Actress Mary Wickes (far right), artist-in-residence, gives pointers to students in the four-week comedy acting class she is teaching at WU through mid-April.

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)
WU Math Wizards Tally 2nd Place Score Over 262 Teams In Putnam Competition

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.

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 were interviewed by television reporters, nor trailed by adoring 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 wore a plaster cast on his right hand, which, apparently, is a medieval buff. Of a more placid nature, which, apparently, is (continued on page 4)

(continued from page 1)

received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 1966.

Language pedagogy and medieval German literature are the specialties of James Poag, professor of German. Poag, who joined the WU faculty in 1969, served as acting chairman of the German Department during the 1974-75 academic year.

He has written numerous articles and a book on medieval literature. His book, Wolfram von Eschenbach, published in 1970, is a critical study of the writings of 13th century author von Eschenbach, one of the most important medieval German writers.

Poag received grants from the Fulbright and Alexander von Humboldt Foundations to study in both Germany and Austria. In 1968-69, he was director of a program for the training of German teachers in Germany, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, Urbana, in 1961.

A highly respected teacher, scholar and administrator, Norris K. Smith, professor of art and archaeology, has been a member of the WU faculty for more than 40 years and served as acting chairman of the Department of Art and Archaeology in the 1960’s.

He has written many books and articles on subjects ranging from medieval art to modern architecture.

His work Frank Lloyd Wright: A Study in Architectural Content, published in 1966, is regarded as a classic in its field.

Smith earned all his degrees (A.B., M.A. and Ph.D.) from Columbia University in New York. Before coming to WU, he was an instructor at Columbia and Hunter Colleges.

Professor of History Richard J. Walter joined the WU faculty in 1965 as an assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor in 1968 and to professor this year.

Since 1965, he has participated in various university programs and committees. From 1965 to 1968, he was a Faculty Fellow in the Forsyth House Program and was involved in the Freshman Advising Program in 1967 and 1968. He is currently chairman of the Undergraduate Studies Committee in the Department of History. He is also a member of the University Affir-
the theatre, and her achievements could fill a volume. She created leading roles on Broadway in five plays written and directed by the famed George S. Kaufman. Her creation of Miss Preen, the harassed nurse in The Man Who Came to Dinner, is still remembered. "You are my favorite comedienne," Kaufman once said.

Her television credits include the Make Room For Daddy series with Danny Thomas, Mrs. G. Goes to College, with Gertrude Berg and Sir Cedric Hardwicke, which won her an Emmy nomination, and most recently, she starred as Tully, the nurse on the Doc show, for CBS-TV, a Mary Tyler Moore production.

On tap when she leaves WU are appearances on the Matchgame TV show, and a possible new series produced by Grant Tinker, of Mary Tyler Moore Productions. And, her caricature just went up at Sardi's, the famed New York theatre district restaurant.

Wherever Mary Wickes is, laughter is not far behind. In class, she radiates vitality, enjoying her students as much as they're enjoying her. "They're so bright-eyed and eager. And some of them are good enough to earn their living in the theatre."

During the first week, Miss Wickes discussed the ground rules of comedy. "Good health comes first. Comedy demands being constantly on one's toes. There's no let down. It's as tiring mentally and physically as athletics."

Her students call her Mary. They're relaxed with the star, but their respect is obvious. "She's unreal. She'll work with us anytime outside of class," said one student. "She has a remarkable instinct for comedy," said another.

And, it doesn't take long for someone with her experience to impart her knowledge. Students working on comedy classics, were already quite adept at provoking laughter.

"What an improvement! But that speech was a bit too slow," she might say. Or, "Don't move unless you have a reason for moving," Or, "A true English butler is immobile. When you make it to the movies, remember that! Don't move!"

The class laughs. But it is evident that they are learning a great deal from Mary Wickes. "Even if these stu..." (Continued on page 4)

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.

**Career Planning Office Is Dedicated to Millstone**

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.
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 Susman, WU asst. prof. of anthropology, and Steven Ward, asst. prof. of anatomy, WU School of Dental Medicine; "Developmental Aspects of Dental Wear in Cercopithecines," David Gantt, research assistant in anthropology, McMillan Cafeteria.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

4 p.m. Department of Physics Colloquium, "Search for Parity Violation in Nucleon-Nucleon Scattering," Earl C. Swallow, prof. of physics, Elmhurst Col., Elmhurst, Ill. 201 Crow.

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


FILMS
FRIDAY, APRIL 8
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 Rebook. Admission $1.50, $1 for WU students. (Also Sun., April 10, 2 p.m., Rebook.)

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 34," about mixing family life and a career; and "Yudie," a portrait of a woman recalling her experience as an immigrant. Malinkrodt 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, metal-smithing, fashion, drawing and design; graduate sculpture, printmaking and metal-smithing. 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.


"First Books," a chronological selection of literary debuts by important figures in British and American literature, 1782-1960. Among 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 preacher 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, organ soloist. St. Louis Priory, 500 Mason Road.

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

Mary Wickes
(continued from page 3)
dents 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."

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 jested 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 Brochhoff)