

Asia

extra

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Herbal Tea: Could It Prevent Cancer?

A blend of Chinese herbs shows great promise.

Could something as simple as a daily cup of Chinese herbal tea prevent lung cancer? The herbal mixture is not in grocery stores yet, but preliminary studies of a blend based on traditional Chinese remedies show great promise, and Ming You, professor of surgery, is pursuing the definitive answer. In an innovative collaboration, Washington University's School of Medicine, the Missouri Botanical Garden, and the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center—all in

the St. Louis area—will cultivate the plants, analyze their active ingredients, understand the mechanisms by which they work, and test the compound. You, head of the Chemoprevention Program at the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center, shared by the University and Barnes-Jewish Hospital, is principal investigator. Working with him are James S. Miller, curator and head of the garden's William L. Brown Center for Plant Genetic Resources, and Karel Schubert, the Danforth Center's vice

Postdoctoral fellow Ruisheng Yao (left) and Ming You, professor of surgery, examine a gene-expression profile from a mouse model treated with green tea.

by Betsy Rogers

president, technology management and science administration.

The botanical mixture, known as "Anti-Tumor B" (ATB) or Zeng Sheng Ping, combines six herbs—*Sophora tonkinensis*, *Polygonum bistorta*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Sonchus brachyotus*, *Dictamnus albus*, and *Dioscorea bulbifera*—all long used in Chinese healing arts.

In the 1960s and '70s, Chinese scientist Lin Pei Zhong began a systematic

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Studying International Business: It's a Trip!

by Nancy Belt

In elementary school, a field trip usually means a day of fun and learning at a local museum or cultural site. For Olin School M.B.A. students in Global Management Studies (GMS), a field consulting trip also means fun and learning, but the trip lasts two weeks and often is to a destination halfway 'round the world.

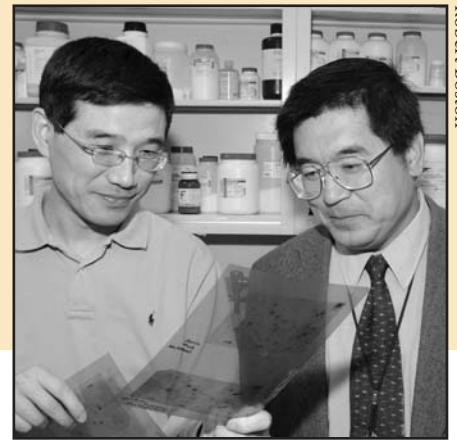
This hands-on course through the Center for Experiential Learning offers all M.B.A. students the opportunity to travel abroad and gain firsthand knowledge of international economics and cultures.

To take the course, each student pays, on average, \$2,500, which covers all travel expenses; students can enroll in the course more than one time.

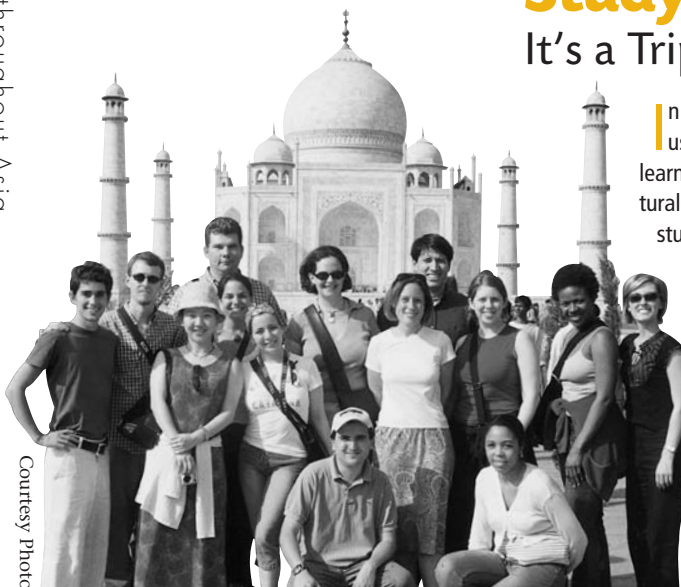
The course, offered only in the spring semester, provides three or four study destinations. (These are chosen by John D. Branch, senior lecturer in international business and coordinator of Global Management Studies courses, and his colleagues, based on students' responses to an annual questionnaire.)

Students break into groups per option chosen, and they have six weekly in-class sessions led by the professor who will accompany them on their trip. They learn, among other things, about a country's history, social customs, and business practices. Branch, talking about the group he led to China in 2003, says, "I brought in a language professor to help students learn a

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Robert Boston



Courtesy Photo

M.B.A. students visiting India as part of the Olin School's Global Management Studies course, studied the marketing of consumer goods there and enjoyed seeing sights such as the Taj Mahal, in background.

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study of traditional Chinese cancer preventatives. He conducted a nine-year clinical trial among some 4,000 patients in Henan, an eastern province with China's highest incidence of esophageal cancer. ATB not only was very effective throughout the four-year treatment period but maintained its effect for five years after treatment.

You first learned of Zhong's work at a 1993 conference in China. With his twin research interests of lung cancer genetics and prevention, he seized on the possibilities and began his own animal trials. At the same time, colleague Stephen Lam, professor of medicine at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, and head of the Lung Cancer Program at the British Columbia Cancer Agency, undertook a pilot study among 20 current and former smokers with bronchial precancerous lesions, treating them with ATB for six months.

The results were dramatically better than any other compound tested in lung-cancer-prevention trials. Lam will complete a larger Phase II trial in 2005. Meanwhile, You's animal studies on mice with lung tumors or precancerous conditions were highly promising as well. First, tests showed no significant

"It (using the herbal mixture) is a really different approach to managing cancer."

—James S. Miller

clinical evidence of toxicity; and second, ATB produced a strong inhibition of lung tumor growth. "It works beautifully," You says.

In other words, ATB holds promise as both prevention—in high-risk populations like smokers and those with genetic predispositions or exposure to pollutants—and potentially for treatment. Intriguingly, Lam's work suggests that ATB is effective even in patients who continue to smoke. Today, ATB's greatest promise is in its application to lung cancer and esophageal cancer, but it may eventually be used for other cancers.

The mechanisms by which these herbs accomplish their healing work is not yet clear. You hypothesizes that the compound affects cell proliferation, cell death, or both. Components of the compound, analysis has found, fall into several categories of chemicals with known efficacy to prevent mutation, inflammation, and cell differentiation.

With the enthusiastic support of Timothy J. Eberlein, Siteman Cancer Center director, You, Miller, and Schubert now are pooling the region's resources to take the next steps. They've applied for National Cancer Institute funding for further preclinical studies—toxicology, pharmacology,



Courtesy Photo

Dictamnus albus (above) is one of six herbal plants used in the Anti-Tumor B mixture being studied for use in preventing and treating cancer.

and others—and to fractionate and characterize the compound's key components.

"We have such great resources here in the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center," You observes.

At the garden's Shaw Nature Preserve in Gray Summit, southwest of St. Louis, Miller is cultivating four of the plants needed and is looking for specimens of the remaining two, which have proven more difficult to locate. "We can find processed material in commerce," Miller explains, "but we haven't been able to find living

Global Management Studies from page 1

bit of Mandarin and Cantonese and increase sensitivity to cultural differences."

During class sessions, students also design country-specific projects to complete during the field-research trip. For instance, groups in 2004 studied the marketing of consumer goods in India; bank and finance restructuring in Southeast Asia after the 1997 Asian financial crisis; accession of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the European Union; and health care and life sciences in England and France.

Groups enrolled in GMS in spring 2005 will be studying and traveling to Chile and Peru, China, and Greece and Turkey.

Each trip, taken during the week of spring break and the following "travel week," usually incorporates lectures from experts on the topic being studied, visits with local business persons,

tours of local industry, and visits to business schools of local universities. It also includes time for sightseeing and leisure activities.

"I think the best experience is a perfect blend of academics, cultural experiences, and downtime," Branch says. "Students need time for things like shopping, sampling local cuisine, and socializing." Branch adds that each student returns with something to add to his or her work experience and résumé.

The 13 students taught by Amar Cheema, assistant professor of marketing and a native of India, studied how to market products in India. They traveled to New Delhi and Mumbai (Bombay), where they met with executives at several companies, including Leo Burnett, Colgate-Palmolive, and Yum! Restaurants, which has KFC and Pizza Hut restaurants. For



Courtesy Photo

At Royal Selangor pewter factory's "School of Hard Knocks" in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, visitors, including, from left, Bradley S. Doline, Law Class and M.B.A. Class of '05; William J. Streeter, adjunct professor of international business; and Matthew C. Thayer, M.B.A. '04, pound a pewter disk into a small bowl.

Alumni Profile

Jewelry Designer

Displays Her Work at Saks Fifth Avenue Stores

by Nancy Belt

material we can propagate and grow yet. Oddly enough, not all of these are native Chinese species," he adds; some "are from different parts of Europe or the New World."

In addition to the basic science the project involves, Miller wants to gain experience cultivating these plants, so that "if it does become a commercially viable endeavor, we can tell someone else how to grow them." So far, he has found that the plants thrive as annuals in Missouri.

At the Danforth Center, Schubert is fractionating the plants into their component parts, which then go to You's laboratory for analysis. "In the near future we'll know the active ingredients," You says.

Eventually, the team hopes to launch a Phase III clinical trial, which would involve between 5,000 and 10,000 persons across North America at perhaps 12 educational institutions.

Miller is excited about the project, which he says is at the forefront of new science. "It's a really different approach to managing cancer," he notes. "Using early detection and management of diet is highly preferable to surgery or harsh pharmaceutical regimens." ✂



Jennifer Yuan, B.S.B.A. '97, wears an earring and necklace she designed. The necklace features her signature image, the lotus blossom.

Drop by the fine-jewelry department of St. Louis' Saks Fifth Avenue in Plaza Frontenac and you'll see a permanent case displaying jewelry designed by Jennifer Yuan, B.S.B.A. '97. Or, if you visit Saks in Chicago, Kansas City, Miami, or New York City, you may find her presenting a trunk show of her work.

It was not a career the 29-year-old, self-taught designer planned. She intended, after she graduated in business, to look for a position with a multinational company. To enhance her résumé, Yuan decided to enroll in a

three-month program in Beijing offered by Princeton University (Princeton, New Jersey). She already was familiar with China, where her grandfather and her parents were born. (Because of communism, her paternal grandfather, a pathologist, and his family immigrated to the United States, arriving in St. Louis when Yuan's father, now a dentist, was 6.)

Yuan's time in Beijing was life-altering. She says, "I fell in love with everything there while I was studying Mandarin and working in public relations for Shangri-La Hotels."

Afterward, for four years, Yuan operated Asia-oriented businesses at the St. Louis Galleria and in the Chesterfield area, and she traveled throughout Asia. A year ago, she began her own St. Louis-based jewelry-design business, Zhen-U.N., pronounced "genuine."

"I've always loved high-carat gold," she says, so all her designs use 18-karat (or higher) gold, and many feature semiprecious stones, such as sapphires, larimar, and (matrix) opals. Her creations—earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and rings—range in price from \$600 to \$3,000.

Yuan's trip to Bangkok in summer 2003 was especially inspiring. She says, "I found a goldsmith there who can take my chicken-scratch drawings and make exactly the beautiful piece I envisioned." Yuan hopes to have permanent cases in Saks' stores nationwide and ultimately to open a boutique in a five-star hotel in Hong Kong, Singapore, or Bangkok. ✂

For more information, visit zhenun.com.

recreation, the group visited the Taj Mahal in Agra and visited Goa, a beach resort, where all the locals were riveted to the televised cricket match between India and Pakistan.

Group member Sam De La Garza, M.B.A. Class of '05, says, "The trip made me truly understand that, for your product to succeed in a given country, you must localize it." For instance, he says Pizza Hut in India uses local ingredients, including popular Indian spices, in its pizza.

All the groups enjoyed extraordinary hospitality. Corey B. Miller, M.B.A. '04, student leader for the group traveling to Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, and group member Robert H. Koplak, M.B.A. Class of '05, who scheduled meetings for the trip, say they were welcomed warmly by everyone—

professors, economists, and executives at companies such as Morgan Stanley, 3M, and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Koplak, who previously had worked three months in Thailand, says the presentation by the Bank of Thailand was especially informative. The group's

professor, William J. Streeter, adjunct professor of international business, says, "Our students were well-prepared, and they asked very intelligent questions." In class sessions, the students had studied the economic fundamentals that led to the Asian financial crisis, and they also had discussed proper business attire in Asian countries and

the influence of Confucian ethics, which emphasize long-term relationships.

A dramatic cultural activity for the group was a day trip outside Ho Chi Minh City to experience the Cu Chi tunnels, a strategic battleground for the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War. Koplak says,

"Crawling through the pitch-black tunnels gave us an idea of what war is like."

Through Global Management Studies and other

international business courses, Olin School students are gaining knowledge they will need to succeed in today's world. Branch says, "An international perspective and cultural sensitivity are crucial in business." ✂

"An international perspective and cultural sensitivity are crucial in business."

—John D. Branch

NEWS BRIEFS

Chinese writer presents lecture

Anchee Min, whose novels and memoir bring to life the experience of coming of age during China's Cultural Revolution, presented the Neureuther Library Lecture at the University in November. Her life story, detailed in the best-selling autobiography *Red Azalea* (1992), which became a *New York Times* Notable Book, reflects the uncertainty, hardship, and fear that many Chinese citizens endured under the rule of Mao Tse Tung. At 17, she was among 100,000 students sent to labor camps, then was chosen by Madame Mao to star in propaganda films. Min, who spoke no English when she immigrated to America in 1984, also has written four novels—*Katherine*, *Becoming Madame Mao*, *Wild Ginger*, and *Empress Orchid*. Her lecture was sponsored by the University's Assembly Series and the Department of English in Arts & Sciences.



Courtesy Photo

Anchee Min

Student receives Fischlowitz Award

As winner of a Fischlowitz Award, **Yasuko Suzuki**, Arts & Sciences Class of '06, an international student from Japan who works as a lab assistant in anatomy and neurobiology, was able to travel to several eastern U.S. cities in summer 2004. In each city, she studied two aspects—how the past affected the present and the foods that distinguished its culture. Suzuki focused both on colonial and immigrant history and on foods of the colonial era and those brought to the cities by varied immigrant groups. In October she shared her experiences via a presentation at the University's Stix International House.



Robert Boston

Cancer researchers may have discovered new oncogene

Guojun Bu, associate professor of pediatrics and of cell biology and physiology, leads a team of researchers at the Siteman Cancer Center, shared by the University and Barnes-Jewish Hospital, who have found that high levels of a protein called LRP6 can make cancer cells more aggressive. This

suggests that the gene that codes for LRP6 is an oncogene—a gene that contributes to tumor development when overactivated.

Oyler has article in Harvard journal

Elizabeth Oyler, assistant professor of Japanese literature, authored an article titled "Giô: Women and Performance in the Heike monogatari," published in the December 2004 issue of the *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*. In addition, her book manuscript, *Swords, Oaths, and Prophetic Visions: Authoring Warrior Rule in Medieval Japan*, has been accepted for publication by the University of Hawaii Press.

Asian Art Expert Presents Lecture

Timothy Clark, head of the Japanese section of the British Museum in London, presented the seventh annual Nelson I. Wu Memorial Lecture on Asian Art and Culture on October 19, 2004, at the Saint Louis Art Museum. Titled "Tethered Dreams of a Floating World: The Kansei Reforms and Artistic Censorship," the lecture was sponsored by the museum and the University's East Asian Studies program in Arts & Sciences. ✂



glimpses



These students performed in the world premiere of *Taunting the Monster*, a work by nationally renowned choreographer Gus Solomons jr, distinguished visiting professor in fall 2004. The work, presented at the University's annual Dance Theatre from December 3-5, grew out of improvisational exercises based on whispering and conversation.

David Kilper

Kevin Lowder



Long Long (left), Business Class of '06, and Justin Brown, Engineering Class of '06, wrap one of hundreds of presents donated by University community members for St. Louis-area families in need as part of the Give Thanks Give Back program.

International students in the George Warren Brown School of Social Work presented lively entertainment, informative presentations, and a taste of their homelands via a banquet of foods from 20 countries during the 10th annual International Festival in spring 2004. The festival's theme was "Citizens of the World in Celebration."



Bill Stover

David Kilper



Andrea J. Heugatter (left), adjunct professor of technical writing in the School of Engineering & Applied Science, director of engineering undergraduate admissions, and faculty fellow in Crow residential college, enjoys a conversation with Kevin Tang, Business Class of '08, and Shi Su, Arts & Sciences Class of '08.

Renting Study Space in Tokyo

Symbolically paying rent for studio and class space for University graduate architecture students studying in Tokyo, Cynthia Weese, B.S.A.S. '62, B.Arch. '65, dean of the School of Architecture, presents a "five-dollar-bill" to University Trustee Shinichiro Watari, A.B. '72, M.Arch. '76, chairman of Cornes & Co., Ltd., at an architecture alumni event held next to the studio space in October 2004. Watari generously arranged for the University to rent a 3,000-square-foot, light-filled space in a Cornes & Co. building in downtown Tokyo at the rate of \$1 per month.

Looking on are Yoshiko Shiraki (left), studio coordinator, and Yoko Kinoshita Watanabe, a



Courtesy Photo

studio professor. The eight students in the program during fall 2004 are the first to study in Japan as part of the School's study-abroad program. They take a studio and three additional courses—on the architectural history, building technology, and urban characteristics of the Tokyo region—taught by highly respected Tokyo-based architects, engineers, and a historian. ✂

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or contact:

Tamlynn Holder

Director, International Alumni and Development Programs
Washington University in St. Louis
Campus Box 1210
6510 Wallace Drive
St. Louis, MO 63105, U.S.A.
telephone: (314) 935-4548
fax: (314) 935-9610
e-mail: tami_holder@wustl.edu

The Alumni and Parents Admission Program (APAP) involves alumni and parents of undergraduates in recruiting, selecting, and enrolling students at Washington University. APAP members interview applicants, staff college fairs, and host receptions for admitted students. For information, contact:

Ashley Cade

Director, Alumni and Parents Admission Program, and Associate Director, Undergraduate Admissions
Washington University in St. Louis
Campus Box 1028
One Brookings Drive
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899, U.S.A.
telephone: (314) 935-4826
e-mail: apap@wustl.edu

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Julie Shimabukuro

Director, International Recruitment
Washington University in St. Louis
Campus Box 1089
One Brookings Drive
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899, U.S.A.
telephone: (314) 935-4893
e-mail: julie_shimabukuro@wustl.edu