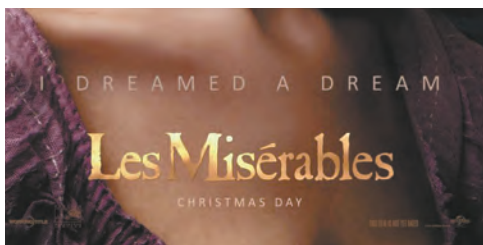


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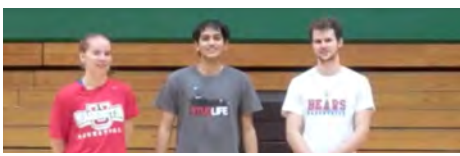
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PENGUINS
The ultimate
cure for the
winter blues
(Scene, pg 10)



OSCARS
Part one of our
preview features
tech categories
(Cadenza, pg 5)



BEAR BASICS
Online at studlife.com

Nate Silver talks politics to filled Graham Chapel



MATT MITGANG | STUDENT LIFE

New York Times blogger Nate Silver speaks to a packed Graham Chapel about his blog and politics. In his talk, Silver alluded to potentially quitting if his analysis started to affect political outcomes.

MICHAEL TABB
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

New York Times writer and statistician Nate Silver told a full Graham Chapel audience that he might stop writing his renowned blog should his analyses ever start affecting election results.

Silver spent an hour minimizing his achievements as an auspicious combination of decent blogging and statistical analysis in his Monday night lecture sponsored by the Washington University Political Review. Silver, who began his career doing statistics for Major League Baseball, gained wider fame when his FiveThirtyEight political blog hosted by the Times correctly predicted the 2012

presidential election results in every state.

He said that his statistics are not intended to affect results, which shouldn't be an issue in most general elections. But he conceded that in races such as last year's Republican presidential primary, analysis can make a difference.

"The polls can certainly affect elections at times," Silver said. "I hope people don't take the forecasts too seriously. You'd rather have an experiment where you record it off from the actual voters, in a sense, but we'll see. If it gets really weird in 2014, in 2016, then maybe I'll stop doing it. I don't want to influence the democratic process in a negative way."

"I'm [hoping to make] people

more informed, I don't want to affect their motive because they trust the forecasters," he added.

Without going into any mathematical specifics, Silver said that the key to doing what he does is accounting for margins of error and directing energy in efficient ways. He said that obsessing over a set of data hoping for big results is a waste of time.

"You have to get comfortable thinking in terms of uncertainty," Silver said. "Don't take a lot of things for granted; there's a lot of groupthink in a lot of problems."

"The basic lesson here—and I guess there are a couple different lessons—is not to expect miracles

SEE SILVER, PAGE 2

With few bumps, Student Union passes budget

NEWS STAFF

More than two months earlier and in less than half the time of last year's decision, Student Union passed its 2013-14 general budget with only one dissenting vote.

Despite some concerns voiced previously about the increases in the budget, the general budget passed Treasury unanimously (16-0) Wednesday night less than an hour after discussion began. Senate's vote, which came out 12-1 with one abstaining, followed within half an hour, a stark change from the previous year's four hour meeting.

The general budget was voted on in February as opposed to April to allow more time for student groups to book better speakers and performers for events such as W.I.L.D.

"This budget really reflects what all us treasurers want," senior and Treasury Representative Michael Rudolph said. "We're very confident in this budget."

The budget allocates money collected from student activities fees as well as carryforward,

SU money allocated but never spent from the previous academic year. Senior and Vice President of Finance Ammar Karimjee suggested including an estimate for carryforward in this year's budget, something that hasn't been done before, to more accurately account for the fact that SU gets back an influx of unspent funds every year.

"100% of these numbers are 100% accurate and they've never been like that in the past. One of the reasons we incorporated carryforward in the budget is because we had to use it in past years, so these numbers are now more accurate," Karimjee said.

Sophomore and Engineering Senator Shane Carr was the one student to vote against the general budget. Going into the meeting, he said his decision would hinge on whether Karimjee had made sufficient changes in response to recommendations made by Senate task forces that combed the general budget line by line.

"Just in the last couple of days there have indeed been a

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 3



ASRIEL BARKER | STUDENT LIFE

Student Union Treasury representatives raise their hands in favor of the proposed SU general budget. The budget unanimously passed Treasury 16-0.

McDonnell Academy confirms formal partnership in Africa

SADIE SMECK
NEWS EDITOR

Washington University's McDonnell International Scholars Academy recently confirmed its imminent partnership with the University of Ghana in Accra.

Chancellor Mark Wrighton, Vice Chancellor for International Affairs Jim Wertsch and Jean Allman, chair of and professor in the Department of History, met with administrators in Ghana last week to formalize the University's commitment.

The academy will accept its first African student this fall. The partnership represents the

University's first formalized connection to a university on the African continent, a step Henry Biggs, associate director for the McDonnell Academy, said was a long time coming.

"There was a feeling that a connection with a university in Africa was long overdue," he said. "We wanted to make sure we did it right and it was a university that we could really feel there were a lot of possible connections."

The University of Ghana is the 28th foreign university to partner formally with the McDonnell Academy, which offers full tuition to 15-20 exceptional graduate students from its partner institutions

each year.

Despite academic connections to institutions elsewhere in nations like Ethiopia and Kenya, Biggs said the goal for the partnership in Ghana, as with the academy's other partners, is to foster stronger and longer-standing relationships.

"Washington University has taken a different approach in terms of understanding how we want to interact with universities around the globe and how we want our presence to be around the globe. So for some [universities], you sort of develop connections, and you don't really get a great depth to those connections. We want to pick a few

schools and then really make those connections deep," Biggs said.

Allman will serve as the McDonnell Academy's ambassador to the University of Ghana. Having researched and studied in Ghana since her graduate school years, she suggested a partnership with the University of Ghana last year.

Allman noted that Ghana's status as a relatively stable and English-speaking country was a key factor in facilitating the partnership.

As ambassador, Allman will help to recruit top scholars and manage communications between the two universities, nurturing

the existing connections between them as well as fostering new ones.

"Each time we go and make connections, we're making new personal connections...and you sort of build from that, and people are more likely to be engaged, to be responsible about what they're doing," she said.

The chancellor was not available for an interview with Student Life, but wrote in a blog post from Ghana, published in the Record, "Vice Chancellor [Ernest] Aryeetey was very generous with his time and we had a wide-ranging discussion of issues facing

SEE MCDONNELL, PAGE 3

HOUSING GUIDE February 18th

Student Life
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EVENT

CALENDAR

THURSDAY 14

Jazz at Holmes Spring 2013 Concert Series
Ridgley Hall, Holmes Lounge, 8 p.m.
“Valentine’s Day Special: Love Songs of Porter, Gershwin, Rodgers, Hart, Hammerstein, and Arlen” performed by Jan Shapiro and Nathan Jatcko. This event is co-sponsored by University College and the Department of Music. The concert is free and open to the public.

Performing Arts Department: “Oedipus at Colonus”
Mallinckrodt Center, A.E. Hotchner Studio Theatre, 8 p.m.
The second installment in Sophocles’ Theban Plays. The U.S. premiere of the David Slavitt translation. Tickets are \$15 general admission and \$10 for students, seniors and Wash. U. faculty and staff. Tickets are available at the Edison Theatre box office and through all MetroTix outlets. Also on February 15, 16 and 17.

The Vagina Monologues
Graham Chapel, 8 p.m.
Wash. U. V-Day presents its annual benefit show, “The Vagina Monologues.” Tickets are \$10 general admission and \$8 for Wash. U. students, faculty and staff. Tickets are available at the Edison Theatre box office. All proceeds go to charity. Also on February 15 and 16.

FRIDAY 15

The Environmental and Sustainability Work Group
Danforth University Center, Room 239, 1 p.m.
Through interviews with Wash. U. alums and other professionals, discover the range of eco-friendly careers. This event is co-sponsored by the Career Center and Office of Sustainability. This group meets each Friday when classes are in session. RSVP on CAREERlink.

Edison Theatre Ovations Series
Mallinckrodt Center, Edison Theatre, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
“Potted Potter: The Unauthorized Harry Experience” takes a madcap romp through all seven Harry Potter books, presented by storytellers Dan Clarkson and Jeff Turner. Come dressed as your favorite character. Tickets are \$36 for the general public, \$32 for seniors, \$28 for Wash. U. faculty and staff, and \$20 for children and students. Tickets are available through the Edison Theatre box office and all MetroTix outlets.

SATURDAY 16

Department of Music Concert
560 Music Center, Ballroom Theater, 7:30 p.m.

New Music Circle presents the “Kris Davis Quintet.” Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$10 for students with valid ID. The concert is free for Wash. U. students with ID. Tickets can be purchased at the door with cash or check only.

5th Annual Poetry Grand Slam
Mallinckrodt Center, Edison Theatre, 7:00 p.m.
Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Hosted by musical and poetry group Milo & Otis. The event is free and open to the public.

QUOTE

OF THE DAY

“I’m [hoping to make] people more informed, I don’t want to affect their motive because they trust the forecasters.”
- Nate Silver, blogger for the New York Times’ FiveThirtyEight blog

POLICE

BEAT

February 10
Driving While Intoxicated—At 1:02 a.m., a subject was arrested after being observed operating a motor vehicle on the sidewalk south of Green and Brauer Halls. Disposition: Cleared by arrest.

February 12
Stealing by Deceit—At 3:25 p.m., a subject used deceit to receive a refund on items he never purchased. The loss is valued at \$142.80. Disposition: Pending.

SILVER

FROM PAGE 1

when you’re looking at big data,” he added.

Silver also spoke from personal experience when he talked about how even people who ask the right questions will often direct their energy inefficiently.

“I have a friend who’s from St. Louis, he’s the kind of guy who, we’ll go out to dinner and he’s trying to figure out what to order, and it will be like a 15 minute ordeal where he’ll have a complex negotiation with the waiter or waitress about what options are available, and it’s very, very painful to go out with him,” Silver said. “[This is] a guy who’s been miserable at his job for a year and a half. I ask him, ‘Why don’t you look for a new job?’ He’s like, ‘Uh, I don’t know, I’m tired.’”

Silver added that it’s similarly important not to overestimate the complexity of things. He referenced the 1996 chess match between Garry Kasparov and the computer nicknamed “Deep Blue.” Kasparov lost the match after the struggling computer made a random move that the grandmaster erroneously interpreted as a sign of some superior knowledge.

“It turned out that what looked like a bug actually was a bug,” Silver said.

After his lecture, Silver answered student-asked questions and spoke about how he thinks what he does can be applied to other research-fueled fields.

“A lot of academic journals should really be blogs instead, where you say, ‘Well I conducted an experiment in the lab today, and here’s what I found.’ One good thing about FiveThirtyEight, for example, is you can do a...study and we can give the audience, the reader, clues about how seriously they should take it. A lot of the time you might be kind of playing around in the data sandbox and you come across something interesting and it’s worth pointing out, but you don’t



MATT MITGANG | STUDENT LIFE

have to write a whole thesis about it,” Silver said.


Students present at the discussion said they found the speech interesting and relevant despite the fact that he didn’t go into many specifics.

“It gave some good insights and showed that he applied his method to more than just politics,” freshman Eli Horowitz said.

“Since Nate Silver was a mathematician, it seemed like an interesting application of mathematics,” freshman Anthony Grebe, who plans to double major in math and physics, said. “I had seen a little bit about him before the election, and obviously I’m impressed because he predicted it so well.”

Others were impressed with the New York Times blogger’s humility.


“He really spoke to a lot of Wash. U. students in terms of where their interests lie,” senior and WUPR co-editor-in-chief Anna Applebaum said. “He talked about sports, talked about poker, talked about math. I thought it was a great speech, and I had a great time attending.”



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PROFESSIONAL
STUDIES

MCDONNELL FROM PAGE 1

higher education in Ghana. He enthusiastically embraced us as an important partner.”

Wertsch said the new partnership with the University of Ghana will help to strengthen Washington University, both locally and abroad.

“In the long-run, what this is about in a lot of ways is how to make Washington University a better university, a stronger university with global connections,” Wertsch said. “There are a lot of people who do really important work in Ghana for reasons that have to do with a service commitment, which I’m a great admirer of, and the academy. What we’re after is, how do you make Washington University a better place by having partners like University of Ghana?”

Wertsch also noted the potential to foster other programs at partner institutions, such as undergraduate exchanges and study abroad experiences.

He said he hopes the McDonnell Academy can continue to grow its international connections in the coming years, ideally partnering with around 30 institutions and inviting around 100 international graduate students to join the University as scholars in residence.

“A lot of this depends on fundraising and collaborative research funding and corporate sponsorships,” he said.

This year, the academy accepted its first domestic members: two U.S. citizens who have pledged to attend one of the partner institutions abroad during some portion of their graduate curriculum. In the future, Biggs said, these scholars will represent around 10 to 15 percent of the

academy.

Rita Barton, a first year domestic McDonnell Scholar in the Brown School of Social Work studying international economic and social development, hopes to travel to Ghana to conduct fieldwork in the coming years.

“Within development, I am looking at interventions that involve international volunteers and how they affect the community, and Ghana is actually a really good country to do field research in because they’ve got a ton of different types of volunteer programs,” she said

David Ansong, a Ghanaian Ph.D. student in the Brown School of Social Work, studied at the University of Ghana as an undergraduate.

“[The partnership] has a lot of potential, and especially in my area of work, which is social work. The Brown School here at Wash. U. has a long tradition of bringing a lot of Ghanans through the social work department, so they already have that kind of relationship. But I think it’s been a one-way relationship. It’s always been students coming to Wash. U., but...it’s not reciprocal,” he said. “So we don’t have students from here going to Ghana to do some work, to also learn from a different context. But in that respect, [the partnership] leaves open the opportunity for Wash. U. to also look at what it can learn from this relationship, from that environment.”

“It’s going to take a while for this to really cement and for both sides to really get a feel of real advantages of this contact,” he added. “So it will take a while, but I think it’s going to be a great opportunity.”

BUDGET FROM PAGE 1

lot of changes; the senate task forces were originally not scheduled to present until tomorrow [Thursday], but Neel [Desai] scheduled a meeting for us last Monday to go over task force findings, and then we met with Ammar yesterday, and Ammar incorporated a couple of those changes into the budget,” Carr said. “Of course, not all of the changes were implemented, so the ones that weren’t implemented, and the ones that haven’t been sensibly discussed yet are the things that we are going to be spending the most time on.”

In a presentation about Social Programming Board’s funding, Carr weighed both positives and potential drawbacks of the

proposed general budget. He said that the new timeline would allow students to book higher profile artists without spending more, or book the same artists for less. But he also cited those perks in questioning the budgeted increase in W.I.L.D. talent funding.

Some senators had reservations about increasing the Social Programming Board’s budget, particularly for W.I.L.D. given the fact that Team 31 has only just ceased to exist.

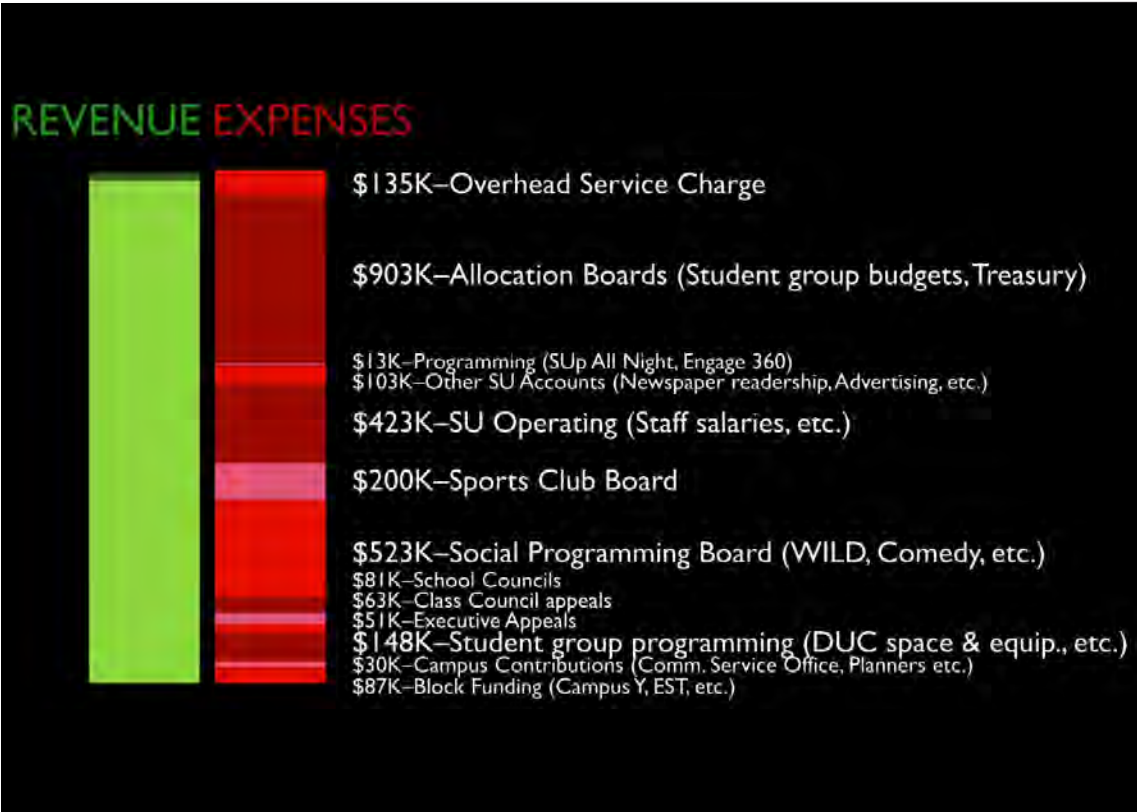
“I think we need to give SPB a trial run with a control,” sophomore and Engineering Senator Andrew Elstein said. “I’d really like to see if this is a change that has done any good. If we raise our budget by 10%, which is

quite a lot, we lose any insight.”

But junior and Treasury Representative Sean Janda supported SPB’s funding increase, citing the huge return in comedy talent from an additional \$10,000 in spending.

“\$20,000 of the \$27,000 increase is the comedy talent rather than W.I.L.D.,” Janda said. “The entire SPB account is only going up three percent which is half of the [overall] general budget increase...the only thing I’ve ever heard about W.I.L.D. is that the talent isn’t good enough.”

“The point of WILD isn’t to be a controlled experiment,” Janda said. “The point of WILD is to put on a great concert.”



A breakdown of the expenses in the 2013-14 Student Union general budget. Changes include an increase in funding for Social Programming Board and the Sports Club Board. **SEE VIDEO AT STUDLIFE.COM.**



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FORUM

STAFF EDITORIAL

StudLife Dealbreakers

Though Student Life staffers are willing to nearly anything for journalism, even we have some standards when it comes to our love lives. Here are our editorial board members' deal breakers.

Sahil Patel, Managing Editor

1. You don't like country music. We would never ever ever even get together.
2. You don't like sports. This should narrow things down quite a bit, at least at Wash. U.
3. You don't follow me on Twitter (@sahilspatel). You're seriously missing out. I promise. Seriously.

Natalie Villalon, Senior Forum Editor

1. You're on a paleo diet because it's "more natural."
2. You've ever used one of these phrases unironically: "No, no, I'm just happy to see you. I left my assault rifle in the car," or "clearly you don't understand; Paul Ryan totally respects women."
3. You consider gin and toilet paper cleaning supplies. Ew.

Georgie Morvis, Senior Cadenza Editor

1. You don't like "Lost," Beyoncé or "30 Rock."
2. You think I tweet too

much or post too much on Facebook.

3. You despise dogs, dolphins or Dory from "Finding Nemo."

Sam Schauer, Design Chief

1. You think Boston is anything other than the "City of Champions".
2. You don't know the difference between "kerning" and "tracking".
3. You own a PC.

Leah Kucera, Art Director

1. You're not a "cat person." This includes Hello Kitty.
2. You have bad hair. There are no excuses for bad hair.

What constitutes "bad hair" is left to my discretion.

3. You think Comic Sans is an acceptable font choice.

Matt Curtis, Forum Editor

1. You're a smoker.
2. You're a serial cheater.
3. You get lost in your smartphone.

Caroline Ludeman, Senior Scene Editor

1. You're not a smoker.
2. You're not a serial cheater.
3. You have an animal last name.

Kurt Rohrbeck, Senior Sports Editor

1. You can't at least tolerate the fact that I spend a lot of time watching/following sports.
2. You're a really, really picky eater.
3. You very frequently judge people based on their outfits.

John Schmidt, Copy Chief

1. You're so loose even your participles dangle.
2. You're possessive with more than just your pronouns.
3. You're a serial comma killer.

Hannah Lustman, Managing Editor

1. You can't do your own laundry yet? It's a problem.

2. You don't like the Olympics? You can leave.
3. You only like horror movies? You might be seeing a lot of movies alone.

Michael Tabb, Editor-in-Chief

1. You can't put your phone away long enough to maintain a conversation.
2. You're a vegan and/or don't accept people who inhale fried chicken.
3. You speak often and seriously about any of the following: social justice, volunteerism, sustainability, professional sports, Twilight, Plato, the weather, the Dow Jones, standardized test scores.

Redefining Education

ALEX BERNSTEIN
STAFF COLUMNIST

Tuesday night, President Barack Obama delivered a stirring State of the Union address. One of the most stirring and important parts of the address called for drastic changes in the American educational system. Citing Germany as an example of a developed nation that successfully promotes science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in the pre-university educational environment, the president called for a far more technical and rigorous educational focus in United States in the future. I believe this to be potentially the most important and effective way to redefine the American economy in the future. With scientific and technological innovation playing an ever more important role in the economy, more and more jobs will certainly be created.

Unfortunately, these jobs require ever-increasing levels of education and technical ability. We have a higher education system capable of providing the necessary technical skills to students. Indeed, I may be somewhat biased, but I believe that American universities are, and continue to be, the best in the world, offering a more complete, holistic education not readily available in other nations. American students are, unfortunately, often unprepared for this environment. I therefore find Obama's call for a more rigorous primary education somewhat refreshing. I believe Americans tend to focus far too much on a humanistic primary education, with a great deal of time spent on creative arts and free time, often at the expense of technical fields. While these are certainly important, primary education is also a time when students build the technical skills they will use for the rest of their lives. I would therefore encourage a more directed focus on mathematics, reading and scientific reasoning skills in primary education.

I am not suggesting we adopt the very strict and obsessive approach that some Asian nations take with mathematics, but we must nonetheless take a more rigorous approach to this branch of education. Mathematics is a subject that is necessary, both from logical reasoning and technical skills perspectives. It is also a subject whose education can be standardized relatively easily at a primary level. A standardized mathematics education can therefore be very helpful in judging how accomplished students are prior to entering college. The present-day system of various grades, judged independently by schools, with the unifying pre-college SAT exam creates a wide dispersion with respect to mathematics education across the country. Additionally, the SAT and ACT may not be technical enough in judging students' preparation for STEM fields at the university level. I would therefore propose a completely standardized mathematics education, similar to the British General Certificate of Secondary Education exam that tests students at the age of 16 to determine if they have at the very least a rudimentary understanding of critical subjects.

As I am not an education expert, I do not know how such a system could be implemented, but a better way of measuring competency is certainly needed within the American education system. Redefining and reengineering the American primary education system is perhaps the most important challenge facing our nation in this day and age. Yet only through solving this problem will America be able to remain competitive and generate enough jobs to compete with the rest of the world.

OP-ED SUBMISSION

Wash. U. students leave a lasting mark: Global Brigades in Honduras

WUSTL MEDICAL AND DENTAL BRIGADIERS

This winter break, riding in the back of a pickup truck along a bumpy mountain road in Honduras, a small team of Wash. U. students visited the home of a victim of yellow fever. An old woman had come into the village to get medication for her son, and we decided to send a group to her home to see the conditions for ourselves. The road was long and steep, with even a small river to cross. It was unbelievable to think that the woman had traveled so far on foot to reach our clinic. At the house, we saw her son lying on a mat on the porch with his limbs sprawled out. Yellow fever at birth had doomed him to live paralyzed, in a cerebral palsy-like state, for the rest of his life. We explained the situation to the mother and provided her with pain-relief medicine, as her son lifted his head with an occasional spasm. With this patient behind us, we headed back down the mountain to continue our mission with Global Brigades.

Global Brigades (GB) is the largest student-run global health and sustainable development organization in the world. We operate using a holistic model—by approaching international community development from different angles, we are able to effect sustainable changes in communities in Central America. This year, Wash. U. GB ran eight different student brigades: medical, public health, dental, microfinance, architecture, water, environmental and a combined medical/public health brigade.

In many rural Honduran villages, it is difficult for patients to access medical attention, because of limited access to a city or an inability to pay for procedures. Many medical issues are therefore left undressed and lead to more severe problems. When Global Brigades enters a community and sets up a clinic, villagers from that community, as well as surrounding communities, have the opportunity to receive medical attention that they otherwise would not have received. Many patients walk for hours to reach our temporary clinic, but no walk is too far.

Fifteen medical brigadiers, one M.D. and nine dental brigadiers traveled to Honduras, along with separate public health and microfinance brigades. Our group stayed in a compound an hour outside of Tegucigalpa. Each morning, we traveled two hours to the community of La Chichigua, far into the Honduran mountains, to set up a medical/dental clinic. Brigadiers work together in the same community, and patients were able to receive both medical and dental care, as well as learn about important preventive health measures. While the most routine diagnoses were parasites and fungal infections, some brigadiers observed the effects of malnutrition on infants, as well as severe birth defects. Dental brigadiers ran a “charla” for children, in which we provided children with Fluoride treatments and taught them how to brush their teeth and floss. Additionally, brigadiers shadowed our dentist, Dr. Fatima. While Dr. Fatima did some restorations, the majority of her procedures were tooth extractions. Because there is no dental care nearby and resources are limited, extractions are the only option for many villagers.

As much as the experience was special for us, it was clear that we truly had an impact on the people of La Chichigua. They showed up to triage wearing their sharpest clothes and went through the long process with smiles and tremendous gratitude that are rarely found in an American waiting room. Not one community member verbally complained about his extractions, even a man who had fourteen teeth extracted. The children were always happy to see us and never stopped laughing as we played games together. The laughter was shared both ways, as we played along with all of their games and we were surprised when we found out that, even in this remote region of the world, “Gangnam Style” was a huge hit. As we drove away from the community every day, we would see kids waving goodbye, wearing the cowboy hats and clown wigs we left for them.

There is no reason for Wash. U. students to stay inside the “Wash. U. bubble” and miss out on the many opportunities to explore the world. By stepping outside of this bubble, anyone can become more aware of other cultures, while making a significant difference. Traveling to another part of the world puts our seemingly major problems and concerns into a new perspective. It also leads to incredibly rewarding service and experience; seeing the immediate impact of our work teaches us more than any lecture could. When we parted ways with the community on our last day, the mayor expressed his gratitude to our team as villagers stood crying. We were all sad to leave Honduras, but we left with the mayor's parting words: “We will never forget you and the work you have done here. This isn't a goodbye, but a see you later; we want to see you again.”

For more information about getting involved, contact washugh@gmail.com.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY
Valentine's Day



SHOOTING ARROWS
FROM PANEM'S
EROS

MARGARET FLATLEY | STUDENT LIFE

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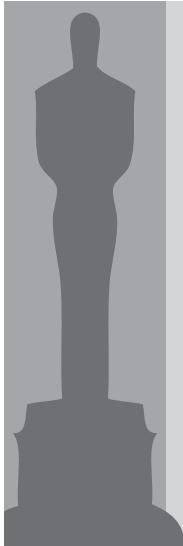
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CADENZA

OSCAR PREDICTIONS: THE TECH CATEGORIES

The most prestigious film awards of the year are just ten days away, which means Cadenza is cranking out their first set of predictions. For part one of our three-part coverage, we're tackling the below-the-line tech categories. The Academy Awards are on ABC on Sunday, February 24 at 6PM CST. — Cadenza Staff

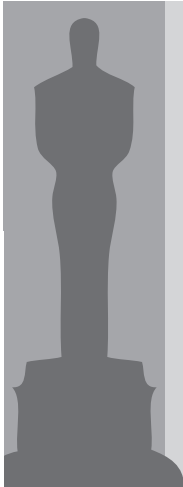


Best Visual Effects

The Hobbit:An Unexpected Journey
Life of Pi
Marvel's The Avengers
Prometheus
Snow White and the Huntsman

Favorite: Life of Pi
Spoiler: Prometheus
Should have been here: Beasts of the Southern Wild

Best visual effects won't be living up to its alternate name this year (best blockbuster). That's because "Life of Pi" is almost guaranteed of victory in the category. The other nominees are "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," "Snow White and the Huntsman," "Prometheus," and "Marvel's The Avengers." Why exactly a tiger in a boat is more impressive than aliens, orcs, and superheroes is a mystery to me. Even if we're talking best visual effects for "animals that are important to the protagonist but may not actually exist outside their head," I still wouldn't give "Life of Pi" the award. It would go to "Beasts of the Southern Wild" for those titular beasts. Disclaimer, I really didn't like "Life of Pi." Regardless of who wins, the best part of this category is that we can pretend "Prometheus" was only the clips they will show when introducing it at the show. — Trevor Leuzinger



Best Original Score

Anna Karenina
Argo
Life of Pi
Lincoln
Skyfall

Favorite: Life of Pi
Spoiler: Skyfall
Should have been here: Beasts of the Southern Wild

Best Original Score was filled with less controversy than years past as the music branch did not declare any popular scores ineligible. At first glance, it appears to be a wide open race, but recent Golden Globe winner Mychael Danna, who composed "Life of Pi," is the favorite for now, but Thomas Newman ("Skyfall") and Alexandre Desplat ("Argo"), both recent mainstays in this category, could win for the first time as well. The other two nominees, Dario Marianelli ("Anna Karenina") and John Williams ("Lincoln") have won before for much better scores than they're nominated for this year, so a win for either of them would be a real shocker. — Georgie Morvis

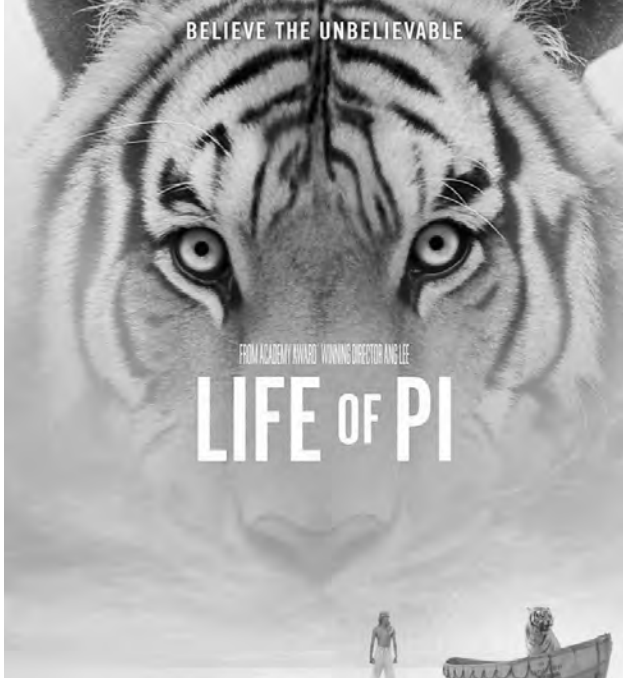


Best Cinematography

Anna Karenina
Django Unchained
Life of Pi
Lincoln
Skyfall

Favorite: Life of Pi
Spoiler: Skyfall
Should have been here: The Master

"Life of Pi" has been hailed as one of the most beautiful films of last year, capturing the vastness of the open sea with an assortment of rich tones and vivid colors. A testament to the possibilities of digital photography, the film's well-received 3-D effects will likely bolster its case. While "Life of Pi" is the heavy favorite in this category, legendary cinematographer Roger Deakins has an outside chance of pulling an upset for his work on "Skyfall," which boasted some of the most visually arresting scenes in recent cinematic history. A ten-time nominee, Deakins has shockingly never taken home the prize despite a reputation as one of the best in the business. A long-overdue win for Deakins would be a pleasant surprise, but I would have liked to see a nomination for the most under-represented film at this year's Oscars, "The Master", which exhibited a mastery of cinematic language unmatched since Paul Thomas Anderson's last film, 2007's "There Will Be Blood." The other nominees are "Anna Karenina," "Django Unchained," and "Lincoln." — Mark Matousek





Best Sound Mixing

Argo
Les Misérables
Life of Pi
Lincoln
Skyfall

Favorite: Les Misérables
Spoiler: Skyfall
Should have been here: Zero Dark Thirty

The most obvious this category will ever be, "Les Misérables" may not have gotten much right as a movie, but the live singing was a groundbreaking decision that garnered more press for an aspect of sound than all the other nominees combined. Speaking of, the other movies nominated are "Argo," "Skyfall," "Life of Pi," and "Lincoln." A murderer's row of films, one has to feel sorry for Greg P. Russell, who received his 16th nomination for "Skyfall" but will likely be stymied again by the singing people of France. Not that anyone will notice but "Django Unchained" and "Zero Dark Thirty" can make the argument that they should have been included based on their nominations for sound editing. But regardless, at the end of the day it will be an Oscar for "Les Miz." — Trevor Leuzinger

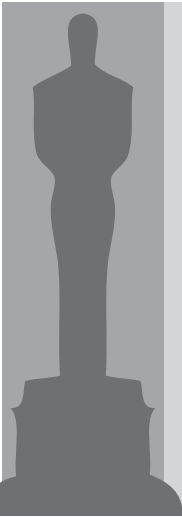


Best Original Song

"Before My Time," Chasing Ice
"Everybody Needs a Best Friend," TED
"Pi's Lullaby," Life of Pi
"Skyfall," Skyfall
"Suddenly," Les Misérables

Favorite: Skyfall
Spoiler: Suddenly
Should have been here: Breath of Life, from Snow White and the Huntsman

The Best Original Song category is often a bit of a crapshoot—last year, the category included only two nominees, both from children's movies. This year's Best Original Song race is actually competitive, though, featuring five nominees from some of the year's biggest blockbusters. "Pi's Lullaby" from "Life of Pi" and "Before My Time" from the documentary "Chasing Ice" are pretty songs, but they're also the least familiar ones on the list, which could cost them votes. And compared to the other nominees, "Everybody Needs a Best Friend" from "Ted" doesn't have much going for it aside from cutesiness. "Suddenly," a song created exclusively for the 2012 film version of "Les Misérables," is a strong contender, but Adele most likely has this one in the bag with her epic, eponymous theme song for the James Bond movie "Skyfall." — Katharine Jaruzelski




Best Editing

Argo
Life of Pi
Lincoln
Silver Linings Playbook
Zero Dark Thirty

Favorite: Argo
Spoiler: Zero Dark Thirty
Should have been here: Skyfall

All five Best Editing nominees are also Best Picture nominees, but the biggest surprise of this category is that rom-com "Silver Linings Playbook" slipped in. Normally the Academy reserves their Editing love for action movies and dramas about war. But anyone who has seen "Silver Linings" understands how crucial editing was to the climactic scenes in the picture. It would be a daring choice, but I foresee the Academy coming down for either "Argo" or "Zero Dark Thirty," with Best Picture frontrunner "Argo" ultimately winning. — Georgie Morvis



Best Sound Editing

Argo
Django Unchained
Life of Pi
Skyfall
Zero Dark Thirty

Favorite: Zero Dark Thirty
Spoiler: Life of Pi
Should have been here: Les Miz

The sound categories are really only something you would notice while watching if it was really bad which would never happen in a Hollywood film, which makes this a difficult category to call. Nominees are "Argo," "Django Unchained," "Life of Pi," "Skyfall," and "Zero Dark Thirty." The biggest snub is "Les Misérables," seeing as it is a musical and all, you'd expect it to be nominated for all the sound categories. Anyway, being the only non-best picture nominee of the group could hurt "Skyfall," or it could be where the academy rewards it. Both "Zero Dark Thirty" and "Life of Pi" are well regarded in the technical categories and probably are leading the way in the category. It will be a close race to be sure. — Trevor Leuzinger

NOW HEAR THIS: Blood Diamonds (w/ Best Friends) at the Gargoyle

NOW

hear

THIS

THE

Blood

DIAMONDS

Where:

The Gargoyle

When:

Friday, February 15,

8pm (doors at 7:30)

Tickets at the Edison Box Office

KAYLA HOLLENBAUGH
MUSIC EDITOR

This Friday the Social Programming Board (the new umbrella organization which includes groups like Team 31 and The Gargoyle Committee) will bring up and coming producer Blood Diamonds to on campus venue The Gargoyle. The pseudonym of 21 year old, L.A.-based producer Michael Tucker, Blood Diamonds has been steadily putting up a mixture of remixes and

original productions on his SoundCloud page for a couple of years but he has recently pricked the ears of several in the music scene. Not to be confused with the Leonardo DiCaprio movie or the Kanye West song, Pitchfork profiled Blood Diamonds as a new artist to watch and he released a single with Grimes last year titled "Phone Sex". The song is indicative of many of the signatures of Blood Diamonds – airy, light vocals coupled with Tropicana

soundscapes, steel drums and samples abound. Blood Diamonds might be described a sunnier Grimes, or a more subdued Unicorn Kid, and his songs walk a tight line between the two. It is because of this difficulty to categorize that makes the work of Blood Diamonds so engaging and enjoyable to listen to. Each song is produced painstakingly; lush sounds layered one over the other until eventually a kind of sonorous nirvana is reached; one of the best examples of

this would be the soft blend of female and male vocals on his track "Dreams." aThis is the kind of music that would be perfect for a live show, and the small size of the venue would probably bring out even more facets of each carefully crafted melody. Blood Diamonds will definitely be one of 2013's indie darlings, and it would be a shame to miss a free opportunity to experience him, right on campus.

Potted Potter Apparates into the Edison on Friday

POTTED POTTER

WHEN: February 15

7:30 PM and 9:30 PM

WHERE: Edison Theater


Adult \$36

Senior \$32

Wash. U. Faculty/Staff \$28

Student/Child \$20

Wash. U. Student \$10

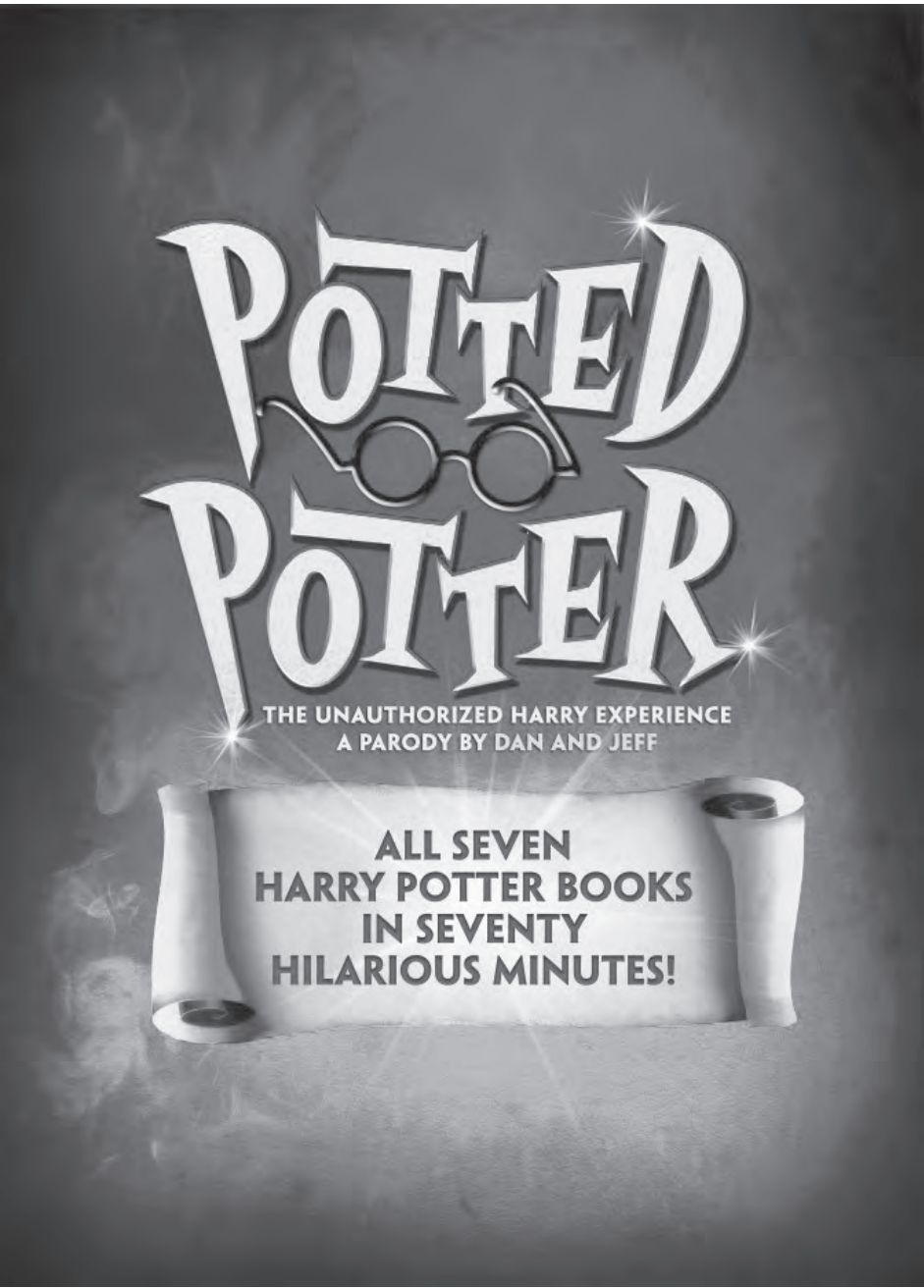


ELENA WANDZILAK
CADENZA REPORTER

We all know the story: orphaned Harry learns at age eleven that he is a wizard and gets whisked away to Hogwarts, where his magical life truly begins, but who has time to read all seven books or watch all eight movies while at school? "Potted Potter" gives us all seven "Harry Potter" books and 360 characters in just 70

hilarious minutes. "Potted Potter – the Unauthorized Harry Experience – A Parody by Dan and Jeff" is written and performed by two-time Olivier Award-nominated actors Daniel Clarkson and Jefferson Turner. Toronto Star calls it "the single funniest thing I have seen in ages." This performance will be sure to excite Potterheads and non-believers, alike, as Dan and Jeff recreate the

scenes where Harry makes friends, falls in love and battles evil. And the pop culture references aren't strictly from J.K. Rowling's universe as the two actors throw in clever calls to "Wicked" and "Lord of the Rings." They even fit in a game of Quidditch! "Potted Potter" will be performing in Edison Theater this Friday, February 15th at 7:30 and 9:30. Tickets are on sale in the box office.



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SPORTS

The pitch to Wash. U. athletic recruits

KURT ROHRBECK
SENIOR SPORTS EDITOR

One week ago, the college football landscape was fixated on one of its favorite days of the year: national signing day. Top recruits around the country donned caps with their new school's logo, ready to play in the spotlight for some of NCAA Division I football's best programs—from the University of Alabama to the Ohio State University to, apparently, the University of Mississippi—beginning next fall.

While that was happening, Washington University football coach Larry Kindbom followed along, knowing that his recruiting cycle wasn't even close to done yet. As you might know, there aren't scholarships or letters of intent in Division III college sports. If people want to play at Wash. U., they have to get accepted like everyone else.

So Kindbom's recruiting season gets really interesting around March, when regular-admission students begin to get their acceptance or rejection letters. And that wait can lead to a problem with certain recruits.

"Our timeline doesn't always jive with Division I," Kindbom said. "And not just Division I, but the scholarship schools, and other

schools like us that are now using the admissions tool, saying, 'We can get you in if you say yes to us now.' That's not Wash. U.

"Signing day was this past week, and [they] would rather go to Washington University if they can get in. So these kids are pressed with some very, very difficult decisions because the calendars are so very different."

Kindbom's no stranger to the recruiting process of college sports' biggest showcase. He worked at Ohio State as a graduate assistant from 1977-79 before serving as an assistant coach at the University of Akron from 1979-83. Not surprisingly, things are a little bit different at those places.

"The difference," Kindbom said, comparing Wash. U. to those two schools, "still came down to 'when you come here, understand that football was first.' That had to be understood."

And that mentality is what ultimately led him to the Division III level—first for six years at Kenyon University before starting at Wash. U. in 1989.

"Now, my feeling is, when I was [at the Division I level], I understood that was what it was all about. For me to say 'I just didn't believe in that'...when I was there, I had to believe in that. And

I didn't want to be in that situation. Part of the reason I am where I am is because I didn't think that I was most comfortable working in a situation where football was the No. 1 thing."

And while football, or whichever other sport, is the No. 1 thing for thousands of recruits across the country, the pitch of the Wash. U. coach makes the sport a priority, rather than the priority.

Volleyball head coach Rich Luenemann, for instance, has had his share of recruiting seasons to work with—and thanks to the pedigree of the volleyball program and its 10 national championships, he often is making the Wash. U. pitch to Division I-quality recruits.

"On occasion, prospects who are being recruited by Division I universities elect to matriculate to Wash. U.," Luenemann said. "They do so because of the incredible academic opportunities, the student-centered university focus and the fact athletic participation here isn't a job or lifestyle."

Kindbom echoed a similar sentiment, celebrating the success of his players to be able to excel at football and also have the same college experience here as anyone else.

"We want guys who want to play for championships. We're playing one of the

toughest schedules in the country, and that's a selling point—[but] you'll still be able to do the things that you want academically."

Kindbom pointed out that the top major on the football team last year was biomedical engineering, and Luenemann noted that the "proof is in the pudding in that our student-athletes exhibit the same dissemination of majors as the non-athletes, and their GPAs are very similar."

There were more parts of the appeal, such as the fact that athletes like football players are able to go abroad in the spring where they wouldn't be able to at a scholarship program. And this has worked out well for student-athletes and coaches alike—Kindbom has asserted that his players who go abroad have been able to contribute even more than before as they've stayed dedicated to the program when not in St. Louis.

"They know that to win a position, they've got to come back in better shape. They've got to come back ready to go," Kindbom said. "This is a competitive program. They feel so good about it in the first place—those guys almost always come back bigger, stronger, faster."

Ultimately, that theme ties into what Kindbom seemed to define as the



MATT MITGANG | STUDENT LIFE

Head football coach Larry Kindbom looks on as his team takes on Coe College on Sept. 15, 2012. Kindbom is in his 24th season as head coach at Washington University.

all-encompassing Wash. U. recruiting pitch to quality student-athletes. Athletes who head into high-level scientific research or get jobs on Wall Street or are accepted to medical school aren't exceptions—they're students.

"It's cool that a Wash. U. student can do [those things], but the fact that the

Wash. U. athlete not only can do that but does that... how cool is that?" Kindbom said. "And that's across the board, in all sports. And that's what I think makes this place special. I think it just means that, of those athletes, they can do that in their college careers, and it just makes them want to play even harder."

puzzle mania

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the path word puzzle

topic: 85th Academy Awards

"A Royal Affair"

Difficulty ★★☆☆☆ (50pts)

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Spell the phrase in the grid above it, writing each unique letter only once. The correct solution will spell the complete phrase along a **single continuous spelling path** that moves horizontally vertically and diagonally. Fill the grid from square to square - revisiting letters as needed to complete the spelling path in order. Each letter will appear only once in the grid.

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O	B	I
U	Y	H
Z		S
K	A	

"Buzkashi Boys"

Difficulty ★☆☆☆☆ (20pts)

2/11 SOLUTION

FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 14, 2013

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

1 Tip, as one's hat

5 Empty spaces

9 Subsidies

14 Suffix with switch

15 Wilson of "Wedding Crashers"

16 Texas shrine

17 Tall tale teller

18 "Deck the Halls" syllables

19 Tear to shreds

20 Residential loan

23 About to happen

24 Bronze from a day at the beach

28 René's friend

29 Appear to be

31 ___ Lingus: Irish carrier

32 Russian fighter jets

35 "I'd like to hear the rest"

38 Italian violin maker

40 Squeak stopper

41 Rigs on the road

42 1974 Jimmy Buffett song

45 Reasons for extra innings

46 "Tastes great!"

47 Poet's inspiration

48 Sow or cow

50 What social climbers seek

52 Curtail

56 Office communication, and what can literally be found in 20-, 35- and 42-Across

59 Gangster John known as "The Teflon Don"

62 Twice-monthly tide

63 Paths of pop-ups

64 Place on a pedestal

65 Show some spunk

66 "That makes sense"

67 Saunter

68 Vehicle on runners

69 Proof of ownership

DOWN

1 New ___: India's capital

2 Hunter constellation

3 Heads on beers

4 Hint of the future

5 "Take a shot!"

6 Informed (of)

7 Attack, as with snowballs

8 Stocking tear

9 Military practice

10 Visitor from afar

11 Treat jet lag, perhaps

12 Earthbound Aussie bird

13 Dip, as bread in gravy

21 Dad's partner

22 "Lemme ___!"

25 Vocalist Judd

26 Really strange

27 Bride's purchase

29 Base runner's option

30 Scat legend

32 Flagship store at New York City's Herald Square

33 Words from one with a bad hand

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20				21					22					
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			28			29	30					31		
32	33	34			35	36					37			
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64								65				66		
67								68				69		

By Gail Grabowski and Bruce Venzke

2/11 Puzzle Solved

N	O	G	O		A	C	C	E	S	S	C	O	D	E
A	C	E	D		M	O	U	S	E	E	A	R	E	D
N	O	N	E		C	U	R	T	A	I	L	I	N	G
N	T	E	S	T		T	E	E	M		I	O	T	A
Y	I	P		A	M	U	S	E		A	B	L	E	R
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S	O	U	R	S		A	N	O	D	E		A	N	D
T	O	N	S		S	T	A	R		C	A	N	A	L
A	F	T	E	R	T	A	X	E	S		T	A	T	A
R	A	I	L	B	A	R	O	N	S		I	D	E	D
T	H	E	F	L	I	X	I	S	I	N		E	A	S

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34 Letter after beta	52 Simple trap
36 Long, long time	53 Far from talkative
37 Parking ticket issuer	54 Intro giver
39 Resistance to disease	55 Snooped (around)
43 Expel	57 Pulls the plug on
44 Like a slingshot handle	58 More than lifelike
49 Christmas, e.g.: Abbr.	59 Precious stone
51 Proof of ownership	60 Big name in kitchen gadgets
	61 Profs' helpers

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level:

1

2

3

4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO 2/11 PUZZLE

3	7	9	6	8	2	1	5	4
8	5	6	7	1	4	9	2	3
2	4	1	3	9	5	8	7	6
5	1	7	8	4	3	6	9	2
4	3	2	5	6	9	7	8	1
9	6	8	2	7	1	4	3	5
7	2	4	9	5	6	3	1	8
1	8	3	4	2	7	5	6	9
6	9	5	1	3	8	2	4	7

2/14/13

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SCENE

WORD ON THE STREET

FIRST KISS STORIES



Alex Dressler
junior

Five-years-old “Girl on playground that lived down the street from me, I climbed the ladder to get to the top of the jungle gym and then we pecked right there.”



Joshua Rose
freshman

My friend ditched his date, Anna, but still stuck around. So my date and I snuck up to my room and had our first kiss on my bed—it was romantic. I did a really great job, but then my friend barged in. He was like, “I didn’t realize this is what you were doing!” Then he ran away and apologized later.



Clarence Haines
DUC Chef

I probably was eight years old in a closet, truth or dare, and that’s about it.



Grace Dowling
sophomore

[He] asked me out online that afternoon, and there was a Halloween party that night. I didn’t want to kiss him, but I knew it was coming. I figured if my mouth was moving, then he couldn’t kiss me, so I kept talking. When I was looking in the other direction he kissed my shoulder then I turned toward him and he attacked me.



Michele Sanders
cleaning staff

It was lovely and nice. With my husband. It must have been over at his house.



Louis Keene
senior

We were watching “Borat,” over at her house, 16 years old—some part of the movie where something funny happened and then I stuck my hand down her pants, just kidding, I kissed her, and that was it.

drink & dine

[WEEKLY BAR AND RESTAURANT GUIDE]

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Washington University Career Center expanding despite national trends

ALEX LEICHENGER
NEWS EDITOR

While many universities are cutting back on job preparation services, Washington University's career centers continue to expand.

A recent USA Today story reported that budgets of career centers nationwide fell by about 16 percent in the past year. On the other hand, some schools have bucked the trend and put more emphasis on career preparation coming out of the Great Recession. Wake Forest University, for example, reaches out to incoming freshmen as soon as they arrive on campus and offers for-credit career preparation courses, among other innovations.

The Wash. U. Career Center offers only no-credit career classes and does not immediately push for students to utilize its resources, but like Wake Forest's, its growth has been an outlier to nationwide statistics. Mark Smith, director of the Career Center, said annual advising appointments have grown from 1,500 in 2005 to between 10,000 and 11,000 in 2012. The Career Center has also given out \$250,000 in stipends over the last two years.

"Over the last eight years, [our budget] has risen," Smith said. "There are some universities that are cutting their career center—and they're just saying we've got to cut everything. We're in a fortunate position that Wash. U. has made this a priority and has really grown it."

However, the Career Center still has some difficulty marketing itself to the student body.

"A big stumbling block for students is they feel, 'I can't come into the Career Center until I know what I want to do,' and that's completely not the case," Smith said. "We want you to come in and say at your beginning appointment: 'I don't know what I want to do, I have no idea where I'm going and I need some help.' That's a great start to a counseling session."

Especially problematic is a common perception that only students with pre-professional majors in fields like business and engineering derive value from programs like the biannual on-campus Career Fairs and other employer recruiting events outside St. Louis.

"I'm a [Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology major], and if I wasn't interested in medicine or academia, it would be sort of tough to get a read on my major and my overlapping career options," senior Nico Iadarola said.

Consequently, the Career Center has developed a system to help students with majors that may not match up neatly with future employment options.

Students can now view profiles of alumni and fellow undergraduates on the Career Center website by clicking on the "Why WUSTL?" tab and then "Success Stories," which offers a directory searchable by keyword, major or minor, industry, employer and location. The database is limited as of now—for example, only three names appear when a major or minor in religious studies is searched—but Smith believes it will eventually provide students with a valuable network of connections based on course of undergraduate study.

"A student can search by

major and see what anthropology majors have done in their past summers, or a student can search by geography to see 'what have students done in Los Angeles?'" Smith said.

Senior Katie Sullivan is an International and Area Studies and Spanish double major, two of the academic disciplines that may not lend themselves to specific job types post-graduation. She started frequenting the Career Center during her sophomore year and has done mock interviews there and used CAREERlink to find internships since.

"It's been more helpful for me than I thought it would be," Sullivan said, while adding that students must seek out the Career Center, rather than vice versa, for it to be useful.

The Weston Career Center at the Olin Business School has also seen the scope and reputation of its services grow instead of decline.

Though the business school has made its way up the rankings in Bloomberg Businessweek, its job placement grades have traditionally been a sore spot. In 2009, Olin received a "C" grade for job placement. Olin

ranked as the nation's eighth-best business school in 2012, but its "B" in job placement was the only grade below "A" among any school in the top 14.

The job placement ratings are based on survey data from alumni, and Mark Brostoff, director of the Weston Career Center, hopes some changes implemented since he took over in 2008 will continue to raise levels of job satisfaction.

Weston employs specialists with industry experience in fields such as investment banking, asset management and consulting,

in addition to general advisors. Sophomores are required to take a Career Management class, and other courses like Management Communication involve Weston in their curriculum.

Finally, Brostoff has worked to build relationships with student organizations like Delta Sigma Pi, Alpha Kappa Psi and the Olin Sports Management Organization, and he oversaw the launch of Weston's website, which has attracted approximately 56,000 hits since July.

"The [Weston Career Center] has woven itself

through the fabric of the business school," Brostoff said.

Brostoff emphasized that Weston serves not simply to place students in jobs and internships, but also to lead them down the most appropriate lifelong career path.

"Our role is to help students figure things out early in their careers, to focus on the variety of opportunities," he said. "I think many students come in thinking they only want to work on Wall Street and don't give themselves a chance to realize all sorts of other opportunities are there."

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The St. Louis Zoo’s own happy feet

EMILY COUCH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

During a long, cold winter, little can lift your spirits like a visit to the season’s most cheerful animals: penguins. Between their friendliness and endearing waddle, penguins are cute enough to brighten anyone’s day, even when the ground is slick with slush and the sky gray. Few people, however, have the opportunity to interact with these lively birds, unless you are lucky enough to be a visitor to the Saint Louis Zoo.

Every winter, from November to mid-February, the zoo hosts its annual Penguin Parade. On Sundays at 2 p.m., the keepers allow the penguins to leave the indoor exhibit and play outside. The public can come to Penguin and Puffin Coast to watch as the birds waddle through the crowd and run about in the snow as well as interact with them in a manner which they cannot in the usual exhibit.

“It was a very unique experience because it is pretty rare to have so few boundaries between the zoo observers and the animals,” junior Christina Ruggieri said. “It really gives you a greater appreciation for them.”

The parade began eight years ago as an enrichment opportunity for the birds. It allowed them to go out in the snow and have a change of scenery. Soon the penguin keepers were inviting other zoo staff and, subsequently, the public to watch the penguins frolic. The parade is now part of a

series of winter programs which the zoo boasts, sponsored by Delta Dental.

The penguins are very eager to get out of the confines of the exhibit and are never forced to go outside but rather want to do so.

“They get very excited. In fact, there is a behavior that is specific to...King penguins...called ecstatic behavior when they throw their heads up into the air and make a certain noise, and they do it while they’re out there,” Michael Macek, the zoo’s curator of birds, said.

Normally, anywhere between seven and 15 birds line up for the walk outside and opportunity to show off for the crowd.

Two kinds of penguins are featured in the parade, the previously mentioned King penguins, which are the second largest species, and the Gentoo, a middle-sized penguin, recognizable by the white triangle on their foreheads. Both are considered sub-Arctic penguins because they live in 45-50 degree weather as opposed to true Antarctic temperatures. This allows for Saint Louis Zoo’s unique opportunity of allowing them to go outside in winter as well as have a year-long walk-through exhibit in which patrons are sharing the same space with the penguins.

Both species are very friendly and approachable and will often walk up to spectators during the parade. The Gentoos have a very specific greeting; often, they will “go up to little kids and do

[a] bowing behavior to them,” Macek said.

The event, despite not being widely advertised, tends to be packed, often having more than 1,000 people in attendance. It is not uncommon to see children standing on rock outcroppings or being lifted by their parents above the crowd for a better view of the birds. As the penguins walk through the crowd, the keepers maintain safety for both the birds and the zoo patrons, though the only real rule, according to Macek, is that “we don’t want anyone reaching out to touch the birds.”

The parade nevertheless allows for very close interaction; the penguins, having been bred in captivity, are used to people and are not at all shy about coming up to the crowd, even trying to run through it at some points to reach the snow.

“[The Penguin Parade is] a whole different kind of zoo experience,” junior Betsy Edershile said, “and a cool way to ring in the winter...it feels very festive.”

Certainly, if the cold has got you cooped up or feeling down, playing with penguins at the Saint Louis Zoo is a surefire way to lift you out of your funk.



Office hours with Dr. Erin Finneran

RIVA DESAI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“It is not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a good writer,” claims E.B. White in his children’s novel “Charlotte’s Web.”

Yet Dr. Erin Finneran, a professor in the Department of English at Washington University, shares these two qualities that enrich her mission as a teacher. From a biology major at Kenyon College to an Irish literature professor, Finneran’s journey is as interesting as her niche at Wash. U. A swimming star in her hometown of Columbus, Ohio, her recruitment to Kenyon College proved fruitful to both her academic career and her future decision to study Irish literature. “What I learned in Kim McMullen and Philip Church’s [classes] became the foundation for my teaching style,” Finneran said. McMullen’s Anglo-Irish literature class piqued Finneran’s interest, but the Finneran’s decision to write and teach began after studying “Ulysses” by James Joyce with Church.

Brimming with potential but unsure about a path, Finneran worked a few odd jobs in Cleveland to make ends meet, including a sleep medicine clinic at Case Western Reserve University. She soon learned from a few Irish nurses working at Case Western that the sole North American office of

University College Dublin (UCD) was located right around the corner. The graduate program at UCD seemed to encompass Finneran’s two passions: learning and Irish literature. “I consider learning deep play,” Finneran explained, pointing to a philosophy that convinced her to partake in this opportunity. The problem, however, lay with funding. While teaching at a small school in New Jersey, Finneran applied for and received the Rotary International Scholarship for Graduate Studies to represent Cleveland in her endeavors. The only thing left to do, then, was go to Ireland and entertain her literary passion.

At UCD, Finneran was surrounded by colleagues—mostly other Rotary Scholars—who shared her enthusiasm for the interplay of words and language that culminates in writing. Finneran found her future husband, a Spanish student named Alex, within this group of intellectually curious graduates. These students’ appetites for knowledge, life experiences and the human condition coalesced in a coast-to-coast Eurail trip that went through France, Amsterdam, Berlin, Prague, Rome, Geneva and Spain—Alex’s home country. This would not be the first time Finneran would be in Spain, however. After returning to the United States and working her previous jobs for a while, Finneran

decided to move to Spain with Alex with \$3 in her pocket—a decision that changed her perspective on language and her own life. Struggling with the new language, she said nearly cried the entire first year she lived in Madrid. Nevertheless, her efforts paid off as she began teaching English as a second language to adult Spaniards and decided to live in Spain for four years. When asked about her relationship with the Spanish language, she replied, “The best day of my time in Spain was the first day I was able to tell a joke in Spanish. It was a pun, and it was hilarious.” Forever a learner, Finneran continued, “My time in Spain served as a humbling form of education. Everyone should experience the feeling of not being understood sometime in his or her life. Everyone should experience feeling like the other.”

Four years after she packed up and moved to Spain, Finneran saw the writing on the Spanish wall that she would not be able to grow as a writer or teacher there. She soon married Alex in Spain and then married again in Ohio at her alma mater. Constantly thinking of the future, she mailed five job applications from the Kenyon College post office the day of her marriage—one of which was sent to Wash. U.

“I chose Wash. U.,” Finneran said, “because

it is located in a perfect-sized city. I wanted to stay in the Midwest, and St. Louis was just far enough from Ohio. Chicago was too exhausting and expensive, but mainly I fell in love with the program.” While working on receiving her Ph.D. and post-doctorate degree here, she began teaching Writing 1—the staple of every Wash. U. student’s English diet. “I tend to focus more on the process rather than the product when it comes to writing,” Finneran said. After teaching 14 sections over 14 years, the product has become Finneran’s firm grasp on language and how it relates to history, humanity and individuality. Outside of Writing 1, Finneran’s teaching repertoire is diverse and engaging: from “Irish Women Writers” to “Lilies and Languor: The Life and Writing of Oscar Wilde” to “Make ‘em Laugh: Comedy and Culture,” Finneran immerses herself not only in the literature pertaining to the class but also to the students’ reactions and the cultural context involved with each work. “My wish is to heighten people’s sensitivity to the word and the sharing of words,” Finneran said, adding that she is all the while trying to open the intellectual Pandora’s Box that lies in the mind of each student.

The apex of this aspiration resides in Finneran’s favorite course, the FOCUS

program “Literary Culture of Modern Ireland.” The course, which was developed in 2006 by Associate Dean Dirk Killen and lecturer Daniel Shea, corroborates Finneran’s goals in teaching as “this intensive course seeks to inspire a balance between intellectual excellence and life-long camaraderie.” The program encourages “academic inquiry in a small class setting” while also provoking a certain kind of development in perspective. “I absolutely love this class. It encompasses everything I would ever want in a classroom setting—from the one-on-one experience with students to see development to the class trip to Ireland, this program combines the best parts of what teaching is for,” Finneran said. Serving as the highlight of the program, the trip to Ireland allows Finneran and her students to actualize the literature and place it within the context of the natural world and Irish culture. She believes that reading “The Lake Isle of Innisfree” by William Butler Yeats aloud in Sligo and reciting Seamus Heaney’s poetry in the boglands of Connemara can “make the poetry visceral and real.”

This connection between the reader and the spaces that the literature reflects forms an integral part of Finneran’s teaching purpose. To exemplify this, Finneran relates one of her most notable

nights of teaching: while instructing a University College Samuel Beckett course in 2006, one of the classes landed on Beckett’s 100th birthday. She decided to teach that night in the Beckett archives and show the class a reel of Beckett’s only movie, “Film” with Buster Keaton. “That night was pure symmetry,” Finneran recounted, “and I came full circle with teaching. It was magical.”

When asked about future projects, Finneran shared that she is “always hoping to increase the intellectual market at Wash. U. through new and interesting courses.” These new courses include her proposed freshman seminar “From Huck Finn to Harry Potter: Literature and the Rites of Passage,” which points out parallels between the rites of passage in the literature and in the development of the reader. In addition, she hopes to teach a course on the art of argumentation as well as another Beckett course, but regarding the future of literature, she looks to her young daughter. “Parenting is far more humbling than teaching,” Finneran said, and the fact that her daughter is beginning to read “just knocks [her] socks off.” Another magical moment, Finneran said, was the re-reading of “Charlotte’s Web” to her daughter that brought her literary education and growth full circle.