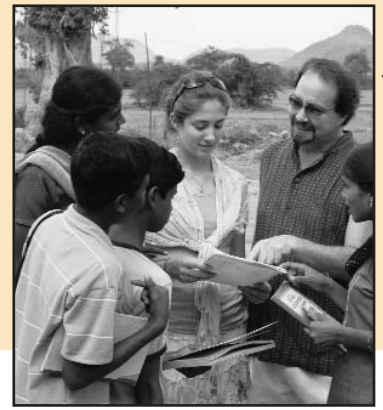


Asia *extra*

spring 2008

 Washington University in St. Louis



Courtesy Photo

Kelley Greenman (center), Arts & Sciences Class of '09, shows Glenn Stone, director of the Village India Program, creative writing stories that her students wrote at Pai Junior College in India.

Village India Program Provides 'Life-Changing Experience'

by Lisa Cary

A grandfather wearing a magenta turban gives a steady gaze through wizened eyes. A woman bends to pick weeds in a bright green rice paddy. A "toddy (palm wine) tapper" perches high in a palm tree against an endless turquoise sky.

While the adults in Kalleda Village, India, perform their daily tasks in shops and farm fields, the village youth are bringing their own fruit to bear: photographs and videos documenting life in their picturesque rural area of Andhra Pradesh.

Students in Kalleda Rural School are learning photography, video blogging, creative writing, and more as part of the Village India Program (VIP) created and administered by Washington University. Founded and directed by Glenn Davis Stone, professor of sociocultural anthropology and environmental studies in Arts & Sciences, VIP aims to enrich the lives of young students by providing intensive English training and courses on topics not offered in the local schools.

VIP utilizes the talents of Washington University students to teach new skills in Kalleda. Since 2000, while conducting anthropological fieldwork in the area, Stone had taught photography to some of the students, initiating the "Kalleda Photo Project." The success of that project prompted him to think about bringing University students there for service learning.

In 2007, his idea became reality: VIP was inaugurated and offered as a six-week summer study abroad opportunity for a select group of University students. As participants, the University students design their own English-based courses to teach to 8th-through 10th-graders from the Kalleda Rural School and 11th- and 12th-graders from the nearby Pai Junior College in Kalleda.

The program benefits both sides of the equation. On one side, the Kalleda students gain experience speaking and writing English while learning practical and creative skills for the 21st century. "Contact with the American students broadens their view of the world," says Stone, "which enriches their lives in unpredictable ways."

On the other side, the University participants get to experience life in a small Indian village, promote social change, and conduct their own



Glenn Stone

A.J. Singletary (second from left), Arts & Sciences Class of '08, teaches environmental science to students at Pai Junior College, located in the village of Kalleda, in Andhra Pradesh, India.

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Guojun Bu Discovers

Link between Early- and Late-Onset Alzheimer's

by Lisa Cary

As thousands of researchers and clinicians around the world work to discover treatments for human nervous system diseases, Washington University scientists recently published findings that they hope will send Alzheimer's disease (AD) research in a new direction. Current statistics on AD are alarming. According to the Alzheimer's Society (2008), more than 24 million people worldwide have dementia; of those, about 62 percent have been diagnosed with AD. The number of people affected is expected to double every 20 years unless scientists can find more effective methods for the disease's prevention and treatment.

In the October 4, 2007, issue of *Neuron*, senior author Guojun Bu, professor of pediatrics and of cell biology and physiology at the School of Medicine, presented a study identifying the first known link between determinants for early- and late-onset AD.

While the search for AD treatment has often focused on reducing buildup of the amyloid-beta (A-beta) protein that causes brain lesions, research by Bu and colleagues suggests a different avenue to treatment through regulating brain cholesterol. "The role cholesterol plays in brain function has been underappreciated in AD research," Bu states. "Neurons require a high level of cholesterol for synapse and memory. About 20 percent of the body's cholesterol is in the brain, even though the brain is only about 2 percent of total body weight."

Bu's research suggests that both early- and late-onset AD may be caused through malfunctions in the brain's cholesterol metabolism. Bu and colleagues hypothesize that a decreased level of a low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein 1 (LRP1) on the cell surface results in compromised regulation of A-beta, apolipoprotein E (apoE), and cholesterol metabolism. The result may essentially starve the neurons of cholesterol and lead to synaptic dysfunction and neurodegeneration.

In 2004, Washington University provided an innovative new support system for its researchers by establishing the Hope Center for Neurological Disorders at the School of Medicine. The center provides a collaborative environment where researchers and clinicians working on different brain diseases can share information, build on each others' discoveries, and spark ideas in each others' work. The center also provides its faculty, including Bu, with cutting-edge equipment, resources, and funding.

Bu runs a cell biology laboratory and enjoys working with the postdoctoral research fellows and graduate students there. "The students constantly inspire me with their curiosity and fresh perspectives," he says. Bu also travels to his native country, China, once or twice yearly to instruct doctoral students from Fudan University in Shanghai.

In the lab, Bu will continue to investigate brain cholesterol as a key to AD. "Our long-term goals are to define the mechanisms by which LRP1 modulates brain A-beta and apoE/cholesterol metabolism, and to examine how it impacts the brain during aging and AD," Bu says. "Understanding LRP1's function could be a pathway to finding new medicines to prevent and treat this disease."



Joe Angeles

Guojun Bu (right), professor of pediatrics and of cell biology and physiology, conducts research into the relationship between cholesterol metabolism and Alzheimer's disease with Chia-Chen Liu, a Ph.D. candidate in molecular cell biology.

Village India, cont'd from page 1

research and other projects while earning University credits in anthropology. "Going to India was a life-changing experience," says A.J. Singletary, Arts & Sciences Class of '08. "I was always interested in environmental problems that affect the developing world, but seeing these issues firsthand added humanity to my course work and focused my career path on sustainable development."

Stone expects the selection process to be competitive again for the 2008 trip. "We need to keep the group small and want a certain range of skills and interests," he says. Instruction in Kalleda this year will focus less on research and more on the arts, especially video and photography.

"The ultimate benefit," says Stone, "is that the University students leave Kalleda with a new

sense of commitment to rural India. After graduation, as they become educators, policymakers, scientists, philanthropists, and more, they will be in a position to influence others about the challenges and opportunities for young people in rural India."

To view photos and videos created by the students of Kalleda Rural School, visit <http://artsci.wustl.edu/~anthro/RDF/vip/>.

Using Solar Energy, Li Creates a 'Greener' World

by Blaire Garwitz

For Zongwei "Bryan" Li, E.M.B.A. '06, helping to reduce environmental pollution and making the world more "green" are all in a day's work. Li is employed in the solar energy industry as chief financial officer at Yingli Green Energy Holding Co., Ltd. (Yingli) in Baoding, China. Yingli manufactures vertically integrated photovoltaic products, which generate electric current when exposed to sunlight.

"Solar energy is one of the best alternatives for conventional power," says Li. "There are three critical issues each government is facing: global warming, lack of fossil energy resources, and national security of energy reserves. Renewable energy is a perfect solution for those three issues. I am quite happy to be a member of the solar energy industry."

In his position, Li works to provide leadership on matters related to Yingli's finances and accounting, treasury, internal controls, and investment; assembles, trains, and leads the company's finance team; ensures the company's accounting procedures and financial statements are in compliance with those of the United States (Yingli is listed on the New York Stock Exchange); and communicates with the investment community on the company's financial situations, management, and development.

Prior to working at Yingli, Li graduated from the E.M.B.A.—Shanghai program, which is a joint program between the Olin Business School at Washington University and the School of Management at Fudan University in Shanghai. Li brought his 11 years of experience as senior audit manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers to the program.

"[The] E.M.B.A. education covers pretty much every corner of the business world," says Li. "It will help generate business leaders from China who will be expected to bring the Chinese companies to the global arena."

Li says the program was practical in that it gave him a chance to apply what he was learning to what was going on at his business.

"My experience with the E.M.B.A. program was great," says Li. "The students, whether they came from China, the United States, Singapore, Hong Kong, or Korea, exchanged ideas and real cases,

which made the program practice-oriented. A lot of concepts I learned in the program have been extremely useful and applicable to my job."

Li hopes to become a private investor or entrepreneur someday after gaining sufficient experience in operations, human resources, capital markets, and corporate governance. But for now, he enjoys working at Yingli in a new and exciting industry.

"The solar energy industry just started to emerge about four years ago," says Li. "Such a new and fast-growing industry has brought a lot of opportunity to the company and people, in terms of strategy making and market exploration."



Bryan Li, chief financial officer of Yingli, works to reduce environmental pollution through the use of solar energy.

Courtesy Photo

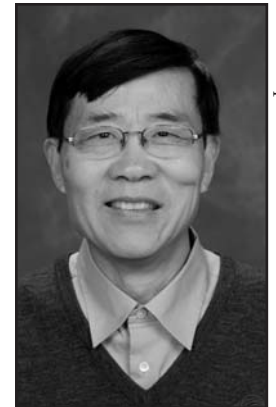
NEWS BRIEFS

Wu cited for 'very best' Chinese language course

Fengtao Wu, a senior lecturer in Chinese in Arts & Sciences, offers one of the nation's "very best" university courses in Chinese, according to a recent College Board Advanced Placement World Languages Best Practices Course Study. Wu's third-level "Modern Chinese II" course was named one of the nation's top 10 "best practice" courses in Chinese.

Wu earned a master's degree from Indiana University at Bloomington in 1987 and taught there before joining the Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures in Arts & Sciences in 1995.

He has been teaching Chinese, including elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels, as well as calligraphy, for about 25 years. Wu has served several times as language director for a joint Washington University–Duke University study program in China. He also has published a set of textbooks for beginners and intermediate students and is working on a book about Chinese grammar.



David Kilper

Fengtao Wu, a senior lecturer in Chinese in Arts & Sciences, offers one of the nation's "very best" university courses in Chinese.

Kumon mathematics fills gap in education system

Dan Kimura, senior professor of computer science and engineering in the School of Engineering, is working to improve math education in America through the use of a supplemental mathematics program called Kumon for school-aged children. Kimura opened the first Kumon center in St. Louis in 1984.

Begun in Kimura's hometown of Moriguchi, Japan, in 1958 by the late Toru Kumon, a math teacher who invented it to help his sons, Kumon math has more than 4 million students enrolled worldwide in 43 countries, nearly 180,000 in the United States. The method stresses repetition, speed, accuracy, individual pace, hard work, and goal orientation.

"The Kumon method is based on training and is a top-down approach that stresses achieving goals," says Kimura.

Epilepsy-induced brain cell damage prevented in the laboratory

For some epilepsy patients, the side effects of epilepsy can be as troubling as the seizures. One pressing concern is the cognitive impairment seizures often inflict, which potentially includes memory loss, slowed reactions, and reduced attention spans.

Now scientists at Washington University School of Medicine have directly observed seizure-induced structural changes in brain cells in laboratory animals. They report in *The Journal of Neuroscience* that the insights they gained allowed them to use a drug to block those changes in the brain.

Senior author Michael Wong, assistant professor of neurology, of anatomy and neurobiology, and of pediatrics, believes these observations "could provide us with a plan for therapies that reduce cognitive problems in epilepsy."

Pakrasi receives endowed professorship in biology

Himadri B. Pakrasi, professor of energy in the School of Engineering and director of the University's new initiative called the International Center for Advanced Renewable Energy and Sustainability (I-CARES), was

named the George William and Irene Koechig Freiberg Professor of Biology in Arts & Sciences. The professorship honors a distinguished faculty member in biology who has demonstrated leadership in research and teaching. It was established in 1983 by George Freiberg, an Anheuser-Busch executive who

received a doctorate in microbiology from Washington University in 1917. Irene Koechig Freiberg received two degrees in Arts & Sciences from the University and taught at the School of Medicine from the 1920s through the 1950s.



Mary Butkus

Himadri B. Pakrasi receives a medallion from Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton signifying his appointment as the George William and Irene Koechig Freiberg Professor of Biology in Arts & Sciences.

Joint E.M.B.A. Program ranked seventh in world

The Washington University–Fudan University E.M.B.A. Program is ranked the seventh-best international executive M.B.A. program in the world and, for the second consecutive year, as the best program in mainland China, according to 2007 rankings released by *The Financial Times*, one of the world's leading business newspapers.

A joint educational venture between the Olin Business School and the School of Management at Fudan University in Shanghai, the program was among the first U.S.–Sino joint M.B.A. programs in China when it was founded in 2002.

Designed to prepare Chinese managers for global executive positions, the program attracts about 75 percent of its students from the People's Republic of China. The joint venture also provides valuable experience for students in Olin's St. Louis–based E.M.B.A. program.



David Stradal

E.M.B.A.-Shanghai Class V students participate in a breakout session during their two-week in-residence at Olin Business School in December 2007.

glimpses



Timothy K. Kellett, a participant in the Mini-Medical School I course, works on suturing with Corey Ming-Lum, a clinical fellow in the Department of Surgery.

Courtesy Photo

Shen Zhao, M.B.A. '04, goes through the buffet line at the annual Olin Thanksgiving Day dinner at the Charles F. Knight Executive Education Center. The event attracted more than 400 students, faculty, and alumni.



Mary Butkus

Kevin Lowder



Junior Audrey Ye helps a child build a gingerbread house during the WUSTL chapter of Habitat for Humanity holiday party at Mudd House. The party was hosted entirely by students, and the attendees were home buyers and their families whom the WUSTL group has helped over the past year.

Koong-Nah Chung, assistant dean for medical admissions and student affairs (center), talks with Eric Millican (left) and Ana Kadkhodayan, both second-year medical students, during a recent research poster session.



Robert Boston

Join the Alumni Directory

Certain parts of the Washington University Online Community are available to alumni only. To take advantage of all this special community has to offer, alumni are invited to establish an Online Community User ID and password.

Secure access includes the Directory of Alumni, Classmate Profiles, and Career Connections.

The Directory of Alumni is exclusively for the use of Washington University alumni and includes all degree recipients, except those who are deceased, lost, or have asked not to be included.

The Classmate Profiles allow alumni to rekindle their ties to classmates by creating a Classmate Profile or reviewing the profiles of other alumni.

Career Connections is the Alumni Association's free online career networking service. More than 13,000 volunteers have joined this program as active members, sharing their professional experiences and expertise with Washington University alumni and students.

Ready to join? Go to www.wustlconnections.com/ and complete the registration form. Your username and password will be created immediately. All information entered will remain confidential and will not be shared with any third party. All fields must be completed in order to receive an access account to the Online Community.

Enter your last name as it is currently recorded with the Alumni Association. If your name has changed, but you have not yet notified the Alumni Association, please type your last name as it appears regularly on University mailings.

Enter your ID number. This is the seven-digit number that appears above your name on most University mailings. This number is NOT your Social Security Number, which has never been, nor will ever be used or displayed in the alumni directory.

If you have any questions about the directory, please contact the Alumni Association at alumniassociation@wustl.edu or Tami Holder at tami_holder@wustl.edu.

Alumni and Parents in Asia

Help Recruit, Interview, and Enroll Talented Students

Throughout the world, many University alumni and parents of current undergraduate students are ambassadors for the University as they help recruit, interview, and enroll talented students from their areas.

Working as part of the Alumni and Parents Admission Program (APAP), they offer interviews to applicants (students), help staff college fairs, refer prospective students to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, contact parents of admitted students to answer questions, and host special gatherings for admitted students. Some volunteers also host Summer Send-off parties for incoming freshmen in their areas prior to the fall semester at the University.

APAP Recruits Needed

If you're living in Asia, are a graduate of Washington University or a parent of a current University student, and you can help recruit, interview, and enroll prospective students from your area, the APAP program would like to hear from you. More volunteers are needed, and, in the program, you can enjoy meeting prospective students and their parents as you help the University attract outstanding applicants.

If you're interested in becoming involved in APAP efforts, please contact the APAP office at apap@wustl.edu or 1-314-935-4826.

In Asia, the committee chairs are:

Hong Kong

Vincent Chun Ngai Lee, A.B. '04
vincent.lee@ubs.com

Neil Yiu, B.S.B.A. '01
neilyiu@gmail.com

Singapore

Kim Geok Ang, M.S.W. '01
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Kaavya Narasimhalu, A.B. '05
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Taipei

Michelle Gravel, Director of APAP
apap@wustl.edu

Tokyo

Eric Clauson, B.S.B.A. '86, G.B. '87
eclauson@lexington-jp.com

APAP volunteers are also in the Asian nations of India, Malaysia, Pakistan, People's Republic of China, Sri Lanka, and 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:

Tamlynn Holder

Director, International Alumni and Development Programs
Washington University in St. Louis
Campus Box 1060
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telephone: 1-314-935-4548
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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