

English professor resurrects forgotten figures from past

By Harold V. Cordry
University Information Services

For Dr. Mary Lago, scholarship is not a business proposition, not a way of creating academic visibility; it is, in the words of Dr. Albert Devlin, a colleague in UMC's English department, "simply a natural expression of her curious, probing mind." She is indeed a prolific scholar, almost embarrassingly prolific, but her writings, as Dr. Devlin suggests, are born of her propellant curiosity and the extraordinary enthusiasm with which she pursues her studies—the same enthusiasm that led her to learn Bengali after hearing the songs of Tagore, and which moved her to return to school to earn a Ph.D., almost 20 years after leaving Bucknell with a B.A. degree in English.

Dr. Lago is pleased, to be sure, when attention is focused on her, and she will display clippings of laudatory reviews from such prestigious publications as *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The New Statesman*, *Encounter* and *The (London) Times*; but asked to talk about herself, she does so with evident discomfort, and quickly changes the subject, almost inevitably to Will Rothenstein, on whom she has focused her scholarly energies for the last 10 years.

Part of Dr. Lago's intense interest in Rothenstein stems from the fact that outside certain specialized circles few know who he was or what he did. Yet in the early years of this century he stood shoulder to shoulder with the best-known figures in the British and French art worlds, winning acclaim as an artist for his work as a portrait, landscape and genre painter, and as a writer, both perspicacious and prolific, who greatly enriched the literature of his field.

But in terms of influence, Dr. Lago hastens to explain, Rothenstein's greatest contribution lay not in writing or painting but in his efforts to promote and cultivate public appreciation of the arts and in his support of fellow artists, in whose behalf he was profligate with both time and money.

As principal of the Royal College of Art, Rothenstein commanded the respectful attention of a large audience. But in the main, she says, his influence derived from his widespread acquaintance with hundreds of prominent figures, both within and outside the arts. Standing at the center of dozens of overlapping circles, composed mainly of writers and artists, Rothenstein seemed to know everyone. Among the persons whose names stud the pages of his memoirs are Shaw, Hardy, Beardsley, Swinburne, Rodin, Matisse, Degas, Wilde, Yeats, Conrad, Einstein, Gide, Pater, Housman . . . And so it was that Max Beerbohm, writing to Rothenstein's widow shortly after his death, remarked that "His name is a name that will not fade in any future years. Besides his paintings, his drawings and his books, there will be his letters—a storehouse in which posterity will spend a great deal of time with great advantage and gratitude."

"Will Rothenstein," Dr. Lago says, "had four children, and they all say, 'Oh, how we wish we'd paid attention to Father's friends.' When they were small these people who came—Yeats, Conrad, Hardy, Housman—are now great figures, classics. Then they were just Will Rothenstein's friends. His daughters have told me that when Yeats would come to the house they would sit at the top of the stairs and mimic him and make fun of his Irish accent. They say now that they wish they had paid more attention and that they had kept diaries. Well, I wish they had, too. They'd be worth their weight in gold to a biographer."

Some of the letters of which Beerbohm spoke are contained in two of Dr. Lago's most recently published books—*Max and Will* and *Imperfect Encounter*—which also contain lengthy essays relating to Rothenstein's relationship with Beerbohm and Rabindranath Tagore. *Max and Will*, which was published in 1975 by John Murray in England and by Harvard University Press in the United States, was particularly well-received, winning praise from such elder statesmen of the literary world as Raymond Mortimer and Harold Acton, members of the old Bloomsbury circle. Scheduled to appear soon is a one-volume



Dr. Lago

edition of Rothenstein's *Men and Memories*, abridged and edited by Dr. Lago, and she is currently at work on a volume of Rothenstein's correspondence with D. S. MacColl, the English art critic who was a director of the Tate Gallery, then of the famous Wallace Collection in London.

"The thing that interests me most," Dr. Lago says, "is people who have been neglected—figures who have done really important things, who have set other people's careers in motion, who have done things themselves they've never had credit for. What really pleases me is to get these people noticed, to give them credit for what they've done. And Will Rothenstein, of course, is an absolutely prime example of an important figure, who exerted enormous

influence, but who has never had enough credit for his achievements."

It was Rothenstein, for example, Dr. Lago recalls, who obtained a government grant for Conrad, so that he could finish writing *Nostramo*. It was Rothenstein who made possible Rabindranath Tagore's international career and unprecedented Western recognition of India's fine arts and modern literatures, who brought Tagore into the artistic and literary circles of London and helped him to his Nobel Prize, the first to be awarded to an Asian.

"It was Rothenstein," Dr. Lago says, "who launched Epstein, the sculptor, supporting him out of his own pocket for two years. And it was he who launched Henry Moore. He gave Moore a seven-year contract as an instructor in the sculpture department against great opposition. The heads of the sculpture department kept coming to Rothenstein and saying: 'This man is crazy! We've got to get rid of him!' And Rothenstein, as principal, kept saying: 'But he's going to finish his contract.' And in that seven-year period the sculpture department had three heads, because they kept bumping into this strong support for Henry Moore. Moore told me this himself. Epstein never thanked Rothenstein; Henry Moore did."

Eulogies abound with hyperbole, but Beerbohm came quite close to statistical accuracy in remarking of Rothenstein's contemporaries in art, and of the then-rising generation, that "there was not one of them that did not owe much to his generous appreciation and wise counsel."

Dr. Lago's interest in Tagore antedates her interest in Rothenstein, and it was through Tagore—when she was translating two collections of his short stories—that she became acquainted with Rothenstein. Her book *Imperfect Encounter*, which contains the Rothenstein-Tagore correspondence, chronicles the course of their association, and she is at work on a volume of biographical-critical studies focusing on the cultural exchange between England and India as carried on by several of Rothenstein's friends—Edward J. Thompson, James D. Anderson, A. H. Fox-Strangways and Sir Wilmot and Lady Christiana Herringham. Another book by Dr. (continued on page 3)



"Mr. W. Rothenstein and Mankind." Caricature by Max Beerbohm, 1916.

Sidelines

Dobbs honored

Dr. Ralph C. Dobbs, UMC associate professor of higher and adult education, has received the 1977 Distinguished Service Award from the Missouri Association for Adult Continuing Education. Dr. Dobbs was honored for helping to develop the adult-education sequence in UMC's department of higher and adult education. He was also commended for his involvement in developing new adult education methods and techniques, and for his many years of service as a resource person in state and national workshops.

Award to Burgess

The Missouri Valley Adult Education Association has presented its Most Outstanding Educator Award to Dr. Paul Burgess, director of the UM system's off-campus continuing education program.

Seminars

The department of statistics at UMC is sponsoring two series of seminars on reliability, the first to be presented by Dr. Richard Barlow, University of California at Berkeley, and the second by Dr. Frank Proschan of Florida State.

The seminars will be presented daily from 2:40 to 5 p.m. Dr. Barlow's series has been scheduled for Apr. 25-29, Dr. Proschan's for May 2-6.

Further information may be obtained by phoning the department of statistics (314/882-6376).

New issue of MEI

A new issue of *Missouri Economic Indicators* has been published by UMC's Public Affairs Information Service. Copies may be obtained free of charge by phoning 314/882-7857.

Long fellowship

Dr. Norton E. Long, curator's professor of political science at UMSL, has been awarded a \$21,000 fellowship for study at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington. Dr. Long was one of 21 persons selected by the center from a field of more than 300 candidates from around the world.

The one-year fellowship will enable Dr. Long to work on a research project aimed at developing a series of economic indicators, a kind of "scorecard," to simplify the monitoring of the financial status of the nation's cities.

In light of the recent economic difficulties of New York and other cities, Dr. Long says cities should be looked upon as "local economies that by and large must pay for their imports with exports and do for themselves or do without. Just as countries are judged by their foreign trade balances, cities must in the end be judged in terms of their balance sheets."

Dr. Long, a noted expert on urban problems, is a former director of the UMSL Center for Metropolitan Studies.

Curtis exhibit

Two portfolios of Edward Curtis photographs, the gift of Ms. Sally Bixby Defty of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, are to become a permanent exhibit in UMSL's Thomas Jefferson Library. A public reception marking the exhibit's installation has been scheduled for 2 p.m., Apr. 16, in the UMSL library.

The portfolios are volumes 19 and 20 of a set owned by Ms. Defty's father.

Illinois post

Ms. Michele Thompson, director of affirmative action and assistant to the provost at UMKC, will leave Kansas City to become assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs and director of academic affirmative action at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Ms. Thompson, who is also an instructor in sociology and medicine, is a former lecturer in the UMKC School of Administration, a former director of the Academic Advising Office and a former director of program development in the UMKC College of Arts and Sciences. Her bachelor's and master's degrees are from UMKC, and she expects to complete her Ph.D. work at the State University of New York at Buffalo before the end of the year.

Ms. Thompson's appointment at the University of Illinois is effective July 1.

Dental researcher seeking key to control of periodontal disease



Dr. ElAttar

Dental researcher Dr. Tawfik M. A. ElAttar is getting closer to understanding the molecular processes that control periodontal disease—diseases of the gums, tissues and bone that surround teeth.

Dr. ElAttar, professor of biochemistry and director of the laboratory of hormone research at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry, was recently awarded \$150,000 by the National Institutes of Health to continue his research for three more years on the inflammation of human gums. He is studying how prostaglandins, major inflammatory agents that are derived from fatty acids, are linked to periodontal disease.

Dr. ElAttar believes the apparent association of prostaglandins with gum inflammation and bone loss may lead to an effective treatment of periodontal disease.

"Blocking or controlling prostaglandin formation with special chemical agents offers the possibility of stopping or reversing the bone deterioration process which is the principal problem in the clinical management of the disease," Dr. ElAttar said.

Inflamed tissues that surround and support the teeth can lead to periodontal disease, said Dr. ElAttar. In the advanced form of this disease, bone loss may be severe, and with the loss of the supporting bone, teeth become loose and often must be extracted, he said.

"A growing body of evidence implicates prostaglandins in the inflammatory process," Dr. ElAttar said. "In addition, data from several sources indicate that prostaglandins stimulate bone loss. The levels of prostaglandins in gum samples removed surgically in our laboratory from patients with periodontal disease were found to be 10 times higher than those found in normal gum tissue."

Prostaglandins may be used to induce labor or start an abortion. They may also be given as a contraceptive and they may be applied during the treatment of high blood pressure and water retention, asthma and bronchitis, pain and inflammation. In addition, they may be used in the treatment or prevention of thrombosis.

"They are known to occur in minute quantities in nearly all tissues and body fluids of higher animals," said Dr. ElAttar. "Recently they were discovered in very high concentrations in the sea coral, *Plexaura homomalla*. To date, no plant source of prostaglandins has been confirmed."

Dr. ElAttar, who was honored with the UMKC N.T. Veatch Award for distinguished research and creative activity in 1973, was the first scientist to discover that treating human gums with estrogens, female sex hormones, enhanced the creation of prostaglandins in the gums. However, male sex hormones do not influence the creation of prostaglandins in gums. Dr. ElAttar believes this discovery partly explains why women frequently suffer more gum irritation and inflammation during their pregnancy than during other times.

"It is well known that levels of estrogens increase gradually in pregnant women's blood and reach a peak point before the onset of labor," Dr. ElAttar said. "This increase in blood estrogens triggers the creation and release of prostaglandins in the gums causing an increase in blood supply and further aggravation of gum inflammation that originally may have come from poor oral hygiene habits."

Olson wants limitations on Weldon Spring bill

President Olson's opposition to Senate Bill 47, which apparently was written with the specific intention of preventing UM from disposing of the 8,000-acre Weldon Spring tract without the consent of the legislature, centers on the problems the bill might cause with regard to other parcels of land owned by the University.

"It is my opinion," Dr. Olson told members of the House Governmental Review Committee, "...that this bill will adversely affect other land owned by the University. This is the central problem. Let me emphasize that the concern is not that the decision of the Board of Curators would differ from that of the General Assembly or—to put the matter quite candidly—that the board can make better decisions than the General Assembly. That's certainly not the case."

Complaining of the language of the bill, Dr. Olson listed "some of the difficulties" he envisages:

- "The University would be unable to convey land for public improvements such as highways if such improvements were to be situated on, pass through or traverse in any fashion a tract of 500 acres or more. . . .

- "Further, the University has obtained a few gifts of 500 acres or more with the option to sell if the University wishes. I am

hopeful that we can get some additional in the future. Such agreements must be carefully worked out between the donors and the University's legal and development staffs and the Board of Curators. This bill would affect such agreements, unless approval is also obtained from the General Assembly. Otherwise, the University cannot guarantee that the intent of the donor can be honored in such agreements.

"And there is a related point. State law provides for closed meetings for real estate negotiations, where public disclosure might adversely affect the taxpayers. If land is to be donated to the University for later sale, it is quite possible that public discussion could be detrimental to the University. The donor, for instance, could be persuaded by others to use other options for disposing of the land.

- "This bill, it seems to me, would also have a chilling effect upon people who might want to donate land to the University for other reasons. Confusion over final authority for such gifts of land could be unfavorable to the University. If legislation can be adopted to prevent sales, then it's conceivable that legislation could be adopted to overturn the donor's intent in providing land gifts or other gift properties. But the main point is that I doubt people who are willing to donate land to the University would welcome public discussion of their land gifts.

- "This bill, if enacted, would require several months of time to resolve certain real estate transactions, unless the General Assembly would be willing to suspend the rules for such decisions."

Dr. Olson urged the committee not to approve the bill as written.

"If legislation pertaining to Weldon Spring is felt essential," he said, "then I would suggest that the bill be amended to apply only to Weldon Spring."

Answer Line

Questions to be answered in this column should be addressed to Answer Line, 424 Lewis Hall, Columbia. Correspondents need not identify themselves, but they are urged to do so, should some clarification be required. The editor guarantees absolute anonymity.

Q—If you have worked for the University for five years, do you still get a five-year pin? I never did get one. If I am due a pin, who can I contact to get mine?

Name withheld

A—All full-time administrative, service and support staff employees are eligible to receive service awards after five years of continuous service and every five years thereafter up to 45 years of service. The service awards are distributed by the campus personnel office to the departments prior to the employee's anniversary date. Most departments hold all of the awards and present them at the end of the year in an appropriate ceremony. Twenty-five-year awards and all subsequent awards are presented to campus employees by the chancellor. All central administration awards of 25 years and up are presented by the president in appropriate ceremonies.

Campus employees who have reached the anniversary date and have not received an award should first check with their department head. If the department head has no information regarding the service award, contact the campus personnel office. Central administration employees should contact their department head. Then, if the department head has no information, they should contact me at Personnel Services, Training Office, 882-4849. This process is designed to be automatic. When an employee has five years of service, their award is sent to the appropriate location automatically.

DEAN BAXTER
Training Coordinator
Employee Training and
Development
809 Lewis
Columbia

Dr. Lago looks forward to series of projects

(continued from page 1)

Lago, *Rabindranath Tagore*, has just been published in the Twayne World Authors Series—a survey of Tagore's life, his writing and his place in world literary history.

Dr. Lago is also working on an edition of the diaries of Stopford Brooke, a Victorian theologian who was converted to literary history. "Brooke's books now sound very Victorian," she remarks, "but at the time they were very important because as late as 1910 English literature was not considered a discipline in its own right in Great Britain. Higher education was founded on the classics, philosophy, mathematics—these were the basic subjects. Someone once said the only place in Great Britain that English literature was regarded as a subject in its own right was Scotland, and there it was considered a foreign literature."

Dr. Lago spent last summer in England working on Brooke's diaries. That project was financed by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In all, she has received a dozen grants and fellowships from such bodies as the American Philosophical Society and the American Council of Learned Societies, as well as the UMC Research Council, supporting her research.

"Two or three books away," Dr. Lago says, is a study of the art and literary movements as they interacted in England in the 1890s and up to World War I, with the focus on Will Rothenstein and his brother, Albert Rutherston, painter and stage designer. "It's interesting," she says, "because of the cross-fertilization and stimulation."

"I've been turning this idea over since 1969. The person who put it into my head was Michael Holroyd, the British biographer. Michael's been reminding me of it ever since, saying: 'When are you going to do that book?' And I keep saying: 'I don't think I know enough yet.' But by the time I finish the Rothenstein-MacColl correspondence I think I will know enough, because MacColl is a central figure in this whole picture. Rothenstein described him as the Roger Fry of the New English Art Club. What Roger Fry

was to Bloomsbury in art criticism, MacColl was to the New English Art Club."

A particularly interesting aspect of the Late Victorian-Edwardian period is that there was a great deal of cross-fertilization, with writers painting and painters writing. "You can hardly talk about the Bloomsbury group, for instance," Dr. Lago says, "without talking about art. Virginia Woolf tried to work out in her novels the Post-Impressionist theories that art critic Roger Fry, the apostle of Post-Impressionism in England, was evolving.

"What's exciting about this period," she says, "is that now, with the perspective we have on it, with World War II getting in there between, changing everything so drastically, . . . we can see that this is the beginning of what we now call modern. Until lately, since this great revival of interest in it, it really hasn't been a period of study in its own right. It's been either tacked on to the end of the 19th century or the beginning of the 20th. But now you go back and you look at these closely integrated circles of artists and writers, such as the Bloomsbury group, such as the group Will Rothenstein was active in—the New English Art Club—and you can see that what we call modern in the novel and in painting and so on was well along 'way back then.'"

Dr. Lago's chief interest lies in filling in, by means of letters, editions of diaries and biographies, the ways in which the artists and writers of the period interacted with one another. In this respect her work occupies a place in what has become a very strong movement in literary research, specific and carefully documented recreations of personalities.

"If you want to know what I really get a big bang out of," Dr. Lago says, "I really get a big bang out of finding a letter and having absolutely no information about it—and what really gives me a thrill is to find matching letters from other correspondents and having everything mesh together. It's like putting together a puzzle. And in the process you get a picture of a personality."

"I can recognize Will's handwriting at 40 paces. If I see a letter of his, in a library or private collection, I think: 'That's mine!'"

Research in the Late Victorian-Edwardian period, according to Dr. Lago, has become what a businessman would call "a growth industry." Books are being turned out at an astounding rate, and the stream of literary scholars migrating into the field shows no sign of abating.

"The last generation of scholars," Dr. Lago says, "were so close to the prominent figures of the period that they regarded them pretty much as the Rothenstein children regarded the many famous people who visited their home: they were just their friends. The writers could take for granted that their contemporaries knew who these people were and they knew they had read their books."

"This is not true now. You go into a class and you ask, say, how many have read *Tono Bungay*, by H. G. Wells. They've heard of *The War of the Worlds*, but they haven't read Wells's novels. Arnold Bennett has just dropped out of the picture for most of our students. His best-known novel, *The Old Wives' Tale*, even went out of print in paperback in the United States. I couldn't use it for my class because we couldn't get the paperback.

"But there's been an explosion of research and biographies and editions of letters. It's a marvelous period for research, because these people are just far enough back that we're getting a perspective on them; but on the other hand they're not so far back that it's too difficult to find their letters and their diaries and some people who knew them, or, like Rothenstein's children, the next generation who remember them. So it's a great period to be working in. It's very exciting."

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Editor: Harold V. Cordry
400 Lewis Hall, Columbia
Ph. 882-4591



New film

The future of Missouri and Missourians is the subject of a new color film, "Missouri Tomorrow," available at no charge from the University of Missouri for screening before civic clubs, service organizations and other groups concerned with the realities of the next quarter-century.

Of modest length (17 minutes), the film lays no claims to being in any sense definitive or exhaustive, but it offers succinct assessments by some of the University's leading scholars of the major problems to be dealt with—energy consumption, maintenance of a high standard of living, food production and urban decay, among others.

A production of University Information Services, "Missouri Tomorrow" may be obtained by writing to UIS, 400 Lewis Hall, Columbia (65201) or by phoning 314/882-4591.

Taiwan visit

Dr. Ruth Anne Rich, professor of piano at UMKC's Conservatory of Music, is part of a "Sister City" delegation representing Macon, Ga., that is visiting Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

Dr. Rich, a native of Macon, is to present a recital April 6 at the Kaohsiung Teachers College.

Arts post

Dr. James C. Olson, UM president, was recently elected chairman of the board of the Mid-America Arts Alliance for 1977-78.

It is through the alliance that the state arts agencies of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Arkansas work cooperatively to expand opportunities for persons in the five-state region to experience the visual and performing arts.

Committee to resume study of UM funding bill

The Missouri House Appropriations Committee is scheduled to resume deliberations on Monday on the higher-education funding bill for 1977-78 after a series of moves on the House floor resulted in the bill's being returned to committee.

On April 4 the House gave preliminary approval to a substitute bill that would give the University and other institutions of higher education budget amounts recommended earlier by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education and Governor Teasdale, instead of lesser amounts recommended by the appropriations committee.

But before final tentative action could be taken on the surprise substitute measure—introduced by Rep. James (Jay) Russell (D-Florissant)—the House speaker, Rep. Kenneth J. Rothman (D-Clayton), maneuvered the bill back to the appropriations committee.

The House Appropriations Committee, in a 16-14 vote in late March, had recommended that UM receive \$131.8 million in state appropriations with an

Legislative Report

Because of the General Assembly's Easter recess, bills moving through the legislative process have progressed very little since *Spectrum* last appeared; therefore, the usual status report does not appear in this issue. A full update is planned for Apr. 29.

additional \$2.3 million in increased graduate student fees, providing the University with \$134.1 million. But when President Olson and University supporters in the House questioned the hike in student fees, House leaders apparently agreed to a compromise. Rep. Joe Holt (D-Fulton) introduced a bill that recommended that \$134 million be appropriated to UM without a fee increase. Representative Russell's surprise substitute bill, which would give UM \$136 million, was adopted 82-49, but did not receive tentative approval before House leaders adjourned the session.

The University's current state appropriation is \$127.7 million. UM has requested \$148 million for 1977-78 in order to provide for an 11 per cent increase in salary and wage base. Commenting on the latest development in the House, President Olson said: "Our concern is moving the University's appropriations as far toward the University request as possible. We are pleased with every step in that direction."

Tuition surveys

Surveys by *The New York Times* and the College Entrance Examination Board have found that the average annual tuition at four-year public institutions next fall will remain essentially at the current level of \$621 while private institutions will be increasing their tuition by an average of 6.3 per cent, to \$2,476.

However, *The New York Times* reports, room, board and other expenses will rise next fall at almost all colleges and universities, public and private, pushing overall costs to new highs. Resident students at the average four-year institutions will pay \$3,005 at public colleges and \$4,905 at private colleges.

For students at some private institutions with especially high tuitions, annual expenses will be much higher, with a new group of colleges and universities joining the "select circle" of those at which total costs are estimated to be in excess of \$7,000. In this category, according to the College Board, will be Massachusetts Institute of Technology (\$7,950), Brown (\$7,630), University of Pennsylvania (\$7,575), Columbia (\$7,500), Princeton (\$7,495), Bennington (\$7,465), Dartmouth (\$7,425), Hampshire (\$7,400), Stanford (\$7,365), Cornell (\$7,200), Bryn Mawr (\$7,165), Skidmore (\$7,050) and Williams (\$7,020). Costs at Harvard, Yale and Sarah Lawrence passed the \$7,000 mark last fall, but the College Board had not computed final figures for them for next fall.

The highest annual tuition ever charged by an institution of higher education will be the \$12,500 that entering students will have to pay Georgetown University's medical school.

Search committee

Fourteen persons are serving on the search committee set up at UMKC to select a new chancellor. The committee is composed of two deans—Dr. Donald Sorby and Mr. Jack Hey-singer; seven faculty members—Dr. Wheadon Bloch, Dr. Robert Farnsworth, Dr. Sterling Fuller, Dr. Martin Levitt, Dr. Eldon Parizek, Dr. LeRoy Pogemiller and Dr. Helen Stevens; a member of the Administrative Assembly—Dr. Joseph Zelenski; a member of the Alumni Association—Mr. Richard Erickson; a member of the University of Kansas City Trustees—Mr. Coleman Branton; a member of the All Student Association—Mr. Marcus Hearne; and a UM vice president—Dr. A. G. Unkles-bay.

New commissioner views future of higher education in Missouri

Last Sunday's broadcast of "Open Meeting" featured Dr. Bruce Robertson, Missouri's new commissioner of higher education, who discussed various higher-education matters with President Olson and Mr. Phil Briggs, moderator. In an effort to acquaint members of the University community with Dr. Robertson's views, we are publishing, in somewhat condensed form, parts of the program's transcript.

BRIGGS—Dr. Robertson, perhaps it is not too early to just ask you your view of the role of the commissioner of higher education in Missouri. What do you see as your responsibilities, your activities and your goals in the position?

ROBERTSON—Well, I think my main responsibility is carrying out the policies set by the Board of Higher Education, the coordinating board and the policy-setting agency. I think it is also the role of myself and the staff to bring those issues before the board that we think are the most pressing issues in the state. Finally, we just have a relationship to the state government itself. I'm a member of the governor's cabinet and, I think, have to represent higher education to the legislature and to the governor. On the other hand, I think at times we have to turn around and represent the governor and the legislature to higher education. So we sort of sit in the middle of a whole bunch of people, I think. . . .

BRIGGS—We are going into a master-planning process. Perhaps you might share with us...some of the concerns that you have that you might class as problems that could become serious in five or 10 years.

ROBERTSON—Well, we're entering into a period of steady state involvement and then into a period, I think, of fairly considerable decline of college enrollment. I think it's very difficult to bring about change and innovation in an enterprise that's declining. On the other hand, change and innovation are the essence of what a college is about. So I think we're going to have to exercise enormous care and much more careful management, I think, in higher education to make certain that we have that flexibility and that 20 years after now or 30 years after now what colleges are teaching is genuinely new and fresh and innovative.

BRIGGS—...One of the delivery systems that the University has been concerned about recently is, of course, the extension function of the University. In the master-planning process, Dr. Robertson, how is the extension function of the University of Missouri considered, treated, when compared to a regional university which perhaps has very little extension function,

Students gain experience by preparing tax returns

By midnight tonight, more than a thousand persons who had to file their long forms or short forms will have been helped by UMKC students volunteering in the Tax Payer Assistance Service.

For the second consecutive year on the Volker campus, members of the Student Accounting Association have been preparing tax returns free of charge for people in the Kansas City area.

"The program has a dual purpose," said the group's adviser, Dr. La Vern E. Krueger, assistant professor of administration. "It enables the elderly, students, and university employes and those who cannot afford a tax service to file a return at no expense for preparation. At the same time, it gives the accounting students experience in a major area of their future work."

Some of the preparation is done off-campus, as in the case last month when the students visited Heritage House, a public housing development for senior citizens and the disabled in downtown Kansas City. Although some of the residents had no income which required them to file tax returns, Mr. Charles Robb, student director of the 30-member volunteer service, said, "They seemed really pleased that we had come—pleased to see young people volunteering to help."

The free service at UMKC's University Center has been popular not only with

Background

Dr. Bruce Robertson, whose appointment as commissioner of higher education was made in December, came to Missouri from New Jersey, where he was serving as assistant chancellor for research and development in the New Jersey Department of Higher Education. He had also worked for that department as assistant chancellor of academic affairs and as director of master planning.

Earlier he had been associate dean of Rutgers' College of Arts and Science and assistant professor of history there.

He holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

extension outreach? How do you reconcile those two very different ways of dealing with the population?

ROBERTSON—Well, I think the term "extension" at the University refers to two quite different things. One is the cooperative extension where in essence the University of Missouri and Lincoln University have a statewide monopoly. I can't imagine that that's not going to continue in precisely that fashion. There is another aspect of extension which involves teaching courses to people out there and it seems to me that we need a lot more coordination in that particular area. A lot of people teaching a lot of courses in a lot of places without paying too much attention to what anybody else is doing. And, I think, we just can't let that go on.

BRIGGS—Do you see that coordination coming from the coordinating board or do you see it as an outgrowth of the master-planning process ongoing now?

ROBERTSON—...I see that really coming from the coordinating board, in some respects, as a matchmaker practically, just getting people into a room and saying what are you doing and who should be doing what where. And I think people then will simply settle their own problems.

OLSON—I would certainly agree that we do need much greater coordination in the area of continuing education, in the teaching of courses for credit or for noncredit. And I would agree, too, that in cooperative extension the historic function of the land-grant colleges is a statewide responsibility of the University of Missouri and of Lincoln University.

ROBERTSON—I think, too, that the concern I have about off-campus education is the quality of it. It is just too easy at times to recruit faculty that really aren't qualified, to have very little in the way

of outside work, to not have access to books and things of that kind. So I think they've got to pay attention to the fact that that problem does exist and the credit that's earned off-campus really should give a person as much knowledge as the credit that's earned on-campus.

BRIGGS—A question maybe both of you would like to tackle: How do you monitor some kind of a quality control, such as you mentioned, Dr. Robertson?

ROBERTSON—Oh, I think you can do it in a number of ways. You can bring in outside people to evaluate what's going on with the program. You can, at times, test students to see if their level of knowledge is the same. You can simply physically find out what is going on, ask the faculty what they're doing, you can see what access they have to books, and so on. I think it's not an impossible problem, it's not an easy problem, it's not impossible.

OLSON—I would agree, and the accrediting process does help take care of that. You know, through our voluntary accrediting associations, we do monitor off-campus instruction as well as on-campus instruction. I think, too, institutions can be depended upon to do a good deal of monitoring or self-policing of the activity.

BRIGGS—In the process of preparing the master plan for Missouri, which I guess started almost a year and a half ago, there have been several committees composed of numerous people working in various areas, such as access and retention of students, program services, the financial area, organization and governance of state colleges and universities, the manpower issue and the mission and roles issue of the various institutions. I'd like to deal with a couple of those that may or may not end up in the final plan, but one particularly—the idea of manpower needs in the state of Missouri. It seems almost every springtime as the graduates are filing out of the various campuses of the country, someone says there are X number of lawyers coming out this year. Unfortunately we only need X-2000 lawyers in the United States this year. Can justifiable and valid manpower figures be generated in a state like Missouri and have much meaning to an educational institution?

ROBERTSON—I think you're really talking about three different kinds of manpower plans. There are some professions, I think, where you can engage in fairly precise manpower planning. Probably many of the health fields. People are licensed, you know what your needs are. Teacher education. You can also engage in fairly precise manpower planning because you know roughly how many teachers are employed and you know what their turnover is. So, I think in those fields it's necessary to engage in manpower planning, especially if they're expensive—doctors, nurses. You really don't want to turn out too many people. Furthermore, it's really a fraud on a young person to go into a field of that sort which has highly specific training, take it out and discover they're never going to get a job in that field. And I think there are other fields where your training might be specifically occupational but it really trains you as a generalist in a lot more ways. I understand, for example, the most successful students in medical school are the people who graduated from engineering school. They know how to work, which is not true of everybody who gets a bachelor's degree. So I think engineers, lawyers, even for that matter, are people who can shift around a lot in their occupation, and they're not like brain surgeons, where there isn't much point in being trained to be a brain surgeon if you're not going to do it. Finally, I think, there are a large amount of fields where there is no manpower relationship at all. Indeed, I think most fields in college do not have any direct manpower relationship. A business administration program really just sort of tilts you off in the direction of business; it doesn't train you to be that specifically in the field of business.

BRIGGS—One other area that we do need to talk about is the area of financing higher education in Missouri....Will Missouri ever reach a point where it will be able to put less into higher education?

ROBERTSON—I think that Missouri will reach a point where it will be able to put a smaller portion of its tax dollars into higher education. But I think, given inflation, given the ability of institutions to survive, I think, it would be a mistake, probably, for the state to actually think of putting less actual dollars into higher education. But I think that the pressure of higher education upon the tax dollar is going to lessen just in the same way as the pressure of elementary and secondary education should lessen.