

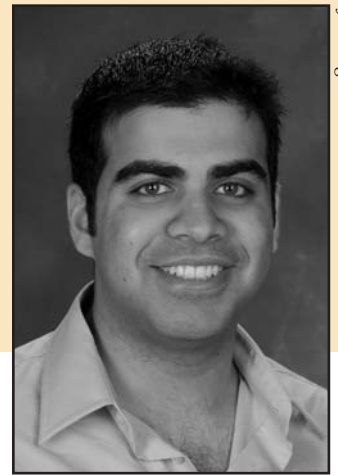
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Joe Angeles

Karan Chopra, president of the Class of 2008, spoke at the University's 147th Commencement ceremony on May 16, 2008.

Student Speaker Chopra Tells Classmates: 'It's Up to Us'

by Cynthia Georges

Focus on the path to the goal. The journey is what matters most.

That is the advice Karan Chopra has subscribed to all of his life. As president of the Class of 2008, Chopra shared more of his perspectives and his experiences at the University when he took the podium at the University's 147th Commencement ceremony on May 16.

"This has been the most amazing four years of my life," says Chopra, who has successfully completed a rigorous pre-med course of study and received a bachelor's degree in biology in Arts & Sciences.

"You can develop both socially and academically here and find your niche,"

he says. "Although I have tried to experience all that the University has to offer, there is still so much left to do."

An ambitious high school student who played tennis and took membership in National Honor Society seriously, Chopra honed a work ethic he witnessed from his father, a researcher in immunology who moved his family from India to Columbia, Maryland, more than 20 years ago to do postdoctoral research at Johns Hopkins University.

"My family has greatly influenced my decisions and my life," says Chopra. "I am fortunate to have a good family

life, and I am a happy person. I try to make those around me happy. I don't complain about things, I just work harder."

Chopra has put smiles on faces and helped others through the leadership roles and activities he has engaged in at the University. He enrolled in the freshman summer academic program before his freshman year and became a program adviser. He also served as vice president of Wayman Crow Residential College in his first year and, the following spring, he was elected treasurer of his class.

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Using Computers To Search for Cures

by Sam Guzik

Allowing computers to automatically sift through complicated pools of data to search for solutions to the world's most pressing biological problems seems like the realm of science fiction. To Weixiong Zhang, professor of computer science and engineering in the School of Engineering & Applied Science and of genetics in the School of Medicine, it is a possibility in the short term.

One of Zhang's most recent accomplishments is an algorithm with the power to execute such calculations. This is a joint work

of Zhang and his doctoral student Jianhua Ruan, who is now an assistant professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio. The method was published in a paper in the January 2008 edition of *Physical Review E*.

An algorithm is a series of instructions that a computer applies when analyzing data; in this case, the algorithm works to find the underlying patterns and connections that make up any kind of community—in the body, on the Internet, or between humans.

Finding the networks behind complex systems like human diseases, proteins, and social networks is a crucial step in understanding how they function and interact.

"Network structures are often important features of biological systems and engineering systems such as the Internet and the World Wide Web," says Zhang. "Revealing and understanding network structures are often the first steps for system modeling and prediction of future events in many applications."

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Chopra, cont'd from page 1

He has tutored students in chemistry, mentored inner-city youth, and served as vice president of his junior class.

"Karan always adds a humorous and positive attitude to everything he does," says classmate Andrew Agins, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics and political science, both in Arts & Sciences.

As vice president of the senior class, Agins has worked closely with Chopra, contending that "his ability to be both a leader and a team player is what makes him such a good class president. He creates a motivating environment around him," says Agins.

A favorite activity for Chopra has been performing in Diwali, the Indian fall "Festival of Light" signifying victory of good over evil. Chopra has performed in Diwali for three years and co-wrote and co-directed the 2007 production.

The sum of his undergraduate experiences has been nothing less than inspirational to many.

"We come out of Washington University as top graduates and hold the future of this nation in our hands,"

says Chopra. "It is up to us to ensure that it continues to remain prosperous. This is a great country."

Chopra plans to lead by example. In fall 2008, he will attend the University of Maryland School of Medicine, working on his lifelong goal of becoming a doctor.

He knows the journey will be challenging. A strong desire to help others, however, and personal motivation will help ease the way.

"I have seen members of my family suffer from illness," he says. "They came to the United States from India to get the best treatments. My grandfather has a cancer that came back after 11 years in remission. And my aunt and other relatives have traveled here for medical care.

"Things might have been different if I had seen medicine fail," he says. "But the physicians who treated my family were competent and caring."

Chopra hopes one day to model this care. "Washington University has greatly prepared me for this," he says. "I'm ready." ✂



Joe Angeles

Karan Chopra, president of the Class of 2008, tells classmates "it's up to us" at the University's 147th Commencement ceremony.

Computers, cont'd from page 1

Zhang's algorithm integrates features from several existing methods of analyzing data to find markers that suggest an underlying pattern may be present. The algorithm is unique because it can be applied on a larger scale and can identify communities with more accuracy than those that came before it.

Until now, one of the limitations of research on biological phenomenon like DNA transcription or diseases like



David Kilper

Alzheimer's has been an inability to capture and visualize all the related elements.

"It is widely believed that genetic risk factors of complex diseases and determinants of quantitative traits are not single genes, but rather networks of interacting genetic factors," says Zhang. "So, it is natural to approach biological systems from a network perspective and to develop effective computational methods and tools that are effective in revealing network properties."

Using the algorithm, it will be possible for researchers to gain a new understanding of how different parts of the system interact, opening the door for more comprehensive knowledge, and in the case of diseases, potential cures.

Zhang recently received a grant from the Alzheimer's Association to develop

computational ways to analyze gene expression in brains affected by Alzheimer's.

His recent work is a continuation of a larger research interest that has led him to try to use computing power to understand biology. Another algorithm he developed, called the WordSpy, works to identify short DNA sequences or motifs critical to the regulation of gene expression from a large amount of genome sequences.

In addition to his research, Zhang serves as an associate editor of *PLoS Computational Biology*, a leading journal in the field of computational biology. He also is on the editorial boards of three primary journals in the field of artificial intelligence and has delivered presentations on artificial intelligence and computational biology at numerous international conferences. ✂

Weixiong Zhang, professor of computer science and engineering in the School of Engineering & Applied Science and of genetics in the School of Medicine, has developed an algorithm that may help researchers understand how genes cause diseases.

At the Bank of Thailand, Watanagase Preserves the Country's Economy

by Blaire Leible Garwitz

Building the Thai economy and modernizing the country's payment system are a few of the many things Tarisa (Deeithinant) Watanagase, Ph.D. '88 (economics), has accomplished since joining the Bank of Thailand in 1975. The Bank performs central banking functions like the U.S. Federal Reserve. Now, as the first female governor of the Bank, Watanagase works to preserve the stability of the monetary, financial, and payment systems of the country.

Growing up in Bangkok, Watanagase received the Bank of Thailand's scholarship to pursue a bachelor's degree in Japan. She graduated from Keio University with a B.A. and an M.A. in economics before coming to Washington University on a study leave from the bank.

After working on her doctorate in economics for several years at the University, Watanagase returned to the bank in 1984 and continued writing her dissertation. The topic of this paper was constructing an econometric model, "which was quite rare for Thai students at the time," she says. "The difficult tasks involved instilled in me the perseverance in work and logical thinking, as well as the ability to manage stress and constraints." She returned to the University in 1987 to defend her dissertation before graduating in 1988.

At the bank, Watanagase had a number of responsibilities in all major functions of central banking, including economic research, banking sector policy and supervision, payment systems, money market operations, reserve management, and monetary and financial policies.

During her career with the bank, she also has worked as an economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, D.C., and as an external assessor of banking supervision under the IMF and the World Bank's Financial Sector Assessment Program.

Shortly after the 1997 financial crisis, Watanagase was appointed head of the Financial System Policy Department. "I was responsible for, and instrumental in, the formulation and implementation of the financial crisis resolution and financial sector and supervisory reforms," she says.

Appointed governor in 2006, she also serves as chairperson of both the Monetary Policy Committee and Financial Institution Policy Committee.

"I have been proud to be a part of the Bank of Thailand's efforts to help build the Thai economy and its financial sector," she says. "One of the contributions I am most proud of was the modernization of the country's payment system, which I spearheaded in the early 1990s."

This involved putting into place a large-value fund transfer system with real-time-gross-settlement (RTGS) capability—"a visionary initiative that eliminated payment and settlement risks, making Thailand's RTGS system the first of its kind in Southeast Asia," she says.

When she's not busy preserving her country's economy, Watanagase enjoys yoga, watercolor painting, and spending time with her husband, Chamnong, and their daughter. ✂



In 2006, Tarisa Watanagase became the first female governor of the Bank of Thailand.

Courtesy Photo

NEWS BRIEFS

Lee Seng Tee receives honorary degree in Singapore

Business executive and philanthropist, Lee Seng Tee received an honorary degree from Washington University during a convocation ceremony in Singapore on June 12, 2008. Lee is

the director of the Lee Group of Companies, a Singapore-based conglomerate of firms in industries including pineapple, rubber, and investments.

As director of the Lee Foundation, he has

provided generous support to the University's McDonnell International Scholars Academy. Lee has received many honors in recognition of his generosity and public service.



Courtesy Photo

Lee Seng Tee (center), director of the Lee Group of Companies in Singapore, receives his honorary degree from Trustee David Conner (left), chair of the International Advisory Council for Asia, and Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton (right) at a convocation ceremony in Singapore on June 12, 2008.

2008 IACA meeting to be held in Hong Kong

On December 10–12, 2008, the International Advisory Council for Asia (IACA) will take place in Hong Kong at the Island Shangri-La Hotel. This year—for the first time ever—Washington University will be hosting two major events before and after the IACA meeting. The McDonnell International Scholars Academy will host the second Symposium on Energy and Environment on December 8–10. This forum will discuss how academic institutions in other countries are addressing the vital issues of energy and the environment. There will be sessions on aerosol science and technology, solar energy, and the role of the corporate world in dealing with the challenges faced by all of us on this planet. Following the IACA meeting, on December 12–14, the Department of Economics at Washington University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong will co-host a conference on global economic sustainability.

Math teams excel in competitions

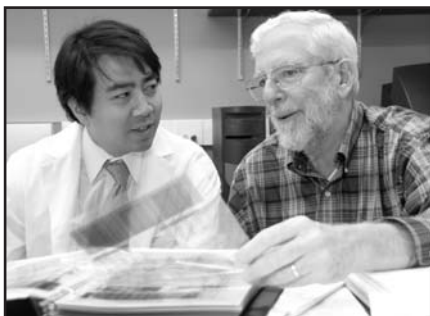
Two University teams participated in the Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition on April 17–18, 2008, on the campus of Missouri State University in Springfield. The competition is composed of two parts, each posing five problems and lasting for two and a half hours. Out of the 36 teams that entered, WUSTL's team snagged the top two spots. The first-place team consisted of senior Igor Konfisakhar and juniors Alon Brodie and Huajia Wang. The second-place team consisted of senior Justin Gilmer and juniors Alex Cloninger and Jeremy Diepenbrock.

Tennis ball inspired Kanjanaboos to study physics

Pongsakorn Kanjanaboos, A.B. '08 (physics), chose his life's work while watching a tennis ball drop to the floor. Then, when given the chance to choose any school in the world to study his favorite subject, he chose Washington University. He discovered his passion for physics during a 10th-grade prephysics camp in his native Thailand. His teacher mentioned Sir Isaac Newton and asked the class to consider why objects fall to the ground when dropped. Kanjanaboos showed such promise in physics, he was chosen by his government to be one of 15 recipients of a scholarship from the Development and Promotion of Science and Technology Talent Project of Thailand. That honor translated into a full scholarship for an undergraduate degree in physics in the country and school of his choice. In addition to serving as a peer adviser for transfer students, he founded the Thai Student Association two years ago. Kanjanaboos will attend the doctoral program in physics at the University of Chicago in hopes of one day becoming a professor in Thailand.

Huang seeks solutions to affordable, quality health care

Providing quality health care in the United States and abroad is such a priority to Franklin Huang, M.D. '08, that he has spent nearly the past decade preparing for it. After graduating from the University, Huang headed to Boston for his internal medicine residency at Massachusetts General Hospital. After completing his residency, he says he wants a career combining science and medicine that allows him to work in developing countries. In the five weeks before Commencement, Huang went to Bhutan, a mountainous country between China and India, to study how to manage chronic disease in the developing world in a low-cost, high-quality manner. While a medical student, he traveled to Dominica, an island in the Caribbean, to implement an AIDS education program.



Robert Boston

Franklin Huang (left), M.D. '08, and Jack Ladenson, the Oree M. Carroll and Lillian B. Ladenson Professor of Clinical Chemistry in Pathology and Immunology, talk about their interest in international health care.

Conference honors Japanese and East Asian legal scholar

The School of Law brought together top comparative law scholars from around the world for "Law in Japan: A Celebration of the Works of John Owen Haley" on May 9–10 in the Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom of Anheuser-Busch Hall. Haley, the Wiley B. Rutledge Professor of Law, joined the faculty at the University in 2000 and served for three years as director of the Whitney R. Harris Institute for Global Legal Studies. His scholarly works span issues ranging from international trade policy and comparative law to Japanese land-use law, Japanese and East Asian business transactions, and Japanese law and contemporary society. ✂

glimpses

Youngjee Choi, a second-year medical student, dances with George Jones at the Senior Prom on April 12, 2008, at the South Campus on Clayton Road. Medical and occupational therapy students in the Geriatrics Outreach Group organized the event, called "Dancing Through the Decades," to facilitate social interactions between the School of Medicine and the older adult community.

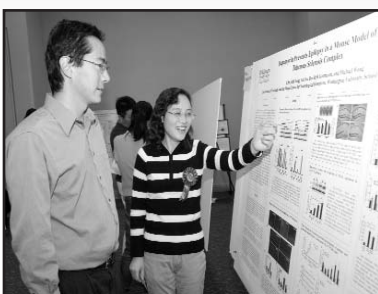
Tim Parker

De-Stress Fest 2008, held April 16 in Bowles Plaza on the Danforth Campus, proved to be a popular diversion from the rigorous demands of the academic year's final weeks. Students Haejun Ahn (left) and Connie Tsai befriend Luke, a therapy dog who helped students relax and manage stress.



David Kilper

Linghui Zeng (right), a postdoctoral research associate in neurology, shows Michael Wong, assistant professor of neurology and Zeng's mentor, her winning poster at the 2008 Postdoc Scientific Symposium poster session at the Eric P. Newman Education Center.



Robert Boston

Young-Shin Jun, assistant professor of energy, environmental, and chemical engineering, is presented the Oak Ridge Associated Universities 2008 Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Achievement Award in Engineering or Applied Science by Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. Jun received a \$5,000 research award that is matched by Washington University.



Joe Angeles

Alumni Clubs in Asia

The University's Alumni Clubs in Asia offer alumni and parents of current and former students a way to stay connected with the University via admissions and other activities. For more information, please contact a leader in your area or Tamilynn Holder, listed at right.

International Club Contacts:

Hong Kong

Mr. Vincent Lee, LA04

9/F Tower 3A Grand Court
12 Homantin Hill Road
Kowloon
Hong Kong
W: (852) 2-971-8372

India

Mr. Gurpreet Singh, GB54

20-A Aurangzeb Road
New Delhi 110028

India
H: (91) 11-301-3892

Mr. Deepak C. Kantawala, SI63

23 Ashoknagar Society/
10th Road
J.V.P.D. Scheme
Bombay 400 049
India

Indonesia

Dr. Hardiv Harris Situmeang, SI93

Kompleks Pln
Senayan No. 48
Jakarta 12210
Indonesia
H: (62) 21-549-0979

Japan

Dr. Koichi Fujii, HS62

Chairman: Japan
Tokyo Medical &
Surgical Clinic
Mori Building 32
3-4-30 Shiba Koen,
Minato-Ku
Tokyo 105
Japan
W: (81) 33-436-3028

Dr. Satoru Takenouchi, GM67

Vice Chairman:
Western Japan
1-1 Higashino-Cho
Murasakino Kita-Ku
Kyoto 603
Japan
H: (81) 75-431-8476

Mr. Shinichiro Watari, LA72, GA76

Secretary-General: Japan
Cornes & Co. Ltd.
Ryukakusan Bldg.
2-5-12 Higashi Kanda
Chiyoda-Ku
Tokyo 101
Japan
W: (81) 33-582-1-1660

Mr. Atushi Yoshida, LA90

Secretary: Japan
11-1 Marunouchi 1-Chrome
Chiyoda-Ku
Tokyo 100
Japan
W: (81) 33-216-1511

Malaysia

Mr. Amran B. Abdullah, TI79, GB82, SI82

AZA Enterprise
145, Jalan Batu Gelica
68100 Kuala Lumpur
Wilyah Persekutuan
Malaysia
H: (60)-3-689-7667

People's Republic of China

Dr. Chen Zhang-Liang, GR87

Vice Governor, Guangxi
Zhuang Autonomous
Regions
China Agricultural
University
#17 Qinghua East Road
Beijing 100083
People's Republic of China
W: (86-10) 627-36802

Ms. Julie Kohn, BU78

Beijing Riviera 362
#1 Xiang Jiang Bay Road
Beijing 100103
People's Republic of China
W: (86-13) 717-644538

Philippines

Stef Sano

Unit 605 Sterten Pl.
116 Maginhawa St.
Quezon City
Manila 1101
Philippines
Stef_sano@alum.wustl.edu
H: (632) 886-5258

Singapore

Mr. Beh Chee Yang, EN89, GR92, SI92

511 West Coast Drive #05-343
Singapore 120511
Singapore
H: (65) 774-6331

Kaavya Narasimhalu

147 Devonshire Road 08-04
Singapore 239894
Singapore
nkaavya@gmail.com

South Korea

Dr. Ja Song, GB62, GB67

Chairman: South Korea
Yonsei University
134 Shinchon-Dong
Seoul 120-749
South Korea
W: (82) 2-393-3330

Mr. Seung Hong, GB85

Secretary: South Korea
103-2206 Dongbu
Centreville
Dongbuichon-dong,
Yongsan-Ku, Seoul
South Korea
W: (82) 2-722-1697

Taiwan

Mr. Ya-Tien Alex Chuang, GA84

26 Floor No. 106 Section 2
Tung Hwa South Road
Taipei, Taiwan
Republic of China
W: (886) 2-2778-1113

Thailand

Dr. Yosvi Sukumalchantra, HS

208/1 Soi, 56 Ladprao Road
Bangkok 10310
Thailand

contacts

YOUR WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY CONTACTS

Washington University Alumni Clubs offer alumni and parents of current and former students a way to stay connected with the University.

For information about the 10 Alumni Clubs in Asia, visit the following Web site:

<http://aisweb.wustl.edu/alumni/internationalrelations.nsf>

or contact:

Tamilynn Holder

Director, International Alumni and Development Programs
Washington University in St. Louis
Campus Box 1060
7425 Forsyth Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63105, U.S.A.
telephone: 1-314-935-4548
fax: 1-314-935-9614
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:

Michelle Gravel

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: 1-314-935-4826
e-mail: apap@wustl.edu

Alumni, parents, and friends of the University often help identify students who would benefit from a Washington University education. Refer names and addresses of talented prospective students to:

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: 1-314-935-4893
e-mail: JShimabukuro@wustl.edu