

# glimpses



Students perform the Element Dance, based on the three elements of fire, water, and earth, during the Lunar New Year Festival on January 31, 2009, at Edison Theatre. The festival is an annual campus event celebrating the Lunar New Year and promoting awareness of the different aspects of Asian culture.

Whitney Curtis

*The Ahn Trio—(from left) Maria, Lucia, and Angella—presented a piano-trio repertoire at Edison Theatre on February 28, 2009. The sisters were born in Seoul, Korea, and educated at the prestigious Juilliard School in New York.*



Courtesy Photo

Ray Marklin



*John Ordone (left), a seventh-grade student at McKinley Classical Junior Academy middle school in St. Louis, conducts an experiment with Hongwei Du, a postdoctoral research associate at the School of Medicine, as part of the 2009 Junior Scientist Institute.*

*Fourth-year medical students Timothy and Molly Tran open their Match Day letters on March 19, 2009, to learn they both will be residents at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in the fall. Timothy will work in the area of anesthesiology, and Molly will work in emergency medicine.*



Robert Boston

# Alumni and Parents in Asia

## Help Recruit, Interview, and Enroll Talented Students

Throughout the world, many University alumni (undergraduate) 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 Washington University.

In addition to APAP volunteers in Hong Kong, Singapore, Taipei, and Tokyo, volunteers also can be found in the Asian nations of South Korea, Turkey, India, Malaysia, People's Republic of China, and Thailand.

### In Asia, the committee chairs are:

#### Hong Kong

Vincent Lee, LA04  
David Lee, LA04  
wuapap.hk@gmail.com

#### Singapore

Gavin Ng, LA05  
apap@wustl.edu

#### Taipei

Michelle Gravel, Director of APAP  
apap@wustl.edu

#### Tokyo

Sonya Ho, LA05  
apap@wustl.edu

## APAP Recruits Needed

If you are living in Asia, are a graduate of Washington University, or a parent of a current University undergraduate 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 are interested in becoming involved in APAP efforts, please contact the APAP office at [apap@wustl.edu](mailto:apap@wustl.edu) or 1-314-935-4826.***

### Procedure, cont'd from page 2

Using this standard process, "the radioactive particles can be detected using a Geiger counter held to the breast to locate the lymph nodes. Then, the doctors surgically open the breast, follow the blue dye, and dissect the SLN," says Wang.

On the other hand, Wang and Xia's technique allows the SLN to be imaged safely without radioactivity or surgery. A piece of tissue then can be removed using a minimally invasive needle biopsy and tested for cancer.

"We will convert an invasive surgical procedure into a minimally invasive needle biopsy," says Wang.

In the future, the researchers hope to attach molecules to the surface of the gold nanocages that will selectively bind to cancer cells, making a "smart contrast agent."

Then, the nanocages will only be detected where cancer is present, eliminating the need for a needle biopsy in patients. ✂

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](mailto: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.  
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e-mail: [apap@wustl.edu](mailto: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](mailto:JShimabukuro@wustl.edu)

# Asia

extra

summer 2009

 Washington University in St. Louis



Evan Wiskup, Student Life

Washington University's Raas dance team placed third against other teams at the 2009 Dandia Dhamaka Raas competition in February.

## In National Competition, Raas Dance Team Places Third

by Chloe Rosenberg, Student Life

Each November, Ashoka, the South Asian student association at Washington University, celebrates the Indian Festival of Lights known as Diwali. The University's Raas dance team participates in Diwali by performing Raas, a traditional Indian folk dance associated with India's Gujarat state.

Following their performance at Diwali, the dance team continues to rehearse and prepare for the national

competition. Members contribute months of work to the dance, which resulted in a third-place finish at the Dandia Dhamaka Raas Competition in February 2009.

One of the first national Raas competitions, Dandia Dhamaka now is one of about 10. This year, 30 teams applied for the event, but only 10, including the University's, were chosen to compete.

The University's team includes 16 dancers and three choreographers. The choreographers, Madhvi Shah and Kushal Patel, both Arts & Sciences Class of '09, and Naitik Bhatt, Engineering Class of '10, all had participated in the competition in previous years.

In the nine years of the Dandia Dhamaka Competition's existence, the University's Raas dance team has placed seven times, although they did not place during the past two years.

According to the choreographers, most of the award-winning team members graduated two years ago. Rebuilding proved difficult. "We had a two-year drought in terms of placing," says Shah.

In the months leading up to the 2009 Diwali, the team rehearsed for several hours four times a week. For the three weeks after winter break, the group rehearsed its 7-minute dance seven days a week.

The team became very close after spending so much time together. "We are like a family," says Patel.

Students participate in the dance as a cultural activity. "It gives an opportunity to Indians who have never been in touch with the culture before," says Patel. According to Bhatt, prospective University students around the country know about the Raas team, and it

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Raas is a traditional Indian folk dance associated with India's Gujarat state.

## For Breast Cancer Patients,

# Novel Technique Changes Biopsy Procedure

by Melissa Stuart

David Kilper

Information obtained from a new application of photoacoustic tomography is worth its weight in gold to breast cancer patients.

For the first time, Lihong Wang, the Gene K. Beare Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Engineering, and Younan Xia, the James M. McKelvey Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, have used gold nanocages to map sentinel lymph nodes (SLN) in a rat noninvasively using photoacoustic tomography (PAT) technology.

Wang's lab, the largest PAT lab in the world, is credited with the invention of super-depth photoacoustic microscopy, and Xia's lab invented the gold nanocages.

Their work, supported by the National Institutes of Health, can minimize invasive surgical lymph node biopsy procedures to determine if breast cancer has metastasized and reduce the patient's exposure to radioactivity. The nanocages also could serve as an

alternative to chemotherapy by using heat to kill targeted cancers.

PAT blends optical and ultrasonic imaging to give high-resolution images of the body that contain information about physiology or tissue function. Those molecules already present in the body (endogenous molecules), such as melanin,

hemoglobin, or lipids, can be used as endogenous contrast agents for imaging. When light is shone on the tissue, the contrast agent absorbs the light, converts it to heat, and expands. This expansion is detected as sound and decoded into an image.

"Using pure optical imaging, it is difficult to look deep into tissues at a high resolution because light does scatter," says Wang. "The useful photons run out of juice within one millimeter.

"PAT improves the transparency of tissue by two to three orders of magnitude because sound scatters less than light. Using sound, we can see through the tissue."

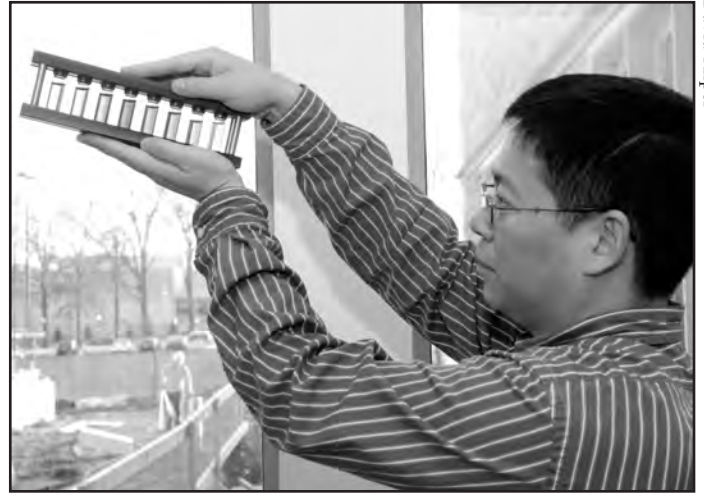
Exogenous contrast agents (those found outside the body) like the gold nanocages developed by Xia's group

can be used to image parts of the body that even contain endogenous contrast agents. These nanocages are especially attractive because their properties can be tuned to give optimal contrast, and gold is non-toxic.

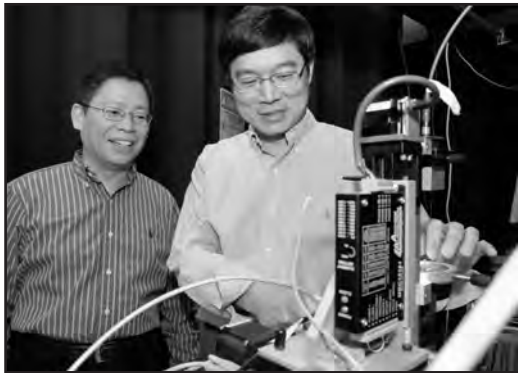
"By controlling the synthesis, we can move the absorption peak for the nanocages to a region that allows them to be imaged deep in the tissue," says Xia. "We also can attach biomolecules to the surface of the nanocages, so they are targeted directly to cancer cells."

The SLN, the first draining node, is often biopsied in breast cancer patients using standard techniques to determine if the cancer has metastasized, or spread.

"To find the SLN [using these standard techniques], doctors inject radioactive particles and a blue dye into the breast," says Wang. "The lymphatic system gobbles up the injected material, treating it as foreign matter and accumulating it in the SLN."



Younan Xia holds an array of glass vials containing many millions of gold nanocages that are making possible ways to image cancer cells in lymph tissue.



David Kilper

Younan Xia (left), the James M. McKelvey Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, and Lihong Wang, the Gene K. Beare Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Engineering, examine the photoacoustic tomography machine in Wang's Whitaker Hall laboratory.

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## Raas Dance Team, cont'd from page 1

attracts students to the school. "Not only do we spread Washington University's name—we also give the University a culturally-diverse image," says Bhatt.

At least 80 percent of team members must be undergraduates for the Dandia Dhamaka Raas Competition.

This year a recent Washington University graduate was a dancer on the team.

"Alums always will stay connected with the team," says Bhatt.

Graduates often come back to coach and cheer at competition. Shah and Patel, who graduated in

May 2009, plan to attend Dandia Dhamaka next winter. The choreographers expect the University's team to be a continuing presence in the world of competitive Raas.

"We definitely are in the top three competitive teams in the United States," says Shah. ✂

Across the Globe,

## Lasán Promotes Social Work and Education

by Blaire Leible Garwitz

Dolores Baja Lasán, M.S.W. '59, uses her background in social work, public administration, and education in a career that spans the globe. For more than 25 years, Lasán served with the United Nations, where her work took her to Asia, North America, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. After her involvement with the U.N., she became chancellor of the Philippine Women's University and its Affiliate Schools for Men and Women.

As chancellor, Lasán handles university operations, as well as administrative, academic, and academic support services for basic education, tertiary, graduate, and postgraduate studies for two different campuses.

"The best part of the job is my engagement with students at all levels," she says.

Lasán received a Bachelor of Arts in English and graduate courses in public administration from the University of the Philippines before coming to Washington University for a Master of Social Work. She then attended the Philippine Women's University, where she earned a doctorate in education. At the National Institute for Social Work Training in London, Lasán conducted postdoctoral studies in both social philosophy and education.

From 1972 to 1974, she worked with the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok before becoming the U.N. adviser for Sri Lanka. In 1975, Lasán held the position of senior social services officer and then deputy chief of section of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Headquarters in Geneva. She served as chief of mission for the UNHCR from 1982 to 1985 in Hong Kong and Macau, Nigeria, Singapore, and finally Cyprus.

Her involvement with the U.N. led to her current position as chancellor of the Philippine Women's University and its Affiliate Schools for Men and Women.

"I was invited to be the chancellor in December 1995 as the university moved toward an international thrust," says Lasán.

Washington University has honored Lasán and her efforts with several awards, including the Most Outstanding Alumna Award from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work in 1994 and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University in 1996. She most recently received the University Distinguished Service Award from the Philippine Women's University and its Affiliate Schools for Men and Women for her "high competence, selfless dedication to duty, model of integrity, loyalty to the University and its ideals, and concern and respect for others."

To help other students pursuing careers in social work, Lasán provides an ongoing Dolores Baja Lasán Scholarship in Social Development at the School of Social Work at Washington University.

She is involved with Phi Lambda Theta, the National Council of Women of the Philippines, the Philippine Association of Social Workers, and the Washington University Philippines Alumni Chapter. Lasán also enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, who live all over the world.



Courtesy Photo

Dolores Baja Lasán is the chancellor of the Philippine Women's University and its Affiliate Schools for Men and Women.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Symposium examines Tokyo war crimes trial

The Joint Center for East Asian Studies presented its spring symposium, *The Tokyo Trial and After: New Interpretations, New Lives*, in February 2009. The symposium contained two presentations and a responding commentary.

First presenter Yuma Totani challenged the reigning view that the trial was merely victor's justice in her 2008 book *The Tokyo War Crimes Trial: The Pursuit of Justice in the Wake of World War II*. Based on meticulous research into the transcripts of the trial, Totani offered the controversial assessment that the trials were viable.

Second presenter Franziska Seraphim discussed her research project "After the Trials: War Criminals and Social Integration in 1950s Japan and Germany." Seraphim investigated the transformation of an issue of criminal responsibility into one of humanitarian crisis and social reintegration in which members of civic, political, and religious groups worked for the release of war criminals.

Transnational in scope, both presentations provided the means to explore the efficacy of war crimes trials and their role in history.

John O. Haley, the William R. Orthwein Distinguished Professor of Law, and Elizabeth Borgwardt, associate professor of history in Arts & Sciences, drew upon their expertise on the Tokyo and Nuremberg trials to respond to the presentations.

### Chen joins Olin faculty

Long Chen joined the Olin Business School as associate professor of finance. He earned a bachelor's degree from Fudan University in his native China before earning a master's degree and doctorate from the University of New Brunswick and the University of Toronto, respectively. Before attending school in Canada, Chen worked for a Chinese importer and exporter of metals, and he spent a year as a trader at the Shen Zhen Metal Exchange and Yunnan Metal Exchange in China. He has taught at Michigan State University and researches the areas of asset pricing and corporate financing decisions.

### Alum receives Most Benevolent Woman Award

Melody Zhang, M.S.W. '97, received the 2008 Most Benevolent Woman Award from *Good Housekeeping* magazine in China. She directs Children's Hope humanitarian aid work in China and has arranged hundreds of life-saving surgeries for orphans and children of poor families. Her tireless work to assist the victims of the May 2008 earthquake in China helped put her in the running for this honor.



Courtesy Photo

Melody Zhang directs Children's Hope humanitarian aid work in China, where she arranges life-saving surgeries for orphans and children of poor families.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Vincent Lee, A.B. '04, Associate Director of UBS AG in Hong Kong

For the past four years, Lee has volunteered for Washington University. He serves as chair of the Alumni and Parents Admission Program (APAP) committee in Hong Kong and is president of the newly formed Washington University Alumni Club in Hong Kong.

"I had an amazing experience at Washington University," says Lee. "My time there shaped me into the person I am today. Volunteering is my way of giving back to the University community and also is a channel for me to keep in touch with my friends and meet other alumni. I enjoy meeting others who, like me, had a great experience at the University."



Courtesy Photo

*Vincent Lee is a volunteer for Washington University with the APAP committee and the Alumni Club, both in Hong Kong.*

### Chu speaks to McDonnell International Scholars Academy

Steven Chu, the secretary of energy under President Obama and director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, spoke at the McDonnell International Scholars Academy Second International Symposium on Energy and Environment in December 2008.

In 1997, Chu became a recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics.

Chu was born in St. Louis, where his father, Ju Chin Chu, was a professor of chemical engineering at the University's School of Engineering & Applied Science.

### Lecture focuses on translating poetry from Japanese to English

The East Asian Studies program in Arts & Sciences presented *Through a Glass, Darkly: Is Translating Poetry Possible?* in January 2009. Janine Beichman, professor of Japanese literature at Daito Bunka University and visiting scholar at Columbia University, discussed her success in translating Japanese poems into English.

The oft-quoted dictum "Poetry is what gets lost in translation" is the nemesis of all translators of poetry. People often say that translating prose is very difficult, particularly between languages as different as Japanese and English, but it is only the translation of poetry that is spoken of in such defeatist terms. Why this is, what the translator's motives might be, and what the relation of the translator and the poem is, are topics Beichman discussed during the lecture. ✂



Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

*Steven Chu, a recipient of the 1997 Nobel Prize in Physics, is the director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.*

