the late 1960s when Bob Walker was hired and became the first McDonnell Professor, funded by Mr. James S. McDonnell," Jolliff says. "That was the beginning of sort of the modern era." Or was it?

Turns out, there's a little-known prologue to WashU's Moon story — one that intersects art and science, at the place where the abstract meets the concrete. The story begins in 1955 when a young woman named Patricia (Mitchell) Bridges, BFA '55, graduated from the School of Fine Arts. Soon to be married, she was about to embark upon a career in which she would perfect a mapping technique with an airbrush that would show the Apollo astronauts every peak and valley of the Moon — and, ultimately, where to land their spacecraft.

THE MOON MEETS THE EYE

In 1959, the Aeronautical Chart and Information Center (ACIC), a precursor to today's National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), was tasked by the U.S. Air Force to produce detailed maps of the Moon for the newly formed National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). There was a space race going on with the Soviet Union, and astronauts, engineers and scientists needed to know the position and shape of features on the Moon's surface. Using existing photographs taken through telescopes, the three-person team, led by another WashU alum, William Cannell, BS '59, somehow had to capture the attention — and contracts — of NASA.

The lead illustrator on the team was Bridges. Having grown up in Wood River, Illinois, she enrolled at the university in the fall of 1951,

In the early 1960s, Patricia Bridges (right) was lead illustrator on a team of the Aeronautical Chart and Information Center tasked by the U.S. Air Force to create detailed maps of the Moon for NASA. (Photo: Courtesy Lowell Observatory)

"And so, I made some drawings, *and by golly, we got the job.*"
— Patricia Bridges, BFA '55

moving to nearby Clayton and attending as a commuter student. She lived close enough to walk to campus but, as she would recall in an extensive oral history interview conducted in 2015 by Kevin Schindler, historian and public information officer of the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, she still needed to work to pay the rent.

"I had a scholarship but needed money to buy supplies or have lunch," she said, noting that at WashU, she studied not scientific illustration, but "just painting, art."

In the fall of her senior year, she was hired to help restore the murals of St. Louis' Old Courthouse, under the supervision of the National Park Service's Walter Nitkiewicz. The project predominantly hired men because the murals are 145-feet above the rotunda. "They didn't think any women would do that," she recalled in the interview, "because you had to climb around on scaffolding, and you had to climb way up in the dome. I loved it."

Such a can-do spirit would serve her well during her next job. After the mural work was completed, Bridges, now married to her hometown sweetheart, Harley Bridges, heard that the government was hiring art majors to make maps, so she applied and was hired by the ACIC.

"With an art degree you never knew what kind of job you were going to have," she recalled. "I started doing shaded relief maps for ACIC because I was looking around for just whatever I could make a living at." It was a good fit for an art major and a young wife living "just across the river" in Illinois.

"I started doing some special projects for the [ACIC] development office, making drawings and [experimenting] with different ways that [it] needed to be done," she said.

One day, she was handed photographs of the Moon and asked to add as many details as she could onto existing maps. She worked in secret, with India ink and an airbrush, in an office under the stairs at the ACIC on Arsenal Street

Above: Just six years from a WashU fine arts degree, Patricia Bridges became a central figure in creating a technique that filled in ridges, craters and other features on maps of the Moon's surface. (Photo: Courtesy Lowell Observatory)

in South St. Louis. "Other entities of the government were competing with us to get that job," she said. "And so, I made some drawings, and by golly, we got the job."

Sounds simple, yet she couldn't have known at the time that she was about to become a hidden figure in one of the most historic mapping projects of the 20th century. With the airbrush, she painted in craters, ridges and plains, and, along the way, she created a Moon-mapping technique that would be copied and studied. The maps gave NASA detailed information it needed to determine where the astronauts of the Apollo space program would land on the Moon.

'WE ALL LEARNED IT FROM PAT'

The maps were called Lunar Astronautical Charts, or LACs, and it was Cannell's idea to draw them in sections laid out on a grid; 144 sheets in all measured 22 by 29 inches in size. Using the airbrush to fill in details, Bridges' first map was a prototype of the Moon's most visible feature, the Copernicus Crater. But it was clear they were going to need better information to create the maps in the amount of detail that NASA needed. So Cannell was sent all over the country to scour locations for a telescopic home and found one sitting 7,200 feet above sea level at the historic Lowell Observatory — the 24-inch Clark refractor telescope.

Built in 1896, it was the telescope famously used by Percival Lowell to study Mars (and the telescope Vesto Slipher used to first observe the expanding nature of the universe). But by 1961, the telescope was available for other uses, because as Flagstaff grew so did the amount of light pollution at night, said Schindler. That made it harder to look further out into our solar system, "but the Moon is so bright the amount of light didn't matter," Schindler says.

In September 1961, Cannell, Bridges and the third team member, ACIC cartographer James Greenacre, moved to Flagstaff after contracting with the observatory for use of the telescope and office space.

Each person had a role.

Photographs provided the foundation for the team's lunar charts, but they also filmed movies of the Moon. Each recording contained hundreds and hundreds of still images, which allowed the team to choose photos least distorted by air turbulence. The best photos were sent back to St. Louis, where the photos were "rectified," or altered to make allowances for the curvature of the Moon's surface and other distorting factors, and then sent back to Flagstaff.

But photographs weren't enough to capture the level of detail. The map-making team also spent nights at the Clark telescope observing the Moon's surface, because the human eye could see more through the telescope than on photos — "about four times as much," Cannell told a reporter for the *Arizona Daily Sun*. The ACIC team ended up discovering thousands of small craters on what previously had been thought of as a smooth surface — important details for selecting a landing site.

Cannell and Greenacre would sit at the Clark telescope with photos of the lunar surface, filling in details photographs missed. Their notes then went to Bridges, who also made observations herself to confirm or clarify her team's notes. Sessions at the telescope could last several hours at a time, depending on how much of the area that the team was charting was illuminated. "If it was illuminated, we were there," Bridges recalled in the oral history interview.

By 1965, the team had grown to 12 observers and scientific illustrators, including Gail Gibbons, who joined the effort as a 20-year-old graduate of the University of Arizona. Now living in Arizona, she remembers Bridges taking a young illustrator under her wing, teaching her what had become known as the "Bridges technique," working on large wooden drafting tables set at a slant.

Left: William Cannell (right), BS '59, led the ACIC team at the Lowell Observatory. Here, he and Bridges show off the mapping work to noted planetary astronomer Earl Carl Slipher. (Photo: Courtesy Lowell Observatory)

Over a Zoom interview, she recalled drawing the maps with detail. "On top of a large light box sitting on top of the drafting table, we placed the mosaic photo, which was the size of the end map," Gibbons says. "Over that, we placed a thick translucent piece of plastic, and that's what we drew on. The mosaic gave us the placement and dimensions and the rough outlines of the craters and mountains.

"We worked in shades of gray with the airbrush — which proved to be a temperamental creature," she says. "The technique did take a while to master and learn to do the proper shading. We all learned it from Pat."

THE TRAILBLAZER

ACIC's work on the lunar maps continued in Flagstaff until 1969, when Cannell and the team returned to St. Louis. By that time, Bridges had left the project to stay home with her two daughters, but not before training the eight illustrators who carried on the airbrushing technique.

"Pat was a trailblazer, and her role in the Apollo program cannot be underestimated," Gibbons says. "Her artistry was the best of all of us. She was my mentor and had the airbrush techniques down to a T. I never came close to her work."

The maps stand up even today, when simply Googling "Lunar QuickMap" can get anyone to the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera (LROC) website. There, a user can zoom in and view the surface of the Moon as close as 50 meters away, noticing every rock, blemish, hill and shadow on the surface.

But before there was the LROC (and the internet), there was Pat Bridges.

"What really impresses me is that you could take those early maps and superimpose digital data from orbit around the Moon, and it lines up," Gillis-Davis says. "They made them that accurate. You can then understand where the chemistry correlated with morphologic features on the surface, because you could see craters and hills and volcanoes. And you simply say, 'Wow.' This wasn't just artistic; it was highly technical."

And these early maps helped show the way for the first men on the Moon. By the time Armstrong took his first steps, Bridges had 6- and 4-year-old daughters and was pregnant with her third child, a boy. Even though she was no longer on the team, she watched the historic moment with her family and former colleagues — along with millions of others worldwide. Bridges told Schindler that watching those first steps made it "something real."

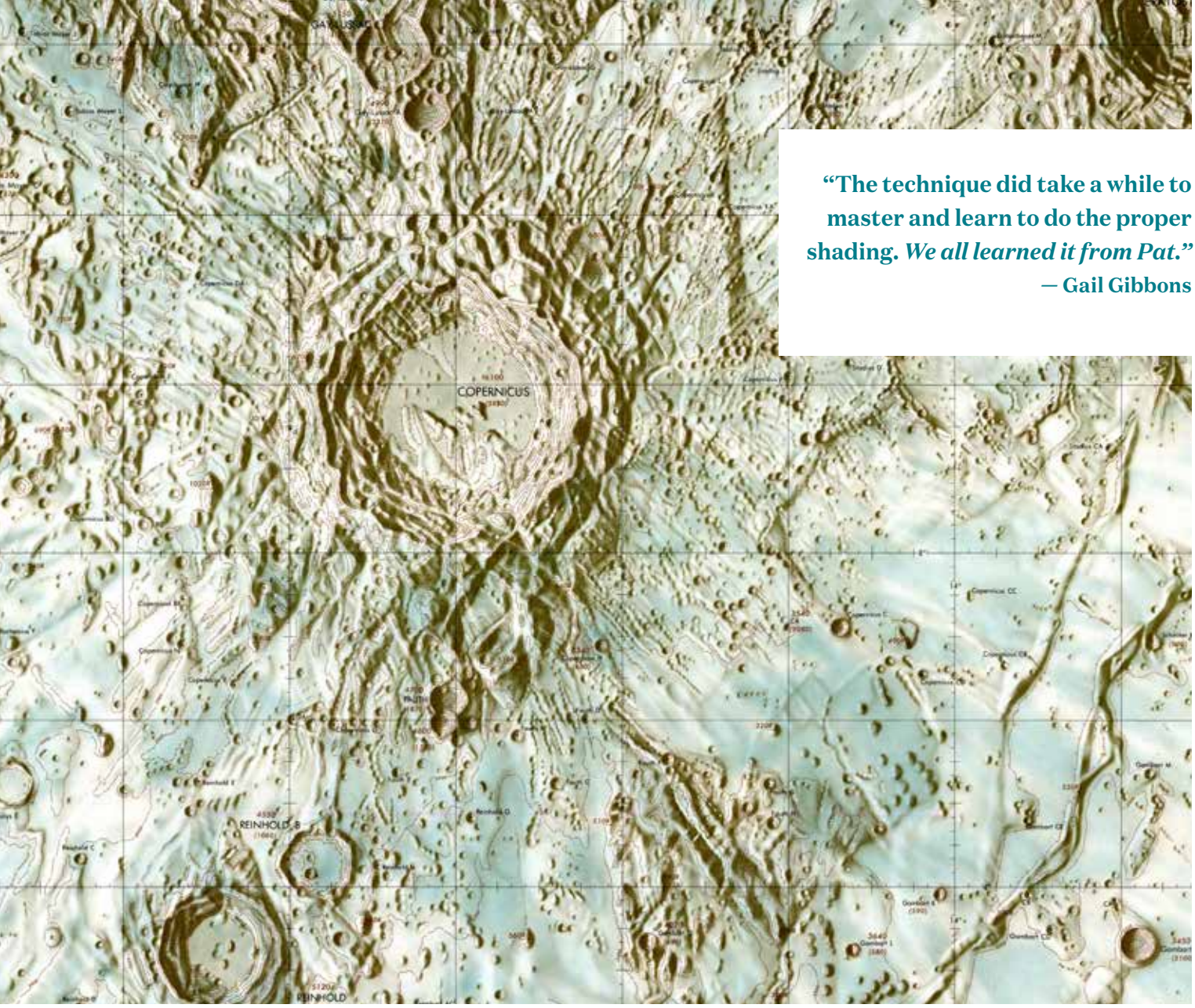
Cannell also remembered feeling tense before the landing. "We knew the precise spot where they were supposed to land, but we didn't know if they would actually hit it," he told the *South Bend Tribune* in 2004. "We worried, of course, that they might crash or end up in the wrong place."

Cannell and his team would return to St. Louis that fall and continue to evolve their mapping work. Bridges would return to work a year later with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Flagstaff, doing the same type of airbrush-mapping work drawing maps of Mars.

The family had put down roots in Flagstaff, with her husband teaching junior high social studies and Bridges working outside the home in an era when that was not the norm. But not once in her extended interview with Schindler in 2015 did she talk about the challenges that may have held.

Laura Ball, her middle child who still lives in Flagstaff, has nothing but fond memories of her childhood. "By the time I was old enough to know what she was doing, she was at the USGS," Ball says. "She was low-key and never described herself as doing anything special. As a kid, I didn't think having a working mom was that unusual, even though a lot of my friends had moms who didn't work. Now, I feel nothing but pride for what she was able to pull off."

Right: Patricia Bridges earned many awards and recognitions for her work in creating the lunar maps. Here, she received a certificate for outstanding performance from her supervisors at ACIC. (Photo: Courtesy Lowell Observatory)



> **"The technique did take a while to master and learn to do the proper shading. *We all learned it from Pat.*"**
> **— Gail Gibbons**

Pull it off she did. Her maps endure online, in archives and in history books. "The fact that she wasn't involved with geoscience or geography and produced such detailed maps is remarkable," Jolliff says. "I wish I could have met her."

Schindler got to meet Bridges many times, working with her on oral history projects or anniversary events. "She was always so welcoming and gracious," he says. Bridges shared with the observatory's archives a scrapbook she kept of clippings and photographs from those early days in Flagstaff. In it are photographs of the early Moon-mapping days at the observatory and various newspaper clippings about the program, including one from 1963 that details a visit from the Apollo astronauts, including Armstrong and James Lovell. The astronauts had come to the observatory to learn about the mapping program and watch Bridges in action.

Bridges and her husband would remain in Flagstaff the rest of their lives, passing away within four months of each other in 2021.

Near the end of her life, she battled Alzheimer's disease, her daughter says, but she made the best of it. "To us," Bell says, "she was always just our mom." Bell says her mom left her family numerous paintings and artworks, including a self-portrait of herself as a young woman.

And she left to all of us a legacy of helping send the Apollo astronauts to the Moon. "Going to the Moon was humankind's greatest achievement, in so many ways," Schindler says. "But it took 400,000 people to do it — people just like you and me. Pat was one of those, but she never once broadcast that feat or said, 'I'm a mapper. I'm helping us get to the Moon!'"

Portions of this story, written by Jessica Daues, first appeared on the NGA News website in "The Art of Lunar Mapping: ACIC's Patricia Bridges Airbrushed Americans' Path to the Moon" published in June 2024. Daues is a former WashU staff member in University Marketing and Communications.

Above: The first map Bridges drew for the ACIC was a detailed look at the Moon's most visible feature, the Copernicus Crater. (Photo: Courtesy Lowell Observatory)

Next

THE WORLD OF OUR WASHU ALUMNI

Alumni Profiles 44
First Person 49
My Washington 50
Alumni Activities 52
Class Notes 54
In Memoriam 60
Lasting Impression 64

No limits

Sarah Adam, DOT '16, (left) talks with friend and mentor **Kerri Morgan, MSOT '98, PhD '15,** prior to competing in the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris this summer. Adam was the only woman on the 12-member wheelchair rugby team and helped Team USA win a silver medal. Morgan is also a former Paralympian and competed for the U.S. in track and field. Read more at source.washu.edu/2024/12/silver-lining.

Photo: Sid Hastings

Cooking up a better breakfast

Two WashU students discover a healthier way to start the day.

Chickpeas are having a moment. Today's health-conscious consumer can buy chickpea flour, chickpea pizza crust, chickpea pasta. But chickpeas for breakfast?

Absolutely, say WashU's **Chiara Munzi, AB '23,** and **Izzy Gorton, Olin Class of '25**. Munzi (opposite page, left) and Gorton are the founders of ChiChi hot cereal, a high-protein, low-sugar alternative to oatmeal. Available online and in stores in St. Louis and Los Angeles, ChiChi comes in four varieties: apple pie, banana bread, maple syrup and original.

"ChiChi is healthy, and it's super delicious," says Gorton, a senior studying economics and strategy at Olin Business School. "We have tons of subscribers and repeat customers who are coming back for our taste and our texture."

Munzi and Gorton launched ChiChi two years ago as classmates in an advanced entrepreneurship course nicknamed "The League." The selective program provides students resources, including $4,000, and professional mentorship to start a small business. Munzi, then a senior, had enrolled to develop a thrifting app. Gorton, a thrifter herself, was assigned to support the project. But a few weeks later, Munzi showed up with a container of chickpea flakes and a new game plan. Gorton was flummoxed.

"Then I tried it," Gorton recalls. "I immediately saw the vision. Oatmeal is mushy and liquid, but this was something hearty and nutty, really delicious."

Munzi had been eating an oatmeal mixture for two years and then segued to a "straight-up chickpea mixture" the summer before her senior year. For about two months she'd mashed chickpeas, rolling out the beans with a rolling pin in her dorm room. She found the flavor pleasingly neutral, the perfect base for fruits or honey. And unlike instant oatmeal, chickpeas delivered the protein she needed for her daily runs without spiking her blood sugar.

Using the startup grant from The League, the two developed recipes to test with their focus group — Gorton's teammates on the WashU Bears track and cross country teams.

"I would bring samples to the track, and everyone loved it," Gorton says. "A lot of runners, especially those who are vegan, struggle finding good protein options. So ChiChi was super exciting for them because it's high in protein but not overly processed like a lot of protein powders."

Serious athletes are not the only ones digging in. Customers with diabetes and gluten sensitivities also love ChiChi, which is grain-free, gluten-free and low glycemic.

And then there are those who discovered ChiChi on Instagram. Delightful and candid, the feed pulls back the curtain on life as two young founders. One video reveals how they almost went broke. Another shadows them at their first trade show. And yet another chronicles a day at WashU when ChiChi won the Global Impact Award from the Skandalaris Center for Interdisciplinary Innovation and Entrepreneurship, earning $50,000.

"[During the awards ceremony,] there was a tornado warning, so we all had to go to the basement," Munzi recounts in one video as the camera pans to a bug-eyed Gorton. "And we were standing in the back because we did not expect to win. So, when they called ChiChi, we literally screamed. It was insane."

Neither founder expected this life of recipe development, customer education, ad spends and trademark law when they enrolled at WashU. Munzi, raised in Los Angeles, planned to be a neuroscience researcher and, indeed, graduated with a bachelor's degree in philosophy-neuroscience-psychology from Arts & Sciences. And Gorton, from Dubuque, Iowa, wanted to be a doctor. Both credit the Skandalaris Center for helping them discover their inner maker. Founded in 2001, the center supports entrepreneurs and innovators through a range of courses, funding opportunities and clubs open to all students.

"I honestly don't think we asked permission to use the Skandalaris Center as our test kitchen," Munzi says. "We just plugged in our Instant Pot and got to work. And they supported us every step of the way."

The founders hope to pay that forward, providing internships and mentorship to the next generation of WashU entrepreneurs, especially other young women.

"When people ask, 'What is your mission?' my answer is 'to make breakfast healthier,'" Munzi says. "But I also want younger female founders to look at Izzy and me and see that they can bring their ideas to market. We weren't special; we didn't have special skills or investors; we just kind of did it. And they can, too."

■ DIANE TOROIAN KEAGGY, AB '90

WHO

Chiara Munzi (left), AB '23; Izzy Gorton, Olin Class of '25

GETTING NOTICED

Munzi appeared on the popular podcast "How I Built This" with Guy Raz and competed in the Amazon Prime reality show, *60 Day Hustle*, which dropped Aug. 8.

DELIGHTFUL DISH

ChiChi Choco Chip Waffle

Ingredients:

- ¾ cup Maple Syrup ChiChi
- 2 tbsp. melted butter
- ½ cup milk
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- Pinch of salt
- Optional: chocolate chips

Instructions:

1. Preheat waffle iron.
2. In a large bowl, combine the Maple Syrup ChiChi chickpea hot cereal and baking powder.
3. In a separate bowl, whisk together melted butter, milk and egg until well combined.
4. Pour wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and stir until just combined. The batter should be slightly thick but pourable.
5. Add a pinch of salt and mix gently.
6. If desired, fold in a handful of chocolate chips.
7. Lightly grease the waffle iron with a bit of melted butter or nonstick spray.
8. Pour the batter onto the waffle iron, spreading it out evenly.
9. Cook the waffles according to your waffle iron's instructions, usually 3–5 minutes or until golden brown.

Courtesy photo

A life of service

Jason Thomas takes the concept of Southern hospitality to another level with his commitment to serving others.

For **Jason Thomas, AB '00,** the servant leaders in his family shaped his ability to look beyond himself. "Having eyes to see others, that's what my mother and grandparents modeled for me," Thomas recalls.

As the youngest of three, Thomas watched his mother find ways to support others through cooking, baking and overall hospitality. Although her resources were limited as a single mother and an elementary school teacher, she found small ways to leave a positive impact on those in need.

"One of my earliest memories is my mom allowing me to tag along to a women's shelter in Atlanta, showing me the importance of serving and caring for others," Thomas says. "I didn't recognize it at the time, but it had more of an impact on my life than I ever imagined."

Thomas' parents divorced when he was young, but both were involved in shaping his worldview. During his middle and high school years, his father would arm him with reading material like Martin Luther King Jr.'s *Letter from Birmingham Jail* and works by Howard Thurman, Benjamin E. Mays and Cornel West.

A descendant of Morehouse College alumni, it would have been easy for Thomas to become a third-generation Morehouse man. However, he decided to chart his own path after his college counselor encouraged him to consider WashU. And WashU provided him with more than a good education; it was a place where he established close and lasting friendships. "I met my WashU friends as young men and have watched them grow into amazing leaders in industry and in their families," he says.

After graduating, Thomas returned to Atlanta to be closer to family. He earned a doctorate in ministry from Georgia's Christian Life School of Theology. He got married and started a family, and he spent 22 years in full-time ministry while volunteering with organizations like Urban Recipe and Hands On Atlanta, addressing food insecurity and educational inequality, respectively.

Thomas is currently dean of students at Heritage Preparatory School, a combined middle school/high school. He also provides administrative support to The King Center in Atlanta, where the power of Martin Luther King Jr.'s mission continues to resonate. "King's quote, 'Everyone can be great because everyone can serve,' paints this picture that whatever it is that you're called to, be great at it and give it your all," Thomas says.

Thomas and his wife are intentional about modeling servanthood for their children. This year, Thomas served alongside his sons at a summer camp. "We have teenage boys," he says. "It's easy for them to be distracted, but we're hoping to help them feel empowered to be an answer to the issues around them." His two-plus decades of servant leadership recently earned him a "Daily Point of Light Award" from the organization Points of Light.

"Ministry is just service, and that can manifest itself in a ton of ways," Thomas says. "It can look like speaking in front of a group of people. It could be cleaning up your neighborhood. It could be reading to children. Ministry is wherever you find yourself."

■ BRITTNEY WHEELER

WHO

Jason Thomas, AB '00 (religious studies)

FAMILY BUSINESS

Thomas started a T-shirt company with his sons during the pandemic. The shirts featured the statement *Allergic to status quo*. "Raising three Black sons, people may have stereotypes about Black men," he says. "It's not a compliment to be average. We're working to change the narrative."

Photo: Nicole Craine

A story of **survival**

Since returning to his native Ukraine more than 30 years ago, Alex Frishberg has faced many dangers — most recently, a brutal war.

Courtesy photo

An immigrant returns to his homeland only to face death threats from the mob and ongoing war. It's a riveting story of survival that sounds like a movie script, but for Ukrainian attorney and author **Alex Frishberg, JD '88,** it's his real life. It began when Frishberg and his family left the Soviet Union in 1974 to escape antisemitism and landed in St. Louis, where he eventually attended WashU School of Law.

"I owe my career success to WashU," he says. "I had the best professors, who taught me how to calmly dissect arguments. Nothing compares to a WashU education."

After graduation, Frishberg worked for Hogan & Hartson in Washington, D.C. Then the Soviet Union collapsed, and Ukraine became an independent nation. Frishberg wanted to return to his homeland in his new capacity as an American lawyer, so he moved to Kyiv in 1991 and started his own practice.

"Ukraine was open for business," he says. "I was the only foreign lawyer there, and I spoke fluent English, so I represented embassies and global corporations moving into Ukraine."

Although business was good, life in Ukraine was dangerous. "In 1992, racketeers began coming around to businesses to collect money," Frishberg says. "I was almost killed twice."

The first death threat occurred when drug addicts came by his firm to demand money. Police arrived and stopped the situation from escalating. The second death threat happened when one of his clients asked him to fire an accountant who was stealing from him. Unfortunately, that accountant had mob connections.

"Two mobsters came and told me not to take this case to court," Frishberg says. "They threatened me and my wife, but I had an obligation to my client to finish the job."

Needing protection, he reached out to a government connection, who provided him with a highly trained bodyguard. This bodyguard met with the mobsters and scared them off. Frishberg then began using him to help other clients who were also dealing with racketeers.

While racketeering is no longer a problem in Ukraine, Frishberg is now living through a brutal war with Russia.

"Our windows reverberate from nearby explosions and rocket launches," he says. "We live under the constant threat of nuclear attacks. Electricity is turned off for several hours each day because of the energy crisis. Business is hard, too. No one is coming to Ukraine."

No matter what the future holds, Frishberg says Ukrainians won't give up. "We cannot live under Putin's dictatorship," he says. "Ukrainians will fight with sticks and stones until they die before they give up. We've been through trials and fire before, and we've emerged on the other side. We're waiting for the good times, for the war to end."

■ BLAIRE LEIBLE GARWITZ

WHO

Alex Frishberg, JD '88

LOCAL COMMENTATOR

In the *Kyiv Post,* Frishberg publishes opinion pieces about the state of the war and business in Ukraine.

DANGEROUS TIMES

His novel *The Steel Barons* draws from his harrowing experience with racketeers and the mob.

LIFE AND LOVE IN UKRAINE

A Foreign Affair and Other Stories is a collection of novellas he wrote based on true events.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Doing Business in Ukraine is a legal reference guide he co-authored with a fellow attorney at Frishberg & Partners.

NEXT UP

Exodus 1974 will be a memoir of his family's experience as immigrants in the United States.


Photo: Joe Angeles

Beyond the diagnosis

Patricia Saleeby helped develop and enhance the ICF, a classification system that enables better patient care around the world.

WHO

Patricia Saleeby, PhD '05

GLOBAL EDUCATOR

Saleeby partnered with Physiopedia to create International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health-based courses, reaching nearly 5,000 rehab professionals around the world.

BROWN SCHOOL ADVISER

Michael Sherraden, the George Warren Brown Distinguished University Professor, encouraged Saleeby to pursue projects she was passionate about.

A medical diagnosis provides a label and treatment path, but it often misses the nuances of daily life and functional ability. Two people with the same diagnosis may face very different challenges. This gap inspired **Patricia Welch Saleeby, PhD '05,** to embark on a journey that has enhanced patient care globally.

While a doctoral student at the Brown School, Saleeby was driven by a deep interest in disability issues. She connected with David Gray, an occupational therapy professor who was collaborating with the World Health Organization (WHO) on a new classification system to complement the International Classification of Diseases (ICD).

The ICD, the global standard for coding and classifying diseases, had a glaring limitation: It didn't address how health conditions affect daily life and functioning.

While still at WashU, Saleeby played a key role in developing the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF). As the assistant U.S. field trial coordinator, she contributed to a report presented at her first WHO meeting in Tokyo in 1998. The ICF was formally endorsed by the United Nations in 2001 and since has been adopted by many countries.

In the same way the ICD gives caregivers immediate diagnostic codes about the patient in front of them, the ICF offers essential context. Saleeby served on the WHO task force that integrated environmental factors into the ICF, recognizing that functioning is influenced by both health and environment.

This focus on functioning and environment preceded today's understanding of social determinants of health. For instance, a patient with diabetes facing food insecurity may struggle to maintain proper nutrition. Documenting these challenges allows the care team to provide supportive interventions. The ICF also records functional or environmental factors when diagnoses are uncertain, offering crucial context for patient care.

In the U.S., ICF adoption is slow but gaining momentum, particularly with the integration of consistent functional coding into electronic health records. This development is vital for maintaining continuity of care across different health-care settings.

Saleeby has been instrumental in integrating ICF codes into U.S. health records through her collaboration on the PACIO and Gravity projects. She's also working with BigMove in the Netherlands to develop an English-language version of a mobile app that translates real-time patient experiences into ICF codes, enabling dynamic tracking of conditions and aligning treatment with patient needs and goals.

Today, as a professor and program director of social work at Bradley University, Saleeby continues to influence the field through her involvement with WHO committees and working groups. In her workshops, she highlights the ICF's relevance to all health professions.

Saleeby credits her WashU training for giving her the advocacy skills to represent her profession globally. "It's been a labor of love," she says. "I believed in it from day 1."

■ DEB PARKER

Tragedy plus time equals comedy

The Thurber Prize for American Humor is the most prestigious honor for humor writers, awarded to authors who do something extraordinary: Make us think, laugh and cry — often in the same sentence. In 2023, **Elissa Bassist, AB '07,** was one of five semifinalists for the Thurber Prize for *Hysterical*, her 2022 memoir about her decades-long journey navigating her physical and mental health and eventually learning to speak up. Bassist is an author, editor and teacher who shows others how to be funny and find their own voices. The woman has stories, and she's not afraid to use them.

▸ **Tragedy plus time equals comedy, and I teach that math in my writing classes.** I learned it in my mid-20s, when I was in graduate school for creative nonfiction and doing improv at the local comedy school. In my MFA program, I used every comedic trick I'd picked up from improv, and my sad writing became funny and thus, readable (and publishable). I found that people listen to a joke but ignore a sob story, so when I can't say something straight (when it seems too preachy or harrowing), I say it with a slant. For a career, I wanted to teach other writers to copy me. My class prerequisite is being in therapy; happy endings are burned; and every assignment is to make readers laugh while punching them in the heart.

▸ **To laugh when all I want to do is cry, first, I cry.** Crying and laughing are two emotional reactions that I love equally. Crying has a bad reputation, but crying hurts us only if we don't do it. Or I pet my dog. My dog has the best sense of humor, and he makes it impossible for me to cry too much. Whenever I try, he brings me his toys or looks at me in the funniest way that nips every emotional meltdown in the bud.

▸ **Therapy is the best therapy, but writing and comedy are second-best therapies.** Writing has many personal, public, financial and health benefits. I write comedy to process tragedy — and to get tragedy out of my system and exorcise it, to do something with it and not waste it. Sometimes, the only way to tell a story you don't know how to tell is to joke about it (and publish the joke). Writing can be the place where we do all kinds of work: think, decipher, laugh, grieve, recover, ask our stupidest questions and answer them. In writing, we can put our life in the context of other people's lives so we may understand and/or forgive ourselves. Writing can make sense of nonsense and kill isolation, bringing writers and readers closer, so close they're almost kissing. All of which may help writers and readers heal, but no promises.

▸ **My first book,** *Hysterical,* is about every definition of the word. And more specifically, it's about how a woman's voice develops (or doesn't) in a culture where men talk and women should really keep it down — and how this expectation of a woman's silence makes women, including me, sick. (Please buy one or 10 copies from your local bookstore.)

WHO

Elissa Bassist, AB '07, English and American literature

CURRENT GIGS

Editor of "The Funny Woman" column on *The Rumpus*; teaching satire and humor writing seminars online and in person through The New School, 92NY and other outlets

HER NEXT BIG APPEARANCE

Tragedy + Time at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., March 9, 2025

HOW TO FIND HER

Bassist connects with writers through two newsletters, "Hysterical" and "Tragedy Plus Time."

Find her at www.elissabassist.com.

Photo: Mindy Tucker

Courtesy photo

A perfect fit for WashU

Lori Coulter's business expertise shapes her work as a volunteer leader and advocate for students.

Lori Coulter, MBA '99, co-founder and CEO of apparel company Summersalt, started her first business before she was old enough to drive a car. While her brother played American Legion baseball, she operated a concession stand for spectators. She secured inventory at a local warehouse store using funds from her first angel investor: her mother.

Coulter's entrepreneurial spirit continued at Baylor University, where she drafted business plans as an undergraduate marketing student. She wrote several more plans while earning an MBA at Olin Business School, including one that won second place in the annual Olin Cup pitch competition.

That plan was the initial work for Coulter's first company, which designed made-to-order swimsuits using specialized software. The company's technology laid the groundwork for Summersalt swimwear, which is based on millions of measurements from women's body scans.

In 2016, Summersalt began with a serendipitous meeting between Coulter and her co-founder, Reshma Chattaram Chamberlin, at the Gramercy Park Hotel in New York City. Building on her existing swimwear and manufacturing expertise, Coulter had created a business plan for a brand that aimed to change the swimwear shopping experience from intimidating to empowering. Chamberlin asked on the spot about bringing her marketing expertise to the table. It was a perfect fit.

Since its launch in 2017, St. Louis–based Summersalt has enabled thousands of women to rediscover joy and comfort when wearing a swimsuit. The company has expanded to offer loungewear and activewear and has sold more than 3.5 million garments. Its popularity has grown thanks to a loyal fan base developed in part through savvy social media campaigns and limited-edition collaborations with brands like Rifle Paper Co. and L.L. Bean.

While running her growing company, Coulter maintains deep ties to WashU, and she is a longtime volunteer leader who has served the university in many ways. She was involved with the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts as an adjunct faculty member and as a Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum board member. In 2022, she joined the university's Board of Trustees, and she also serves on the national council for the Skandalaris Center for Interdisciplinary Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

DESCRIBE YOUR WASHU EXPERIENCE.

I loved my time at Olin Business School. The faculty were incredible, and I'm still in touch with many of them today. I was a teaching assistant for macroeconomics and for negotiation and conflict management. Those two very different courses speak to the broad skill set that Olin encourages in students. It was excellent training for a CEO like me, who must be a generalist regarding all 360 degrees of a business.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HELP FUTURE ENTREPRENEURS?

One of my goals is to help drive more equitable funding within the venture capital industry. Startup funding for women, Black and Latinx founders remains disproportionately low. For example, only 2% of last year's total venture capital funds went to female entrepreneurs, which is unfathomable. Ensuring all groups have equal access would be a significant step toward leveling the playing field and promoting upward mobility. I'm addressing that issue alongside other entrepreneurs, venture capitalists and public policy experts as a member of WashU's Olin Brookings Commission.

I believe one of the solutions is to educate future founders. That's why I'm a regular guest speaker on campus, including for Olin's advanced entrepreneurship class known as "The League." I also host classes that are part of WashU's Business of the Arts minor onsite at Summersalt headquarters. I want to share the valuable lessons I learned at WashU and throughout my entrepreneurial journey so that students can benefit from them. Knowing what pitch approaches work or helping open up a network can make all the difference for an early-stage startup.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST MEANINGFUL WASHU VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE?

As part of my role on the Board of Trustees, I helped advise the university during its collaborative, multiyear process to unveil a new visual identity. I was excited to be part of the group that is strengthening the university for the next generation. The work included the official adoption of WashU as a shortened version of the university's name.

I'm honored to have given back in an area that aligns with my strengths. To build a brand in a heavily digital environment, you need to be able to create a user impression as quickly as possible. Leveraging the WashU name across all channels will help fuel billions of impressions and ensure our global reputation continues to grow. Serving as an adviser was inspiring, and I've consistently applied the insights and energy to my own career.

■ CONSTANCE GIBBS

WashU wanderlust

When you want to roam, turn to the Alumni Association's Travel Program.

From booking hotels and transportation to selecting must-see sites, planning a dream vacation takes work. While digital platforms like Tripadvisor and Expedia can help prospective travelers make choices and streamline logistics, not everything is as it appears online. Enter the WashU Travel Program sponsored by the Alumni Association. Each year, the program partners with trusted travel companies to curate a dynamic slate of domestic and international trips for university alumni, parents and friends.

Participants in these small-group tours are immersed in history and culture through lectures, including from local guides and WashU academics, and bespoke activities. "Education is core to our mission," says David Webb, travel program director. "There is something special about building memories with other WashU alumni and fans who share a love of learning and curiosity about the world."

Read on for highlights from several WashU globetrotters:

HOWARD DEMSKY, BS '88, MBA '88, AND JAMIE DEMSKY

From: Orlando, Florida
Trip: Norwegian Fjords and Midnight Sun
No. of WashU trips taken: 1

Soaking up the midnight sun in Norway had long been on **Jamie Demsky**'s bucket list. However, she and her husband, **Howard,** struggled to find a tour that would take them through the countryside and along the coasts. With its diverse mix of air, rail and sea transit, the travel program's fjord-focused excursion through the Norwegian cities of Oslo, Bergen and Tromsø offered just that. "The itinerary was unlike any others we encountered," Jamie says of the 11-day trip that kicked off in June.

For the Demskys, the journey from Oslo to Bergen was a highlight. "Taking in the scenery by train was breathtaking," Howard says. The pair especially enjoyed the railway leg leading to their cruise down Sognefjord, the country's longest fjord. Once in Tromsø, which sits north of the Arctic Circle, they were finally able to witness Norway's white nights. "There was a real sense of vitality and energy to our time there," Jamie says.

Though the Demskys are no strangers to tours, they had never traveled with WashU before. The couple selected this destination in concert with longtime friends and fellow Floridians **Dan Leisle, BS '88, MBA '88,** and his wife, **Leigh**. "It was nice going with somebody I know from WashU," says Howard, who met Dan 40 years ago while both pursued degrees in engineering and business. The Demskys also found common ground with other members of the group. "There's an instant connection and camaraderie among WashU alumni," he says. "This trip just felt different."

RICHARD GALEN, AB '71

From: Potomac, Maryland
Trip: Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea
No. of WashU trips taken: 2

Richard Galen is a seasoned traveler who delights in exploring the world both alone and with his wife, **Leslie Galen, AB '72**. In July, he decided to fly — or rather cruise — solo down the Baltic Sea with WashU. The trip, which covered six Scandinavian and Baltic countries in nine days, offered him the chance to add a few new stamps to his already dog-eared passport.

"Many of the places we visited I wouldn't have picked on my own," Galen says. He found himself especially charmed by the historic beauty of capital cities Riga, Latvia and Tallinn, Estonia. Part of what made these stops so memorable were the local guides, including one in Riga whose command of English and encyclopedic knowledge of architectural history left a lasting impression.

Courtesy photo

Courtesy photo

AROUND THE WORLD WITH WASHU
Here is a selection of destinations for early 2025. For more details and a full list of upcoming trips, visit **alumni.wustl.edu/travel**.

- **Chilean Wonders: Lake District and Patagonia**
  Feb. 10–21, 2025
- **Tahiti and French Polynesia**
  Feb. 21–March 3, 2025
- **Africa's Gold Coast: Togo and Ghana**
  Feb. 23–March 6, 2025
- **Intriguing India**
  March 7–21, 2025
- **Dutch Waterways: Antwerp to Amsterdam**
  April 1–9, 2025
- **Machu Picchu to the Galapagos**
  April 15–30, 2025

For a solo traveler like Galen, the tour struck the right balance of independence and community. He appreciated having unscheduled time to venture out on his own. "But it also was nice to come back to the group and eat dinner together each night," he says.

Galen's adventure marks his second time participating in a WashU-sponsored trip. He and his wife traveled to Cuba with the university in 2018, and the couple have already signed up to sail from Antwerp to Amsterdam next spring. Galen returns to the program again and again because he trusts his alma mater to provide a first-rate experience. "I can count on WashU's due diligence when selecting travel companies, and I know I'll get a good value for my money," he says. "It's a very well-run operation."

DAVID FIKE, PROFESSOR OF EARTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND PLANETARY SCIENCES
From: St. Louis
Next trip: Tahiti and French Polynesia
No. of WashU trips taken: 2

In February, **David Fike,** professor and chair of earth, environmental, and planetary sciences, will set sail to Tahiti and the French Polynesian islands with the travel program. The 10-day voyage will be Fike's third outing as a faculty lecturer, where he can apply his academic expertise to real-world contexts.

As a geoscientist, Fike is interested in environmental shifts and their relationship to past and present-day climate change. In his lab, he and his team have studied the impact of climate change on sea level and marine life. His upcoming trip — his first to this part of the tropics — will allow him to share those findings with alumni and conduct additional field research.

Not every travel program destination features a WashU professor. "The program is very intentional about pairing faculty with location," Fike says. In 2016, he watched glaciers splinter apart from a small Zodiac inflatable boat in Alaska. And in 2023, he weathered the rocky waters of the Drake Passage en route to Antarctica. "Both trips provided unique opportunities to visit areas of the world that are difficult to reach but also emblematic of climate change," he says.

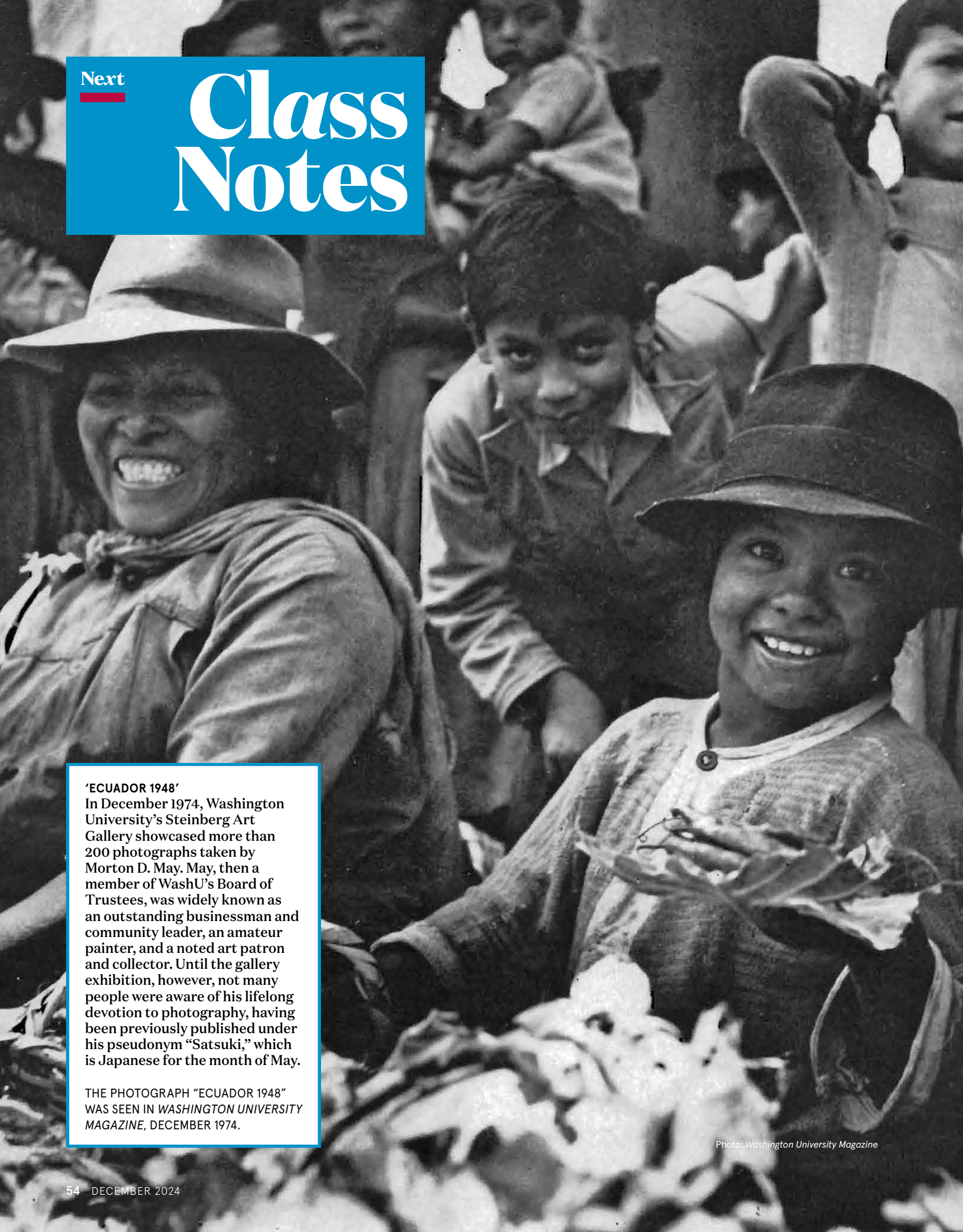
Fike takes pleasure in his interactions with alumni travelers, whom he describes as deeply curious, and he has kept in touch with several participants over the years. Although he occupies the role of expert, Fike is an eager tourist as well. "Personally, I get a lot out of these trips," he says. "I get to satisfy the geoscientist in me and learn more about the history and culture of different places."

■ EMMA DENT, AB '09

Top left: David Fike (standing third from left), experiences Alaska's immense glaciers up close. Center: Howard and Jamie Demsky soak up the beauty of Bergen, Norway. Bottom center: Richard Galen cruises the Baltic Sea at sunset.

Next

Class Notes



'ECUADOR 1948'
In December 1974, Washington University's Steinberg Art Gallery showcased more than 200 photographs taken by Morton D. May. May, then a member of WashU's Board of Trustees, was widely known as an outstanding businessman and community leader, an amateur painter, and a noted art patron and collector. Until the gallery exhibition, however, not many people were aware of his lifelong devotion to photography, having been previously published under his pseudonym "Satsuki," which is Japanese for the month of May.

THE PHOTOGRAPH "ECUADOR 1948" WAS SEEN IN *WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE*, DECEMBER 1974.

Photo: *Washington University Magazine*

What's *New*?

Let us know about recent honors, promotions, appointments, travels, marriages and births, so we can keep your classmates informed of important changes in your lives.

SEND NEWS:
Class Notes, *Washington Magazine*
Washington University in St. Louis
MSC 1070-0390-02
1 Brookings Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899

EMAIL:
wustlmagclassnotes@wustl.edu

Entries may take up to three issues after submission to appear in the magazine; they are published in the order in which they are received.

1967

Gary Arlen, AB '67, was elected to the board of directors of the National Capital Radio and Television Museum in Washington, D.C. The museum, which collects, preserves and interprets artifacts, programs and publications about the history of electronic media, is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Arlen, who is also a docent at the museum, had a long career as a Washington editor and analyst who chronicled and advised on the development of cable TV, satellite and other media breakthroughs. Arlen was editor of *Student Life* at WashU.

The Landmarks Association of St. Louis presented **Robert W. Duffy,** AB '67, with the H. Meade Summers Jr. Award for his contributions, through journalism, to the cause of historic preservation in the St. Louis region. Duffy is a 40-plus-year veteran of reporting and editing in St. Louis, working for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, the *St. Louis Beacon* (which he helped to found) and St. Louis Public Radio. He covered the visual arts, music, architecture and urban design, and he spent many hours in Bixby, Steinberg and Givens halls.

1968

Dennis Bolazina, AB '68, MArch '70, wrote *Desire* (Independently published, May 2024). The book centers on character Sal Rossi, who is visiting New Orleans on business. To escape boredom, he takes a ride on the city's famous streetcars, where he has a chance encounter with a woman of mystery and pursues her. When he learns about her family's criminal history, he is faced with a hard choice. Does he love her enough to align himself with her family, or will he leave her? Bolazina is an architect and attorney living in St. Louis.

1971

Susan Engel-Saag, BFA '71, and **Gary Nichols,** BFA '71, had a wonderful reunion in Switzerland in September. They enjoyed a successful truffle hunt — joined by Susan's dogs, Coco and Cannelle — which was a "fun and memorable adventure."

Edward R. Ford, AB '71, MArch '72, was elevated to the College of Fellows by the American Institute of Architects, the highest honor bestowed by the organization. AIA Fellows are recognized for achieving a standard of excellence in the profession and making a significant contribution to architecture and society on a national level.

Allen Saxon, AB '71, penned *The Climber of Pointe du Hoc* (Christmas Lake Press, April 2024) to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day and the lives lost in Normandy. Despite the novel's title, the actual assault of Pointe du Hoc is only a small part of the story. The book is an exploration of three characters whose lives highlight the role of the 2nd Ranger Battalion's assault on a key objective in the Normandy invasion, the role of British nursing and racism in the U.S. military of that era.

1973

Lawrence J. Altman, BS '73, received the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Ambassador Award for 2024 from Avila University in Kansas City, Missouri. Altman is an adjunct professor at Avila and says he was honored to receive the award. Altman's wife, **Gail,** BS '73, is also a graduate of WashU, and their oldest son works at Siteman Cancer Center.

Mary Pier, MA '73, finished writing a biography on William Torrey Harris and is searching for a publisher. The book follows Harris' education beyond college as he became an educational leader. It relates the events of his life from 1854, when he left Yale in his junior year, until his death in 1909. A retired English teacher, Pier taught in middle and high schools in Ohio, Indiana, New York and Missouri. She also taught in community colleges in North Carolina and Missouri.

1974

W. Frederick Wooden, AB '74, completed 42 years as a Unitarian Universalist Minister in 2022. From seminary training in Chicago, Wooden's ministry took him from rural Massachusetts to Austin, Texas; Brooklyn, New York; Grand Rapids, Michigan; and finally Phoenix, Arizona. Since retiring, he has self-published three books and kept a blog on Patheos.com, which reflects his spiritual practice of pilgrimage. He loves being the parent of two adult children and the grandparent of one.

1978

Patrick B. Mathis, MBA '78, JD '78, LLM '79, founding shareholder at Mathis, Marifian & Richter, Ltd., was recently honored as the recipient of the Outstanding Achievement in Estate Planning Award, presented by the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education. The award recognizes the distinguished contributions and achievements of an Illinois attorney who embodies professionalism, innovation and commitment within estate planning.

Joel Mitnick, AB '78, opened his own antitrust law boutique, the Law Offices of Joel M Mitnick. He counsels clients about the antitrust clearance process of certain mergers and acquisitions and represents clients in lawsuits involving antitrust/competition law. Previously, Mitnick headed the transactional antitrust practice at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft. Mitnick's daughter, Annie, graduated from WashU Arts & Sciences with a major in film and media studies in May.

1979

Danny O. Jacobs, MD '79, was elected to the American Philosophical Society (APS) in 2024. Election to the society honors extraordinary accomplishments in all fields. The APS is unusual among learned societies because its membership is composed of top scholars from a wide variety of academic disciplines. Jacobs is professor of surgery at Oregon Health and Science University.

1980

Ripley A. Rasmus, MArch '80, was elevated to the College of Fellows by the American Institute of Architects, the highest honor bestowed by the organization. AIA Fellows are recognized for achieving a standard of excellence in the profession and making a significant contribution to architecture and society on a national level.

1981

Peter A. Lichtenberg, AB '81, received the 2024 Donald P. Kent Award from the Gerontological Society of America, one of the highest honors from the society. The award is for exemplifying exceptional standards of professional leadership in gerontology through teaching, service and interpretation of gerontology to the larger society. Lichtenberg is Distinguished Service Professor of Psychology at Wayne State University and the director of its Institute of Gerontology.

Eugenio Hernández Rodríguez, PhD '81, has been awarded a 2024 Royal Spanish Mathematical Society medal for his "longstanding relevant and continued

contributions in a variety of mathematical areas, including education, research, conveyance, and outreach." The award commends his 42 years of academic service to the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. In addition to his scholarship in the field of wavelets and education, he has held numerous administrative positions, including vice chancellor. Special recognition was given to his participation and leadership in ESTALMAT, a program designed to identify and nurture mathematical talent among adolescents.

1982

Debbie Swanson, BSOT '82, retired after 42 years as a pediatric occupational therapist. Swanson and Craig Shank moved to Denver in May where they hope to enjoy the mountain air, travel and new adventures.

Amy Usdin, BFA '82, was a winner of one of the 2024 Stone & DeGuire Contemporary Art Awards. The awards are open to BFA and MFA alumni of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at WashU working in sculpture, painting, printmaking, photography and/or time-based media. Each winner, chosen by a faculty and alumni jury, receives $25,000 to advance their artistic practice.

1983

J. Leora Mirvish, AB '83, was elevated to the College of Fellows by the American Institute of Architects, the highest honor bestowed by the organization. AIA Fellows are recognized for achieving a standard of excellence in the profession and making a significant contribution to architecture and society on a national level.

1984

Leonard Chanin, JD '84, accepted a position as chief counsel to the president of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS), a Washington, D.C.–based organization that provides support and guidance to state bank commissioners throughout the country. Chanin will coordinate strategic priorities and special projects and provide strategic counsel on all components of the CSBS mission. Previously, Chanin was deputy general counsel and senior vice president at Discover Financial Services.

1985

Paula Loomis, MArch '85, MS '85, with The Urban Collaborative, and **Matthew Freeby,** AB '82, MArch '84, MS '84, with Water Technology, Inc., collaborated to complete a Customer Concept Document (CCD) for the Naval Facilities Command–Atlantic. The facility — intended to train divers in advanced underwater training demands, such as those needed after the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse — will feature a 55-foot-deep training pool with a ship's half hull to simulate multiple training situations. The project was published in *The Military Engineer* magazine and received a Society of Military Engineers Design Award.

1986

Alexander "Alex" S. Douglas II, AB '86, a partner with the law firm of Shuffield Lowman, has been selected for inclusion in 2024 Florida Super Lawyers. Douglas is a founding partner of the firm, which practices in the areas of corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, estate planning, high net worth planning and tax law, among others.

1987

Irene M. Nigaglioni, AB '87, MArch '90, was elevated to the College of Fellows by the American Institute of Architects, the highest honor bestowed by the organization. AIA Fellows are recognized for achieving a standard of excellence in the profession and making a significant contribution to architecture and society on a national level.

1988

Marc Jedel, BS '88, wrote *Pride and Principal*, his 10th humorous murder mystery (BGM Press, April 2024). The book — the sixth in his Silicon Valley series — is about a fashion-backward, bumbling software engineer, reluctantly turned amateur sleuth, who is armed only with the powers of self-delusion, the complete inability to leave a coherent voicemail message, and good attention to detail. Jedel also has published an *Ozarks Lake Mystery* series and a *Redwoods Country Mystery* series. Under the pen-name Marc Wayne, he published a sci-fi thriller called *Quantum Reaction*.

1992

Zachary Hemmelgarn, AB '92, is director of design and projects for Cipriani. Previously, he worked for 20 years with the designer Thierry Despont in Tribeca, New York. There he was project architect for the renovation of the Hotel Ritz in Paris, along with other prominent commissions. Hemmelgarn has one son who is a junior at Skidmore College in New York.

Eric Schnall's debut novel, *I Make Envy on Your Disco* (Zero Street/UNP, May 2024), has won the 2024 Barbara DiBernard Prize in Fiction. Schnall, AB '92, is also a theatrical producer who won the Tony Award for the Broadway revival of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* and the Lucille Lortel Award for *Fleabag*. (For more on Schnall, see the 2017 *Washington Magazine* article "Part of the Broadway Landscape": https://source.washu.edu/2017/02/part-broadway-landscape/.)

1994

Shelli Altopp-Miller, MSW '94, penned *Where Your Treasure Lies* (Westbow Press, June 2024), a novel set in rural Eastern Kentucky where Altopp-Miller and husband **Phil Miller,** MSW '94, lived after graduating from WashU. The story centers around a young single mother, Candy Ratledge, who works for a home-health agency; an elderly homebound patient, Mr. Solomon, who has a storied past; and Dean, an outsider from Lexington, who is pursuing a relationship with Candy. The story explores themes of cultural norms and identity, betrayal, regional history, family conflict, faith, addiction, forgiveness and what one truly needs to be content. Shelli is a behavioral health therapist, and Phil is a college professor and in private practice. They live in the Finger Lakes region of New York.

Stacy L. Leeds, AB '94, was elected to the American Philosophical Society (APS) in 2024. Election to the American Philosophical Society honors extraordinary accomplishments in all fields. The APS is unusual among learned societies because its membership is composed of top scholars from a wide variety of academic disciplines. Leeds is dean of Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. (For more on Leeds, see the 2023 *Washington Magazine* article "Empowering next-generation Indigenous leaders": https://source.washu.edu/2023/08/empowering-next-generation-indigenous-leaders/.)

1996

Hunvey Chen, AB '96, who recently celebrated her 18th year at HOK, was promoted to senior principal. Based in Los Angeles, Chen is the regional leader of health care, and her current work includes UCLA Neuropsychiatric Replacement Hospital, City of Hope Orange County Hospital, and VA Long Beach Inpatient and Outpatient Mental Health projects. She continues to be an avid Los Angeles Kings fan and rec league hockey player, most recently skating with the University of Southern California Women's Ice Hockey team.

1997

Arthur Kwok, JD '97, joined Houston-based Catalyze in April as their executive vice president, structured finance. Founded in 2017, Catalyze is on a mission to accelerate the large-scale transition to clean, renewable energy by making it easy and profitable to integrate smart energy resources into new and existing infrastructure. Backed by private equity firms EnCap and Actis, the company has been in Houston for five years, after spending more than 20 years in New York. Kwok, who sits on Catalyze's management team and leads capital raising, was previously at Sunnova Energy.

1998

Gessica Silverman, AB '98, an abstract painter, was awarded a prestigious Traveling Fellowship by the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts for her artwork. Silverman will travel to Granada, Seville and Cordoba in southern Spain to tour such sites as Alcazar Palace, Casa de Pilatos and Alhambra. Silverman seeks to observe how Jews, Christians and Muslims used art, architecture, textiles and ceramics to express their coexisting beliefs. See her work at: www.gessicasilverman.com and on Instagram: GessicaSilverman.

2000

Michael J. Gallo, BSBA '00, graduated from Wharton's MBA program for executives last year in San Francisco, where he also took weeklong courses focused on sustainability in the United Kingdom, Thailand and India. Gallo recently became the director of business development for Renewable Properties, working on partnerships and mergers and acquisitions. The company is focused on building and operating small-scale utility and community solar, EV-charging and battery storage projects throughout the United States.

2001

John O. Brandon, MFAW '01, penned a new novel, *Penalties of June* (McSweeney's, December 2024). The book centers on a young man who's just finished a prison sentence he both did and didn't deserve and is looking to start a new life. But will he be able to shake his shady past? Brandon also wrote *Arkansas*, which was adapted into a film starring Vince Vaughn, Liam Hemsworth and John Malkovich; *Citrus County*; *A Million Heavens*; *Further Joy*; and *Ivory Shoals*. He has been awarded the Grisham Fellowship at Ole Miss, and his short fiction has appeared in *ESPN the Magazine* and the *Oxford American,* among others.

Cody Carpino, BS '01, is currently serving as the president of American Institute of Architects (AIA) Central Valley, which covers 17 counties in Northern California. He works for Brailsford & Dunlavey, an owner's rep company providing advisory and implementation services primarily to educational facilities including K-12, community colleges and universities. Carpino was recently promoted to the position of director and currently manages local school bond measures in California.

Angela Levy, AB '01, is a federal criminal defense attorney representing indigent defendants. A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, she is currently writing a book about her experiences as a trial advocate and the much-needed reform in the criminal justice system.

Martin Padilla, MArch '01, joined the ownership group of Trivers, a St. Louis–based architecture, planning, urban design and interiors firm. Padilla was a project designer at Trivers early in his career and returned there in 2017 as a senior project architect and associate. He is currently a licensing adviser for the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards and a member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis. From 2011 to 2022, Padilla served as the assistant director for career services in architecture at WashU's Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts.

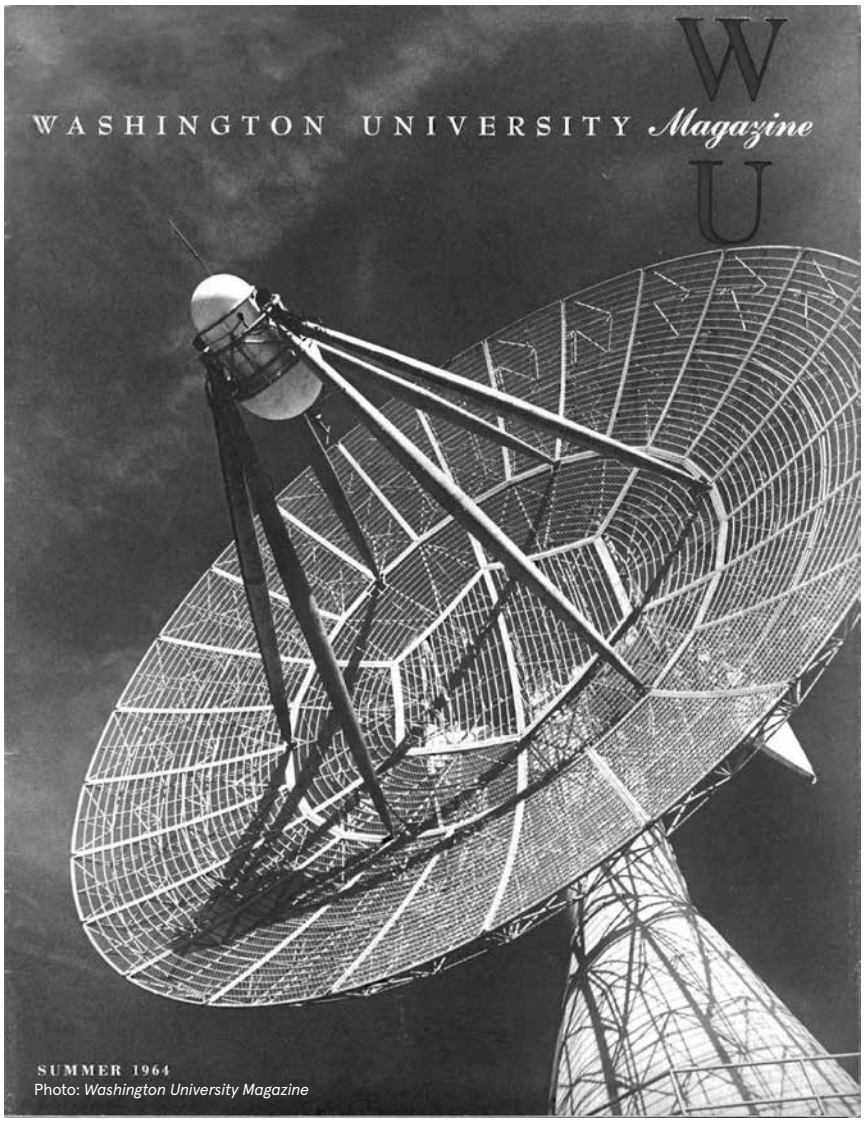


Photo: *Washington University Magazine*

AIM FOR THE STARS

As the "Bridges to the Moon" article revealed (pp. 36–41), WashU and lunar exploration go way back. Another alum, the late John Yardley, MS '50, served as the technical director of the Gemini Program for McDonnell Aircraft Corp. and the first Gemini space craft. In this role, he directed the work of some 3,200 McDonnell employees in the project designed to launch a series of two-man Gemini space craft as the next giant step toward a manned landing on the Moon. On the cover of the summer 1964 issue, *Washington University Magazine* featured a photo of the 60-foot radio antenna that tracked the first Gemini space craft that launched from Cape Kennedy. The issue included two features: "Space Engineer," on Yardley, and Sir Bernard Lovell's "Race to the Moon."

2003

David Busby, MBA '03, is a senior credit officer at Midland States Bank.

Edward Carr, MBA '03, wrote and self-published *Time of Departure: A Time Travel Story* (June 2024). In the book, Carr asks: What would happen if a modern jumbo jet and its passengers and crew mysteriously landed at the St. Louis airport in the days of propeller planes? How would the

passengers adapt to a society they've only known as history? What can the crew do to return to their own time without modern tools? Carr has taught at St. Louis and Maryville universities and currently writes for an aviation news and media group in Washington, D.C.

Bill O'Neil, JD '03, was named managing partner at Winston & Strawn's Chicago office. He concentrates his practice on trial work and as a strategic adviser to some of the nation's largest corporations and private equity funds.

2004

Ryan Nieuwendaal, AM '04, PhD '08, recently celebrated his 15th year of service at the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Materials Science and Engineering Division. Nieuwendaal started as an NRC-NIST postdoc after graduating from WashU and has been employed at NIST ever since. In May 2025, he will serve as chair of the Practical Applications of NMR in Industry Conference at the University of Maryland.

2005

Shelley Ann Edson Cobb, BFA '05, has run her own tutoring business in San Diego county since 2014. She tutors students from elementary through college with an emphasis on Spanish and mathematics, while focusing on life skills such as organizational strategies and self-advocacy. She supports students who attend a variety of schools from public to home school.

2007

Damara Hamlin-Vaughn, AB '07, and her husband, Christopher, welcomed their son, Jediah Ryan Vaughn, into the world on March 1. They cannot wait to show him around WashU!

Travis Hartman, MBA '07, took command of the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS) from Lt. Col. Aaron Kia during an in-flight change of command ceremony at Naval Air Station Patuxent River on June 27. The exchange took place with Hartman flying an F/A-18 Super Hornet and Kia in a C-12 Huron. Hartman, who is the 52nd headmaster for the school, assumes command after serving as USNTPS executive officer for the past two years. He is a 2005 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy.

2008

Sunit Anandwala, AB '08, and his wife, Katelyn, welcomed their first child, Edmund ("Eddie") Timothy Anandwala, on Jan. 11. Edmund is named after Sir Edmund Hillary, the New Zealand mountaineer and explorer credited for being one of the first climbers to summit Mt. Everest. Anandwala and his family reside in Seattle.

2010

Paul Kalish, BS '10, an attorney, was elevated to partner at Fox Rothschild in the intellectual property department. Kalish focuses his practice on patent litigation.

Jimmy Kerrigan, MD '10, earned two professional awards. He was selected for the 2024 Cardiovascular Research Technologies (CRT) Early Career Leadership Program, an award that is for "academic excellence in physicians practicing interventional cardiology and endovascular medicine." In addition, he received the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions (SCAI) "30 in Their 30s" award, which "recognizes the excellence of … members for their outstanding leadership and demonstration of SCAI's core values." Kerrigan is an interventional cardiologist with Ascension Saint Thomas in Nashville, Tennessee, and is an assistant professor of Medicine with the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center.

Elia Powers, MA '10, wrote his first book, *Performing the News: Identity, Authority, and the Myth of Neutrality* (Rutgers University Press, September 2024). The book explores how journalists from historically marginalized groups have long felt pressure to conform when performing for audiences and are increasingly challenging restrictive, supposedly neutral forms of self-presentation. Through in-depth interviews, Powers suggests ways to make journalism more inclusive and representative of diverse audiences.

2011

Tiffany R. Ellis, JD '11, LLM '12, was recently sworn in as president of the Detroit Bar Association. Ellis is a partner at Peiffer Wolf and is a litigator specializing in corporate greed and institutional negligence. She has spent more than a decade representing government entities and individuals, including survivors of disgraced gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar. Ellis was instrumental in securing recovery from Michigan State University for those individuals.

Zachary Linneman, AB '11, is a resident physician at UMass Chan Medical School.

2012

Gina Marie (Gottlob) Fournie, BS '12, MA '17, married **Adam Michael Fournie,** MBA '18, at Graham Chapel on May 27, 2023, in front of their closest family and friends. Gina was also named executive director of the Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society on Jan. 1. The society is the professional membership association of osteopathic physicians practicing in Illinois. Its mission is to protect, advocate, maintain and support the philosophy of osteopathic medicine for the benefit of the profession and the patients it serves.

Marie Bannerot McInerney, MFA '12, was a winner of one of the 2024 Stone & DeGuire Contemporary Art Awards. The awards are open to BFA and MFA alumni of the Sam Fox School at WashU working in sculpture, painting, printmaking, photography and/or time-based media. Winners, chosen by a faculty and alumni jury, each receive $25,000 to advance their artistic practice.

2013

Lavar Munroe, MFA '13, was a winner of one of the 2024 Stone & DeGuire Contemporary Art Awards. The awards are open to BFA and MFA alumni of the Sam Fox School at WashU working in sculpture, painting, printmaking, photography and/or time-based media. Winners, chosen by a faculty and alumni jury, each receive $25,000 to advance their artistic practice. For more on Munroe, see "Conversing with canvas and paint": https://source.washu.edu/2024/04/conversing-with-canvas-and-paint/.

2014

Max LaVictoire, BSBA '14, joined Landmark Properties as managing director of investor relations. He is responsible for developing and managing relationships with Landmark's current and prospective investors. He also oversees the development of new investment vehicles to support Landmark's investment strategies and growing equity capital needs.

Maya Matheis, MSW '14, created a free online mental health toolkit to help people after the 2023 wildfires in Maui. The toolkit, which was downloadable just two months after the fires, includes trauma-informed workbooks and resource cards with clear language and visual aids, with versions tailored for children and adults, ensuring accessibility for all affected. The project was backed and funded by the Hawaii Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Division.

Joe Sutherland, AB '14, has been named the inaugural director of the Emory Center for AI Learning, which will promote artificial intelligence (AI) literacy and community across Emory University.

2015

Tyler Darwin, BS '15, MS '21, is a mechanical engineer with Kodak Alaris.

2016

Paul K. Manda, LLM '16, JD '16, was promoted to shareholder at Winthrop & Weinstine. Manda represents developers, investors and lenders in utilizing low-income housing tax credits to finance affordable housing developments and help promote community development in under-resourced areas.

2017

Andrew Glantz, BSBA '17, and his GiftAMeal program reached the milestone of 2 million

meals donated in July of this year. The innovative cause-marketing program has restaurant guests scan a QR code and snap a photo of their food at participating restaurants. GiftAMeal then makes a restaurant-funded donation to a local food bank to help provide a meal to a family in need. GiftAMeal, which began at WashU as a student startup in 2015, has expanded to 38 states at over 900 restaurant locations.

2018

Emily Duggins Ehling, AB '18, MFA '24, has joined the Department of Theatre at the University of Missouri, where she is teaching, choreographing and developing a dance curriculum.

Victoria Rabuse, AB '18, married Michael Smyla on Oct. 14, 2023, in St. Paul, Minnesota, with numerous beloved WashU classmates in attendance. The couple resides in Chicago, where Rabuse works for Kohler Energy on the corporate communications team.

2020

Christina Lindberg, AB '20, earned a DMD from the University of Illinois Chicago College of Dentistry and relocated to the St. Louis area to attend a general practice residency at Mercy Hospital.

Moksh Singh, MBA '20, briefly worked at a few smaller organizations before joining New York–based Synacor as a technical product manager in 2021, where he continues in that role.

2021

Mingqian Li, JD '21, is an associate attorney at Morrison & Foerster LLP and lives in San Francisco.

2023

Suhul Kebede, BS '23, was featured in the May 2024 issue of *Vogue*, along with his mom, Liya, and sister, Raee. Liya has been a fashion model for decades. The family was modeling spring fashions for the shoot. Suhul works in data analysis near Philadelphia.

Balakrishna Menon Sreedharapanicker, MBA '23, is pursuing a master's degree in data center systems engineering at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. She is looking for opportunities in the data center industry.

2024

Caroline Gonsalves Bertho, MFA '24, has joined the faculty at Valdosta State University in Georgia, teaching in its dance department and developing a hip-hop curriculum.

Ellen Wakisa Nyasulu Chiwoni, MPH '24, is a community referral coordinator at St. Louis Integrated Health Network.

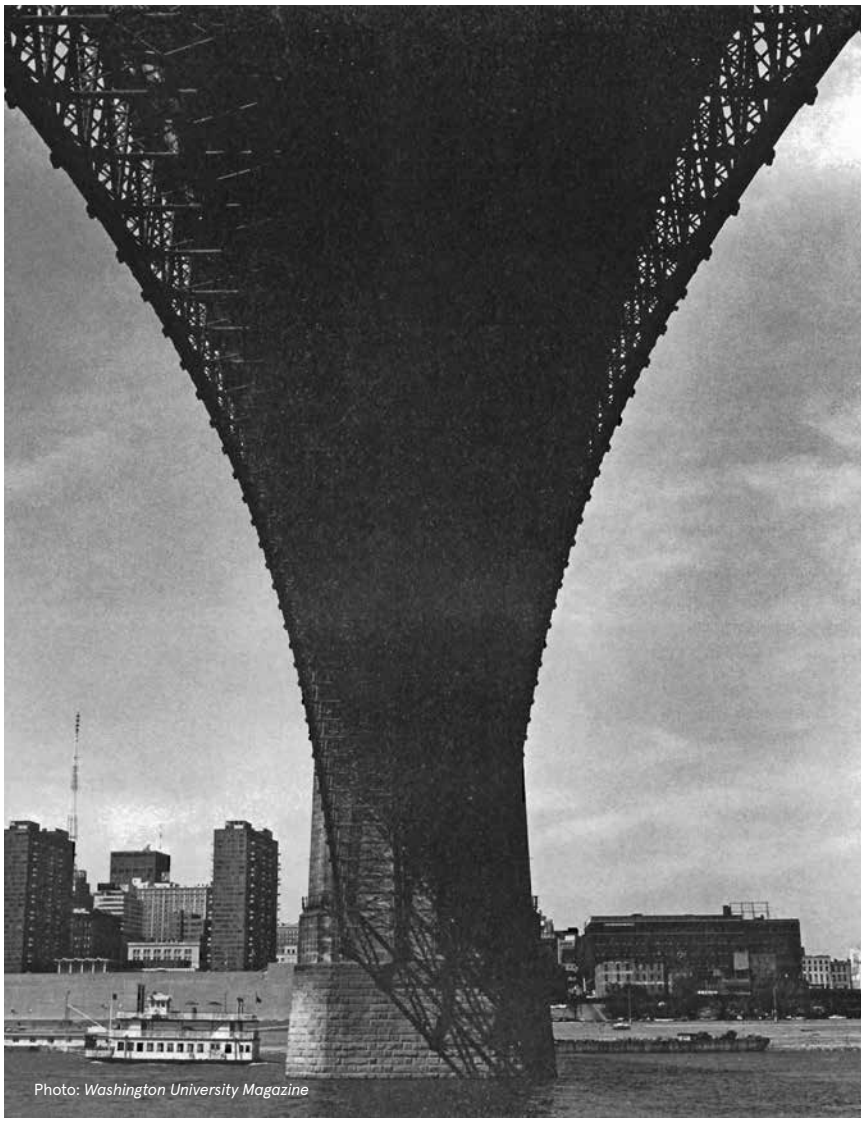


Photo: *Washington University Magazine*

ENDURING CONNECTIONS

The Eads Bridge was dedicated 150 years ago this past summer. Conceived by James Buchanan Eads, the Eads Bridge was the first to span the Mississippi at St. Louis. While the inspiration for this engineering marvel came from Eads and many of its innovations were his ideas, he relied on a Washington University engineering professor, William Chauvenet, to work out the mathematics and structural theory involved in the bridge's construction. Chauvenet, one of the founders of the National Academy of Sciences, came to the university in 1859 and would serve as chancellor from 1862 to 1869. WashU's Eads Hall was the gift of Mrs. James Finney How, daughter of James Eads, and at one time, it housed the physics department.

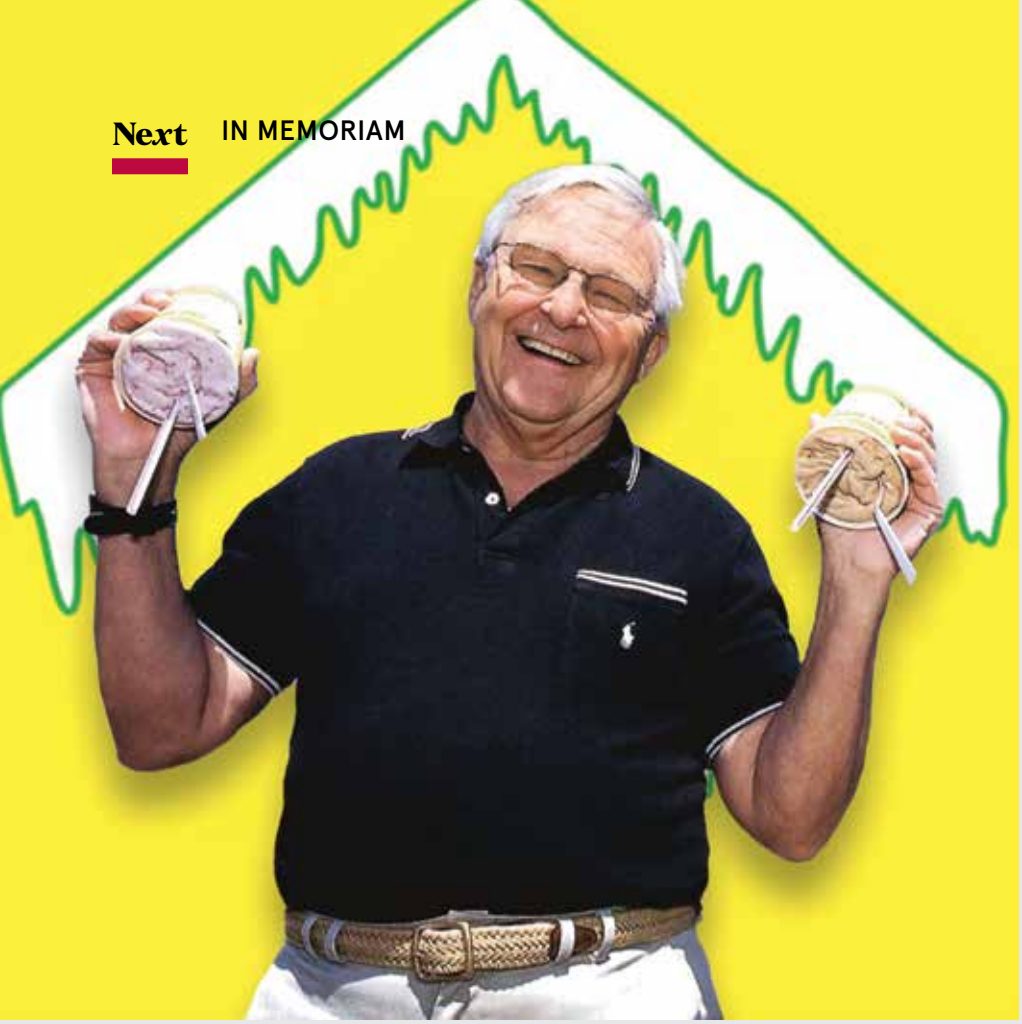
AS SEEN IN *WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE*, FALL 1974

Masoomeh Faghankhani, MPH '24, started this fall as a doctoral student in the Department of Community and Behavioral Health at Colorado School of Public Health.

Charis Riebe, AB '24, was selected to study and work in Germany as part of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) for Young Professionals program. Riebe was among the 74 Americans selected from 500 applicants. CBYX is a bilateral exchange program of the U.S. Congress and German Bundestag (Parliament). While in Germany, Riebe is to attend a two-month intensive language course, study at a German university and complete an internship in the field of international law.

Hiroyuki Shinju, LLM '24, graduated from WashU in May. He also holds a bachelor's degree in law from Waseda University.

Shawn Yates, AB '24, is a research technician at WashU.



Longtime benefactor Ted Drewes Jr., AB ’50, died Aug. 26, leaving behind a sweet legacy for generations of WashU students.

Theodore (Ted) Drewes Jr., AB ’50, the proprietor of St. Louis frozen custard stands that drew national acclaim, died Aug. 26. He was 96.

A longtime benefactor of WashU, Drewes was a member of the Eliot Society and a recipient of the Arts & Sciences Alumni Achievement Award in 2000. He majored in economics at WashU but told *Washington Magazine* in a feature story in 1999 that there was nothing like learning on the job. “If you spend money for a quality product, you’ll make money,” he said.

He was known for his easy charm and folksy manner. After the death of his father, who started the family business in 1929, Drewes took over the operation in 1968 of two walk-up frozen custard stands and made many innovations, among them originating the concept of serving the frozen “concretes” upside down. He also began selling Christmas trees from mid-November through the holidays, creating yet another tradition for many St. Louis families.

Drewes navigated the company for decades through evolving consumer tastes and an onslaught of competition from chain ice cream and fast-food franchises. Despite the challenges, the business sold roughly 150,000 gallons of custard per year for decades, an obituary in *The New York Times* wrote. The treats gained a national following, becoming, as the *Times* wrote, “a St. Louis institution on the order of the Cardinals and the Gateway Arch.” Drewes put a premium on customer service and treated his employees well, offering college tuition assistance above their wages for those who worked at least 1,000 hours per year.

Drewes’ ties to WashU went beyond his degree and his philanthropy. In 1996, he created the “Mocha Mark” concrete in honor of the inauguration of Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. Numerous outings for students still end up at one of the locations, and the frozen custard treats are a staple at many campus events, from Convocation to staff day to the post-Commencement picnic that winds through campus each year offering iconic St. Louis foods.

“Few people have played as big and sweet a role in shaping the identity of St. Louis as Ted Drewes Jr.,” St. Louis Mayor Tishaura O. Jones told the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Anjali Maruti Bhorade, MD, MS ’09, associate professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences at WashU Medicine, died June 12 from metastatic breast cancer. She was 51.

Bhorade specialized in caring for patients with glaucoma, a group of eye diseases that affect the nerve in the back of the eye and can cause vision loss and blindness. Her research, supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), was focused on the impact of visual field loss on driving in glaucoma patients and the potential for improvements in home lighting on visual function. She was involved in clinical research projects, including a study on how cataract removal affects eye pressure. She also was part of a multicenter clinical research network focused on diabetic retinopathy.

For her commitment to advancing the field of ophthalmology through research and clinical care, she received numerous accolades, including from the American Glaucoma Society and the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Bhorade was a devoted educator who served as director of WashU’s one-year glaucoma fellowship. She earned her bachelor’s degree in biology from Cornell University and her medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago, where she also completed her residency training in ophthalmology. She then completed a fellowship in glaucoma at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami. Bhorade joined the WashU faculty in 2004.

Elizabeth “Liz” Colletta, a WashU employee for 31 years, died April 15 at age 55 in an incident of domestic gun violence. She was co-manager of Sponsored Projects Accounting, a little-known but essential department charged with managing nearly $1 billion in university awards, grants and contracts from the government, foundations and private entities. Colletta was great with both numbers and people. She understood the complex financial reporting practices, government rules and university policies that govern research agreements, her coworkers said, and could patiently and tactfully explain to researchers the ins and outs of their grants.

Colletta came to WashU in 1993 as a cashier and worked in Student Financial Services before joining Sponsored Projects Accounting in 1998. “She really valued her piece of the process of serving the greater good,” says Lindsay Danner, sponsored projects accounting manager. “She was so interested in the work these grants funded and always so excited when there was an awesome new discovery. Liz would say, ‘I’m a part of curing cancer.’ And she was. She made this work possible.”

Leah Rae Vandiver Czerniewski, a doctoral student in the Department of Biomedical Engineering in the McKelvey School of Engineering, died June 11 after a long illness. She was 34.

Czerniewski worked in the lab of Jin-Moo Lee, MD, PhD, the Andrew B. & Gretchen P. Jones Professor in Neurology and head of neurology at WashU Medicine. Czerniewski studied the cellular basis of Alzheimer’s disease and neurodegeneration and was an expert in super-resolution light microscopy, fluorescence and cell culture. Czerniewski earned a bachelor’s degree in biomedical engineering from Saint Louis University and was preparing to submit and defend her dissertation at the time of her death. She is survived by her husband, Aaron Czerniewski, and a daughter, Lucy.

Ellen June Harter, BS ’67, died Aug. 17 at age 98.

In the mid-1960s and in her late 30s, Harter began working toward a degree in education in what’s now known as the School of Continuing & Professional Studies, all while married, managing a home and raising four children. At the time she earned her

degree at age 41, she was believed to be the oldest member of her graduating class. She went on to earn a master's degree in 1974 from Webster University in language and teaching. During this time, she also cared for hundreds of students as an elementary school teacher in the Kirkwood R-VII School District. She retired in 1986 after more than 25 years of service.

Harter loved music, and she and her husband, Warren, sang in their church choir for many years. Having learned to play the clarinet in fourth grade, she continued to play as an adult and performed with the Kirkwood AIM Community Band into her 80s. She is survived by her four children, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Robert "Bob" Hartzell, an artist and longtime employee of WashU in a variety of roles, died suddenly July 6. He was 62.

Hartzell studied printmaking at Northeast Missouri State University (now Truman State) but moved to Chicago before graduating. There, he became lighting director for Lounge Ax, the influential rock club, and created hand-screened gig posters beginning with Screwball Press for Son Volt, The Pogues, Wilco and other prominent bands. He later earned a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and an MFA from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Relocating to St. Louis, he exhibited at Subterranean Books and at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation, among others. He joined the WashU staff in 2018, working as an assistant at the Institute for School Partnership warehouse. He later worked in employee heath, COVID-19 operations and parking operations.

Megan Madaras, MD, BS '04, MS '04, of Richmond, Virginia, died suddenly, May 25, of a stroke. She was 43.

After earning both undergraduate and graduate degrees in biomedical engineering from the McKelvey School of Engineering, she earned an MD from the University of Virginia. Madaras dedicated her life to fighting for her patients, improving health care, and making the world better through her passions and talents. She initially focused her medical career on clinical care and teaching as an academic hospitalist in Richmond, earning the Best Teacher in General Medicine Clerkship award from Virginia Commonwealth University Health Care System in 2015. She was later recruited as associate chief of the Clinical Command Center, where she applied her creativity and compassion to improve health-care systems. The COVID pandemic was a difficult time for Madaras, as it was for all health-care providers, but she never wavered in the face of the pandemic and worked tirelessly to save lives. In her free time, Madaras served as a volunteer medical director for the Free Clinic in Charlottesville for over 13 years.

Bill D. Smith, BS '72, longtime employee and former associate vice chancellor, died Aug. 27. He was 80. Smith worked at WashU for nearly 40 years before retiring in 2006 as associate vice chancellor of computing and information systems. During this time, he was responsible for managing the implementation of systems including an admissions system, where he worked alongside his daughter, Kim Selle, who recently retired from WashU. A 1972 graduate in data processing, Smith was well known at the university. His support extended to the women's volleyball team, where his grandson Greg Selle serves as an assistant coach.

Richard J. Walter, professor emeritus and former chair of the Department of History in Arts & Sciences, died Aug. 11. He was 85.

A specialist in Latin American history and politics, Walter was born in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, and raised in Falls Church, Virginia. He earned a bachelor's degree from Duke University in 1961, followed by master's and doctoral degrees in history from Stanford University in 1962 and 1966, respectively.

Walter joined the WashU faculty in 1965 and published his first scholarly monograph, "Student Politics in Argentina: The University Reform and Its Effects, 1918–1964," in 1968. He served as chair of history from 1977 until 1981, when he received a Fulbright grant to do field research in Argentina — work that would inform his book *The Province of Buenos Aires and Argentine Politics: 1912–1943* (1985).

Walter chaired the department again from 1982–87 and served as acting chair during the 1990–91 academic year. In addition to Argentina, he traveled extensively in Peru, at times serving — with Susana, his wife of nearly 40 years — as a translator for the Peruvian American Medical Society. After being named a professor emeritus in 2009, he published three novels set in Argentina — *Twisted Tango* (2012), *Evita's Revenge* (2016) and *The Fernández Case* (2020) — as well as *Redemption in Cajamarca* (2021), set in Peru. Walter is survived by Susana and three children, Francesca Van Horne, Monica Stefanic and Patrick Lane; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Patty Jo Watson, professor emerita in anthropology in Arts & Sciences and a founding member of the Department of Anthropology, died Aug. 1 in Arlington, Massachusetts. She was 92.

Watson was one of the world's leading experts on cave archaeology and agricultural origins. She was a pioneer in ethnoarchaeology — the branch of archaeology that studies contemporary societies to aid the understanding of archaeological remains left by ancient peoples. At WashU, Watson developed the archaeology laboratory in McMillan Hall.

She worked extensively to improve knowledge about the archaeology of the pre-Columbian southeastern United States. And she set new standards in the practice of archaeology, developing a technique and set of equipment for the flotation of archaeological materials that allowed samples to be processed more effectively and efficiently. Plant evidence collected in this way has revolutionized our understanding of the pattern and timing of plant domestication and of the origins of food production.

Watson began her career excavating prehistoric sites in Iraq, Iran and Turkey. She later shifted her primary focus to North America, where her research emphasized understanding prehistoric people who explored and mined portions of the world's longest cave system in Mammoth Cave National Park.

"It is hard to fully explain Pat's immense legacy," says T.R. Kidder, the Edward S. and

[Cont. on pg. 62]

Ardent philanthropist and community leader Ruth Levinsohn Siteman, BS '75.

Ruth Levinsohn Siteman, BS '75, a graduate and longtime benefactor, died peacefully at home in St. Louis surrounded by her family June 13. She was 92.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, she earned her bachelor's degree in sociology in 1975 and raised her four daughters to engage with the world in ways that would bring their lives meaning.

Along with her husband of 72 years, Alvin J. Siteman, Ruth was an ardent philanthropist and community leader. In 1999, the Sitemans made a gift of $35 million to name the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine, which today is a national leader in cancer treatment, research, prevention and education.

"Ruth was passionate that the center be focused on the patient experience and our providing hope to everyone who came to us for care," says Timothy J. Eberlein, MD, the Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Distinguished Professor at the School of Medicine and director of the Siteman Cancer Center. "It was of great importance to her that Siteman not only provide state-of-the-art care but also the most supportive care, treating patients as though they were members of our immediate family."

The Sitemans also established three professorships at WashU, in pediatrics and in oncology at the School of Medicine and in marketing at Olin Business School.

The recipient, with her husband, of the Jane and Whitney Harris St. Louis Community Service Award, Ruth was passionate about women's reproductive rights, early childhood education, civil rights and the arts. She served on the boards of The Scholarship Foundation, Reproductive Health Services and as a founding member of WashU's National Council of Arts & Sciences, among many other organizations. She was a highly respected docent at the Saint Louis Art Museum and was proud to serve on the 22nd Circuit Judicial Commission, where she interviewed candidates to help fill judicial vacancies on St. Louis city's circuit court. She also worked for many years as a counselor at Hope Clinic and Reproductive Health Services.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her daughters, Estelle (De Kaplan) Siteman, Nancy Siteman, Joanne Gordon and Suzanne Siteman; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Assistant Vice Chancellor Karen R. Daubert

Karen R. Daubert, assistant vice chancellor for administration and strategic partnerships, died Sept. 12 after a short battle with cancer. She was 63.

Daubert arrived at WashU 26 years ago as a part-time executive assistant to the vice chancellor for public affairs, having just earned her PhD in Germanic languages and literatures from Princeton University. She worked her way through various roles in Public Affairs and later University Marketing & Communications, succeeding in every job.

As leader of WashU's trademark licensing program, Daubert made sure every vendor — whether producing water bottles in the Philippines or sweatshirts in China — provided their workers a living wage and adhered to strict environmental standards. Daubert represented WashU at the Fair Labor Association (FLA) for most of its 25-year history, serving as a board member for 15 years. She chaired the FLA'S manufacturing committee and university advisory council and participated in factory inspections overseas to observe working conditions.

Rob Downey, of WashU Resource Management, worked closely with Daubert on procurement activity of university resources and vendors and said her influence rippled well beyond WashU. "Karen lived the values of the FLA," Downey says. "When working with our licensed suppliers, Karen insisted our suppliers were aligned with the values of the FLA, such as the protection of human rights and a commitment to sustainability."

"I know a lot of us in Karen's orbit would often ask ourselves, 'What would Karen do?' when faced with a tough situation," says Julie Hail Flory, MA '17, vice chancellor for marketing and communications. "That's because Karen was a great thinker who could cut through the clutter to find the right solution to any problem. She cared very deeply about this place and its people."

[Watson jump from pg. 61]
Tedi Macias Professor in the Department of Anthropology in Arts & Sciences. "As a woman in a largely male-dominated field, Pat broke gender barriers and inspired a generation of women to follow in her footsteps."

Watson grew up in rural Nebraska and Iowa. She earned master's and doctoral degrees in anthropology from the University of Chicago in 1956 and 1959, respectively. She joined the WashU faculty in 1969, twice served as chair of anthropology and retired in 2004.

Watson was an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Watson was preceded in death by her husband, Richard "Red" Watson, a professor emeritus of philosophy in Arts & Sciences. She is survived by her sister, Sharon Kay Dreyer; daughter, Anna M. Watson (Laurie L. Caldwell); and grandsons Riley K.S. and Liam M.S. Watson.

The following death notices were submitted from May 1, 2024–Aug. 31, 2024. Please contact Advancement Services at **WUADDataChange@wusm.wustl.edu** to report the death of an alumnus or alumna. Please submit full obituaries for consideration to **wustlmagclassnotes@wustl.edu**.

1940-1949

Bernard A. Bercu, MD '44; May '24
Ellen Marie Kern Lissant, AB '44, MS '66, PhD '68; Jan. '24
Dorothy May Van Houten, BArch '45; June '24
Ruth Young Hyman, BFA '47; May '24
Robert F. Kruh, AB '48, PhD '51; May '24
Kenton H. Knickmeyer, BS '48; May '24
Doris K. (Baur) Schroer, DN '48; June '24
Jane Lyle Diepeveen, BArch '49; June '24
Everett W. Kling, AB '49, DMD '54; July '24

1950-1959

Theodore R. Drewes Jr., AB '50; Aug. '24
Carolyn (Shankman) Glazer, BSBA '50; June '24
Joan S. (Spencer) Murphy, BFA '51; May '24
Lois (Levin) Goldberg, AB '52; July '24
Charles W. Hargrave, MA '52; July '24
Ronald C. Hertel, AB '52, MD '56, Res/Fel '63; July '24
Richard L. Rockefeller, AB '52; May '24
R. Rolla Spotts, AB '52; May '24
Raymond Lundquist, MSW '53; Aug. '24
Shirley R. (Rimbey) Schacher, BSN '53; June '24
Robert F. Wendt, BS '53; May '24
Frederick J. Wippich, MA '53; June '24
Dagmar E. McGill, BSSW '54; May '24
James A. Robinson, BSBA '54, MBA '56; April '24
Albert Henry Hamel, JD '55; May '24
Marlane (Miller) Morris, BSN '55; May '24
Jay R. Scott, BS '55; May '24
Philip Waldman, BSBA '55; Aug. '24
Dorothy Mae (Skelton) Watts, MA '55; June '24
Jo Ann (Browning) Davis, BSPT '56; May '24
Alonzo J. Fairbanks, PhD '56; July '24
Robert R. Belliveau, MD '57; July '24
Kenneth R. Smith Jr., MD '57, Res/Fel '63; May '24
Robert J. Mueller, BFA '58; May '24
Robert A. Ellis, BS '59, MS '68; June '24
Ronald L. Jensen, MBA '59, DBA '64; June '24
Lawrence A. Machtinger, BS '59, MA '63, PhD '65; May '24
Charles "Chuck" C. Norland, MD '59; July '24
Eugene K. Prentice, MHA '59; June '24
Verna A. (Burris) Rickman, BS '59; Aug. '24
Robert A. Stremmel, BS '59; May '24
Katherine (Wood) Vaughn, BS '59; May '24

1960-1969

Robert L. Underwood, MA '60; June '24
William H. Crandall, BSBA '61, JD '63; June '24
Robert H. Goebel, BS '61; May '24
Michael J. Kearnsey, BS '62; May '24
Mark E. Emerson, MBA '63; May '24
Kenneth E. Lange, BSBA '63, Cert '67; June '24
Richard A. Lessmann, MA '63; May '24
Harold "Skip" A. Schroer, AB '63, April '24
John F. Bigger, MD '64; July '24
Robert O. Dethloff, BSAS '64; May '24
Richard M. Goldberg, AB '64; May '24
William P. Gussner, MAED '64, PhD '74; June '24
Linnea (Oleksy) Atkins Kotz, BSOT '64; July '24
Carol (Bruce) Dunn, BS '65; May '24
Christopher L. Gianoulakis, BS '66, MA '69; Aug. '24
Sandra Jo (Karm) Counts, MD '67; June '24
Larry W. Dudley, BS '67; June '24
Ellen June Harter, BS '67; Aug. '24
Ralph H. Heimann, MBA '68; May '24
Henry S. Davis, BS '69; July '24
Neil W. Jones, MBA '69; May '24

1970-1979

Daniel N. O'Brien, DDS '71; July '24
Carl C. Polster, JD '71; June '24
Ganas K. Rakes, DBA '71; July '24
James F. Zeisler, BS '71; June '24
Bill D. Smith, BS '72; Aug. '24
William E. Scheffer, BS '74, Cert '72; June '24
Ruth L. Siteman, BS '75; June '24
Stanley Franklin Kummer, BS '76; May '24
Jeanne L. Sathre, JD '76; May '24
Sally Ginsberg Tannen, AB '76; April '24
Henry Henderson Bowens, MBA '77; May '24
Sandra (Savill) Carr, MA '77; June '24
Laurie D. Olin, MFA '77; May '24
Jeffrey John Petersack, BS '77; Aug. '24
Carol Marvel Foster, MD '78; June '24
Thomas Gene Newman, BS '78; May '24
Susan Bernstein, MSW '79; July '24
Robert Stephen Delorey, MDP '79; Aug. '24

1980-1989

Bertha Winingham Lue-Hing, PhD '82; May '24
Linda Kay (Miller) Ford, AM '84; Aug. '24

1990-1999

Amy Lynn Popp, MS '91; June '24
Barbara T. Chyi, BS '93; June '24
Patricia A. Trujillo, BSOT '93; June '24
Sondra Toby Albert, AB '94; May '24
Gladys Ruth Noreen, AM '96; May '24

2000-2009

Anjali Maruti Bhorade, MD, MS '09; June '24
Megan Madaras, MD, BS '04, MS '04; May '24

2020-2029

Yanfeng Wu, MISM '24; May '24

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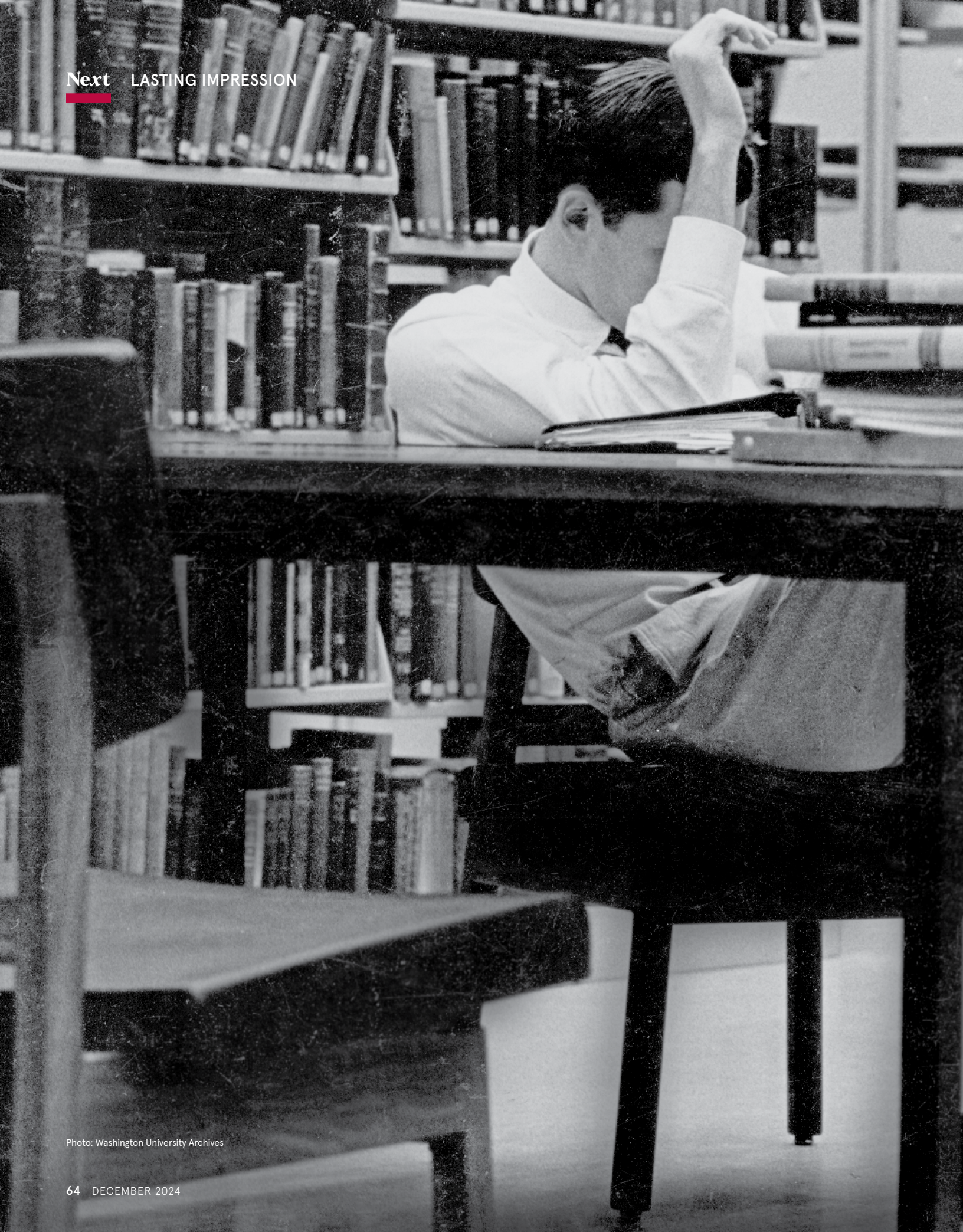

Photo: Washington University Archives

Hitting the books

Although library services have changed over the decades, one thing has remained constant: Students have always gravitated to John M. Olin Library. The central library of the WashU Libraries system remains a favorite place to kick back and read, reflect and study.

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Time to shine

The WashU Arboretum, home to some 6,500 trees across the Danforth Campus, recently received Level III accreditation by the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program. Level III arboreta must have at least 500 distinct species of trees; WashU has approximately 750, including 140 of the 150 species native to Missouri.