Elkin's George Mills wins best fiction award

It was an eerie but appropriate coincidence that Stanley Elkin, WU professor of English, should learn last week that he had won the National Book Critics Circle award for the best work of fiction in 1982 in the small town of Swannanoa, N.C., only seven miles from Asheville, the birthplace of another prominent man-of-letters, the late Thomas Wolfe.

Honored for his novel, George Mills, Elkin first heard about his victory from his wife, Joan, in St. Louis, who left a cryptic message: "You won." For him on the Warren Wilson College campus where he and WU fellow writer William Gass were in residence Jan. 10 and 11.

John Macrae III, publisher of E.P. Dutton, the house that issued the book, and Elkin’s editor, considers it the most significant award that Elkin has won because it was presented by more than 300 book critics and editors.

Macrae said that after reading an early draft of George Mills, he and other Dutton editors were so impressed that they did two things: increased Elkin’s advance and stepped up their promotional plans for the book. He added: "We don’t specifically think of potential awards when publishing a new work by one of our authors because the prize world is very fickle, and it is difficult to predict why certain books are singled out for special honors. Quite obviously, we are delighted. Stanley Elkin has made a significant contribution to American literature, and it is time that he is recognized as a first-rate novelist."

Daniel B. Shea, professor and chairman of the Department of English, echoed Macrae’s comments. "The critics finally got it right. Professor Elkin has been for some time the Sean Munson of contemporary fiction, the outline of his great talent blurred by the distance from St. Louis to New York. It would be difficult to exaggerate how much his achievement means to WU."

St. Louis Post-Dispatch reporter Dennis Hannon referred to this same point and said that this award "would help (Elkin) shed the well-meant but unneeded sobriquet, a writer’s writer."

Elkin had said previously, "If you’re a writer’s writer, it implies you’re not a reader’s writer."

Not that Elkin has been ignored by his peers. He was elected to the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters last spring and has received Rockefeller, Guggenheim and National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, the Longview Foundation Award, the Paris Review Humor Prize, the National Institute for Arts and Letters Award, the Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Foundation Award, and The Southern Review/LSU Award in Short Fiction.

Nonetheless, according to the Post’s Hannon, "he cracked jokes — pointedly — about the award. He had believed himself a ‘token guy’ among the four female nominees in the fiction category, and, therefore, without a real chance of winning."

Other nominees for the fiction award were: Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant, a novel by Annie Tyler; Levitation: Five Fictions by Cynthia Ozick; Molnar and Other Stories by Bobbie Ann Mason, and The Color Purple, a novel by Alice Walker.

In a telephone conversation with the WU Record, Elkin emphasized: "I wasn’t expecting the award. I didn’t think I was going to win. I never think I’m going to win, but it feels great."

Elkin joined the WU Department of English faculty in 1960 and received his doctorate from the University of Illinois.

Computing labs focus on biomedicine

An Institute for Biomedical Computing, which aims to enhance state-of-the-art technology for research in biology and medicine, has been established at WU. The institute comprises both the Computer Systems Laboratory (CSL) and the Biomedical Computer Laboratory (BCL) on the School of Medicine campus. A new facility for designing computer systems will soon be built as the fifth floor of Lopaia Hall on the Hilltop campus. The laboratory will be named in honor of Edward J. Bowles, a 1920 graduate of the School of Engineering, distinguished engineering educator and paleontologist.

Charles E. Molnar, professor of physiology and biophysics and head of CSL, is director of the institute, and Lewis J. Thomas Jr., head of BCL, is associate director.

The establishment of the institute formalizes 18 years of collaboration between the School of Medicine and the School of Engineering and Applied Science on developing advanced technology to help solve problems in basic science and clinical medicine. The institute is jointly governed by the two schools in order to provide a structure for the pursuit of longterm projects.

"We've been very successful in pioneering some of the first mini-computer applications in biomedicine," Molnar said. "Now, we want to reach further out."

WU has been a leader in matching computers to medicine. The prototype of the first mini-computer had its early biomedical applications here with the founding of CSL and BCL in 1964. An informal network of researchers using computing resources quickly developed around these two sister labs.

Today they constitute one of the few biomedical groups in the nation whose activities span the entire range of computing—from formulating mathematical theories and building actual systems to evaluating their performance in research situations.

New technologies being applied at WU include custom-built microcomputers or tiny chips that can store and process massive amounts of information, advanced computer-generated graphics and modeling, new methods for storing and accessing databases, the use of ultrasound for quantitative analysis of living tissue, and advanced methods for studying radioactive tracers in the body.
The curtain is going up on the second half of Edison Theatre's 1982-83 season, with fine drama, dance and music once again center-stage.

Highlighting the playbill in February will be Handel's Orlando, which is "the most extensively re-scored, lavishly mounted theatrical event ever produced by this University," according to Hazel Fonser, managing director of Edison Theatre. The three-act opera, based on Ariosto's Orlando Furioso, will be staged in historically accurate style.

A baroque dance program and concert will also be presented in conjunction with the WU Baroque Festival.

On other stages at Mallinckrodt Center, the Performing Arts Area brings its "Studio Series" to a close with a contemporary drama and the spring Student Dance Concert.

Ticket time is 8 p.m. For more ticket information, call the Edison Theatre box office at 889-6543.

Edison Theatre Season

On Feb. 4 and 5, Dan Wagoner, who danced his way out of Appalachia to head a New York company, appears with ensemble Handel's Orlando, slated for Feb. 25-27, will be directed by artist-in-residence Nicholas McGegan, internationally known specialist in baroque music.

Orlando highlights Edison Theatre season

On March 18 and 19 the New York Baroque Dance Company offers a fully costumed, theatrical view of 18th-century dance entitled "Harlequins, Gods and Dancers."

Joseph Roach, PAA chairman, makes his WU directing debut on April 14-17 with Match Ato About Nothing. Shakespeare's spirited tale revolves around loyces who, try as they will, cannot get their stars to cross.

On April 29-May 1, the St. Louis Repertory Dancers, formerly the St. Louis Ragtime Ensemble, present a concert with strikingly different approaches to modern dance by choreographers Annette Metz, Mary-Jean Cowell, Anna Marie Schary, Satoko Shimazaki, Suzanne Grace, Susan Gash and Gale Ormiston.

Edison's program of baroque concerts concludes on May 7 with British harpsichordist Trevor Pinnock and the English Concert of six musicians, known throughout Europe for their performances and recordings of baroque music.

Ticket prices for all but two events are $7 general admission, $5 for WU faculty and staff and area students, and $4 for WU students. Tickets for Match Ato About Nothing are $4 general admission and $3 for the WU community and area students. Tickets for Orlando are $10 and $8 general admission, $6 for WU faculty and staff and area students, and $5 for WU students.

Boyle takes Michael directorship of occupational therapy program

Mary Ann Boyle has been named Elias Michael Director of the occupational therapy program at the School of Medicine.

As director, Boyle is responsible for planning and directing undergraduate and graduate programs in occupational therapy. She also serves as an assistant professor of occupational therapy.

She has been an occupational therapist for seven years, three of them as a chief occupational therapist, at hospitals in Kansas and Florida. Boyle attended the University of Kansas at Lawrence, where she received a PhD in neurosciences in 1982, an MS in education in 1980, a BS in human biology in 1979 and a BS in occupational therapy in 1970.

She serves as a member of the advisory board of the Irene Walter Johnson Institute of Rehabilitation, WU medical school. She is a member of the American Occupational Therapy Association and a book reviewer for the American Journal of Occupational Therapy. Also, she was founder and former chairwoman of the Capitol Area District of the Kansas Occupational Therapy Association, and former associate member of the National Association of the Physically Handicapped, Inc.

Boyle has written 11 journal articles on occupational therapy and has presented several occupational therapy seminars to other health care professionals.

Applications accepted for nursery school

Applications are currently being accepted to enroll three-, four- and five-year-old children in WU's Nursery School. Families whose children are accepted will be informed early next month. For more information, call the school at 889-6689.

Roy Curtiss named chairman of biology department

Roy Curtiss III, acting chairman and vice chairman of the Department of Microbiology at the University of Alabama-Birmingham, has been appointed chairman of the WU Department of Biology, Chancellor William H. Danforth announced.

Curtiss, whose main area of research is microbial and molecular genetics of bacterial pathogens, is a native of New York, New York. He received his undergraduate degree from Cornell University in 1956 and his PhD from the University of Chicago in 1962. His appointment is effective July 1, 1983.

"Dr. Curtiss is an outstanding scientist and scientific leader," said Chancellor Danforth. "I am delighted that he will head one of our very strong departments." Prior to his tenure with the University of Alabama, Curtiss was associated with the Biology Division of Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the University of Tennessee Oak Ridge Graduate School of Biomedical Science.

He has received a number of national honors and awards, some of which include: Fellow, American Academy of Microbiology; member, Sigma Xi (national scientific honorary); honorary member, Association Chilena de Microbiologia; and U.S. Public Health Service Predoctoral Fellow.

His professional memberships include: American Society for Microbiology; American Association for the Advancement of Science; Genetics Society of America; New York Academy of Sciences; and Society for General Microbiology.

His present and former activities include: chairman, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Genetic Basis of Disease Review Committee; member, National Science Foundation Genetics Biology Advisory Panel; member, NIH Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee; visiting professor, Universidad de Chile, Santiago; visiting professor, University of Puerto Rico, San Juan; and visiting professor, Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Cientificas, Caracas.

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Spring Assembly Series features activist, author, attorney, athlete

Author James Baldwin, former U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell, and former St. Louis Cardinal baseball player Lou Brock are a few of the featured speakers in the spring schedule of Assembly Series lectures.


All but three lectures will take place at 11 a.m. on Wednesday in Graham Chapel. All are free and open to the public.

On Jan. 26, Daniel Bergtman, a Jesuit priest, poet and peace activist, will speak on "Nuclear Arms and Civic Responsibility" at the second Council for Inter-Religious Concerns (CIRCuit) lecture. Bergtman and his brother, Philip, were the first Roman Catholic priests to receive federal sentences for peace agitation in the U.S. Daniel Bergtman has written several books of prose and poetry, including The Trial of the Catsville Nine.


The First Annual Chimes Lecture on Feb. 9 will feature Joan Mondale, wife of former Vice President Walter F. Mondale, and author of Politics in Art. On Feb. 16, Murray I. Weidenbaum, WU Edward Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor and director of WU's Center for the Study of American Business, will speak on "Economic Problems and Prospects in the 1980s." The lecture will be cosponsored by the Student Union.

A Bartlett Giarmati, president of Yale University, will speak Feb. 25 on "Orlando and the Epic Tradition," opening the six-and-one-half week Baroque Festival at WU. Described by Time magazine as a "renaissance man," Giarmati has written and edited several scholarly books on epic poetry and Renaissance literature.

On March 2, Arthur Macy Cox, author of Russian Roulette: The Superpower Game, will speak on foreign affairs and arms control during a conference on disarmament cosponsored by Student Union and Action for Peace. On March 16, John Rainias, originator of the Dartmouth Intensive Language Model and professor of Romance languages and literature at Dartmouth College, will be the keynote speaker for Foreign Language Week, sponsored by the WU Department of Romance Languages.

On Tuesday, March 29, Adrienne Rich, author of several books on feminism and civil rights, will present a reading and commentary at noon in Graham Chapel. The William C. Ferguson Memorial Lecture will be delivered on March 30 by George E. Pake, vice president of corporate research at Xerox Corp., former WU Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, and currently a member of the WU Board of Trustees. Pake will speak on "Technological Leadership: An American Achievement in Jeopardy."
Lectures

Thursday, Jan. 20

4 p.m. Department of Anthropology Lecture, "Techniques of Disease Diagnoses in Filipino Tribal Societies and Modern Western Medicine," Kenneth Payne, WU visiting ass. prof. of anthropology, 101 Lepara.

Friday, Jan. 21

Monday, Jan. 24
4 p.m. Technology and Human Affairs Seminar, "Designing Products for Market Acceptance," Dorothy Leonard-Barton, ass. prof., Sloan School of Management, MIT. Sponsored by Materials Research Lab, 100 Cubes II.

Tuesday, Jan. 25
4 p.m. Department of Physics Colloquium, "EXAPS — What It Can (and Cannot) Do," Bruce Bunker, prof. of physics, U. of Ill. 201 Crow.

Wednesday, Jan. 26

Wednesday, Jan. 26
4 p.m. Department of Physics Colloquium, "Far Heliosphere," Frank B. McDonald, chief scientist.

Thursday, Jan. 27

2:30 p.m. Center for the Study of Data Processing Symposium, "Implementing the Information Center," Carl Mills, prs., Dialogues Research Service, 50 january.


Saturday, Jan. 29
10 a.m. Admissions and Financial Aid Workshop, Steinberg Aud.


7 p.m. Women's Club and Men's Faculty Club Dinner Dance. Start Muzial & Biggie's Restaurant, 5130 Olive Ave. Music will be played by Johnny Polen's Orchestra. Cocktails at 7 p.m. Dinner at 8 p.m. Tickets $12.50 per person, reservation deadline is Jan. 21. For more information, call Mrs. Elle Backers, club prs., at 727-1065.

Exhibitions

"Visions From Nature and the Figure," an exhibition of paintings from the Academy to the Impressionists, Through March 6. Lowey Gallery, Gallery of Art. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. 1-5 p.m. weekends.

"A Capsule of Modern Art," an exhibition of modern works. Through March 6. Lowey Gallery, Gallery of Art. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. 1-5 p.m. weekends.

"Drawings and Prints From 17th and 18th Centuries," Through March 20. Point Gallery, Gallery of Art. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. 1-5 p.m. weekends.

"All That Glitters," New York Art Directors Show. Through Jan. 18. Rudy Gallery. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays. 1-5 p.m. weekends.

"Masterworks of Ophthalmology, 1851-1900," works by famous 19th-century European ophthalmologists. Through Feb. 15. Rare Books and Archives, WU School of Medicine, 615 S. Tav lyon. Open 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.

Sports

Thursday, Jan. 20
7 p.m. Wrestling, WU vs. MacMurray College. Francis Gym.

Saturday, Jan. 22
7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball, WU vs. Illinois College. Gen. adm. $2, other students, $1. WU students free. Francis Gym.

Monday, Jan. 24
5:30 p.m. Women's Basketball, WU vs. Maryville College. Francis Gym.

Society sponsors art sale

The Pre-Law Society will sponsor a sale of original Oriental art Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Jan. 20 and 21, in the Mallinckrodt Gallery. The collection includes etchings, woodcuts, lithographs, serigraphs and paintings.

Wednesday, Jan. 26

Thursday, Jan. 27
7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball, WU vs. Maryville College. Gen. adm. $2, other students, $1. WU students free. Francis Gym.

Saturday, Jan. 29
1 p.m. Men's and Women's Swimming, WU vs. Westminster College. Wilson Pool.

Music

Thursday, Jan. 27
5-8 p.m. WU Civic Chorus Auditions. Blewett A. 6500 Forsyth. (Also Monday, Jan. 24, 5 to 7 p.m. Blewett A.) Auditions open to St. Louis vocalists. For more information, call 889-5955 or 726-4908.

Calendar Deadline

The deadline to submit items for the Feb. 3-12 calendar of the IFH Record is Jan. 20. Items must be typed and sent in time, date, nature of event, sponsor and admission cost. Incomplete items will not be printed. If available, include speaker name and identification and the title of the event. Those submitting items, please include your name and telephone number. Address items to King McIlroy, calendar editor, Box 1142.

FILMS

Sunday, Jan. 23
8 p.m. Nuclear Challenge Film Series, "The Last Episode" and " Nuclear Consequences," Sponsored by Action for Peace and WU Entertainment Programming Board, 215 Rebebeck.

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Times architecture critic to speak

Paul Goldberger, senior architecture critic for The New York Times, will be the first speaker at this semester's regular Monday evening lecture series sponsored by WU's School of Architecture. The event will be cosponsored by the St. Louis Chapter, American Institute of Architects (AIA).

Goldberger will deliver his free, public lecture, "Architecture, History and Confusion," at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 24 in Steinberg Auditorium. Preceding this program, he will be honored at a sandwich buffet reception at 6 p.m., in WU's Gallery of Art, Steinberg Hall. Those wishing to attend the buffet should send a check for $8 to the St. Louis chapter, AIA, 910 Oliver Street, St. Louis, Mo., 63101 by noon Friday, Jan. 21. He joined the Times in 1972 as a member of its Sunday Magazine staff and a year later was appointed daily architecture critic. He assumed his present position in 1981. Goldberger received an AIA medal in 1981 for his architecture criticism. The author of numerous books, Goldberger published a work in 1980 on the late Hugh Ferriss, a New York-based architectural illustrator who earned a degree in architecture from WU in 1911.

Three fitness programs offered

The Department of Sports and Recreation is sponsoring an Adult Fitness Program that began Jan. 17. Participants have the option of enrolling in one of two 10-week sessions, now through March 25 or March 28-June 3, or in one continuous 20-week program beginning Jan. 17.

Participants can enroll as late as two weeks after the first meeting. Threemt meet every Monday, Wednesday and Fri- day from 7 to 8 a.m. under the direction of Richard Larsen, WU assistant athletic trainer.

Emphasis is placed on cardiovascular endurance, muscle tone and flexibility using carefully graded exercises, and progressive jogging to promote general physical fitness. An optional pre- and post-fitness evaluation is included to determine cardiovascular improvement and body composition measurements.

The fee for each 10-week session is $40, $72 for the 20-week session. The optional fitness test is $20. For more information and application forms, contact Richard Larsen at 889-5220.

Series — continued from p. 3

On Tuesday, April 26, at noon, award-winning poet Carolyn Forche will give a reading and commentary in the Ann Whitney Olin Women's Building Lounge. On April 27, Lewis Thomas, president and chief executive officer of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, will deliver the Phi Beta Kappa/Sigma Xi Lecture. Thomas is professor of pathology and medicine at Cornell University Medical College and author of Lives of a Cell. For more information on the Assembly Series lectures, call 889-5840.

Ann Whitney Olin Women's College. Through March 6. Lower Gallery, Gallery of Art. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays; 1-5 p.m. weekends.

"Significance of the First China-U.S. Conference," Reception at 6 p.m., followed by lecture, Steinberg Aud.

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Margaret Atwood

Frank B. McDonald

4 p.m. Department of Physics Colloquium, "The Star of the Future: A New Look at the Heliosphere," Frank B. McDonald, chief scientist. NASA. 201 Crow.

Thursday, Jan. 27