Famed Comic Star Mary Wickes Shares Laughter and Talent With Acting Class

The students in the comedy acting class finished a scene from the play, Mary, Mary. The teacher, a tall, handsome woman whose face is instantly recognizable, gave a critique. "That was a good bit with the glasses, chums," she said, "but Mary's just learned that her ex-husband is about to remarry. You've got to see the reaction hit her, smack in the solar plexus. It's a moment an actress prays for."

The teacher's name is Mary Wickes, and the distinguished comic actress has known many such moments during a career that has included roles in 18 Broadway shows, 35 movies, and countless television appearances. She is on campus serving as a visiting artist, teaching a four-week course in comedy acting.

Miss Wickes is a native St. Louisan and a WU alumna, who speaks with pride about her home town and her alma mater. "I love St. Louis audiences. They're amazingly loyal," she said. Miss Wickes, who has appeared at many Municipal Opera productions, was awarded one of WU's first Alumni Citations in 1955, and cherishes an honorary Doctor of Arts degree awarded in 1969. In 1968, she was the Performing Arts Area's first artist-in-residence, playing Amanda in The Glass Menagerie, and in 1973, was Mistress of Ceremonies at the dedication for Edison Theatre.

Miss Wickes did not intend to become a professional actress, but wanted to enter law school. While at the University, however, she acted in plays at the St. Louis Little Theatre. Sometimes, New York directors would work with the actors. Then came summer stock at the noted Berkshire Playhouse in Stockbridge, Mass.

Miss Wickes then went off to New York, landing a job in three days understudying Margaret Hamilton in the Farmer Takes A Wife. But she grew homesick, and, after ten days, came back to WU. "Then I got a wire from the director asking me if I were returning to New York and the play. With the urging of my parents and Professor W. Roy Mackenzie, then head of the English Department, I went back."

The rest is theatre history. Mary Wickes has gone on to work with some of the greatest creative talents of (continued on page 3)
There's a classical photograph of WU's second Chancellor, William Chauvenet, which shows him in profile, bearded and beautifully coiled, peering into the distance with his hand clutching his forehead—looking either melancholy or as if he has a terrific hangover.

Whatever the cause of his gloom, he, undoubtedly, would have been cheered had he been around a few weeks ago when WU learned that its student math team had placed second in the prestigious Putnam Mathematical Competition. For Chauvenet was big on and in mathematics. A child prodigy, he so impressed his peers that they named a prestigious mathematics prize after him.

WU's Professor Guido Weiss won this coveted award a few years ago, but neither he nor the trio of students here on campus who just bested Harvard and MIT's brightest in the Putnam Competition, were interviewed by television reporters, nor trailed by admiring throngs as is the lot of other heroes.

For, somehow, coming out on top in a competition which is to mathematics what the Wimbledon is to tennis—just doesn't move people to cheers as does a sizzling backhand by Connors. Collectively and individually, the trio of sophomores, Tim Steger and the two Philips—Harrington and Strenski—seem resigned to stroll around campus unrecognized.

The team of Steger, Strenski, and Harrington deserves better, for what they did is something nobody else at WU has ever done—indeed, it is something that the 262 teams from colleges and universities in Canada and the U.S.—who trailed behind them in the standings did not do as well. California Institute of Technology topped the WU squad.

The Steger-Strenski-Harrington trio received $400, and $75 each for their individual efforts. And their individual efforts are impressive.

In a field of 2131 contestants from 344 institutions of higher learning, Harrington scored a stunning triumph—placing among the top six. (Contenders at this level are not ranked in the order they finished, but alphabetically.) Harrington collected $225 and the distinction of now being known as a Putnam Fellow.

Steger finished 13th, and Strenski tied for 36th place, which put them in the Honorable Mention Class—also an impressive achievement, according to Edward N. Wilson, assistant professor of mathematics and the team's coach. Two other WU students excelled. George Gilbert, placed 83rd, and Richard Mattione, 61st.

In Mary Brooks Holmes Lounge the other day, Steger and Harrington discussed their triumph. Strenski was en route to Duncan, Oklahoma, for reasons of his own. Steger spars his conversation with irony and wit. Asked what he wanted to be after graduation, he looked the interviewer straight in the eye and said with mock seriousness, "Well, until I discover the secret of the universe, I guess I'll just be a mathematics professor."

Harrington, who blows the trombone in the WU Band and is active in a kind of King Arthur Society that sponsors the Sword and Shield Tournaments, is a medieval buff. Of a more placid nature, which, apparently, is
Mary Wickes

The newly reorganized and renovated Office of Career Planning and Placement was dedicated last Friday to I. E. Millstone, a 1927 WU engineering alumnus and trustee. A plaque paying tribute to Millstone for his "leadership and generosity" to his alma mater has been inscribed in his honor.

A lounge and plaza on the north side of the campus between Bryan and McMullen Halls was dedicated in 1973 to Millstone.

Millstone, president of Millstone Construction, Inc., received an Alumni Citation in 1961 for his professional and civic achievements. Devoted to this University, he is chairman of the buildings and grounds committee of WU's Board of Trustees and is also a member of the executive, real estate and educational policy committees.

THE DEADLINE for registration in the "Non-Sexist Auto Maintenance Workshop" is Fri., April 8. The course begins Sat., April 9, and continues on the following three Saturdays, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Women's Building parking lot. Cost of the workshop is $20. Interested persons may register at the Resource Desk in Mallinckrodt Center or at the Cage in Wohl Center.

A SOLAR HOME DESIGN SEMINAR will be given April 13 to June 1 and April 14 to June 2 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursdays in the January Hall Conference Room. The fee is $150. For further information, call ext. 4261.

The transportable solar laboratory pictured above is currently parked in the Givens Hall lot. It will be on campus until April 9 and is open to the public from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The lab is being used to collect data from different climatic regions on the effectiveness of heating and cooling buildings with solar energy.

Chairmen

A specialist in Latin American political history, with an emphasis on 20th century Argentine politics, Walter has written two books to date—Student Politics in Argentina, published in 1968, and the forthcoming The Socialist Party of Argentina, 1890-1930. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford University.

Richard Palmer, who has served as chairman of the Performing Arts Area since 1967, will continue as director of Edison Theatre. Palmer is responsible for the development of the University's current undergraduate theatre program, which draws between 350 to 400 students into drama courses and an equal number into dance courses.

Professor Richard Davis, chairman of the History Department since 1974, will take a semester's sabbatical in the fall of 1977 to do research at Christ College, Cambridge University, for a three-volume history on the House of Lords from 1660 to 1911.

Professor Peter Hohendahl, chairman of the Department of Germanic Literatures and Languages since 1972, will leave the University to become professor of German and comparative literature at Cornell University.
Calendar
April 8-14

FRIDAY, APRIL 8
8 p.m. COSMO International Students Party, Stix International House, 6470 Forsyth. Refreshments will be served.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9
1:30 p.m. Women's Society Easter Egg Hunt, for children of international students, Stix International House, 6470 Forsyth. Call Diane Hasty, 863-0100, ext. 4236 to assure a reservation.

MONDAY, APRIL 11


TUESDAY, APRIL 12

4 p.m. Department of Anthropology Colloquium, "Correlates Between the Anatomy and Behavior of Two Closely Related Species of Lemur," Robert Summan, WU asst. prof. of anthropology, and Steven Ward, asst. prof. of anatomy, WU School of Dental Medicine; "Developmental Aspects of Dental Wear in Cercopithecinae," David Gantt, research assistant in anthropology, McMillan Cafeteria.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13


8 p.m. Department of Romance Languages Lecture, "How to Teach a Successful First Year Spanish Course," Matilde Castells, prof. of Spanish, Calif. State U. at Los Angeles, author of La lengua espanola: Hurst Lounge, Duncker.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14


FRIDAY, APRIL 15
7:30 and 9:45 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, "The Four Musketeers." Brown Hall Theatre. Admission $1.25. (Also Sat., April 9, same times, Brown; and Sun., April 10, 8 p.m., Wohl.)

8 p.m. St. Louis Film Art Society, "Viva Zapata!" with Marlon Brando and Anthony Quinn. 213 Rebbstock. Admission $1.50, $1 for WU students. (Also Sun., April 10, 2 p.m., Rebbstock.)

12 midnight. WU Filmboard Series, "West Side Story." Brown Hall Theatre. Admission $1. (Also Sat., April 9, midnight, Brown.)

TUESDAY, APRIL 12
12 noon. Tuesday Noon Film Series, "Joyce at 94," about mixing family life and a career; and "Yudie," a portrait of a woman recalling her experience as an immigrant. Mallinckrodt Gallery.

7:30 and 9:30 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, "Public Enemy." Brown. Admission $1.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13
7:30 and 10 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, "Lacombe, Lucien." French with subtitles. Brown Hall Theatre. Admission $1.25. (Also Thurs., April 14, same times, Brown.)

THURSDAY, APRIL 14
7:30 p.m. Hillel Foundation Film, "The 81st Blow," a documentary about the Nazi holocaust, made by survivors living in Israel Hillel House, 6300 Forsyth.

EXHIBITIONS
"School of Fine Arts Undergraduate and First Year Graduate Student Exhibit," including undergraduate sculpture, printmaking, metalsmithing, fashion, drawing and design; graduate sculpture, printmaking and metalsmithing, Steinberg Gallery. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat.; 1-5 p.m. Sun. April 10-20.

"School of Fine Arts First Year Graduate Student Exhibit: Painting," Shoenberg Gallery, Mallinckrodt Center. 9 a.m.-12 midnight, Mon.-Sat.; 12 noon-12 midnight, Sun. Through May 20.

"First Books," a chronological selection of historical manuscripts by important figures in British and American literature, 1782-1960. Among the authors represented are Thoreau, Melville, Hawthorne, Burns, Hardy, DeLaMare, Byron and Joyce. From the Rare Book Department Collection. Olin Library, level 5. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri. Through June 30.

"Fashion Design of the 19th Century," an exhibit of hand colored fashion plates, selected from 19th century books and periodicals, showing European fashion design of that century. Also on display will be costume books illustrating 19th century folk and nationalistic dress from all over the world. From the Fashion Design Collection, Art and Architecture Library. Olin Library, level 3. 8 a.m.-12 midnight, daily. April 11-30.

MUSIC
SUNDAY, APRIL 10
3:30 p.m. "Evensong" traditional Anglican Church service. Dr. Johnstone Patrick, pastor, 1st Presbyterian Church, will deliver readings. Edmund LeRoy, baritone, WU instructor in voice, will act as premier with a choir of WU students and church members. David Bartlett, organist, 1st Unitarian Church, and Michael Chibbetti, visiting artist-in-residence, organ soloists. 1st Presbyterian Church, 7200 Delmar.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12
8:30 p.m. Department of Music Organ Recital, Michael Chibbetti, visiting artist-in-residence, soloist. St. Louis Priory, 500 Mason Road.

PERFORMING ARTS
FRIDAY, APRIL 8
8 p.m. Thyrus Production, "Hay Fever," by Noel Coward, directed by Candy Rhea, WU undergraduate. Mallinckrodt Drama Studio. Co-sponsored by Student Union and Congress of the South-40. (Also Sat., April 9, 8 p.m., Mallinckrodt; and Sun., April 10, 2:30 p.m., Mallinckrodt. A special performance for residents of the South-40 will be given Sun., April 10, at 8 p.m. in Mallinckrodt. Meal cards must be presented at the door.)

Mary Wickes (continued from page 3)
ents never go near another acting class, they'll make good audiences, I can't bear it if people miss the thrill of seeing good theatre."

To help insure that good theatre and good actors and actresses will be available in the future, Miss Wickes has established the Mary Wickes Drama Prize for an incoming performing arts freshman. The first prize will be awarded in September, 1977. "I'm having a good time. I love teaching." Miss Wickes says of her new experience here. For the audiences she has delighted through the years, and for the city and University that have shared her stardom, one can only say, "thank you, Mary Wickes, for all the good times you've brought to us."

(Continued from page 2)

Wizards (Continued from page 2)
herited, Harrington, when asked what his family's reaction was to his dazzling feat, replied, "They said that's nice." Tracked down by the Watts Line, Strenski jeested that he was a "genius" with a six-year-old brother who is similarly blessed.

In short, all three young men have the grace and wit to take their latest accomplishments in stride. All of them are old hands at winning honors. Strenski and Steger are Compton Scholars; Harrington and Strenski both have National Merit Scholarships.

(Dorothy Brockhoff)