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Although the blast of arctic weather last week may have tempted some to echo Ezra Pound’s sentiment in one of his poems—"Winter is a comin' in, laude sing goddamn," the snow and ice transformed the campus into a shimmering landscape.

General Studies Area To Mark Anniversary:
A Decade of Opening New Academic Doors

The rest of the country may have exhausted all of its energies blowing out candles during the Bicentennial bash last year, but for many on this campus it was but a prelude for a trio of anniversaries to be observed here in ’78.

Come the next calendar year, WU itself will mark its 125th birthday, Student Life will celebrate its centennial, and the WU General Studies (GS) Program will toast its 10th year of service. For all but one of those years, the coordinator of the GS program has been Marlene Barrett, a vivacious and innovative administrator who is also an assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dean Barrett is a bright, brown-eyed, bouncy brunette with more energy than Bella Abzug and as much savvy as Gloria Steinem. Working in tandem with a 12-member rotating committee (six faculty and six students each year), she continues to have boundless enthusiasm for the many-faceted GS program. Barrett estimated that this program, during its almost ten years of operation, has introduced 352 different courses attended by approximately 8000 students (some of them, of course, registering for more than one class).

If you had decided to be a permanent GS enrollee, you could have studied during the GS lifespan everything from “Microbes and Man” to “Introduction to Forensic Pathology”—most of the courses for credit. But, the creme de la creme of the GS program is its programs of “independent study” and “undergraduate research assistantship.” Each semester approximately 55 students are accepted as research assistants on subjects as diverse as “Early Horticulturists of Western Kentucky,” with anthropologist Patty Jo Watson, to “RNA Metabolism in E. Coli” with Dr. David Apirion, associate professor of microbiology and immunology at the WU Medical School.

Borrowing an idea from the Goddard-Cambridge School of Social Change, described in The New York Review of Books some years ago, Barrett canvassed the WU faculty to determine if it might welcome undergraduate researchers with

Prof. Richard Dawson
Is Appointed Chairman
Of Political Science

Richard E. Dawson, professor of political science at WU, has been named chairman of the Department of Political Science at the University, effective July 1, 1978.

He succeeds Lucius J. Barker, Edna F. Gellhorn University Professor of Public Affairs and Professor of Political Science, who has been chairman of the department since 1973. “Professor Barker has been a wonderful chairman and I am grateful for the time he spent at the helm of the Political Science Department,” said Leon Gottfried, dean of the Arts and Sciences. “He wants to get back to his research and teaching and he should be given time to do that. Professor Barker, in addition to his outstanding endeavors as chairman of the Political Science Department, has served the University in many other ways on important committees.

Professor Dawson has an unusually strong record as a research scholar and has equally distinguished himself as a teacher. As chairman, he can be expected to continue to emphasize these two major concerns in carrying on the work of our outstanding Political Science Department. Also, he has served the University in a number of ways. He was a faculty fellow and chairman of the faculty council. His last two years in Washington, D.C., with the National Science Foundation, have given him an unusually broad perspective on what’s happening nationally in all the social sciences.”

Professor Dawson joined the University faculty in 1963 as assistant professor of political science. He was promoted to associate professor in 1966 and professor in 1973. Since 1976 he has been on leave from WU as director of the Political Science Program at the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Professor Dawson, whose field is political socialization, obtained a BA degree from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1960 and a PhD from Northwestern University in 1963. He was on the University Community Council from 1966 to 1968, a member of

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Little Researched ‘French Connection’ in Arts Of Japan Is Studied by Professor Rimer

Intrigued by the Japanese woodblock print, Vincent van Gogh attempted to capture the essence of this picturesque art form in oil—not too successfully it may be noted—while Edouard Manet painted copies of these prints into the background of his works. Poets, from such imagists as Ezra Pound and William Carlos Williams to contemporary poet Gary Snyder, have found inspiration for their work in the images and suggestiveness of Japanese haiku poetry.

These are a few examples of how Japanese culture has affected the Western arts. But what about the reverse? Despite the common assumption that Japan has been “Westernized,” a number of aspects relating to how Western art and thought have influenced this particular Eastern culture remain unknown.

To help unravel at least a bit of the mystery, Thomas Rimer, chairman of the WU Department of Chinese and Japanese language and culture, decided to embark on a cross-cultural study and investigate the impact of French culture on Japanese art and thought during the late 19th century and first 40 years of the 20th. For this purpose, he was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities grant that permitted him to pursue his research in Paris last year. He hopes eventually to publish his findings in a book.

This topic, which has gone unexplored by other scholars except for tangential mention in studies of individual artists, occurred to Rimer as an offshoot of his specialty in modern Japanese literature. “In reading Japanese literature written before World War II, it’s evident that the predominant foreign influence is French,” he said. “Although Japan turned to Germany for knowledge of medicine and technology after it ended its closed-door policy in the mid-1800’s, it almost immediately recognized France as the cultural center of Europe. It came to be expected that Japanese artists, if at all possible, should visit France at some point during their careers.”

Of the many who journeyed to France, Rimer chose six artists (two novelists, two poets, two painters) and one philosopher on which to focus his research, considering their experience in confronting a foreign culture, its impact on their work, and ultimately, on Japanese culture. In addition to gaining insight into themselves and their own culture through their travels, these seven men, who are all respected in their fields, were able to creatively use what they learned from the French. The cultural differences made them stiffen their reserve and sharpen their talents, Rimer said, while some others were shattered.

“Part of the problem the Japanese had with coping with this culture started with an ideal deeply ingrained in Japanese thought,” Rimer said. “Expressed by the Zen poet Basho, it’s approximately this—you have to penetrate a thing to the point where there is no distance, then you can manifest it in your art.” With a culture so different from their own, these artists could not totally do this and sometimes the result was devastating.

One basic but far-reaching effect of the artists’ exposure to “high art” of French culture on the development of modern Japanese esthetics was the reaffirmation of the traditionally aristocratic nature of Japanese art. Another, which left an indelible mark on modern Japanese thought, was the introduction of existentialism to Japan via philosopher Kuki Shuzo. Kuki studied in France with Henri Bergson, but as a critic and professor at a leading Japanese university followed the teachings of Heidegger, directly influencing several generations of students.
The WU Health Service will remain open during semester break except on those days when the University is closed: Fri., Dec. 23, Mon., Dec. 26, Fri., Dec. 30, and Mon., Jan. 2. From Mon., Dec. 19, through Tues., Jan. 10, a physician will be on duty from 9-11:30 a.m. only. The Infirmary will be closed Fri., Dec. 16 through Tues., Jan. 10.

The WU School of Medicine has received a three-year grant of more than $300,000 from the National Institute of Health to fund an Arthritis Center. WU received one of 15 grants to establish arthritis centers across the country. One of the main responsibilities of the centers is to educate students in medical, nursing and paramedical training programs to care for the arthritic patient.

An opening for Trumpet, E-flat alto clarinet and fourth French horn in the Washington University Wind Ensemble will be available next semester. Auditions will be held Saturday, Jan. 14, 1978, from 1 to 3 p.m. in Tietjens Rehearsal Hall. To schedule an audition time and for information on audition requirements, call Ext. 5505 or 5566.

Three bedroom townhouses and two bedroom apartments will be available as of Jan. 1 at the Greenway Apartments, located in the 6600 block of Washington Ave. Dates on leases are negotiable for the units, which are ready ahead of schedule. Applications may be made at the Off-Campus Housing Office, Room 305, Women’s Bldg. For further information, call 889-5092.

It’s not too early to make reservations for summer conference and workshop guests in the South 40 dormitories. The dormitories will be available to all WU faculty and staff for club or organization conferences, conventions or workshops June 1 through August 15. Up to 1700 persons may be accommodated in the air-conditioned dormitories. For further information, call Tootie Lewis, housing services coordinator, at Ext. 5097, or write to her at Box 1075.

Herman T. Blumenthal, research professor of gerontology in the Department of Psychology at WU, delivered an address on “The Aging-Disease Connection and Senile Dementia,” at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society Nov. 20 in San Francisco.

RICHARD B. PRINCE, a WU junior and biology major, was the winner of the annual “Meyer M. Romick New Ideas Scholarship.” The $500 scholarship is awarded to the winner of a national student essay competition that was established in honor of Romick, former president of the pipe tobacco firm Douwe Egberts, Inc. Prince’s winning essay was titled “Improvement as Manifest by Toxicity.” At WU, Prince, who is a resident adviser in the dormitories and an honor student, is currently researching toxin-sensitive corn plants and is co-author of a paper “Depression in Childhood” which will be published soon.

The United Way Goal at WU has been exceeded. The goal was $65,450 and at this time $68,000 has been pledged, with pledges still being received, according to Joe Evans, associate vice chancellor for business affairs and manager of the campus campaign. To make a pledge, call Evans at Ext. 5678 or write him at Box 1060.

Edward J. Schnuck, chairman of the board of Schnucks Markets, Inc., and a trustee of Washington University, was awarded the title of “Special Friend of the Center” by the Center for the Study of American Business at the University.
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16
Joseph C. Wilson Center of Technology, Webster, New York. 201 Crow.
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20
4 p.m. Department of Earth and Planetary Science Lecture. "Volcanoes, Space Shuttles, and Supersonic Transports—The Effect of Stratospheric Aerosols on Climate," Brian Toon, postdoctoral degree candidate, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffettfield, Calif. 104 Wilson. The talk will be preceded by coffee at 3:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17
4 p.m. Department of Chemistry Seminar, "Chemical and Enzymic Catalysis in Displacements of Phosphorous," Paul Haake, prof. of chemistry, Wesleyan U., Middletown, Conn. 311 McMillen.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18
11 a.m. Academic Committee Lecture, with speaker Elaine Noble, radical feminist state representative from Massachusetts. Graham Chapel.

Rimer
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Despite Western styles and techniques that these artists mastered in their works, Rimer cautions against interpreting them as Western or as "less good Matisses."

"It's more a case of Western clothes and Eastern heart," he said. "The poet Nishiwaki, for instance, was influenced by both French and English poetry and wrote in a style resembling that of T. S. Eliot's, yet a Zen-like silence permeates his work. And, although the works of painter Saeki Yuzo are done in an impressionistic style, they express a deeply Japanese melancholy."

As Rimer realized last year, while tracking down references in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris and retracing his subjects' footsteps throughout France, his task is a rather large one. Not only does it require extensive knowledge of Japanese culture but also of modern European art and thought—perhaps one reason others have let the topic lie.

If anyone is qualified to pursue this research to its rightful conclusion, however, it's Rimer. Proficient in both Japanese and French, Rimer has an international, as well as a literary, background—he served with the United States Information Agency in Laos and Japan and has a French wife to whose influence he attributes his fluency in French. He also has what seems to be an effervescent penchant for just about all things cultural—especially when they cross boundaries.

Not allowing himself to be limited by professorial duties, Rimer hosts, with three others, KWMU's series "Sunday Afternoon at the Opera," and is a contributor to the St. Louis Literary Supplement. The articles he has written for the Supplement so far this semester were on the following topics: a new French cultural center; differences between French and American audiences; French sculpture; and the growing importance of Japanese—no, of German art in Paris.

(Annie Kelley)