WU Reference Center Is Clearinghouse On Ecological Impact of Technology

By Dorothy Brockhoff

Wilson Hall basement with its cases of Neanderthal skulls and hoary bones is a sombre setting indeed, but it is headquarters for one of the liveliest projects on campus. Here in room six, Peggy Davies, a slim, poised young woman, presides over a Reference Center on Ecology and International Development.

The center's basic purposes are to collect books, journals and articles concerned with the complex fields of environment and technological development as they relate to the Third World countries, and to alert specialized audiences to this literature. It achieves the latter goal through surveys, abstracts, reprints and bibliographies. Part of Professor Barry Commoner's Center for the Biology of Natural Systems, this reference unit is a component of an International Task Force headed by Ms. Davies as coordinator.

Organized some seven and one-half years ago, the reference center is the inspiration of an Iranian scientist, M. Taghi Farvar, who until a few weeks ago, was Director General of the Human Environmental Section of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation of Iran. While associated with CBNS, he formed the Oi Committee International, which is dedicated "to the holistic study of international development and the human environment." Oi is derived from a Swahili proverb, "Ote iwapo," (All that is must be considered.) It commissioned the reference center to publish a monumental 334-page paperback annotated bibliography on International Development and the Human Environment last year. Issued by MacMillan Information, some 2000 copies of this book, containing 400 substantive annotations, have been sold. As its authors, Ms. Davies and a former colleague, Theodore N. Soule, declare, it was written "primarily to help assist the peoples of the Third World to construct an environment free of the problems which the developed nations have encountered since their meteoric rise." Work is now underway on a sequel which will focus on energy and development.

Ms. Davies and her staff are sometimes hardpressed in planning for this new text, fielding some 50 inquiries a month from throughout the world, reading, digesting, and frequently annotating information. Her staff consists of her assistant, Chantal Tie Ten Quee, and their secretary.

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Weidenbaum To Head New Center for Study Of American Business

A Center for the Study of American Business, believed to be unique in the nation, has been established at Washington University, Chancellor William H. Danforth announced. Economist Murray L. Weidenbaum, Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor at the University and former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy, will serve as director of the new center. John M. Olin of Alton, Ill., a trustee of Washington University, has provided funds for initial operating costs of the center.

The center's basic purposes will be to study the American business system, the role of the private enterprise system in the development of American society, and the relationship between a market economy and a free society. "With the establishment of this center," Chancellor Danforth said, "we hope to foster interchange between business and academia in order that the campus community, both here and throughout the country, will come to have greater knowledge of business and businessmen. At the same time, it is our aim to explain and demonstrate the contributions of those in academia to the world of business and its practitioners."

"One of the center's first research goals will be to study the need of American industry for new capital in the coming decade," Professor Weidenbaum said. "This subject is usually ignored when public policy affecting saving and investment is formulated, although its answer is vital to the future of the private enterprise system, as well as to the health of society," he explained.

Another of the center's top-priority objectives will be to evaluate the impact of government regulation on American business. Its scholar-researchers will analyze traditional governmental controls on business, and will review many new and important controls which have recently been introduced in connection with environmental cleanup, product
WU Program Produces Promising Results In Treatment of Children’s Cancer Diseases

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During the past 15 years, a broad program for the treatment of cancer in children has evolved from a study based at the Washington University School of Medicine.

Professor Teresa J. Vietti, principal investigator in the study, reported that the program has produced promising results in the treatment of acute leukemia and in malignant tumor diseases involving the kidney, muscle and bone. She gave the following examples:

1) Research on Wilms’ (kidney) tumor has produced the most significant results with a 90 per cent cure rate for children with a localized tumor and a 50 per cent success rate for children with disseminated disease.

2) One of the malignant tumors of muscle, rhabdomyosarcoma, previously thought to be hopeless, can now be treated so that most children survive.

3) With new methods of treatment, survival in children with acute leukemia now may exceed five years. The survival rate used to be nine months to a year.

4) Patients with Ewing’s sarcoma and osteosarcoma (two bone tumors) had a 10 to 15 per cent cure rate 15 years ago; now, although accurate statistics are not yet available, investigators expect that through the use of chemotherapy, survival will exceed 50 per cent.

Dr. Vietti emphasized that the program’s success is attributable to its multidisciplinary approach, which assures that each child receives optimal therapy. The research and its application to treatment has involved the combined efforts of chemotherapists, radiation therapists, pathologists and surgeons. The study, based in the WU School of Medicine’s Pediatrics Department, is part of an overall project known as the Southwest Oncology Group Study. The Group is a research cooperative which has members throughout the country.

The researchers hope to develop additional modes of treatment for other childhood malignancies, as well as to increase the effectiveness of current methods. “Presently used therapeutic regimens are very intense and are usually continued for two to three years on an outpatient basis,” Dr. Vietti pointed out. “It is very difficult for the child to tolerate the treatment. One of our goals is to make therapy less intense and for a shorter duration.” She said that researchers in the program also hope that what they are learning about treatment of childhood tumors will be applicable to adult malignant diseases.

Dr. Vietti, professor of pediatrics and associate professor of pediatrics in radiology, has received a three-year $350,310 grant from the National Cancer Institute to continue her research.

Besides Dr. Vietti, other WU participants in the program are: Drs. A. H. Ragab, Vita J. Land, and Harold Zarowsky, assistant professors of pediatrics; Dr. Carlos A. Perez, professor of radiology; Dr. John M. Kissane, professor of pathology and of pathology in pediatrics; Dr. Jessie L. Ternberg, professor of surgery and associate professor of surgery in pediatrics, and Drs. Lily A. Palmer-Hanes and William B. Mill, Jr., both assistant professors of radiology.

Assembly Series Debate To Be Held Wednesday

The Washington University Academic Committee will sponsor a debate on the issue of “Preferential Affirmative Action” at 11 a.m. Wednesday, January 29, at Graham Chapel. The debate is free and open to the public.

Speaking for the question will be James Wilson, an attorney representing the University of Washington Law School in the Marco DeFus vs. Charles Odegard case. Speaking against it will be Carl Cohen, professor of philosophy at the University of Michigan.

Mr. DeFus sued the University of Washington to gain admission to the law school, alleging that he was discriminated against. He was subsequently admitted to the school and the case was brought before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Weidenbaum

Eleven Nobel Laureates have worked in the Washington University School of Medicine’s medical science laboratories; five (including one woman) did the work there for which they received the Nobel Prize.

Weidenbaum
ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPEN TRYOUTS for the WU Performing Arts Area April production of Gilbert and Sullivan’s Patience will be held Thursday, Feb. 6, from 7-10 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 9, from 3-7 p.m. in the Women’s Building Lounge. Principal and chorus roles will be cast after callbacks, scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 11, from 7-10 p.m. in 149 McMillan. Those who try out may come prepared with their own material or audition using the “Patience” score. An accompanist will be provided.

AN ORIENTATION PROGRAM for new non-academic WU employees will be initiated this month in the Academy Building, 310 Melville Ave. The program will include a slide presentation and a walking tour of the campus, information about working hours, vacation and holiday schedules, educational benefits, medical insurance plans, and campus services. Attendance will be by reservation only. For further information, call 863-0100, ext. 4210.

STUDENTS interested in public service careers who have earned enough credit to qualify as candidates for the master’s degree are urged to contact the newly-organized Center for the Study of Public Affairs at WU. The center, headed by Professor Robert Salisbury, will begin its new program this month. Key political science courses including urban politics and the professions and government can be combined with relevant courses in economics, education, technology and human affairs, urban studies and others to fulfill part of the requirements for the M.A. degree in political science (public affairs). Call Linda Ellsworth, associate director of the new center, at ext. 4249 for more information.

WU FACULTY MEMBERS who are interested in exchanging homes this summer with other American and Canadian professors may contact Arthur Golub of the Educators’ Cooperative Summer Homeswapping Plan, 7256 N. Bell Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60645, for details.

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New Vice Chancellor Named

Herbert F. Hitzeman, Jr., has been named to the new position of Vice Chancellor for Development at WU, it was announced by Chancellor William H. Danforth. University divisions of Fund-raising, Development Services and Records, Alumni Relations and University Relations will report to Mr. Hitzeman. A native St. Louisan, Mr. Hitzeman was graduated from WU in 1953. He joined the campaign staff of the University’s Seventy by Seventy Program in 1966, and was appointed director of the entire program in 1968 after serving as director of the medical and dental alumni phases of the campaign. The $70 million campaign was successfully concluded a year ahead of schedule. In June of 1969 Mr. Hitzeman was named Director of Development and in 1970 he was appointed Associate Vice Chancellor.

Mr. Hitzeman said that “The highest priority facing us today is to raise $60 million from private donors by June, 1978, in order to earn a like amount from the Danforth Foundation Challenge Grant. Funds earned from the challenge grant will be used for general endowment to stabilize the academic gains made by the University in the 1960’s. The challenge beyond matching this grant is to broaden our base of support from private donors.”

THE COUNCIL FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES has announced a pre-dissertation fellowship program to enable graduate students in the social sciences and related disciplines to spend a summer in Europe prior to making final plans for their dissertations. Competition for Fulbright-Hays Travel Grants to Austria, Germany and Norway is still open. These grants are to supplement any full maintenance award which is not administered by the Institute of International Education. The application deadline for both grants is February 1. For further information call Mrs. Tom at the International Office, 863-0100, ext. 4236.

THE ASIAN ART SOCIETY of Washington University will sponsor a tour to the Orient (Japan, Taipei, and Hong Kong) from March 21-April 15. The tour is limited to 15 people. For further information, please call the Montclair Travel Agency, Inc., 367-3000.

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APPPOINTMENTS

Glenn Detrick has been appointed occupational and academic advisor for University College’s Office of Admissions and Academic Advisement. He will act as liaison between University College and the business community to effect realistic curriculum recommendations through continuing contact with the community. Mr. Detrick, who will also serve as an academic advisor, received his MBA from Michigan State University in March, 1970, and worked in St. Louis as both a travel and management consultant before joining WU’s School of Continuing Education.

RECOGNITIONS

Gregg Mayer, assistant professor of dance in WU’s Performing Arts Area, recently led a two-day workshop for the Pamela Bedford Dance Theatre (Company and School) in Quincy, Ill., offering repertory, composition and technique classes.

Twenty-nine faculty members of the Washington University School of Medicine serve on 31 National Institutes of Health advisory committees and boards.
Exhibitions

Albert Schweitzer Exhibit, a collection of Schweitzer memorabilia including letters, books, manuscripts, and documents showing his influence, on display in Olin Library, level three. Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-midnight; Friday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-midnight.

Gifts '74, a special exhibition of 27 works of art presented to WU last year, on display in Steinberg Hall, lower gallery. Included are paintings, a canvas wall hanging, prints, watercolors and sculpture by Walter Bastke, Leonard Baskin, Giuseppe Capogrossi, Allan McCollum, Rory McEwen, Shiko Munakata, Nathan Oliveira, Wolfgang Paalen, Pablo Picasso, William Quino, David Rabinowitch, Bernard Rosenthal, Georges Rouault and Jiro Yoshihara plus African sculpture by unknown artists. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

Performing Arts

Friday, January 24
8 p.m. Cliff Keuter Dance Company appearing in concert, first time in St. Louis. General admission $4.50; WU faculty/staff $3.50; WU students $2. Edison Theatre (also Saturday, January 25, at 8 p.m.).

Music

Monday, January 27
8 p.m. St. Louis Symphony Chamber Series, "A Musical Offering," featuring works by Beethoven, Mallipiero and Ives. General admission $4.50; WU faculty/staff $3; WU students $2. Edison Theatre.

Reference

(Continued from page 1)

such as McDonnell Douglas.

The reference center itself includes 2000 books, 4000 reports and articles and a wide collection of specialized periodicals including Air and Water News and The Peking Review. These are organized by a staff-designed system under broad subject headings with cross-referencing.

Of necessity, Ms Davies and her staff are concerned with meticulous detail, but, nonetheless, the young coordinator finds time to supervise a special joint research project with Iran, to write letters of inquiry to Ireland where developing oil refineries there pose environmental problems, and now and again to fly overseas herself, as she did last fall, to attend a U.N. conference on population in Bucharest. The trip brought all sorts of unexpected surprises including three marriage proposals, which were made, Ms Davies explained with a laugh, "not because I was especially popular, as I at first thought, but because a union with me would have provided a desperate Rumanian with a magic passport."