

Asia Extra

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Energy Symposium Brings International Academic Leaders to WUSTL

by Lisa Cary

To explore ways to meet the world's future energy needs and expand renewable energy sources, representatives from some of the world's leading research universities gathered at Washington University in St. Louis. On Oct. 1-5, 2010, the group attended the "McDonnell Academy Global Energy and Environment Partnership Symposium: Global Energy Future."

The symposium marked the third such gathering of university leaders, researchers and students since their global partnership began in 2005 with the founding of the McDonnell International Scholars Academy at Washington University.

Delegates from 25 McDonnell Academy universities from East Asia, South Asia, Europe, the Middle East and South America attended the symposium.

The McDonnell Academy Global Energy & Environment Partnership (MAGEEP) organized "Global Energy Future." MAGEEP is a research consortium that grew out of the first McDonnell Academy symposium in 2007. Partner schools are cooperating and collaborating on research, with the goal of accelerating findings that will help meet worldwide needs for energy and a clean environment.

"This global partnership is unique," says symposium coordinator Pratim Biswas, the Stifel and Quinette Jens Professor of Environmental Engineering Science; chairman of the Department of Energy, Environmental & Chemical Engineering in Washington University's School of Engineering & Applied Science; and director of MAGEEP. "Unlike the

bilateral or trilateral arrangements of some other universities, our 26-university research network creates a multilateral collaboration and global reach that can truly make a difference in meeting challenges of energy and the environment."

The symposium began on Oct. 1 with opening remarks from Washington University Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, the driving force behind the formation of the McDonnell International Scholars Academy, MAGEEP and the recently formed Consortium for Clean Coal Utilization (CCCU).

Kristina M. Johnson, undersecretary of energy for the U.S. Department of Energy; Richard A. Meserve, president of the Carnegie Institution for Science; and Gary S. Calabrese, vice president of science and technology for Corning Inc., gave the afternoon's keynote addresses.

That evening, John P. Holdren, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and assistant to the president for science and technology, delivered the dinner's keynote address, "Energy Strategy in Theory and Practice."

On Oct. 2 and 3, the symposium featured an international "Presidents Forum" panel discussion series. Presidents and faculty from partner universities discussed the energy and environmental challenges of their own geographic regions and their effect on the global outlook. Panel topics included assessing the world's future energy needs, identifying technologies and resources to meet those energy needs, mitigating carbon dioxide accumulation,

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Freshman Strives to Improve Water Sanitation, Wins National Prize

by Blaire Leible Garwitz

“Not all people recognize that water is an important resource, simply because it’s one of the things we in developed countries take for granted,” says freshman Rebecca Ye. “The United Nations recently declared that access to clean water and sanitation is a basic human right. This makes an already pressing issue even more relevant.”

Motivated by this worldwide problem — an estimated 884 million people lack access to safe drinking water — Ye is taking action to improve water sanitation. While in high school, she developed an inexpensive method to quickly detect *E. coli* in water. Working with *E. coli* 0157:H7, a pathogenic variant of *E. coli*, Ye’s biosensor detected the bacteria in less than 24 hours as opposed to the previous method that took nearly four days.

Ye, a native of Maine, entered her research project in the state competition for the prestigious 2010 Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP). After capturing both the state title and the national title, Ye represented the country at the international competition in Sweden in September. Although she did not win, Ye thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

“Stockholm is an amazing city,” she says. “For a week, I was surrounded by individuals who were all interested in the same issues as I am, and they were all working to do something about it.”

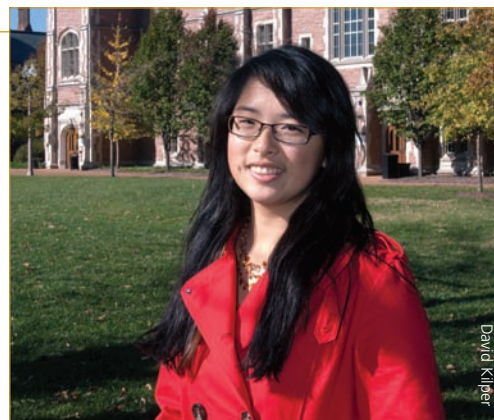
Ye also attended World Water Week, an event hosted by the Stockholm International Water Institute. “It was an eye-opening experience to attend and learn about the issues happening worldwide that all centered around water.”

Ye’s interest in water sanitation began in high school. “Mr. Cary James, my high school chemistry teacher, is passionate about water and strongly advocates for the environment,” Ye says.

For her SJWP project, she worked with Vivian Wu, a professor at the University of Maine. “Without her generosity and patience in teaching me, it would not have been possible to accomplish this project,” Ye says.

Ye balanced the challenges of her high school classes with her research by working after school, on the weekends and during school vacations, she says.


Although she has not yet declared a major at Washington University, Ye will eventually attend medical school. “My



David Klippen

Rebecca Ye developed an inexpensive method to quickly detect *E. coli* in water. She entered her project in the Stockholm Junior Water Prize competition and took home the national title.

father did his residency at the School of Medicine, so when I decided to apply — and got accepted — he was ecstatic,” she says. “I really fell in love with the university when I visited. Everything from the academics to the atmosphere just seemed to fit.”

Ye plans to continue her water-related research. “It’s been such an amazing learning experience,” she says. “I encourage all students to pursue what they are passionate about.” 

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and discussing areas of research to help create new energy sources. The leaders also discussed ways to develop cooperative energy and environmental education and research programs within their schools.

Technical sessions on Oct. 4 and 5 included reports on collaborative research projects, funded by the CCCU, for developing clean coal technology with partners in Asia. Parallel sessions featured discussions and reports on current MAGEEP projects — ranging from energy efficiency in campus buildings, bioenergy and solar energy, to entrepreneurship and venture capital.


In one such project, faculty from Washington University and eight of the McDonnell Academy universities in Asia are working together to develop course content in aerosol science and engineering studies.

The symposium also offered events and activities for doctoral students from partner universities. An online doctoral network created by MAGEEP had, weeks before the symposium, challenged its 800 members to enter a video contest on clean energy and environment. The students winning first,

second and third place were awarded \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000, respectively, and presented posters at the conference.

In the final session of the symposium, delegates discussed ideas for additional collaborative projects. Several new initiatives will be launched in upcoming

months. The next MAGEEP symposium is tentatively scheduled for late 2012, most likely at a McDonnell Academy partner university in Asia.

For more information on the symposium and MAGEEP, visit <http://mageep.wustl.edu>. 

The McDonnell Academy universities, in partnership with Washington University, are:

- Bogaziçi University
- Budapest University of Technology and Economics
- China Agricultural University
- Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Chulalongkorn University
- Fudan University
- Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
- Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya
- Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Korea University
- Middle East Technical University
- National Taiwan University
- National University of Singapore
- Peking University
- Seoul National University
- State University of Campinas
- Tata Institute of Social Sciences
- Technion - Israel Institute of Technology
- Tsinghua University
- University of Chile
- University of Hong Kong
- University of Indonesia
- University of Tokyo
- Utrecht University
- Yonsei University

Toymaker Gets Paid to Play

by Ben Westhoff

Kenji Yoshinari may be 33, but he still loves toys.

In the bedroom of his downtown New York City apartment sits a two-foot-tall Gloomy bear, a pink designer doll that has claws and is tough-looking. Yoshinari, BSBA '99, never really outgrew his Nerf guns, Japanese robots and G.I. Joe figurines, and now he's living a childhood dream as product marketing manager for toy-and-gaming company Techno Source. "I'm always trying to come up with unique toys, by looking at them through the eyes of the end consumer — the kids," he says. "I love doing the research, going to toy stores and thinking about what children like these days."

After graduating from Olin Business School with a focus on finance and marketing, Yoshinari found that the financial world wasn't for him, as a post-college job at ABN AMRO in Chicago quickly demonstrated. He realized he needed to be in a field and an environment where he could be more creative. From 2003 to 2005, he lived in Osaka, Japan, where he started an English language school, initiated an import/export company with a partner and explored his roots. (Though he was born in Albany, N.Y., his mother is from Tokyo and his father hails from the northern Japanese city of Koriyama.)

Upon returning to the United States, however, Yoshinari figured out what he wanted to do with his life. "I realized I'd always wanted to be in the toy business, and this was my last shot," he remembers thinking. With zero experience in the industry, he sent out his résumé to more than 100 different toymakers, hoping for an opportunity. Eventually, a New Jersey-based company called Uglydolls — specializing in horrendously cute plush monsters — gave him a shot.

A year later, he joined Techno Source, where he put in extremely long hours. His current responsibilities include conceiving, developing and marketing the company's cutting-edge toys. Techno Source, which has offices in Manhattan and Hong Kong, specializes in putting modern, technological spins on perennially popular items. Yoshinari's projects include Printies, a Build-A-Bear style application that lets kids create toys using their printers; an *Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?*-branded handheld game; a Tetris tabletop game; and Bubble Talk, in which competitors create funny captions for silly pictures.

His undergraduate experience in finance and marketing at Olin helped Yoshinari learn to work well in groups. At Techno Source, "We're always brainstorming concepts together, so



Courtesy Photo

Kenji Yoshinari, BSBA '99, conceives, develops and markets cutting-edge toys at Techno Source. The company, which has offices in Manhattan and Hong Kong, specializes in putting modern, technological spins on perennially popular items.

knowing how to interact in a team environment is crucial," he notes.

Yoshinari's ascent in the toy industry shows that passion and dedication can sometimes trump experience. While he's unsure what the future holds for him, he definitely plans to stay

in toys. "My only wish is that I would have gotten into this industry earlier," he notes. "I'm a big kid at heart, so it comes easy to me."

For more information, visit www.techno-sourcehk.com/. 


Famed Mathematician Alumnus Passes Away

Xianyu Xu, PhD '38, the first Chinese alumnus of Washington University and one of the founders of computational mathematics in China, passed away on Oct. 23, 2010, at the age of 100. While a student, Xu studied mathematics with world-renowned scholar and former Professor Gabor Szego. After graduation, Xu briefly taught at the university before joining the faculty of the mathematics department at Yenching University. He later held a full professorship in the math department of Peking



Courtesy Photo

Xianyu Xu, PhD '38, was the oldest alumnus in China.

University and served as a senior fellow at the Institute of Computational Mathematics under the Chinese Academy of Science. Xu's family recently named a mathematics scholarship at Washington University for him. 

News Briefs

Historic moral guidebook of Choson Korea reflects social changes

A presentation in East Asian Studies in Arts & Sciences examined *The Samgang Haengsil-to*, a moral guidebook most frequently distributed by the court in Choson Korea (1392–1910). The text contains stories of exemplary conduct performed by filial sons, loyal subjects and devoted women that epitomize Confucian virtues. Young Kyun Oh, assistant professor of Chinese and Sino-Korean at Arizona State University, discussed the complicated printing history of the *Samgang Haengsil-to* — in which changes were constantly made to alter the selection of stories, the content, language, even the appearance of the book, sometimes subtly and other times significantly. By tracing the major changes made to different editions of the *Samgang Haengsil-to*, Oh showed how social and political environments influenced the text.

Four-semester seminar series takes a new look at Japanese culture

"Japan Embodied: New Approaches to Japanese Studies," is a four-semester Mellon Sawyer Seminar Series at Washington University that examines the way the body has been discussed, experienced and imagined in Japanese culture. The seminars, which are free and open to the public, will continue with related events each semester through spring 2012.

The series is supported by a \$150,000 Mellon Foundation Grant awarded to the university's Japan studies faculty in East Asian Studies in Arts & Sciences through a highly competitive process.

Featured speakers for the first seminar are Shigehisa Kuriyama, the Reischauer Institute Professor of Cultural History at Harvard University, and William Johnston, professor of Japanese history at Wesleyan University.

For seminar dates, topics and required readings, visit the East Asian Studies website, eastasian.artsci.wustl.edu/mellon, contact Krystél Mowery at 1-314-935-4448 or e-mail eas@artsci.wustl.edu.

Rebecca Copeland, PhD, professor of modern Japanese literature in Arts & Sciences, is coordinating the seminar series and related academic programs with assistance from Marvin Marcus, PhD, associate professor of modern Japanese literature. Other members of the Sawyer Seminar planning committee are Lori Watt, PhD, assistant professor of modern Japanese history; Jamie Newhard, PhD, assistant professor of premodern Japanese literature; and Virginia Marcus, senior lecturer in Japanese language.



Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton (right) presents Liviu Mirica (left) and Yinjie Tang with Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Achievement Awards.

Tang and Mirica receive Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Achievement Awards

Yinjie Tang, PhD, assistant professor of chemical engineering in the School of Engineering & Applied Science, and Liviu Mirica, PhD, assistant professor of chemistry in Arts & Sciences, received Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Achievement Awards. Awarded by Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU), the research grants provide seed money for research by junior faculty at ORAU institutions. Tang and Mirica are among 32 recipients nationwide of this award in 2010–11. The recipients, each of whom are in the first two years of a tenure track, will receive \$5,000. Washington University will match with an additional \$5,000. Tang's grant money will support his efforts to engineer thermophilic bacteria capable of producing biofuel from biomass. Mirica's award will aid his research to develop novel chemical agents for the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.


Students host inaugural U.S.–China Conference on Climate Change and Sustainability

Washington University Students for International Collaboration on the Environment (WUSICE) hosted the first-ever U.S.–China Undergraduate Conference on Climate Change and Sustainability at Washington University in November 2010. WUSICE is a student-directed organization that aims to facilitate interaction and dialogue between American and Chinese undergraduates on major environmental issues. The group aims to empower students to be the roots of international environmental collaboration. At the inaugural conference, 22 outstanding undergraduates from Washington University and Fudan University in Shanghai participated in Mock COP16, a simulation of the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference. The undergraduate conference also featured a wide range of speakers from distinguished professors at Washington University to

an officer at the China Consulate in Chicago. For more information, visit www.wusice.wordpress.com.

Former Supreme Court of Japan justices speak at symposium

Two former justices on the Supreme Court of Japan, Tokiyasu Fujita and Tokuji Izumi, spoke at the School of Law's two-day symposium "Decision-Making on the Japanese Supreme Court." The law school's Center for Empirical Research in the Law hosted the conference, which was organized by David Law, JD, professor of law and of political science in Arts & Sciences, and John O. Haley, JD, the William R. Orthwein Distinguished Professor Emeritus.

"The conference embraced every aspect and determinant of the Japanese Supreme Court's behavior, from the role of precedent and the organization of its law clerk system, to the manner in which Japanese judges are appointed and promoted, to the political environment within which the court operates," Law says. "The goal was to promote open debate among leading experts on the court and to challenge the conventional scholarly wisdom about how the court behaves and why it does so. We were especially fortunate to enjoy the presence of two former members of the Japanese Supreme Court itself. As a result, we were able to learn things about the court that scholars have never known before." 

2010 International Graduate Scholarship Conference held in Beijing

The fifth annual International Graduate Scholarship Conference convened in Beijing in 2010. A group of leading U.S. research universities including Washington University — the Responsive Ph.D. Group — attended the conference to explore opportunities of mutual benefit to Chinese and U.S. universities. The Responsive Ph.D. Group provides more than \$100 million annually in scholarships and fellowships to graduates of China's most prestigious institutions of higher education for postgraduate study in the United States. The group works to encourage Chinese students to apply for the many advanced scholarships and fellowships currently available in the United States and for fellowship support from the China Scholarship Council. Washington University and the China Scholarship Council have organized the International Graduate Scholarship Conference every year since it began in 2005.

Glimpses

Washington University played Tsinghua University during the 27th annual Lopata Classic basketball tournament on Dec. 3, 2010. The Bears won 80–70. This marked the first time a sports team from China visited the university.



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The **Alumni and Parents Admission Program (APAP)** involves alumni and parents of undergraduates in recruiting, selecting and enrolling students at Washington University. APAP members interview applicants, staff college fairs and host receptions for admitted students. For information, contact:

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

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