William Gass
Named David May Professor

Novelist, essayist and critic William Gass, professor of philosophy at WU, has been named David May Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities, Merle Kling, provost and executive vice chancellor, has announced.

This honor is one of several which Gass has received in the past few months. In mid-May, he was one of five recipients of a gold medal, the highest award bestowed by the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. Barbara W. Tuchman, author-historian and president of the organization, presented the Award of Merit Medal and a $1000 prize to Gass “as the outstanding novelist not a member of the Academy-Institute for the year 1979.”

Gass’s talent has earned him the plaudits of many contemporaries, including Gore Vidal, who has said of him: “Essentially, he is a traditional prose writer, capable of all sorts of virtuoso effects on the inner ear as well as on the reading eye.” His May commencement speech at WU, “Learning to Talk,” demonstrated Gass’s love and mastery of words.

Gass joined the WU faculty in 1969 after having taught at Purdue University for 14 years. His first novel, Omensetter’s Luck, appeared in 1966, and was hailed as a “masterpiece” by Newsweek magazine. Since then he has published: In the Heart of the Country, a collection of short stories; Willie Masters’ Lonesome Wife, a novella; and two collections of essays, Fiction and the Figures of Life, and, last year, The World Within the Word. Gass has also published one long essay, On Being Blue, which, according to its subtitle, is a “Philosophical Inquiry.”

Gass graduated magna cum laude from Kenyon College in 1947 and earned a doctorate in philosophy from Cornell University in 1954.

One of a select coterie of well-known authors who teach at WU and at the same time pursue writing careers, Gass has received an honorary degree from Kenyon College, the Most Popular Teacher Award at Purdue University (where he taught from 1955 to 1969), and a Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching from WU in 1974.

The David May Distinguished University Professorship in the Humanities was one of two endowed chairs established in 1965 with a gift...
Financial Aid Office Keeps Pace With Inflation Through More Awards

In tandem with the bad news of continually rising costs and inflation that assure ever greater strains on parents’ pocket-books is a bit of good news—financial aid for WU students is also increasing.

In 1974-75, 2354 students received $6,105,000 in financial aid. In 1978-79, 3978 students received $14,058,000.

“Most of the financial aid we award is based on financial need,” explained Ben Sandler, director of the Financial Aids Office. “We also provide some strictly academic scholarships and process several million dollars in Guaranteed Student Loans for our students.”

The Financial Aids Office has four counselors and five secretaries. The responsibilities of these permanent, full-time employees are divided among program lines, with each staff member serving as the office “expert” on one or more of the many complex financial aid programs administered by the office. All counselors share counseling and correspondence responsibilities equally.

“Don’t have enough counselors to see all students personally as soon as they would like,” Sandler noted, “but we try to get out prompt, clear, and—we hope—helpful written responses to requests we receive through the mail.”

From November through May, a major task of the Financial Aids Office is responding to financial aid applications from freshman and transfer applicants. The freshman “season” starts earlier at WU than at other schools, because WU offers high school seniors the chance to apply for financial aid in the fall of their senior year, with the University's own application.

“Other schools wait until late February at the earliest to make freshman decisions,” Sandler said, “but we believe that applicants and their families can do better planning if they know early what their financial aid prospects are.”

Financial aid policies and procedures are, like the St. Louis weather, subject to constant change. One reason is the precipitous growth in financial aid activity, which presents the constant challenge of finding creative and productive solutions to new administrative situations. Another reason is the rapid growth and change in governmental financial aid programs, especially at the federal level.

Sandler noted that “we try to take maximum advantage of the opportunities available, and these opportunities often come festooned with all sorts of constraints and regulations, to which we have to adjust. Fortunately, we have a first-rate staff which takes these challenges in stride and, in the process, often finds ways of making a good operation better.”

—King McElroy

Insurance Benefits for Employees Expanded by Greater WU Share

Insurance benefits at WU have been expanded. The University's contribution for health care insurance increased from $25 to $30 a month for all full-time non-union employees as of July 1. A number of new pamphlets describing all benefits are now available on the Hilltop in the Personnel Office and at the Medical School in the Business Manager’s Office and Academic Payroll Office. Call Ext. 5990 or 454-2656 for details.

Women's Society "Bearish" on Fun and Frugal Fare for Students

The Women's Society of Washington University (WSWU) operates three shops on campus for the benefit of students, faculty and staff. They are:

1. The Bear Necessities Shop, Wohl Center on the South Forty, which has an old-fashioned “general store” flavor. Stocking a mixed bag of merchandise including T-shirts, gym shorts, handbags, bedspreads, school supplies, gift items, toiletries, greeting cards and films, it also sells curiosities including quail's egg necklaces and garden-variety (what else?) potting soil. Hours: weekdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

2. The Uncommon Market, lower level Women's Building. Aptly named, it numbers among its wares such exotica as dried seaweed, lily roots, squid puffs, bean curds and candied ginger. Uncommon Market patrons, who are uncommonly faithful, claim it has the best fresh coconut and paprika in town. Hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays.

3. The Furniture Exchange, 6551 University Dr. in the Academy Building (across Millbrook about half-way between Skinker and Big Bend). It specializes in offering students and first-year faculty used and new furniture at bargain prices. The Exchange usually buys back the furniture when its customers scatter at the end of the academic year. Hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.

WSWU, in addition to these services, lends a helping hand in a variety of other ways on campus. Founded in 1965, it numbers 800 members—all of them busy with WSWU responsibilities including publishing a cookbook, enriching the lives of foreign students through its international committee, hosting receptions and performing countless other useful chores for WU and its community. It also provides a scholarship each year to an outstanding student completing two years of study at the St. Louis Community College.

A bus tour to one of Missouri's loveliest oases is front and center on its current calendar. WSWU invites the public and more especially the campus community to join its Sept. 15 all-day bus tour to Arrowrock, Mo., a National Historic Landmark. With WSWU member Mrs. Norman Mack acting as guide, the tour will visit the picturesque home of one of Missouri's most famous artists, George Caleb Bingham, and seven other restored buildings including the Courthouse, which was depicted in one of Bingham's paintings, "County Election." A mid-day lunch at the Old Arrowrock Tavern, once a stagecoach stop, is included in the $21 price of the trip.

To make reservations, send a check payable to the Women's Society of Washington University, Box 1209, or call Ext. 5295.

Mrs. William H. Harrison, one of the founders of the Women's Society of Washington University (WSWU) and its first president (right), organized an exhibition depicting the group's campus operations. She and Mrs. William F. Rogers (center), WSWU president, staffed the exhibition during WSWU's recent, "sellout," two-day plant sale in Wohl Center. Herb Weitman
Worker Overcomes Handicap

James Stovall, hard at work in WU cafeteria. His handicap doesn't keep him from being a top-notch worker.

James Stovall, a worker in the WU Umrahskeller, is a deaf-mute. Yet despite his handicap, he's a whirling dervish at work.

Stovall is a porter and stock room man. He clears the dishes faster than most porters and brings supplies when they are needed.

He "really does the job," said Angeline Herr, manager of the Umrahskellar.

Despite all the snow last winter, Stovall was here, she said, "He lives in South St. Louis and has to take two busses, but he's always here on time."

Stovall communicates with co-workers through gestures. He is a popular member of the work crew, thanks to his dedication and dependability.

Stovall, 49, has been a WU worker for 11 years. "I can't say enough about him," Herr said. "He's been absent only a few days each year due to illness. I can always count on him. He's here, and then knows just what to do and does it."

—King McElroy

THE WU OBSERVATORY will be open from 7:45 to 10 p.m. on clear nights, Monday through Friday, beginning Sept. 10.

Access to the Observatory is through the stairs from the east-west third floor corridor of Crow Hall. The Observatory is above the fourth floor.

To check Observatory hours call Ext. 6278. Small groups must make prior arrangements for tours. The Observatory is open to all members of the campus community.

Edward Kionka, WU visiting professor of law from Southern Illinois University, will teach an evidence seminar at the Illinois Judicial Conference in Chicago, Ill., Sept. 6-8.

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Printmaker— (continued from p. 1)

there is to it! ... He is a consummate printer, bringing the same sensitivity and concern to the inking, wiping, and printing of the plate that he does to its creation. "Miyamoto is equally eloquent. Of Chesney's quarter century oeuvre, he wrote: "One is almost overwhelmed by the richness and vitality of images which surround the viewer. The (Chesney's) pieces invite and entice. The artist shares his vision through visual expression, articulating feelings, thoughts, and aesthetics. A cornucopia of skill is presented in a process characterized by the effortlessness that derives from complete mastery. The work assumes a quality in printmaking which would be expressed in paintings as 'painterliness.'"

Chesney is professor of art at the University of Hawaii. Previously he served as associate dean of fine arts at the University of Southern California and as graduate chairman of programs in painting and printmaking at the University of Illinois from 1950 to 1967.

He earned the bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Colorado in 1946 where he majored in painting, and the master of fine arts degree in printmaking from the University of Iowa in 1948. He also studied at the Universidad de Michoacan, Morelia, Mexico in 1951.

Chesney was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship for study in Tokyo, and a University of Illinois Research Grant for special work in Paris and Rome.

He has had some 25 one-man shows. Chesney exhibited most recently at the Comsky Gallery in Beverly Hills, Calif., and the Downtown Gallery in Honolulu.

—Dorothy A. Brockhoff

Marilyn S. Pryor has been appointed director of the Division of Professional and Community Programs in the School of Continuing Education at WU. Pryor, who has been with the University since 1957, has served as coordinator of Special Film and Lecture Programs; assistant director, Office of Conferences and Short Courses; and director of General Programs.

Alumni Giving Goes Over the Top

For the first time in its 126-year history, WU exceeded the million dollar mark in Alumni Annual Giving (AAG).

AAG gifts from alumni, which help support the University's ongoing operations, totaled $1,050,000 during the 1978-79 year, an increase of some $123,000 over last year's figure, according to Dr. John E. Gilster, national chairman of the program. Total alumni support of the University, including AAG gifts as well as gifts intended for other purposes, amounted to $2,438,647, with 26 per cent of the alumni contributing.

Allen F. Martin, Jr., assistant vice chancellor for Alumni and Development Programs, said WU ranks among the top five per cent of the nation's colleges and universities in percentage of alumni support annually.

Martin said more than 70 "phonathons" staged in St. Louis and in every major city in the country were major contributors toward the record-breaking results. Nearly half of the 15,761 gifts to the AAG drive, the largest number in the program's history, were made as a result of telephone contacts. "The major reason for our success this year was hundreds of alumni and students who participated in phonathon programs across the country," Martin said.

The national chairman for the AAG program for 1979-80 is Mrs. Rudolph Freedman (BA '75), of Clayton, Mo.
Calendar
September 7-13

FRI., SEPTEMBER 7
3 p.m. Biomedical Engineering Program Joint Meeting with St. Louis University Physiology Department, "Nonlinear Mechanisms of the Ear as Reflected in Responses of Cochlear Neurons and Sound Pressure Near the Eardrum," Duck O. Kim, WU asst. prof. of physiology and biophysics. 3rd floor Physiology Library, St. Louis U., Grand and Caroline. Refreshments will be served following the seminar.

MON., SEPTEMBER 10
11 a.m. Department of Civil Engineering Seminar, "Dynamic Analysis of Shells of Revolution Including Foundation Interaction," Osama El-Shafee, WU research associate. 100 Cupples II.

5:30 p.m. School of Medicine Eighth Annual Wendell G. Scott Lecture, "The Achievement of Excellence in Patient Care," Harold E. Thayer, chairman, Board of Directors, Barnes Hospital, and chairman of the Board and Chief Executive, Mallinckrodt, Inc. Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, Scarpellino Auditorium, 510 South Kingshighway.

WED., SEPTEMBER 12

THURS., SEPTEMBER 13
4 p.m. Department of Chemistry Seminar, "Nucleation as a Hydrodynamic Fluctuation Phenomenon," Ronald Lovett, WU prof. of chemistry. 311 McMillen Lab.


The brilliant and imaginative Claude Kipnis Mime Theatre opens the new season in Edison Theatre with performances at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Sept. 7 and 8. See Performing Arts below for details.

FRI., SEPTEMBER 7
8 p.m. Edison Theatre Presentation, The Claude Kipnis Mime Company. Admission $5; $3.75 for WU faculty, staff and area students; $2 for WU students. Tickets available at Edison Theatre Box Office. For more information and/or reservations with Mastercharge only, call the Box Office at 889-6543. (Also Sat., Sept. 8, 8 p.m. Edison.)

FRI., SEPTEMBER 7
7:30 and 9:15 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, "Beat the Devil." Brown Hall Theatre. Admission $1.75. (Also Tues., Sept. 11, same times, Brown.)

WED., SEPTEMBER 12
7:30 and 9:00 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, "Allegro Non Troppo." Brown Hall Theatre. Admission $1.75. (Also Thurs., Sept. 13, same times, Brown.)

SAT., SEPTEMBER 8
10 a.m. Men and Women's Cross Country Dual Meet, WU vs. Florissant Valley. Forest Park.

7 p.m. Football, WU vs. Culver-Stockton. Francis Field. Admission $3.50 for reserved seats; $2.50 for general admission; $1.25 with any high school or college ID.

WED., SEPTEMBER 12
7 p.m. Soccer, WU vs. Lindenwood College. Francis Field.

THURS., SEPTEMBER 13
3:45 p.m. Women's Tennis, WU vs. Belleville Area College. WU Tennis Courts.

"The Arts of Japan," an eclectic exhibit from the WU collection including Japanese woodblock prints, ceramics, instruments and netsuke (small, carved ivory figurines) organized around themes of everyday life. Six Japanese woodblock prints by 19th-century master landscape artist Hiroshige will be featured. WU Gallery of Art, Steinberg Hall, print room, lower level. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 1-5 p.m., Sat., Sun. Through October 1.

"Selections from the WU Permanent Collection." WU Gallery of Art, Steinberg Hall. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 1-5 p.m., Sat., Sun. Through October 28.

THE WU DEPARTMENT of Sports and Recreation announced this summer three full-time appointments for the 1979-80 academic year. John Schael, director of Sports and Recreation, said that two of these appointments are newly created full-time positions which will strengthen the department, especially in the area of women's varsity sports.

The three new staff members are: Gaye Kinnett, women's volleyball and basketball coach; Martha Tillman, men's and women's swimming coach and aquatics coordinator; and Chuck Gordon, assistant director of sports and recreation for intramurals.

PROF. T. T. SANDEL, chairman of the Psychology Department at Washington University, will speak on "Psychology is Alive and Well in the People's Republic of China" at 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 17 in Room 102 of Eads Hall on the WU campus. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Prof. Sandel will draw on observations from a faculty trip to China which he recently made.

THE FIRST INVITED GUEST of the Department of Psychology's special colloquium-seminar course commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of scientific psychology will speak Sept. 24, instead of Sept. 17, as previously reported.