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Celebrating Gen. Colin Powell, former chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, greets the students. Powell is a member of the Board of Visitors, a support group of alumni and former FBI Director William Webster at the Founders Day dinner Saturday, Nov. 7.

Pink tie and blue jacket, Powell addressed a crowd of 1,400 at America's Center in downtown St. Louis.

Welcome to Wonderland

Innovative drama class brings 'Alice' to life

BY LIAM OTTEN

It's not your ordinary laboratory. There is a distinct lack of beakers and not a centrifuge in sight. But make no mistake about it — serious research is underway in Matheson 312, otherwise known as "Topics in Theatre: Staging 'Alice in Wonderland.'"

Over the course of the fall semester, Matthews and his 20-odd students have unleashed a bit of their chaos on the Lewis Carroll classic, creating an original stage version that will debut next spring in Edison Theatre.

What makes the production unique, however, is that everything, from researching and writing a script to composing original music and designing sets and costumes, will be completed by the students themselves.

"Whatever it ends up being, it will truly be ours," Matthews noted wryly while waiting for class to begin one recent Thursday morning. "So truly, in fact, that one entire session will be spent with a copyright lawyer discussing the legalities of group authorship."

"This is kind of a dream for me," Matthews added as students bearing scripts and musical instruments shuffled in. "It offers all kinds of great problems for a class to solve. It requires them to make real decisions about every aspect of staging a theatrical work."

Since late August, the students have been immersed not only in the world of "Alice" and "Through the Looking Glass," its companion volume, but in Carroll scholarship and, more broadly, in other children's literature of the period. Though by the end of October they had about 35 pages of material written, it took almost a month of preparation before they were ready to put pen to paper.

The class' first creative assignment was both vague and ambitious: to conceptualize a central metaphor or motif that would guide a unified structure for the entire production.

"The students really put themselves out on a limb," Matthews recalled. "It was very nerve-wracking. We were all over the map — one student even suggested placing the show on a bomb-bombed-out, post-apocalyptic yellow brick road. In the end, though, we settled on the idea of games; that, every scene will be based on a different game, on musical chairs or charades — whatever fits."

By this time the class had pulled itself into a rough circle, and two students, juniors Brooke Kleiman and Danielle Stein, had passed out copies of their recently completed script for a scene titled "A Caucus Race," which they conceived as a game of ring-around-the-rosie. Matthews assigned the half-dozen necessary roles and the actors launched into their first reading.

In many ways, the results were what one would expect of a first reading — awkward pauses, unreliable accents and a jerky, stop-and-go rhythm. Yet things nevertheless seemed promising. Carroll's clever word-play translated well (DORMOUSE: "Mine is a long, tall tail.") and the dialogue flowed with a comic verve.

But perhaps most striking was the ruthless editing process that almost instantly wiped out actors generated and dismissed ideas even as they read, erring, weighing and judging efficiently and with remarkably little ego.

"In a process like this, 99 percent of the ideas that get thrown around get thrown in the trash," said Robert Neblat, a graduate student. "Let's make some chaos."
Student in “Topics in Theatre: Staging ‘Alice in Wonderland’” practices a little chaos. From left: seniors Jaclyn Brodsky and Randy Waltonstein, graduate student Robert Neiberli, sophomore Jon Reitzel, junior Andy Creek and sophomore Paul Pagano.

Wonderland
Innovative class brings ‘Alice to life’ — from page 1

A juggler tossed pins while on the property of sorts. I think everyone — from mastery of orchestrated chaos. On Andy Crank and sophomore Paul Pagano. RECORD demonstrated their collective remnants of discarded ideas keep dramaturg for the class and has Department who serves as student in the Performing Arts Students in “Topics in Theatre: Staging ‘Alice in Wonderland’” practice a little chaos. From left: seniors brings ‘Alice’ to life. Those interested must pre-tax budgeting for out-of-plans for 1998, you must re-enroll for next year; enrolled in these plans for 1998, Flex plans now is the time to enroll or Resources has sent material $3,000, providing potential for higher tax savings. Flex plans the content of a student’s included in suspension awards including the Rhodes, Fulbright, Marshall and Truman scholarships and Goldwater, Mellon, Putnam, National Science Foundation and National Graduate fellowships, as well as the Howard Hughes fellowship for undergraduate research. Answer: This handheld ornament then adorns the south wall of Brown Hall but — Game? The best thing is to get their hands on them, accord- ing to The Washington Post. The Intelligent Essay Apprentice will be available for download, typically in a few months. It is one of the first artificial intelligence programs intended to give students feedback on their initial drafts. Educators at all levels have expressed interest in the output, the Post said.

Did you know? The University’s students have received national recognition in fields of engineering to fashion design to heat transfer. Students have won grand student awards including the Rhodes, Fulbright, Marshall and Truman scholarships and Goldwater, Mellon, Putnam, National Science Foundation and National Graduate fellowships, as well as the Howard Hughes fellowship for undergraduate research. Answer: This handheld ornament then adorns the south wall of Brown Hall but — Game? The best thing is to get their hands on them, accord- ing to The Washington Post. The Intelligent Essay Apprentice will be available for download, typically in a few months. It is one of the first artificial intelligence programs intended to give students feedback on their initial drafts. Educators at all levels have expressed interest in the output, the Post said.

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Flex tax savings
Now is the time to enroll or re-enroll in the Health Care and Child re-enrollment Spending Plans for 1999, if you are currently enrolled in these plans for 1998, you must re-enroll for next year; the annual maximum for the Health Care Spending Plan has increased from $2,400 to $3,000, providing potential for higher tax savings. Flex plans other tax savings by permitting pre-tax budgeting for out-of-pocket health and child care expenses. The Office of Human Resources has sent material about plans and enrollment forms to all eligible faculty and staff. Those interested must respond by Nov. 30. For more information, call 935-5907.

Cyber Life
Student Life, the undergraduate newspaper on campus, has launched an online edition with the complete content of the print counterpart. Students, alumni, faculty and staff of the University can now read the paper, contact the staff and search the archives online. Users can sign up for free e-mail briefs, a summary of the top stories of the day delivered directly to the subscriber's email address. Check it out at http://www.studlife.com.
**Medical School Update**

**Shortage of cells**

**Inherited depression linked to deficit in region of brain's cortex**

by Linda Sage

People who suffer from depression have fewer cells in a particular part of the brain, a new study finds. This loss occurs only when the disorder runs in the family, suggesting that inherited depression may differ from other types of depression.

“One of the things we hope may result from our findings is the recognition that there are important differences between patients with a familial history of depression and those without,” said John P. Poland, M.D., who headed the research. “There might also be differences in appropriate drug therapy.”

Price is a professor of anatomy and physiology at Howard Hughes Medical Institute. His graduate student Doris Ongir is lead author of a paper in the Oct. 27 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The second author, Wayne C. Drevets, M.D., reported in a study that positron emission tomography (PET) scans of people with familial depression showed less activity in a thumbnail-sized area of the brain important to fighting stress and, in this case, fight depression. This loss occurs only when the disorder runs in the family, the researchers concluded.

“A surprising finding from this study is that the number of glia (fibrous cells in the nervous system) decrease in patients who are not taking medication. And the unusual and bipolar depressed patients had taken different types of drugs, yet both had fewer glial cells. Depress itself was unlikely to be the culprit because the patients with nonfamilial depression did not have fewer glia.”

Dr. Doris Ongir compared the number of cells in the subgenual prefrontal cortex of mentally healthy people with that of people who had suffered from depression. “In the case of people, “In the case of people,” he said. “In the case of cells, it minimizes the danger of double counting and other problems people have had in the past.”

Dr. John P. Poland

**Nobelist to deliver 2nd annual Kipnis lecture**

The annual Kipnis lecture was to be delivered Nov. 12, 1998, by James P. Keating, M.D., Ph.D., St. Louis Pediatric Society in 1992.

Keating:Residency Award in Community Pediatrics

Keating: Residents who embody the spirit of dedication, collaboration, and community service, are nominated by the outgoing chief residents. Keating also is the W. McKim O. Marriott, M.D., St. Louis Pediatric Society in 1992.

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Alice's Restaurant | Japanese Culture | Slave Narratives | Triangle Books

Thursday, Nov. 17


1 p.m. Social work lecture series. "Transforming Families in the Courts," Tiffany Sutton, guest lecturer, philosophy. Room 322 Rebstock Hall. 935-6860.


3:50 p.m. Earth and planetary sciences colloquium. "Adrian Luchini’s designs for Beersheba Chapel at a Methodist church camp in Tennessee draw inspiration from the natural surrounding."

Adrian Luchini’s designs for Beersheba Chapel at a Methodist church camp in Tennessee draw inspiration from the natural surrounding.

Mentorship: by Metabolism at End of the Heart, in the absence of pulsation. Laboratory. Room 362 McDonnell Hall. 935-4643.

4 p.m. Earth and planetary sciences colloquium. "Adrian Luchini’s designs for Beersheba Chapel at a Methodist church camp in Tennessee draw inspiration from the natural surrounding."

Adrian Luchini’s designs for Beersheba Chapel at a Methodist church camp in Tennessee draw inspiration from the natural surrounding.

Friday, Nov. 13
3:50 p.m. Music dept. performance. "Shakespeare’s "A Midsummer Night’s Dream.""

William Whitmore, director. (dir. Nov. 14, 20, 21, same time. and Nov. 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. 8 p.m. Faculty, students and seniors, Edison Theatre. 935-4424.

Performances

Music, Saturday, Nov. 14
8 a.m.-noon. Fine Arts Institute workshop. "Make the Barney Bus." Bob Smith, prof. of art. WU. will teach you how to make pup-up books with moving parts. Cost: $24. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Lewis Center. 935-4045.

Saturday, Nov. 21

9 a.m. Neuroscience symposium workshop. "Hunting for a local protein in the brain."

"Hunting for a local protein in the brain." (Center of Kiehl’s, Champs or Chigs.) Cobey, assoc. prof. of biology and physiology. Fridley Aud. McDonnell Music Classroom Bldg. 302-220.

5:00 p.m. Neuroscience symposium workshop. "Hunting for a local protein in the brain."

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Nov. 3
8:58 p.m. — A student was arrested for disorderly conduct after taking a bicycle from the Athletic Complex and riding it on the west side of Reebok Endicott Hall.

Nov. 8
218 a.m. — A student reported severe damage to three soccer goals on the intramural field.

Nov. 8
2:18 a.m. — A student reported a physical assault at Mullinckrodt Center. The student was treated by the Emergency Services Support Team and taken to an area hospital for further treatment.

Baggage baggage theft. A backpack was taken from a rack on the west side of Reebok Endicott Hall.

The following leaders were reported University Police from Nov. 3-8. Reports are written in conjunction with investigating these incidents are urged to call 849-5050. This release is provided as a public service to promote safety awareness and to the University Police as needed.

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Alcohol on the Hilltop
Washington University confronts reality and deals with it

Jill Carnaghi has had to struggle with the problem of alcohol in her life. As the Vice Chancellor for Students at Washington University, she has had to face the challenge of alcohol-related issues. Many universities are struggling to meet the demand for alcohol-related assistance. However, Carnaghi's approach is different. She has been working with the students and the faculty to find a solution to the problem.

"A bit more simplex shorthand in comparing..." she said quietly, "We've been losing some sense of what he was doing. I don't think anyone can call this an easy issue," Carnaghi acknowledged. "We know that we are not immune. There are an infrequent number of problems that we need to approach, but I think it's best for us to approach it as a community issue — supporting the health and wellness of our young people.

"When students have been drinking, they are really putting themselves at risk, so, that's a concern," she said. "But the entire community also feels the effects of abuse of alcohol... even students who don't drink at all. It may be that they are getting sick in the hallways. It may mean there is vandalism. It may mean that students are the recipients of unwanted sexual advances.

Those second-hand effects come to the attention of William Taylor, chief of University Police. "Quite frankly, in a large percentage of the calls we deal with on public misconduct at least once in the past year as a result of drinking." Carnaghi concurred. "When students have been drinking, they are really putting themselves at risk, so, that's a concern," she said. "But the entire community also feels the effects of abuse of alcohol... even students who don't drink at all. It may be that they are getting sick in the hallways. It may mean there is vandalism. It may mean that students are the recipients of unwanted sexual advances.

Ahamed, assistant vice chancellor for students and dean of the administrative areas that work forward with a plan to unite all the various staffs — much more of a partnership between residential life and campus life," said Taylor. "That has resulted in stronger than in the past.

The first joint effort was to review the University's alcohol and drug policy (i.e. greater tolerance and lax enforcement, a culture and you have a major role in shaping this community.' We need to make great progress," Carnaghi said. "The result: a healthy blend of student administration and student self-regulation. We've got the team together. McLeod and Wrighton started to do the things we can do immediately — and now we have policies in the system that are broad, substantial response.

The first joint effort was to review the University's alcohol and drug policy, which had been established in 1989 as an RA advisory. "One day, my sister mentioned that a college student walked into a computer lab with a bottle of rum. She said, 'I didn't stop him. I'm sure the RA in their dorm didn't care about that.' I thought, 'What do we do to instill in students that it's not okay to abuse alcohol and uphold our expectations.'

Nevertheless, implementation of the plan has been problematic. A recent survey asked the students about the policies in the dorms. The responses were divided, with 63 rookies, this summer as part of an RA training retreat. "I told them that I knew this was going to be hard," Stratton recalled. "I told them that I knew what to expect and I knew that they would have so much difficulty achieving the goals that I was setting for them. But I told them that they would have to try to do their best and that they would have to try to do the best they could."

The new enforcement of the alcohol policy (i.e. greater control of underage drinking at campus events) has negative and harmful effects on students. Students will say, 'If we can't drink on campus, we'll go off campus.' My feeling is, 'That's your choice, but we're not going to make that easy for you.'

"You have to be 21 to be in this country," Carnaghi said. "I can't say that we're not going to make it easy for you."

"In my opinion, the current enforcement of the alcohol policy encourages more 'negative' drinking and less social drinking. In a variety of ways, the campus is encouraging excessive drinking. We should expect students to think about keeping themselves in the dorms before going to a campus event. Alcohol should never be the primary focus of any activity, but currently WU sanctuaries this behind closed doors' drinking. It seems they would have so little awareness of the 30 minutes before the policy went into effect."

"Class of 2002

Shantii Bradford

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"The new enforcement of the alcohol policy (i.e. greater control of underage drinking at campus events) has negative and harmful effects on students. Students will say, 'If we can't drink on campus, we'll go off campus.' My feeling is, 'That's your choice, but we're not going to make that easy for you.'

"In my opinion, the current enforcement of the alcohol policy encourages more 'negative' drinking and less social drinking. In a variety of ways, the campus is encouraging excessive drinking. We should expect students to think about keeping themselves in the dorms before going to a campus event. Alcohol should never be the primary focus of any activity, but currently WU sanctuaries this behind closed doors' drinking. It seems they would have so little awareness of the 30 minutes before the policy went into effect."

Shantii Bradford

Class of 2002
Alcohol and risk: Percentage of problems rise with intake

Booze started with health from their windows.

The accredited comprehensive campus — the Second City — the training ground for waves of severe health risks, including the age of 21 years to purchase, those 21 and older, advance 

Binge drinking: How colleges compare

Drinks

Non-binge drinkers

Occasional bingers

Frequent bingers

Q: What about the law and being 21?

→ With Chad West, SU president

A: "We're in a learning phase right now, where students are unsure what the alcohol policy really is. But students need to realize that there isn't a strong, iron hand coming down now. It's not really that much different than last year. I agree with the administration — as do the majority of students, as far as what we, our parents, need to take steps to be more responsible with alcohol. The key is that we don't want administration showing up at parties on the South 40 or in the fraternities and taking over security or the distribution of alcohol. This has happened. If it's left to us, within our own groups of friends, it will put more responsibility in the hands — which I think would be taken seriously."

A tale of two parties

Top-notch entertainment eclipses kegs at campus events

W.L.D. Washington University's twice-a-year campuswide blow-out in the Quad lives up to its acronym. Last spring's event featured 67 kegs and a raucous rock concert. Walk In, Lay Down Theatre was born in the late 1970s, the creation of a group of Semester 31 residents — a.k.a. Team 31. It was conceived as an impromptu picnic and outdoor movie theater gathering for students, staff, faculty and their families. Bring the picnic, stake out a place, spend the blankets and spread a few hours.

After a few years, music was added to the equation — generally a jazz band or the like, providing background music for the picnic. Soon the music became more important, with bigger and better bands providing the punch. People starting bringing alcohol. A keg and a couch replaced the blanket and bucket of chicken. Faculty and student activities. What we're trying to do is maintain a consistency throughout the entire campus. But we're all kind of doing our thing in arm, taking baby steps.

"By doing that, we're probably not where we should be where we desire to be with regard to the statutes. We try to take the educational approach, we're not running around checking IDs. "As long as we can work together in a measured fashion, giving time — three or four years I think we'll have enough of a cultural change that we'll be in good shape. But between now and then, yeah, it's going to be a little tougher at times."

William Taylor
Chief of University police
Master of marketing

Ambar Rao bridges gulf between theory and practice with ‘amazing relevance’ of his research

By NANCY BELT

Most people look at coupon dispensers in the grocery store and see only instant coupons. But Ambar Rao, the Fossett Distinguished Professor of Marketing at the John M. Olin School of Business, sees another dimension. To him, the coupons are not only something he can use himself, especially if it’s for a favorite hot sauce, but an opportunity for a marketing research study.

He wondered what users of those coupons—those surprise bonuses—actually did with the money saved. Did they pocket it? Or did the user reward himself by buying a treat that cost more than the coupon? In other words, do unexpected coupons increase impulse buying? And that’s what he and a business school colleague are researching now.

Such practicality is an admirable hallmark of Rao’s research, according to Dipakbar Chakravarti, a former colleague at the University of Arizona and now dean of the University of Colorado business school.

“Ambar is a fabulous researcher who has that rare ability to bridge analytical, quantitative theories in management with practitioners in the real world,” he said. “His research is extremely sound and rigorous, and, at the same time, it has a real-world dimension. To him, the coupons were a way to develop a national presence. Olin is a small school, and it was lucky. I wish we could get him here.”

Rao, who grew up in Delhi, India, said, “You folks are very lucky, I wish I had the chance to get here.”

Award-winning: Rao’s estimation of the business school, there’s little chance of that happening. “I like Olin,” he said. “It’s moving and changing, and the place has direction and momentum, and I can participate in the change. I would like Olin to be recognized as one of the top institutions of its kind, and it, along with our marketing area, which has a fine young faculty, will continue to develop a national presence. Olin has the resources to match the dream.”

Rao, who grew up in Delhi, where his father was a government official, took a long route before moving to St. Louis and his present position last year. He attended Catholic schools, as do most middle-class Indians, because, as he said, “They emphasize good standards, a disciplined environment, and good English skills.” As most boys in India who were good in math did in the 1950s, he studied engineering, attending the Indian Institute of Technology near Calcutta, some 800 miles away. After receiving a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering, he joined a company in Bombay. He designed jigs and fixtures in the manufacturing process.

Leaving engineering

Then he went to London as part of a scholarship/work program the English Electric Co. offered to Indians.

“Designing electronic equipment, such as turbines and which he received a doctoral degree. During his studies there, he became captivated by production technology,” he said.

“I also learned that I liked math and physics, but I didn’t like engineering,” he said, “and that’s where I really enjoyed work for the first time.”

After Rao received a master of science degree there, he followed Ackoff to a top business school—the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, from where he teaches, and he said the better students are good at both the financial and marketing sides. “Sometimes the hard sciences and the softer sciences are not aligned,” he said. “I knew that wasn’t something I wanted to spend my life.”

Rao then moved to London, where his children grew up. “I like urban areas,” he said. “And I’m a serious Mets fan. New York was the city where I had always wanted to be, and that’s where my children grew up.” His daughter is a pastry chef in a just-opened restaurant in New York City, and his son is there, too, as an information technology consultant for Pricewaterhouse-Coopers.

Rao considers himself a true cosmopolitan, too. As Indian-British, the August A. Busch F. Distin-
guished Professor of Marketing, Economics and Strategy, said: “Ambar’s wide-ranging interests make him a valuable resource for every aspect of marketing, ranging from strategy and research to operations research. His skill across disciplinary lines is critical for a school of Olin’s relatively small size, and his energy in providing leadership to the school has been exemplary. Besides, he’s simply a fun colleague to have around.”

Coming to St. Louis

It was about 10 years ago, he said, that he first became aware of Washington University. “An article in The New York Times described Washington U.’s undergraduate business program,” he said, “and that’s when the school hit the radar screen.” He also knew faculty member Chakravarti Narasimhan, the Philip L. Stamen Professor of Marketing, who also attended the Indian Institute of Technology, but in Madras. Rao seems pleased with St. Louis as his new home. A lover of classical music, he thinks the St. Louis Symphony is one of the best in the country, and he appreciates its accessibility. “It’s great,” he observed, “that I don’t have to plan ahead six months to get a ticket.” His only complaint? “Too few Indian and Chinese restaurants.”

Rao’s colleagues are pleased, he’s heard. As Lynn Hendricks, the August A. Busch F. Distin-
guished Professor of Marketing, Economics and Strategy, said: “Ambar’s wide-ranging interests make him a valuable resource for every aspect of marketing, ranging from strategy and research to operations research. His skill across disciplinary lines is critical for a school of Olin’s relatively small size, and his energy in providing leadership to the school has been exemplary. Besides, he’s simply a fun colleague to have around.”

He’s a very engaging professor. He stimulates thought and new ideas, and he doesn’t stiff creativity.

NEHA GANDHI

“We’re always looking for ways to improve,” he said. “We call it feedback, because I think that’s the way to learn. It’s the best way to learn something.”

Rao also appreciates accessibility. “It’s important to be able to get a ticket,” he said. “I’ve been working at Wharton for 10 years, and I’ve never been able to get a ticket.”

In his role as chair of the Washington University in St. Louis record.wustl.edu and his personal grocery shopping, especially if they’re for items he can use in his fiery cuisine.