

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2008 | SPECIAL ISSUE | CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2008

STUDENT LIFE

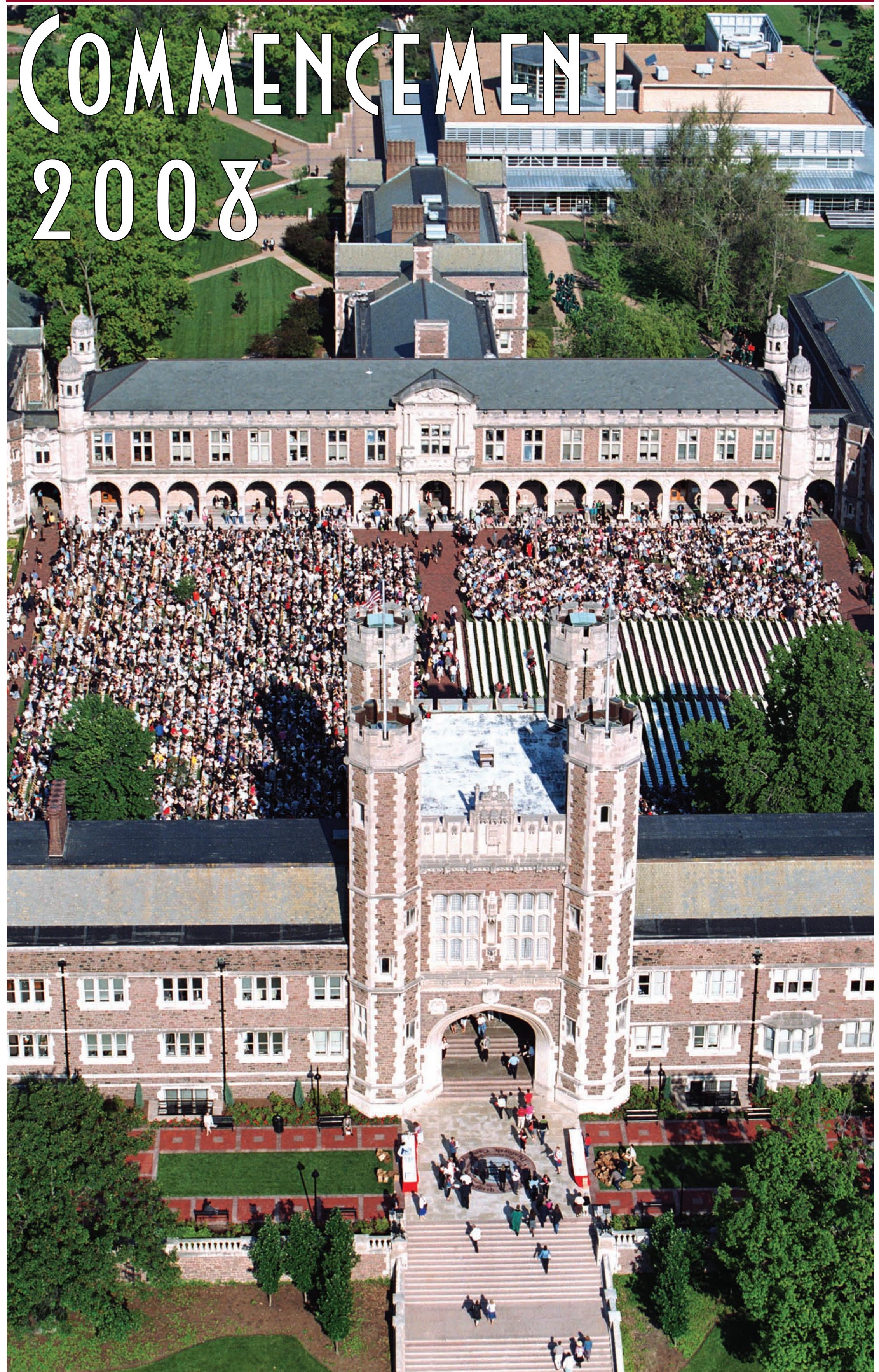
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STUDENT LIFE

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after a freshman was mugged at gunpoint on the South 40.

Several influential professors changed their roles at the University. Professor Richard Smith, who taught the popular Introduction to Human Evolution course, left the anthropology department to become the dean of Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. Tzachi Zach, popular accounting professor, will now teach at Ohio State after being denied tenure.

October brought racism and other forms of discrimination to the forefront of campus as a student's car was vandalized with a slur. Student groups continued to lobby for a sexual assault coordinator but were unsuccessful even as they succeeded in establishing a coordinator for the LGBTQIA community. As a result of these tensions, Connect 4 was created to address discrimination on campus.

This school year started with students protesting the Student Technology Fee rate hike. As the year progressed, tensions cooled as Student Technology Services backed off and wireless Internet gradually became accessible around campus.

The school hosted several famous and highly controversial speakers throughout the year. Alberto Gonzales spoke at the 560 Building, and his \$30,000 speaking fee sparked a peaceful protest led by the College Democrats and other groups. Other notable speakers included Newark Mayor Cory Booker, author Alan Lightman, political pundit Paul Begala, Loveline's Dr. Drew, actor Peter Sarsgaard and comedian Margaret Cho.

Inflatable couches returned to W.I.L.D. as rapper Lupe Fiasco headlined the fall show and funk star George Clinton headlined the spring show. Other notable performers were Stars, who played at WUStock, and Cascada, who gave a brief performance that disappointed many. A student was tasered by the Washington University Police Department (WUPD) while resisting arrest at the Gargoyle, overshadowing Girl Talk's concert there.

WUPD had its hands full this school year as multiple robberies occurred over winter break in the Myers and Hurd dorms. Many students became more conscious of their surroundings

Online war also came to the University as hundreds of students battled over the Danforth Campus in massive GoCross-Campus game. Other Web sites such as Facebook were in the spotlight for gathering users' personal information and selling it to companies.

Several construction projects were completed or neared completion this year. The new 560 Building debuted in a sea of controversy as a cappella groups protested their off-campus relocation. The Danforth University Center will be ready this fall, and several departments from the School of Law and the College of Arts & Sciences will begin moving into Seigle Hall over



LIONEL SOBEHART | STUDENT LIFE

Senior Troy Ruths hoists the championship trophy after the Washington University men's basketball team defeated Amherst in the NCAA Div. III finals. It was the first national title ever won by a men's team at the University.

the summer.

New construction continues as the University announced plans to tear down Umbrath House this summer in order to make room for a new Wohl Center.

In the world of sports, the men's basketball team captured the school's first-ever national championship title for a men's team and the women's volleyball team captured its Division III-record ninth national championship. The athletics program was ranked first in Div. III and seventh in all divisions by Hall of Fame Magazine. For the first time in school history, the University led all schools in the Director's Cup, as the women's track and field team took third place at nationals, the highest in program history. The women's cross country team, which took third, and men's soccer team,

which took sixth, also matched their best finishes at their respective national tournaments. The men's tennis team defeated UAA rival Emory University for the first time in program history.

Sustainability rose to the forefront of campus debate, as groups like Green Action led the charge for greener facilities. Bear's Den now has metal silverware, and a sustainable garden created by the Burning Kumquat took root. Green Action's Sustainable Tree joined the ranks of various artwork done on campus, including the bubble wrapping of Bowles Plaza and the bed outside Olin Library.

Mother Nature continued to fluctuate throughout the year as the University was blanketed in more than six inches of snow in March. A 5.2 magnitude

earthquake rocked St. Louis in the middle of April, surprising many members of the community.

Dance Marathon broke records as other successful student-led events such as Relay for Life, Thurtene Carnival, Diwali, Lunar New Year Festival and Carnaval continued to unite the community.

The Student Union (SU) executive board was elected largely unopposed and encountered controversy in the proposal and confirmation of the 2008-2009 general budget upon taking office. Several student groups facing funding cuts mobilized their supporters, as the budget was passed by Treasury only to be rejected by the Senate. The deadlock was broken during an emergency joint session and the budget passed with only three minutes to spare.

SAM FOX SCHOOL OF DESIGN & VISUAL ARTS

The faculty and staff of the Sam Fox School congratulate all 2008 graduates.

CREATE NEW KNOWLEDGE



Junior year: metro stops, security concerns and stem cells

BY ANDREA WINTER
MANAGING EDITOR

Junior year kicked off with the theme of "readjustment" as Washington University welcomed an unusually large freshman class.

The University continued to respond to unexpected developments, especially concerning campus security, as the year progressed. An expanded MetroLink, a renamed campus and a political win for stem cell research made this year one of progress and celebration.

For the Class of 2010, the admissions office had been shooting for a class of 1,350 students, so the University was surprised to have 1,470 students accept their offer in the spring of 2006.

Before students arrived on campus for the 2006-2007 academic year, the University began implementing creative solutions in order to accommodate the freshman class and alleviate the housing crunch. More than 100 upper-classmen who had been planning to live on campus were moved to the University's Loop Lofts apartments, which made their debut that year.

Large freshman classes will not continue as a trend, according to the University. In April 2007 the administration announced its plan to gradually reduce the size of the student body from 6,300 to 5,800 students.

During the first week of classes, students witnessed a remarkable development in St. Louis public transportation: the expansion of the MetroLink. Twelve years of discussion and more than three years of construction culminated in the addition of nine new stops—two of which border the Danforth Cam-

pus.

The MetroLink has effectively punctured the infamous "Wash. U. bubble" by linking students to Clayton, the Central West End, Richmond Heights, Brentwood, Shrewsbury and downtown St. Louis. The U-Pass allows full-time students, staff and faculty to access this service for free.

In October, when the Cardinals won the World Series for the first time since 1982, many students hopped on the MetroLink so they could celebrate the victory downtown near the stadium.

One noteworthy change was made in Sept. 2006 when the Hilltop Campus was officially renamed the "Danforth Campus" in order to commemorate former Chancellor William Danforth and the entire Danforth family.

This name change was accompanied by a year-long focus on the theme "Higher sense of purpose." In accordance with this theme, all incoming freshmen were given Professor of Social Welfare in the George Warren School of Social Work Mark Rank's book, "One Nation, Underprivileged: Why American Poverty Affects Us All." Rank delivered a speech on poverty during the Assembly Series.

As always, construction continued on campus, and some projects were completed. The Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum opened a new building designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect, Fumihiko Maki. In this progressively modern building that breaks away from the rest of the campus' architecture, the University is showcasing its permanent collection entitled "Modernity and Self."

Other construction projects were still in progress.



SCOTT BRESSLER | STUDENT LIFE

During the 2006-2007 school year, the former Prince Hall was transformed from a gaping hole in the ground to a three-level underground parking garage and the foundation for the Danforth University Center. The entire construction process took nearly two years, with the University Center set to open in the summer of 2008. Other construction projects undertaken during the 2006-2007 school year include Seigle Hall, a new building for the School of Law and the College of Arts & Sciences and the Snow Way parking garage on the North Side.

The new University Center, which will eventually replace the Mallinckrodt Student Center, will remain a construction site until the summer of 2008. An enormous hole in place of Prince Hall and a pot-hole-ridden temporary parking lot placed near the library were present for students in the 2006-2007 year.

Through the school year, both safety and security continually emerged as key con-

cerns. In the fall, one study by the Morgan Quinto Press named St. Louis the "Most Dangerous City in the United States." Chancellor Wrighton joined experts and critics who contested the survey, claiming that its methodology was flawed.

Campus security was on high alert after one student was attacked in her dorm room on the South 40 in Feb. 2007. In response to the as-

sault, the Chancellor formed a committee to review the University's safety and security policies. The University began to implement campus precautions such as peepholes, which were promptly installed on all room doors in residential halls.

In April 2007, a tragedy at Virginia Tech shocked and saddened the world when 32 students were murdered by a gunman who subsequently

took his own life. The University community congregated on the quad for an impromptu candlelight vigil in honor of the students who were wounded or killed. In light of the tragedy, the University reassessed its own mechanism in place for preventing the escalation of such an occurrence on campus.

As both Republicans and

See JUNIOR YEAR, page 8

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Washington University in St. Louis

Sophomore year: Katrina, charity and change

BY HELEN RHEE
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The 2005-2006 academic year was one of unexpected change for both the Washington University campus and the nation. Hurricane Katrina's devastation of the Gulf Coast region largely shaped a year of charity and change.

Some students returned to campus in late August greeted by the news that the homes they had left were damaged or destroyed by the hurricane.

Many college students, faculty and workers displaced by Katrina found shelter at Washington University. In the fall semester, the University welcomed students from Tulane and Loyola whose colleges were closed due to extensive damage by the hurricane.

Among the displaced students were freshmen from Tulane who had to evacuate during their move-in day. In response to the disaster, the University offered financial aid and health services to students who were affected by the hurricane. Unlike other schools, the University did not plan to return displaced students' tuition to their home universities in New Orleans.

From a cappella concerts to the EnCouncil's Bayou Formal, many student groups initiated campus-wide fund-raising efforts to help rebuild the Gulf Coast region and support its

victims. For some students, the relief effort went beyond campus initiatives. Many University students joined other college students from around the country in a weeklong spring break trip to New Orleans, where they volunteered to help rebuild broken homes for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

In other fund-raising events during the year, Dance Marathon raised \$58,000, and Relay for Life surpassed its fund-raising goal of \$250,000.

The University also announced several significant changes, starting with the decision to set the new wage floor at \$8.25. The new minimum wage standard was a reaction to the Student Worker Alliance's sit-in at the admissions office during April 2005, when students demanded that the University raise the employee minimum wage to meet the city's living wage standard.

Hoping to increase public transportation for commuting students and workers, the University announced that it would start offering free universal Metro passes for any full-time undergraduate, graduate, faculty or staff member of Washington University. The Metro pass is valid for MetroBus and MetroLink and became fully functional at the beginning of the

2006-2007 school year.

The University also moved forward by revealing a plan for the new Danforth University Center. The University Center will replace the former Prince Hall. Despite protests led by St. Louis preservationists, Prince Hall was demolished in the summer of 2006.

Chancellor Wrighton also wrote a letter to parents detailing the 2006-2007 academic year tuition hike of 5.5 percent, to \$32,800—the biggest marginal increase in six years.

In health news, Student Health Services (SHS) relocated from its main campus location in Umrath Hall to Forsyth House, now Dardick House, on the South 40. The relocation cost about \$2 million but provided SHS with significantly more space.

Most recently, the University announced that it would rename the Hilltop Campus to Danforth Campus to commemorate William Danforth, former Washington University chancellor, who made significant financial contributions to the University over the years.

Emory University's "declaration of war" against Washington University shocked this campus in mid-Sept. 2005. Emory students vandalized both Washington University's campus and their own, attempting to pass off the

vandalism on Emory's campus as retaliation by Washington University students. Spray-painted messages in yellow and blue read: "WU girls are ugly -Emory University", "Emory owns U", and "George Washington is dead" on the underpass between the main campus and the South 40.

The act came two days after the Emory student newspaper released an op-ed piece that exhorted Emory students to start a rivalry with Washington University students. The student who authored the letter wrote on behalf of Emory's Department of War, a newly created branch of the school's Student Government Association. For a university in which rivalry with other schools is minimal and school spirit low, the war initiated by the Emory briefly ignited school camaraderie.

For the Assembly Series, the University welcomed several prominent speakers, including eminent American scholar and public intellectual Cornel West and Jonathan Kozol, an authority on the American public school system.

In the engineering school, students showcased their new Vertigo dance floor, which was later displayed at the Contemporary Art Museum in St. Louis. It was also announced that Mary Sansan-



Senior Austin Thompson helps clear rubble in New Orleans during spring break.

Ione from Cornell University would join the school in 2006 as the new dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

The spring 2006 semester also brought new changes to the Mallinckrodt Student Center. Students said good-bye to Taco Bell and ushered in Bon Appétit's new Asian-themed concept with lukewarm reactions.

Washington University students' affairs with alcohol and drugs continued. In one incident, an intoxicated student fell out of her window in Wheeler dormitory. The University canceled Sigma Alpha

Epsilon fraternity's housing contract after police found marijuana during their search of the house. More recently, the Magic House, a local St. Louis children's museum, banned Art Prom after discovering \$700 in damages by intoxicated students. Student Union then blocked funding for any future Art Proms.

On a more positive note, Sigma Chi received word that they were allowed move into their house again after a two-year expulsion for hazing. Greek Life also formed the new Council of Community Standards in an effort to better handle judicial matters.

Congratulations and Best Wishes

to the Graduates of the Class of 2008

From the College of Arts & Sciences

ARTS & SCIENCES | Washington University in St. Louis

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**FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE IN THE
CLASS OF 2008**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE RESIDENT ADVISORS AND STUDENT STAFF
*from the Office of Residential Life***

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CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2008!

The Alumni Association would like to wish you good luck
& WELCOME YOU TO ALUMNI LIFE!

Wherever you go, there we are! We will host Young Alumni happy hours in cities across the United States during the month of September to welcome you to your alumni clubs!

Be on the lookout in August for your invitation via mail & email.
Please join us for some fun and meet the WU alumni already living in your city!

<u>Atlanta</u>	<u>Kansas City</u>	<u>Phoenix</u>
9/18	9/18	9/10
Dantanna's	Raglan Road	Frasher's
<u>Boston</u>	<u>Los Angeles</u>	<i>Steakhouse & Lounge</i>
9/17	9/17	
28 Degrees	Border Grill	
<u>Chicago</u>	<u>Miami</u>	<u>St. Louis</u>
9/18	9/11	9/11
Kincade's	Dolores/	Venice Café
<u>Cleveland</u>	Lolita	<u>San Diego</u>
9/18		9/10
Corner Alley	<u>Minneapolis</u>	The Yard House
<u>Dallas</u>	9/11	<u>San Francisco</u>
9/18	Bootleggers	9/17
Manny's Uptown	<u>New York</u>	The Elephant Bar
<u>Denver</u>	9/17	<u>Seattle</u>
9/17	The West 79 th Street	9/18
Lola	Boat Basin Cafe	Lucky Strike
<u>Houston</u>	<u>Philadelphia</u>	<u>Washington D.C./Baltimore</u>
9/18	9/18	9/18
Cadillac Bar	Fergie's Pub	The Lucky Bar

Six to receive honorary degrees at Commencement

BY BEN SALES
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

Six scholars, each with expertise in a different field, will receive honorary degrees at Washington University's 147th Commencement Ceremony on May 16.

The recipients include Chris Matthews, a political commentator on MSNBC who will also give the Commencement address; Quincy Jones, a music composer and film and television producer; Lee Seng Tee, a business executive and philanthropist of the arts; Washington University Professor Egon Schwarz, an expert in 19th and 20th century German literature; Jessie Ternberg, a professor emeritus of pediatrics and pediatric surgery at the University who helped open the door for women into the medical profession; and Phyllis Schlafly, a national leader of the conservative movement.

Schlafly's distinction in particular has received attention, causing some to criticize the University for what they see as implicit support of her views, some of which have aroused controversy.

In response to her impending award, more than 780 students have joined a Facebook group entitled "No honorary doctorate for anti-feminist Phyllis Schlafly." The group targets Schlafly's stances on feminism, marital rape and sex education, saying that they do not "fit with the future [of] the men and women of Wash. U.'s graduating class," and that her presence at Commencement will be "incongruous at best, offensive at worst."

Chancellor Mark Wrighton, however—who confirmed the selection of the recipients—says that Schlafly's accomplishments and fame merit the honorary degree.

Her contributions have in-

spired women and she certainly is a leader," Wrighton said. "She is well known on a national level for the conservative movement."

Wrighton added that though many—including himself—may disagree with Schlafly's views, her writings have value in that they serve to enliven the national political discourse.

"I would not myself agree with her political views," he said. "When you step back from it you have to admire her for working for the great democracy that we enjoy. She's a prominent leader and a prominent woman, and she happens to be a conservative."

In selecting the honorees, Wrighton said, the University Board of Trustees pays more attention to the success of a candidate's career than to the reactions that the candidate's work has elicited.

"[What is] most important is to select people who have made a difference in the world, who have accomplished vision and distinction in the world," Wrighton said.

While there are many criteria that the Board examines in the selection process, Wrighton said that special attention is paid to honoring a group whose contributions have touched many areas of life, academic and otherwise.

"When you look at the people being honored, we are spanning a wide spectrum of intellectual activity," Wrighton said. "We are privileged to be honoring all of these individuals because they made contributions in different areas. Each person has a special element in their contribution that distinguishes them."

A factor that holds less weight in the Board's calculus when determining the recipients, however, is their past relationships with the University. Three of this year's six awardees—Schwarz, Schlafly and Ternberg—come

from the University, and Schlafly is a native of St. Louis.

Ternberg, who received a medical degree from the University School of Medicine in 1953, was the first female surgeon on the University's faculty and the first woman to be head of its faculty council. She was also the first female surgical resident at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

Ternberg credits the University for her success as a female pioneer in the field of medicine.

"[The University] has been my career," she said. "The opportunities that it afforded me were unique. When I was trying to get into another surgery program, they were all closed to women."

By that same token, Ternberg hopes that her impending award will inspire other women to break barriers and help them in doing so.

"For women of my generation it was a wonderful thing," she said of her work at the University. "For women of today I hope it opens the way for them a little better than when I started off."

Although she is now retired, Ternberg maintains a connection with the medical school.

"I'm not separated totally [from the school]," she said. "It's your life, it's what you enjoy. People are much happier when they get up in the morning and they know what they're doing. For me it's been that way the whole time."

Wrighton hopes that the graduates will see Ternberg and the other recipients as examples of how to lead careers that help them and those around them.

"The most important message is that the work of single individuals can have a profound and positive impact on the lives of many people," Wrighton said. "Each of the graduates has enormous talent. I hope that talent will be applied to benefiting people."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WUSTL PHOTO SERVICES
Phyllis Schlafly, a national leader of the conservative movement, author and editor, will receive a doctor of humane letters degree.



Quincy Jones (left), a composer, conductor, solo artist and producer, will receive a doctor of humane letters degree. Jessie Ternberg (right), Washington University professor emeritus of pediatrics and pediatric surgery, renowned researcher and pioneer for women in medicine, will receive a doctor of science degree.

JUNIOR YEAR ♦
FROM PAGE 3

Democrats struggled for the senate majority in the fall of 2006, the Missouri senatorial election between Claire McCaskill and incumbent Jim Talent was one of the most-watched races nationally, with McCaskill emerging victorious.

The University had a particular political interest in favor of the proposed Amendment 2 that allows for embryonic stem cell research, which could potentially lead to cures for injuries and diseases such as Parkinson's, diabetes and cancer. The School of Medicine was concerned that if the amendment did not pass, it would lose scientists who incorporate stem cells into their research. The University made a bold political move by sending all students a letter that encouraged them to vote in favor of the amendment, which eventually passed with 51 percent of the votes.

A series of notable speakers visited the University, including renowned autistic professor of animal science Temple Grandin and a 2008 presidential contender, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. Current U.S. Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. presided over the School of Law Moot Court competition and former Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor visited first-year law school classes.

The University took the lead nationally in commemorating the 150th anniversary of the infamous Dred Scott decision by hosting a national symposium in March.

In the 2006-2007 year student participation increased in the campus-wide events of Dance Marathon and Relay for Life, both of which broke fundraising records by raising hundreds of thousands of dollars.

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CADENZA

Graduation flicks

Congratulations seniors! In honor of your awesome accomplishment, we here at Cadenza have compiled a few reviews of classic graduation movies. Now sit back, relax and watch one of these greats. And then maybe think about getting a job.

The Graduate

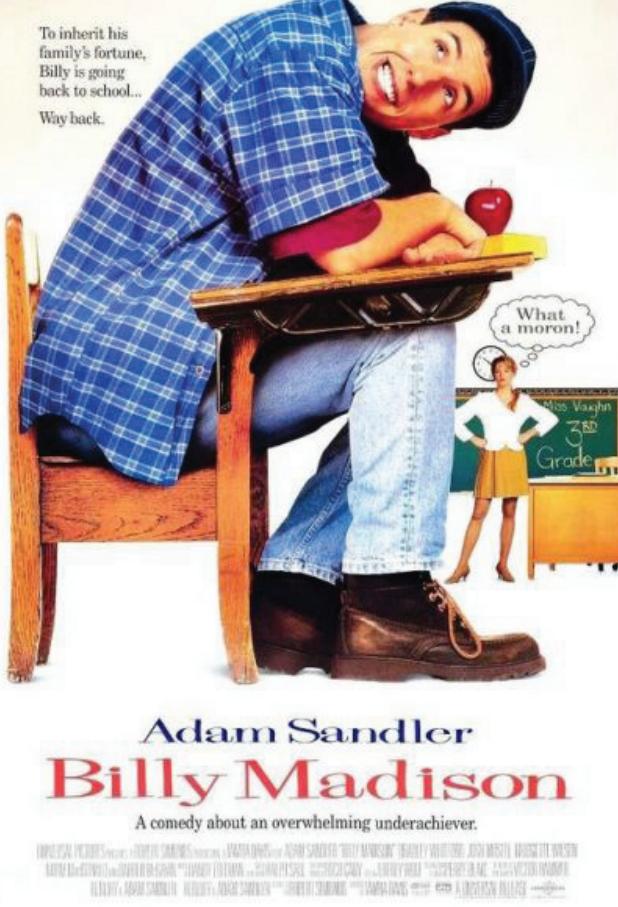
You may be wondering what "The Graduate" has to do with graduation. You may be questioning what on earth it could be doing here amidst these other, more legitimate movies which focus so much more clearly on the prestigious and hallowed tradition of graduation. Yes, when it comes right down to it, "The Graduate" doesn't really have much to do with graduation.

Benjamin Braddock (one of Dustin Hoffman's first, and arguably best, roles) is newly graduated and at sea about his future when Mrs. Robinson tries to seduce him. The summer is an eventful one, and the film is ideal for graduates not only as entertainment but as a cautionary tale. Do not, repeat, do not sleep with the mother of the woman you fall in love with. Things can get sticky, and the next thing you know you'll be pounding on the window of a church, which is so totally freshman year.

-CECILIA RAZAK

Billy Madison

Adam Sandler's first movie after graduating from Saturday Night Live, "Billy Madison" is easily one of the most quotable movies of the '90s. (Remember shouting 'Stop looking at me, swan!' 'O'Doyle Rules!', 'Peeing your pants is cool' when you were 11?) When the movie opens, Billy Madison is living the dream; he is a 27-year-old slacker who lives in his father's backyard and drinks all day with his similarly-indolent friends. But in order to inherit his father's hotel chain, or at least prevent his nemesis, the ruthless entrepreneur and old schoolmate, Eric, from taking over, Billy must prove to his father that he is a capable human being and graduate from first through 12th grade in 24 weeks. Billy is happiest in the third grade where he is revered by his classmates and in love with teacher Veronica Vaughn. Yet, Billy soon realizes work, school and life become more difficult as one progresses through school. Eventually, a quiz-bowl



type showdown takes place between both Eric and Billy. After Billy compares the Industrial Revolution to "The Puppy Who Lost His Way," he is told, "Everyone in this room is now dumber for having listened to it." To win the competition and the hotel, Eric is asked to discuss business ethics. Yet, he is so iniquitous he doesn't even try to answer, whips out a gun and consequently gets tacked by wrestler and shot by a crazed Steve Buscemi. (Let this be a lesson to all you B-School grads: If you lose all your morals, you will eventually be shot by that guy from Fargo.) And, Chris Farley's uncredited cameo as the manic middle school bus driver provides the movie with some of the most memorable scenes: "That Veronica Vaughn is one fine piece of ace." By the end of the movie, Billy has decided he is going to go onto college, become a teacher and hand the company over to one of his father's quality businessmen. Underneath all of the Sandler-esque humor, "Billy Madison" is simply a movie about growing up and accepting responsibility, which are major themes at every graduation.

-STEPHANIE SPERA



Grease

You know, when you really think about it, and I mean really think about it, "Grease" sells some pretty odd morals, doesn't it? If you don't fit in, change yourself, silly. If you don't use protection, just don't get pregnant, duh. And if you do get pregnant, just ride on a Ferris wheel and say you didn't. Life was so simple in the '50s, wasn't it?

And yet, you'd be hard-pressed to find anyone here who hasn't once wanted to be the greaser Danny, both in driving skills and hair consistency. And who doesn't want to waste a summer night at the barbie with Sandra Dee and hopefully catch a glint of what she's looking for? Sure, I wouldn't do a lot of the things those Rydell kids got into, but even if I had, you don't want to hear all the horny details.

Endless allusions aside, there are good things to take away from "Grease." School spirit runs rampant and so do strong personalities. Rivalries are won and (gasp!) Beauty School is considered. And believe it or not, the best part is when school ends.

Yes, when May rolls around, all the drama seems to melt away. "Grease" gives us a taste of the euphoria at the start, but it doesn't really blossom until the summer comes around again. They laugh, they cry, they take revealing photos, and they enjoy themselves. Remember that, as you go traveling down life's highway, from here on out you're on an endless Wash. U. summer vacation.

Oh, those summer nights.

-PERCY OLSEN

I WANT TEAM SPIRIT GLORY AND NOT TO SHOW UP IN FULL UNIFORM FOR A GAME THAT WAS CANCELLED THREE DAYS AGO.

WU INTRAMURAL NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!!

From Sean, Lynn, & Kathy in the IM Office

TENNIS CHAMPIONS

Women's Doubles - Laura Lane Steele & Zoe Unrah

TENNIS PLAYOFFS

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Section B

**Seniors' parting
thoughts.....B2**

**Where to eat after
graduation.....B8**



Looking ahead

I was admitted to Washington University off the wait-list on the last day of high school classes. By that point, I had already sent in my housing deposit to the University of Florida and was ready to order my Gator apparel. But before that day of classes began, I was told by my college counselor to keep an eye out for a message. He paged me into his office as our final classes were letting out, and Steve Frappier, the admissions officer for our region, and now the director of college counseling at my high school, was on the other end of the line inviting me to join the class of 2008. I accepted.

A few months later on the eve of freshman orientation, I saw the campus for the first time. It was beautiful, and as I remember, without much construction. The weather was warm but much cooler than the unbearable summer heat of Miami.

Nearly four years later, my apartment is filling with packed boxes of clothing, books, dishes and other souvenirs from my journey—pink glass and shot glass for donating \$20.08 to the Senior Class Gift, binders from courses on American elections, the Cold War, the civil rights movement and a folder of the pictures, maps and letters that I taped to my wall over the years.

Each of us will end our college journey in our own way. My roommate Aaron and I have decided to road trip to Miami. Some of my friends will relax around St. Louis for a few more weeks until their leases run out. And for many others, like ripping off a band-aid, they'll fly out as soon as they



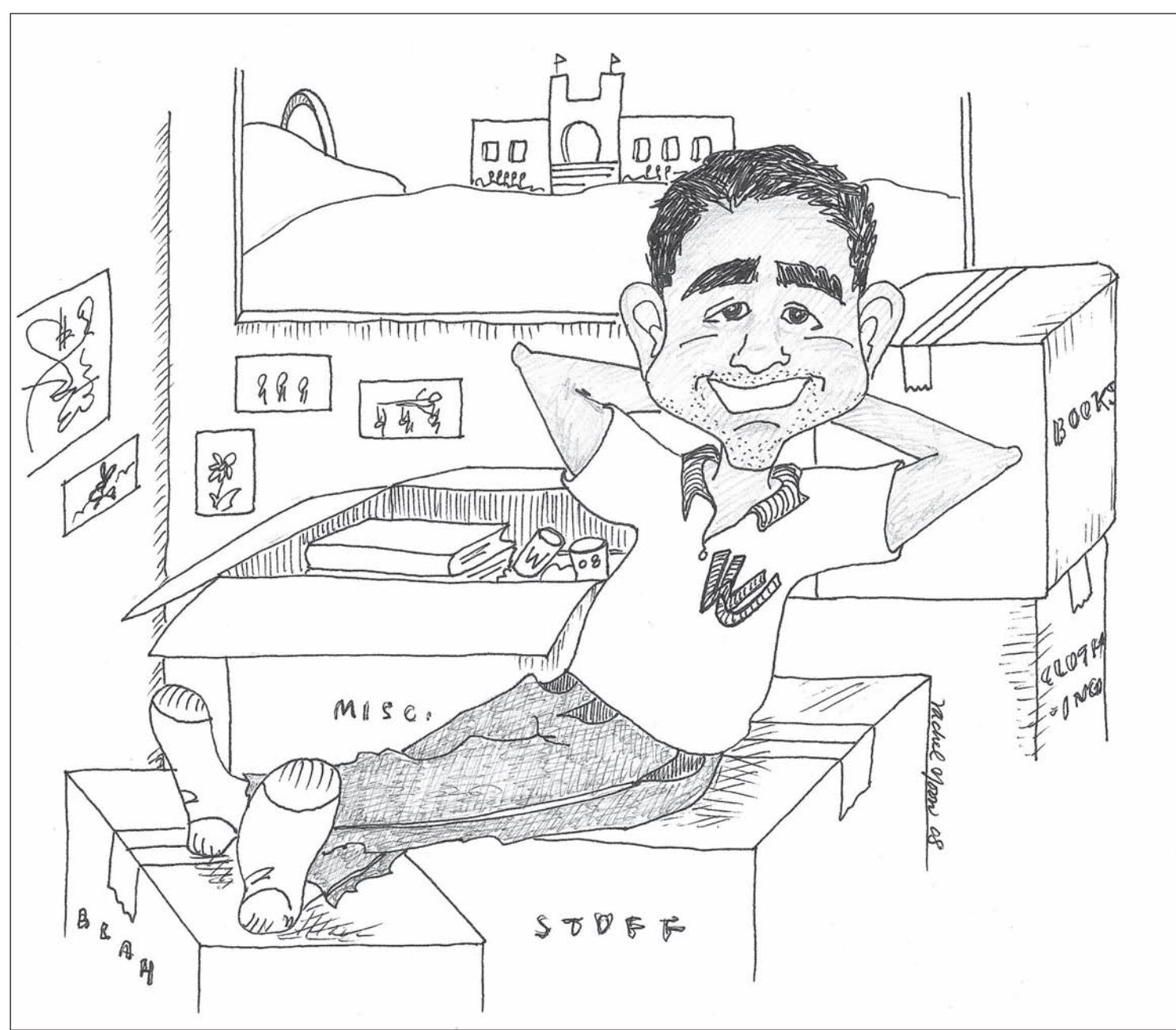
Neil Patel

can before the emotions hit hard.

I'll leave you with three stories from my experience.

My freshman year dorm, Eliot House, was unique. Each floor was split evenly between sophomores and freshmen, Residential Life's goal being to facilitate mentorship and camaraderie between the wiser 19-year-olds and the less wise 18-year-olds. Naturally, we on Eliot 3 forged bonds of friendship with our freshmen peers on Eliot 2. One weekend, the perfect set of circumstances emerged. All four RAs on E2 and E3 were out for the evening. As soon as this information was passed on, we began to decorate one of the common rooms with a Halloween theme and hosted our first major college party, complete with a drink budget that rivaled the cost of some of the smaller meal plans from Bon Appétit. All it took was a group of friends, a healthy bending of the rules and some quick thinking. Many Washington University students are resourceful and inherently risk-takers. Find them and keep in contact with them. Your paths will collide in the future—as business moguls, doctors or future candidates for higher office.

This year, I had the opportunity to have dinner with members of the College Republicans, other representatives from Student Union and former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales. I believe Gonzales' presence revitalized campus for a few weeks and encouraged many of us to learn about his controversial tenure and the ensuing outrage. As we ate dinner



RACHEL YOUNG | STUDENT LIFE

with him, I found myself increasingly uneasy at the fact that this widely-abhorred man presented himself as a charming, laid-back and well-meaning individual. It dawned on me that perhaps Gonzales, this entire time, truly believed what he was doing was the morally right thing to do.

As we go out and work in the world, many of us as advocates and protectors of our

fellow citizen, be aware that the source of poor decisions are sometimes found in the most powerful of places. And one's intentions do not justify the process; the ends do not always justify the means. As Washington University graduates, we should strive to uphold a higher standard together.

Nearly a year ago, I was at the Leadershape Institute, a week-long retreat supported

by the Office of Student Activities and other departments around campus. Leadershape taught us about how to be good leaders and team-players by being sensitive to the diversity around us, respectful of all ideas and progressive in our thinking. The ultimate goal was to improve the world around us for all citizens, not just a subset of the population. While the world after college

is far from ideal, I believe our common experience at the University has prepared us to make it a better place.

Strength through truth—*per veritatem vis.* It's Wash.

U.'s motto, and now it's ours.

Neil Patel is graduating from the college of Arts & Sciences. He is the former Student Union president and can be reached by e-mail at neilpatel@wustl.edu.

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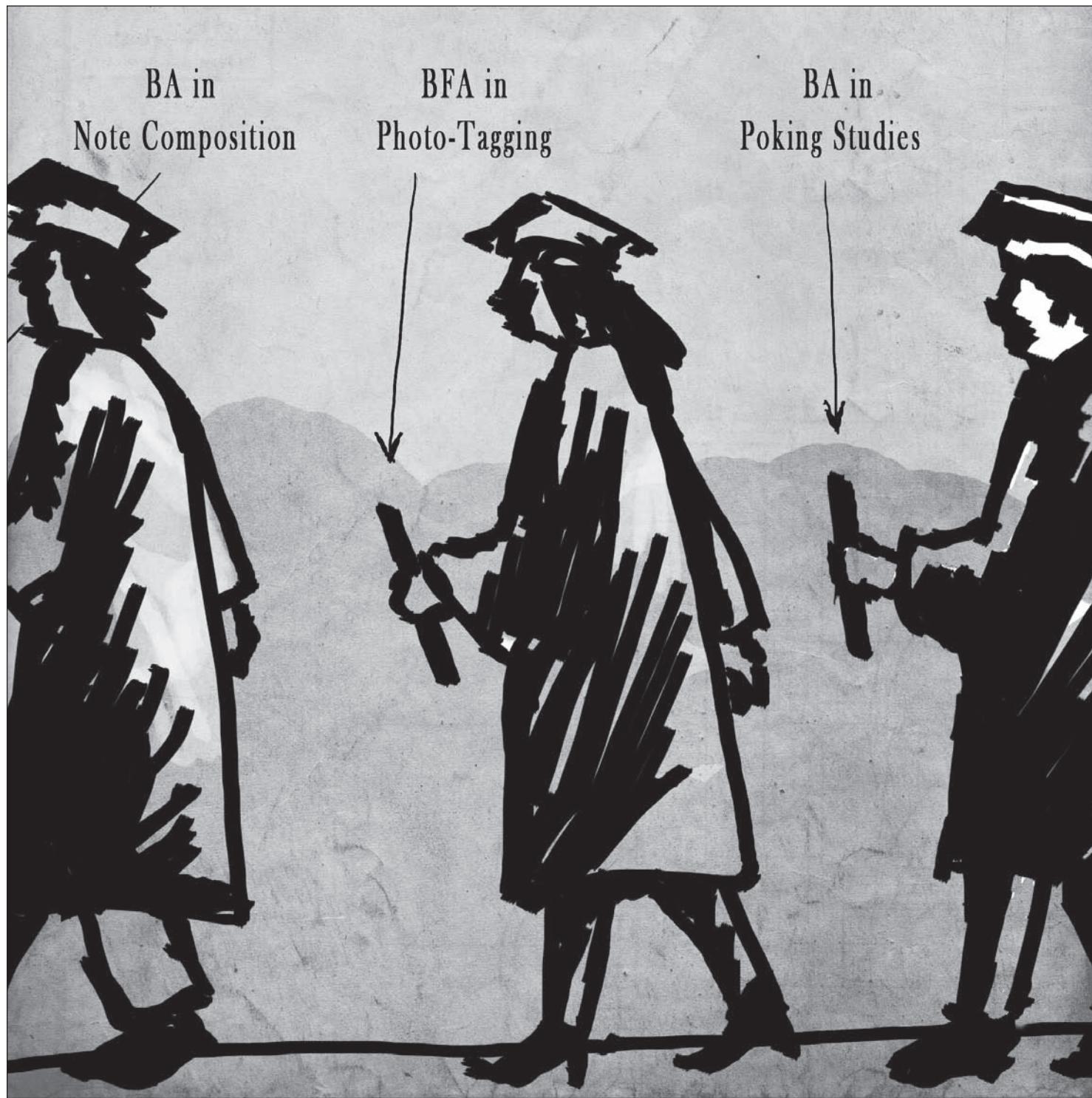
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Well, that was a fun four years. Remember when there was a Taco Bell on campus? And that time when those dudes (and dudettes) from SWA sat in the admissions office? Oh, the memories. Frankly, however, there is only one thing that really unifies the Class of 2008: Facebook.

Facebook, formerly known as Thefacebook.com, first landed at Wash. U. on May 2, 2004. That makes us the first class to have started school with Facebook as part of our lives, whether or not we were actually on it. We complained



Daniel Milstein

when more and more schools were added to Facebook and were even louder when high schoolers, and then, anyone, joined as well. Instead of actually protesting for a living wage, now we can just join a Facebook group saying that we need a living wage—and NOW. In just four short years, it has morphed from a cute little distraction to an all-encompassing, ubiquitous monster. How can we not love it?

The possibilities for Facebook's further involvement in our lives are limitless. The big awkward "what are you doing next year?" conversa-

tion is all but gone—we can just check Facebook now. The infinitely more awkward getting-to-know-you conversations with the people we will soon meet are gone as well—we'll just check Facebook and make friends that way. And who knows what features Facebook will roll out next? Surely, we'll hate them. And we'll use them all.

Most of all, it will let us all stay in touch without really trying. If I somehow graduate law school and get a job, I'll try to put it up for you to see. When you get engaged or married, I'll be able to congratulate you, and we won't have to exchange a single word! When you have kids, make sure you sign them up for Facebook immediately. That way, we can all see how adorable your baby is, and you don't want little Troy or Ruth (obviously, you'll name

all your children after the MVP of our national championship basketball team) to be the last kid without Facebook in his or her nursery. And when one of you (not Neil Patel, but maybe Troy Routh?) becomes president of the United States, I can feel special since I'll know which pictures you deleted.

So, Class of 2008, let's all be Facebook friends. We joined Facebook back when it was Thefacebook. Maybe it's too important now, but we have to cherish our memories. And we'll stay connected through that Washington University in St. Louis '08 on the top of our pages.

Daniel Milstein is graduating from the college of Arts & Sciences. He is a former Senior Forum Editor for Student Life and can be reached by e-mail at daniel.milstein@wustl.edu.

Remembering your graduation

It's a striking, familiar story. Ask a person what he or she had for dinner two weeks ago, and you're likely to elicit blank stares. But ask that same person to describe for you an important historical event that he or she witnessed and the story changes completely. Not only will you hear a detailed account of the event itself, but you're also likely to learn exactly what that person was doing when he or she first learned about this event. If you don't believe me, then try to think about what you

were doing when you first heard about the September 11 terrorist attacks. You can probably do it. If you were alive during the 1960s, then try to imagine where you were when you first heard about the Kennedy assassination. Again, you'll probably be able to do it.

This phenomenon isn't restricted to trying to remember events that were particularly tragic, however. The events themselves just need to elicit a strong emotional response. So this means that you could also experience something similar when attempting to remember special birthdays, important family reunions and even graduation ceremonies. Researchers have referred to these kinds of recollections as "flashbulb memories" because they are unusually vivid, and they're a fairly common occurrence. All you have to do is experience something that was extremely significant for you on a personal level, and your memory of that event will likely become a flashbulb memory. The reason for this is that emotion plays a role in enhancing the recollection of your own memories. Consequently, emotional memories are the ones that you are likely to remember in the most detail.

I'm telling you all of this for two reasons. First, graduating from Washington University is a very significant personal event, so you'll probably develop a flashbulb memory of what happens. Second, I want

to give you a caveat about flashbulb memories even after everything I have just said about them: Unfortunately, they're not necessarily accurate.

Researchers have known for decades that flashbulb memories carry unique properties. Unfortunately, it wasn't until recently that they figured out that better accuracy wasn't one of them. Sure, you can probably recall the general details of a flashbulb memory faster than you would normally be able to do with a regular memory. But what about that vivid qual-

ity of a flashbulb memory that helps you remember all of those minute details? It turns out that your flashbulb memories aren't necessarily more accurate; you're just more confident that they're more accurate. It is entirely possible that you can remember vivid details that didn't actually happen. Moreover, the specific details that you remember can be inconsistent over time. In short, the memories that you have of your greatest personal achievements (e.g., your college graduation) are fallible.

So why am I making this point? Because if you'd like to remember all of the important details from graduation, the best solution is to jot everything down in a journal. Now I'll admit that I have never held much enthusiasm for writing down one's thoughts in a journal. The short answer for why this is the case is that it's an incredibly time consuming process, and college students don't exactly have a lot of free time. That said, even I can bring myself to make an exception for one day. After all, if you're going to harbor fond memories of your own college graduation ceremony, then you should at least keep all of your facts straight.

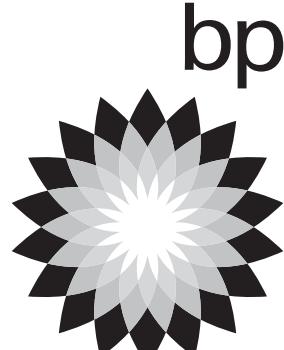
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The deeper value in procrastination

Right as my high school graduation party was wrapping up one night four years ago, someone told me that college would be the best four years of my life and to make the most of my experience. I didn't take his advice seriously at the time because I thought it was cliché and didn't think living my undergraduate years in a meaningful way would be difficult. It is only now that his statement resonates with me the most, for as I write this column only three weeks of college remain. While college gave me many occasions to wonder if I was making the right choices and making the most of my time at Wash. U., looking back, I really don't see how, for me, life could have been lived any other way.

When I asked my dad what subject to write about for this piece, he jokingly suggested, "Well, just tell the truth. You were lazy for four years, and you didn't do any work."

While I won't claim that I didn't do work for four years

(okay...maybe my total work done in college amounts to three years), there have been instances where my laziness has been oddly justified. Somehow, whatever I did when I was unproductive tended to lead to different academic opportunities never open to me before.

My tendency to meditate on the meaning of life in the middle of my calculus section and jot down poems in the margins of psych notes during lecture made me realize that I personally was taking the wrong sort of classes, and the programs in English/writing and Social Thought and Analysis helped set me straight in channeling my random thoughts—whatever thought people could appreciate a sexton on lost opportunity and cake?

Another major reason to avoid work in college was my love of Bollywood movies. Nights with friends were spent indulging in the saga of Veer and Zaara or being impressed with the crime-fighting skills of Mr. India. Since

I invested greatly in these movies, I decided to take Hindi, just as the language program here really started to bloom. The establishment of a Hindi minor, starting next fall, and the possibility of a South Asian studies program are exciting and I cannot wait to see how they grow.

However, the biggest cause of procrastination over these last four years had to be Facebook. Time that could have been spent outlining chapters or highlighting text were instead used to go log in and answer such pertinent questions as "are they really going out with each other?" and "who does he think he is—Kevin Federline?" However, when those questions turned into "how did people ever go to college without Facebook?" and "how is Facebook changing Wash. U.?" I was motivated to write my senior STA thesis on Facebook and the Wash. U. community—an experience that was both challenging and eye-opening. It seems strange that what I did when I was unproductive turned out to work in my favor. However, I think it shows that in choosing what we study and really what we devote our minds to for four years, we really have to go with what engages us.

For the undergrads still waiting for their Commencement, I recommend you choose classes—whether for a major or an elective—based on what you love to do and the questions you find that you ask yourself. Whether you seek answers as to why a certain painting is historically significant or how you can succeed in the corporate world, using your years at Wash. U. to answer those questions will never be time wasted.

While I now understand the depth of the advice given to me after high school, now that I have completed college, I don't see why the best experiences of our lives have to be limited to only four years. Even though I know the real world and the Wash. U. bubble are vastly different, I hope that in whatever jobs we work at or lives we pursue, that we—the Class of 2008—use what we learned in college about what we value and what makes us happy to make our post-college days just as fulfilling for us.

Since this is the last opportunity I have to speak to everyone as an undergrad, I would like to give my thanks to Wash. U. Thanks to the faculty like Prof. Brockmann who have encouraged me to voice my opinions, and our

thesis group advisor Bret Gustafson whose support during my thesis writing has been like that of a friend, not necessarily because thesis writing has taken me away

pointers in life that you all have given me.

To my residents, old and current, I can honestly say that I have gained something positive from meeting each and every one of you, even if you were one of the bad babies (and you know who you are...Jason Feldman!). I wish you all the best with your remaining undergrad years and encourage you to go ahead and have all the fun that you want—he, I certainly won't be here to break up any more of your parties! (Though someone else probably will be there...sorry...)

To my buddies who have made college an exhilarating and wonderful time, thank you for always being there for me and teaching me through your kindness and strength what a true friend is. Some of you are going to law school, med school, TFA and some of you are even getting married, but I hope that wherever life after college takes you, you find your bliss.

Class of 2008, it's been a long and crazy ride, and I was glad to take it with all of you. Congratulations!

Paromita De is graduating from the college of Arts & Sciences. She can be reached by e-mail at pde@artsci.wustl.edu.



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For the Commencement issue, we decided to try a restaurant we had never been to before that would be a good choice for eating with parents. The well-reviewed Sidney Street Café seemed like the perfect place for a graduation dinner. With a large menu that changes sporadically, and truly delicious food, Sidney Street Café did not disappoint.

Though the loud atmosphere and décor made it seem at times more like a lively pub than an elegant restaurant, this did not take much away from the overall experience.

Sidney Street Café is located in the Benton Park neighborhood near the Anheuser-Busch Brewery. Though we had detailed directions, we still got lost trying to find the restaurant. When we finally arrived, the décor caught us by surprise. The exposed brick walls and street lamp style light fixtures looked like they belonged in a different environment. Additionally, there were several large groups in the main dining room creating a great deal of noise.

Needless to say, we were not off to a great start.

This situation did not improve much after being seated at a very small table against the wall. However, once we saw the menu, our

sprits were raised. As there was only one hand-written menu due to occasional changes made to the courses, our very attentive waitress explained every dish in detail. She also explained that it is possible to choose several appetizers to make a sampler plate.

The menu consists of a wide array of choices, including lobster, steak, lamb, duck and chicken. Several of the first courses are more traditional, such as the crab corn cake, while others, like bacon-wrapped honey mustard shrimp, are less common and very interesting. Perhaps the most enticing dish on the menu was the pasta of the day, which was duck ravioli. The list of entrees has several fish choices, as well as a variety of meats and a vegetarian option. In addition, the main course comes with either the soup of the day or one of several salads. Finally, Sidney Street Café also has an extensive wine list and drink menu.

To start, we decided on veal dumplings and duck ravioli. The veal dumplings are pot stickers filled with veal, spinach, corn and ginger and served with a Chinese salsa. The veal was tender and delicious, while the Asian flavors were spicy but not too overpowering. The duck ravioli was particularly excellent, with very well-cooked pasta and

flavorful meat. The soup of the day was a house beef tenderloin soup, which was tasty but couldn't compare to the first course. Though the taste was good, the consistency was less than appetizing. While there were several salad choices, we picked the house salad. This dish was simple but delightful thanks to the freshness of the greens.

Finally, our main courses of Tuscan sea bass and buttermilk chicken arrived. The sea bass was lightly breaded and topped with asiago cheese. It was very light and cooked perfectly. The asparagus and string beans served with the fish added a refreshing aspect

to the dish. The buttermilk chicken was also delicious. It was extremely tender and aesthetically pleasing, as it was served in a small pot. This dish also came with vegetables, which were good, but the best part of the entrée was the side of fingerling potatoes. They were slightly crunchy and truly delectable with the light gravy from the chicken.

Though at first we weren't sure about Sidney Street Café, it proved itself through delicious, well-cooked food and an interesting menu. We would recommend it for a date, special occasion or, of course, dinner with visiting parents.



The menu at Sidney Street Café consists of a wide array of choices, including lobster, steak, lamb, duck and chicken.

Stepping Out: other graduation restaurants

BY BROOKE SCHACHNER AND ERIC BIERMAN
SCENE REPORTERS

Pomme Restaurant
40 North Central Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Pomme is a classic French bistro with 14 tables and impeccable service, located right in downtown Clayton. Be sure to try the lamb, duck confit and apples for Olivia.

Harvest
1059 South Big Bend
St. Louis, MO 63117

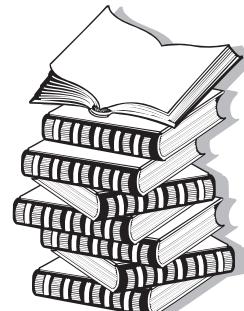
Harvest boasts a seasonal menu, serving the freshest local ingredients. The spa menu delivers the most delicious low-fat, low-cholesterol food you have ever eaten.

Eleven Eleven Mississippi
1111 Mississippi Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63104

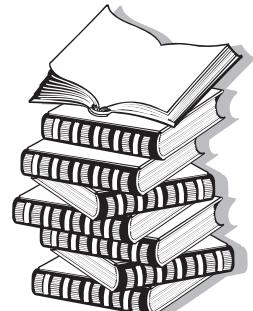
Sauce magazine reader's choice #1 restaurant in the city. You cannot go wrong with anything on the menu.

Trattoria Marcella
3600 Watson Road
St. Louis, MO 63100

Trattoria Marcella is one of The Hill's finest Italian restaurants. The tenderloin, pastas and fish are excellent.



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We appreciate your contributions and wish you success in your future endeavors!

WORD ON THE STREET

—Compiled by Michelle Stein



"The small community and teachers...the ability to take that passion outside the classroom and start a student group or do anything with it. It literally is the Ivy of the Midwest. You have all this power and prestige, and it is so accessible."

-Michael Morgan
Senior



"Improv—the ability to make a difference on campus by being part of a public group."

-Atina Rizk
Senior



"My favorite part has been the relationships I made and the friendships I've gained. Just thinking about the future and the friends I will keep in touch with."

-Marcus Woods
Senior



"My friends, obviously...Just hanging out. I will miss not having responsibilities."

-Mark Slobin
Senior

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"What was the best part of your four years at Washington University in St. Louis?"

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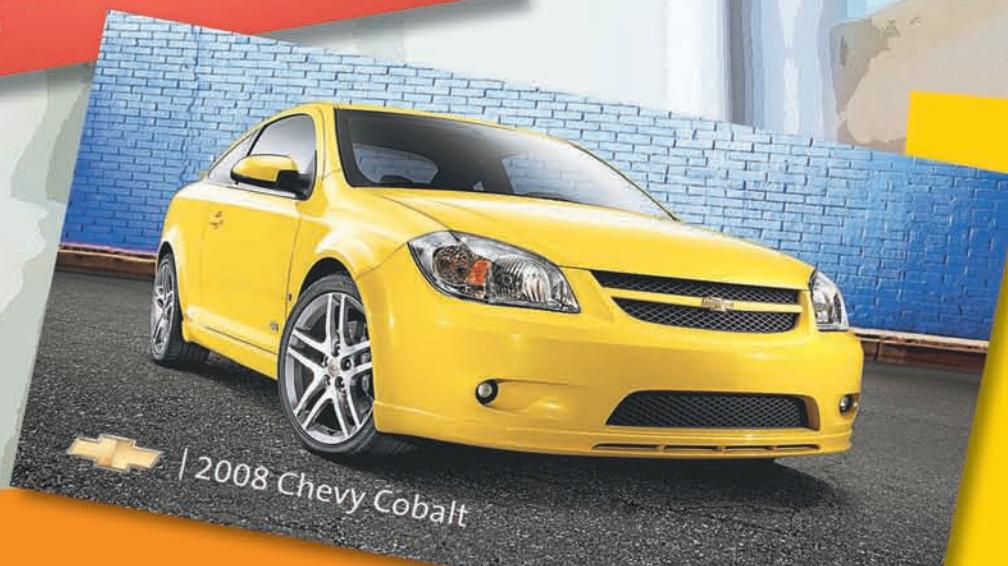
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