Dean Rossett takes objective look at WU

WU is at a crossroads. If the right changes are made now, according to Richard N. Rossett, WU has a chance of becoming a member of the nation’s elite group of universities.

"Washington University has built a very strong core of exceptionally fine faculty. The endowment has been built to the point where there is a possibility of doing some very imaginative things with it. All the conditions are right," said Rossett, the new dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Formerly a professor of business economics at the University of Chicago, Rossett was appointed dean in May 1984.

"WU now has a group of tenured faculty who are among the best in the country," Rossett said. "The thing that remains to be done is to take advantage of that and of our fine curriculum to spread the fame of Washington University."

Rossett explained that enhancing WU’s position among the universities would enable WU to be highly selective in the students it admits.

In addition, he believes the rising quality of the tenured faculty has made it possible for WU to become increasingly selective in its recruitment of junior faculty members.

"You get in a position where you can sustain the quality that has been painstakingly built over the past decades."

Rossett comes to WU after serving as chairman of the Department of Economics at the University of Rochester from 1966 to 1974 and dean of the University of Chicago’s Graduate School of Business (GSB) from 1974 until 1983.

During his tenure, GSB enrollment rose 50 percent, the faculty increased by one-third, and the endowment doubled. At the same time the quality of entering students improved greatly.

Rossett is a strong supporter of the liberal arts. He believes that a solid liberal arts education is the foundation for a successful career in any field.

Continued on p. 2
Majority of WU's '78, '83 graduates are employed, paid well, enjoy work

The overwhelming majority of WU graduates from the classes of 1983 and 1978 are employed, enjoy their work, and make good money, according to a survey recently conducted by the Career Planning and Placement Service. A questionnaire mailed to those who received bachelor's degrees in 1978 and May 1983 yielded a response of 46 percent. The results reflect good news about WU grades just starting out (class of '83) as well as those who are established (class of '78).

Of those in the class of '78 returning completed questionnaires, 88.7 percent are employed, and only 1.6 percent are unemployed and seeking work. The remaining 9.7 percent, not working and not seeking work, includes working spouses, full-time students, and others not working and not actively seeking. The figures from the class of '83 are equally encouraging. Sixty-nine percent are employed, and only 3.5 percent are looking for work. The other 28.1 percent include non-working spouses, full-time students, and others not working and not actively seeking. The figures from the class of '83 are equally encouraging. Sixty-nine percent are employed, and only 3.5 percent are looking for work. The other 28.1 percent include non-working spouses, full-time students, and others not working and not actively seeking. The figures from the class of '83 are equally encouraging. Sixty-nine percent are employed, and only 3.5 percent are looking for work. The other 28.1 percent include non-working spouses, full-time students, and others not working and not actively seeking.

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Rosett—continued from p. 1

liberal education enhances a person's ability to earn a living, but even if that were not true it would still be significant. "The liberal education equips you to live a richer, more interesting life. You indicate your ability not just to learn to make a living, but so life will be worth living," he said. "The universities have advocated in Rosett. The advantage of going to a fine private school is that you get a chance to spend four years of your life in close association with people who have first-rate minds," Rosett said. "I think private universities will always be able to compete because they give undergraduate students unmatched access to excellence."

Rosett explained that from his experience in education the quality of a professor's teaching directly correlates with his quality of research. He explained that when a professor is granted tenure, the university will have to employ them almost regardless of what happens in the classroom. "So when you award tenure, you're trying to make a judgment about what this person will be doing in 10, 20, 30 years from now," Rosett said. "Will this person still be an exciting teacher and research and teaching and a good citizen of the university?"

"Now, the evidence I've seen suggests that if you have someone who's 55 years old and is an excellent teacher but shows little interest in the subject being taught — no research — then the chances of that person still being an exciting and interesting teacher 20 years later is slender," Rosett stressed that teaching and research go hand in hand. Without the intellectual stimulation of research, teaching will suffer, according to Rosett.

"If you have a student input at a university is important. "We should treat you as if we really wanted you here and recognize you could have gone somewhere else."

Rosett said that in matters concerning housing, food — the general atmosphere of the university — student views are paramount. On the academic side, I think we ought to be sensitive to and responsive to what students are interested in," he said. "But we also need to keep in mind that they came here because they thought we knew what they should learn."

Rosett stressed that student input is important. But that, conversely, 'students didn't come here to tell us what to teach them. They came here because they thought this was a place where they could advance their questions."

There are great treasures here. There are people in this faculty of such quality that it's one of life's great privileges to be able to spend even one half hour in their company. Many good things will happen to you after college, but never again in such concentration and abundance.
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Performances of Stravinsky’s “The Rake’s Progress” at the Kennedy Center traveled to Washington, DC, to conduct the English Bach Festival Orchestra in a series of three master classes in a confession of 1984. The Jan. 7 issue noted McGegan’s work as “a graceful achievement of history, has published, with S.J. Stang, “An Extract from the Prefaces to Ford Maddox Ford’s A History of Our Own Times,” Anteaus (Autumn 1984.) This is part of a larger editing project of Ford Maddox Ford’s works.

Saul Boyarsky, professor of surgery (urology), gave an invited address on “Health Policy and Legal Aspects of Urology” during a special meeting before the Chicago Academy of Law and Medicine at the Chicago Athletic Club. He served as a consultant to the Veterans Administration central office to a panel on the cost effectiveness of prostate surgery. Boyarsky chaired a panel on “Gadgets for the 1980s” for the executive committee of the American College of Surgeons Medical Device Committee’s annual convention, held in San Francisco. Under the auspices of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health and the Center for Communicable Diseases, Boyarsky represented the American Urological Association and closed meeting in Cincinnati. He recently made a presentation on “Informed Consent and Health Care Reform: Questions on Your Terms” at the Duke University Medical Center, Division of Urology, Durham, N.C. He participated in a panel on new public policies and medical technology. Titles of presentations were: “Reduction of Health Care Standards, Their Limitations and Positive Suggestions for Enhancement.” The panel was held by the American Institute for Advancement of Medical Instrumentation Conference.

Seth Carlin, associate professor of music, appeared as fortepianist with the Trio Mozart in the series “On Quarter-instrument Instruments,” presented Feb. 11 at Merkin Hall, New York City. Later this month, he will appear as piano soloist with the Orchestra and Chorus of St. Louis and as guest pianist with Chamber Music St. Louis. He also will write a column for the second class in a series of three master classes at the St. Louis Conservatory and Schools for the Arts.


James A. Purdy, professor and chief of physics in the Division of Radiation Oncology at Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, WU, has been named in the Kennedy Center. He was named book review editor of the American Political Science Review.

Alec N. Salt, Ph.D., research assistant professor of otolaryngology, has received a $9,964 grant from the Deafness Research Foundation for his project “Functional Changes Underlying Noise-Induced Damage of the Cochlea.” The project will use ion-specific microelectrodes to study changes in the ionic composition of cochlear fluids during noise exposure. Salt joined the Department of Otolaryngology staff in January 1985 and currently is establishing a new auditory physiology research facility there.

Ruediger Thalmann, M.D., professor of otolaryngology, has received a $9,957 grant from the Deafness Research Foundation for his project, titled “Interrelation Between Cerebrospinal Fluid and Perilymph.” The project will attempt to resolve the century-old question to what extent the fluids of the inner ear are related to the fluid bathing the brain and spinal cord (cerebrospinal fluid), using certain amino acids as markers for the two types of fluid. Thalmann has been a member of the otolaryngology department staff since 1963. Both grants are for a one-year period and are renewable for up to three years.

Harold R. Schreiber, professor of periodontics, has been appointed president of the Missouri State Periodontic Specialty Board for the seventh straight year.

Alan Tom, associate professor of education, recently has been elected president of the Association of Independent Liberal Arts Colleges for Teacher Education. The organization is composed of 150 departments and colleges of education in private universities, and is a division of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. The association recently released a volume titled, titled Teacher Education in Liberal Arts Settings.

Have you done something noteworthy?


Poet Diane Ackerman named Writers’ Program director

Poet Diane Ackerman has been named director of WU’s Writers’ Program by the Department of English faculty member, who also holds the appointment of writer-in-residence, was a visiting writer at WU last spring.

Ackerman teaches a graduate course in creative non-fiction writing. As director of the Writers’ Program, her responsibilities will include handling various administrative duties and coordinating the writers’ colloquium, a series of readings and informal discussions presented in Hurst Lounge by community and visiting writers.

Washington University has a wonderful constellation of writers,” said Ackerman. “I’m delighted to be joining such a distinguished group.”

Ackerman is the author of three books of poems: Lady Faustus (1985), Wife of Light (1978), and The Cosmic Cosmic Pastoral (1976). Her experiences working as a cowhand on a cattle ranch in New Mexico are reflected in a prose volume titled “Twilight of the Tenderfoot.”

Two new works, On Extended Wings, non-fiction prose based on her airplane piloting experiences, and Reverse Thunder, an historical play centered on the life of Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, a 17th-century nun, natural scientist and poet, will be published in late spring and fall of 1985, respectively.

Sor Juana was an extraordinary woman who had the bad fortune to live in an era that demanded that its women be ordinary,” said Ackerman, who discovered the historical personage in an anthology of Mexican poetry translated by Samuel Beckten. “I admired her poetry enormously but I also was stunned by all of the compassion and controversy in her life,” she said.

Ackerman was assistant professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh from 1980 to 1983. She was a visiting writer at Cooper Union last fall, and has taught at Ohio University and the College of William and Mary. She received a doctorate in English at Cornell University, where she earned a master’s degree in English and a master’s of fine arts in creative writing.

A Rockefeller Graduate Fellow in Humanities, Science and Technology, Ackerman is the recipient of numerous awards and prizes, including the Pushcart Prize VIII; Best of the Small Presses, 1984. She was associate editor of Epigraph magazine from 1971 to 1977 and has served on numerous advisory boards and literary panels.

Diane Ackerman

Leff receives Mellon fellowship

Mark H. Leff, assistant professor of history, has received a Mellon Faculty Fellowship at Harvard University for 1986.

Leff said the fellowships, which combine teaching and research, are awarded annually to 14 people in various departments. Two are awarded in history. He will continue his research on “The Social Security Franchise Crisis” and “The Politics of Sacrifice in World War II.” He also will teach one undergraduate course.


Solicitor Reform: The New Deal and Taxation, 1933-1939. (Cambridge University Press, 1984). He will present a paper on “Speculating in Social Security Futures: The Perils of Payroll Tax Financing, 1934-1950” at a special conference on social security policy to be held this spring in Albuquerque, N.M.

Leff joined the WU faculty in 1977. He earned a bachelor’s degree in economics in 1970 from Brown University, Providence, R.I., a master’s degree in history in 1972, and a doctorate in history in 1978 from the University of Chicago.

Woman’s Club holds dinner auction

Woman’s Club holds dinner auction

A diamond broach, a shopping spree at Plaza Frontonc, a four-day cruise and a new Chevrolet Cavalier are just a few of the more than 100 items to be auctioned at the WU Woman’s Club’s Annual Auction to be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 16, in the WU Field House.

The Woman’s Club, a social organization that sponsors cultural and educational activities, is celebrating its 75th year of service to the wives of WU faculty and staff, and women faculty and staff. Deborah G. Danforth, wife of Chancellor William H. Danforth, will be honored at the dinner auction for her service and devotion to the Woman’s Club and WU. She has been a member of the Woman’s Club for the last 20 years.

The silent auction, which will be the first non-athletic event held in the new Field House, is open to the public. The auction, dinner and dancing to the band Galaxy is $175 per person. Reservations must be made by Feb. 15.

Proceeds will fund help April 24 Women’s Club Assembly Series lecture. Feauring Mona Van Doren, WU visiting professor of poetry and a National Book Award winner. To make reservations or for more information, call Magdalin Stolbo at 889-4668 during the day, or 721-5147 evenings.
Thursday, Feb. 14


4 p.m. Mildred Trotter Lecture, "The General of Differentiation: Embryonic Genes and Their Organization," Dorothea Bennett of Stem-Theory Interchange, Inc. For information, phone 889-6543.

8 p.m. Dept. of English Colloquium, "Stories and Science," Howard Nemeyer, Mal- linckrodt Distinguished University Professor of English at WU. Hurst Lounge. Duncker Hall.

Friday, Feb. 15
2:30 p.m. Dept. of Engineering and Policy Seminar, "Venture Capital as a Root to Cor- porate Social Entrepreneurship," L. (Neil) Klein, presi- dent of Klein Associates Inc. 104 Lopata.

Friday, Feb. 16

Saturday, Feb. 16
11 a.m. Saturday Seminar, "Medical Ad- vances and Extraordinary Therapies: Trans- plantation," Paul O'Dette, dir. of the Mu- sic Program at Washington University. WU prof. of anatomy and neurology. Co- sponsored by the Master of Liberal Arts Pro- gram and University College. Graham Chapel.

Tuesday, Feb. 19

4 p.m. Public Affairs Thursday Series, "An Evening in the Middle East: Stepping Toward Armageddon?" Victor T. Le Vine, WU prof. of political science. Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Public Affairs. Elio 200 C & D.


Saturday, Feb. 23
7:30 p.m. Women's Studies Program Colloquium with Christine Cho, independent filmmaker, codirecting her latest docu- mentary supported by Women's Programming Board and Women and Film Club. Brown Lounge. Haus.

Sunday, Feb. 17
8:30 p.m. St. Louis Classical Guitar Socie- ty Concert Series, "The Musicians of Swansea Alley." Graham Chapel. Also sponsored by the WU Dept. of Music. For ticket info., call 725-0759.

Friday, Feb. 22
8 p.m. Dept. of Music Graduate Voice Re- cital with Janet Gustafson, soprano. Steinberg Hall.

Saturday, Feb. 23
1 p.m. St. Louis Classical Guitar Socie- ty Concert Series, Paul O'Dette, dir. of the Mu- sic Program at Washington University. WU prof. of anatomy and neurology. Co-sponsored by the Master of Liberal Arts Pro- gram and University College. Graham Chapel.

Tuesday, Feb. 19

SPORTS
Thursday, Feb. 14
10 a.m. Rowing Club, WU v. St. Louis Com- munity College at Meramec. Affton Rink.

Thursday, Feb. 21
7:50 p.m. Men's Basketball, WU v. Rose- hillman Institute. Field House.

MISCELLANY
Thursday, Feb. 14
9 p.m. WU Cultural Celebration Week, "International Night at the Rat." Gargoyle, Malinckrodt.

Friday, Feb. 15
11 a.m.-2 p.m. WU Cultural Celebration Festival. Tables set up for various organiza- tions to share information, music, refresh- ments and audio-visual presentations. Gallery, Malinckrodt Center.

5-7:30 p.m. Cultural Celebration Week, "International Dinner and Dancers." La Cuisine, Wolf Center.

Saturday, Feb. 16

9 p.m.-11:30 p.m. Cultural Celebration Week, "Maris Gras Party." Sponsored by Gargoyle and Gallery, Malinckrodt Center.

Sunday, Feb. 17
4 p.m. A study group meet to discuss Reli- gion in the Secular City by Harvey Cox at the Campus Y. (The group also will meet at 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24, at the Campus Y.)

Thursday, Feb. 21
4-8 p.m. Business Minority Council "Com- puter Showcase/Trade Show." Brown Hall Lounge.

Calendar Deadline
The deadline to submit items for the Feb. 23-March 16 calendar of the Washington University Record is Feb. 14. Items must be typed and state time, place, nature of event, sponsor and admission cost. Incomplete items will not be printed. If available, include speaker's name and identification and the title of the event, also include your name and tele- phone number. Address items to King McElroy, calendar editor, Box 1142.