Getting to “I Do”
ALUMNAE LIVES IN A POST-DOMA WORLD
Getting to ‘I Do’
By Jennifer Vanasco ’94

Two historic Supreme Court decisions related to same-sex marriage have touched the family lives of many alumnae. We explore what the change means, from Social Security benefits to green-card sponsorship to, as one alumna put it, the “lightness in being recognized.”

Campus Wags
By Alice Hummer, Jennifer Flint, and Lisa Scanlon ’99

From the College’s earliest days, dogs have been sticking their wet noses into campus life in their inimitable way. Here are some of Wellesley’s favorite furry faces from the past and the present.
Living Faith

By Jana Riess ’91

What does it mean for a woman to be a religious leader in the world today? These seven women are all pioneers in their own communities, from the first ordained female moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to the chair of a Zoroastrian hospital.

Blazer, a mellow, 10-year-old, 90-pound lab mix, is a Wellesley crew superfan. He moved to Wellesley eight years ago with Tessa Spillane, the head coach of Wellesley’s highly successful crew program. For most of that time, Blazer lived with his owners on campus in Observatory House, which suited the social dog very well. One of his favorite spots is outside Clapp Library, where he always gets plenty of student attention. However, he never gets more love than when he shows up on race day, adorned in a jaunty Wellesley blue neckerchief. “I’d say the reaction from the students is always, ‘Blaaaazer!’” Spillane says. “He has about 45 older sisters.”
From the Editor

Back in my days in the newspaper world, I worked for a daily that had an editorial cartoonist with a particularly sharp pen. At one point, when longtime U.S. support for a corrupt world leader was coming back to haunt Washington, the cartoonist drew a caricature of this leader walking on an American flag, leaving his muddy footprints. Not surprisingly, the result was a firestorm of letters to the editor from readers on both sides of the political divide. As the letters filtered around the newsroom and pinged eyebrows, the managing editor called the staff together and pointed out an upside to all the anger. “We’re engaging readers,” he said. “That is exactly what we’re supposed to be doing.”

Whether the cartoon was appropriate or not, the episode taught me a lesson about letters to the editor that I’ve never forgotten. Those of you who take the time to write are engaged. Something has caught your attention enough to tickle your funny bone, make you proud of your alma mater, or, yes, thoroughly get your back up. For good or ill, you’re making a connection, and that’s what we’re here for.

I don’t see negative feedback as a bad thing. We do sometimes make mistakes, as hard as we try not to. And if you look at our readers, an enormously diverse group who range in age from 21 to over 100, there are bound to be stories that resonate with some and strike a sour chord with others. For instance, after our cheese extravaganza in the summer ’13 issue, an older alumna contacted the Alumnae Association, shaking a finger at the magazine’s frivolity—at the same time, five young alums gave us “thumbs up” with their tweets. Where some saw a story about “women’s work,” others saw entrepreneurs following their passions. We all read through different lenses, and all perspectives are welcome. The magazine may not please everyone all the time, but we try to provide a wide array of material across a year—a little something for everyone—as well as topics that unite all of you around your common Wellesley experience.

Which brings me to this issue. Not all of you will think you are interested in “Living Faith,” our article about women who are leaders in their religious communities. But I’d encourage you to give it a try anyway. You won’t find discussions of theology there, but instead, moving stories of women who are pioneers, activists, and voices of compassion in the world.

Others of you may have differing opinions on our cover story, “Getting to ‘I Do’,” a look at the status of same-sex marriage in the U.S. This is a topic close to the hearts of many alumnae, and Jennifer Vanasco’s reporting offers a very personal window on the effect that the changing legal situation has on lives in various states.

Finally, we have “Campus Wags.” If you’re not a dog person, we give you permission to skip it. But a funny thing happened on the way to this article. When we put out a call for campus dog tales, people came out of the woodwork, including professors we’ve never heard from before. We heard fun, quirky stories that made us smile. (Did you know there’s a Havanese who loves to boogie board on Lake Waban?) They reveal some of the character of this community, and maybe they’ll make you grin, too.

Whether you enjoy or agree with all the articles in this issue, we hope you’ll find something here to engage with. Maybe you’ll even drop us a line.

—Alice M. Hummer, editor
Letters to the Editor

Wellesley welcomes short letters (a maximum length of 300 words) relating to articles or items that have appeared in recent issues of the magazine. Send your remarks to the Editor, Wellesley magazine, 106 Central St., Wellesley, MA 02481-8203, or email your comments to magazine@alum.wellesley.edu.

BRAVA!
I received my summer 2013 edition of the Wellesley magazine in yesterday’s mail. By last evening, I had read it from cover to cover. What a delight! From the editor’s comments on page 2 to the “Endnote” on page 80, it was filled with interesting, amusing, and informative articles.

I especially enjoyed the six short essays about singular experiences during a particular summer in the writers’ varied lives (“Summer in the City”). They whetted my appetite, piqued my curiosity, and added items to my “bucket list.” These essays bolstered my opinion that the best thing we learned at Wellesley was how to write. It’s too bad that we don’t see such prose in the public. Perhaps the op-ed columnists and columnists in the press would benefit from a few semesters with Wellesley’s English department.

Keep up the good work. I look forward to each issue.
JOAN WARD LASLEY ’56
Punta Gorda, Fla.

PROUD OF THE QUALITY
Cheers to you and your entire staff and writers for an outstanding summer 2013 issue of Wellesley! The variety of articles and short pieces is wonderful, and they are so thoughtfully and intelligently written. I often despair of the decline of the quality of writing in the U.S., but never in this publication. You should feel so proud; I do!
KAREN CAPRILES HODGES ’62
Phoenix

DIARY INDUSTRY IS UNETHICAL
The cover story “Cheese Whizzes” (summer ’13) promotes the harm and killing of animals, a profound violation of the Wellesley ethic of caring for others.

Cheese is the product of the dairy industry, which is violent and deadly to animals and the planet. The female animals from which dairy milk comes—cows, ewes, and dams (mother goats)—are denied lives without suffering. Forced pregnancies at unnatural rates shorten their life spans. Their children are taken from them, often immediately, so that people can consume their milk and eat their babies. (The males are either killed as soon as they are born or sold for meat, among other horrific fates.) Not only do the mothers suffer physically, they suffer emotionally, calling for weeks for their stolen children. Once the mothers are spent—often at a young age—they, too, are sold for meat and gutted while still alive. Animals were not put on this earth for our purposes, but for their own. We enslave them. We take from them what every living being desires, a life free of suffering.

Wellesley’s motto urges us to give and not to take. Non Ministrari sed Ministrare advocates care and compassion, yet those who use animals for their own pleasure and gain—who require animals to serve them and suffer and die for them, including those who take their milk to make cheese—ignore that ethic at great moral cost.

I would like to think that my Wellesley sisters are intelligent enough and compassionate enough to connect the dots and forgo doing and using anything that harms our fellow sentient beings and, therefore, our planet. Perhaps every Wellesley woman should read The World Peace Diet and The Pig Who Sang to the Moon and watch the documentary Earthlings to understand, profoundly, why cheese is unethical.

MEG DEAN HURLEY ’74
Rochester, N.Y.

Continued on page 75

TWEETS TO THE EDITOR

“I think @Wellesleymag is the only publication I read cover to cover every issue. Who knew so many Wellesley folks worked in cheese? —@MrsRachelAyn (Rachel Pickens ’09)

@Wellesleymag This cover story on lady cheesemongers made my night. You really know your way around a girl’s heart. —@noCriShaffer (Ashley Shaffer ’06)

@Wellesleymag Thanks to you ladies, I’m craving cheese constantly! A trip to visit Elena in Williamsburg is in order. —@agmurdy (Abigail Murdy ’12)

@Wellesleymag Love Summer Night articles—moody in a beautiful way. Glad to see showcase of “nontraditional” careers like cheesemongering. —@Connect2Self (Sue Wang ’88)

CORRECTION
In a memorial in the summer ’13 issue, the name of one of Wellesley’s first Davis Scholar alumnae was misspelled. She was Marylyn Andrea Burns CE/DS ’72. Wellesley regrets the error.
The Essence of Wellesley

OVER THE YEARS, I have spoken with many alumnae about their Wellesley experiences. There is one constant theme among the alums I meet: their memories of our faculty. I often hear about that professor who sparked something in them during a class, or the one who inspired them to believe in themselves enough to pursue a specific course of study. Many tell me that their choice of major was determined by the very high regard they had for one particular professor.

We are fortunate to have such an exceptional faculty, and to have such a distinguished history and continuity of faculty excellence. But it is not by accident. From the beginning, we have recruited and retained professors who are both outstanding teachers and serious scholars. And we continue to foster a culture that emphasizes teaching and advising, while providing the support that faculty need to pursue their research interests.

As one current senior recently explained: “Faculty understand Wellesley students, and they want to be here and engage on a personal level with every one of us.”

It is not only our students or alumnae who are inspired by our faculty. I am as well. It is my privilege and pleasure to work with such an outstanding group of teachers and scholars.

Alumnae who reminisce about their favorite Wellesley professors talk about how a particular class changed their thinking, or even how particular faculty members changed their lives. As another student said, “You don’t come to Wellesley to be successful. You come here for self-exploration.” That exploration is shaped by our faculty.

Our faculty are more than teachers. They are mentors, role models, advisors, and supporters. In and out of the classroom, they guide students in their pursuits of professional and personal growth. And the student-faculty relationship often extends well past a student’s four years here. Several years ago, I heard from an alumna who had left her career in investment banking to pursue a graduate degree in art history. Even in making that change a decade after graduating from Wellesley, her professors not only remembered her, but they also gave her important support and counsel.

Our faculty’s innovative thinking continues to shape Wellesley. As I wrote in my “State of the College” email earlier this fall, Philip Levine, the Katharine Coman and A. Barton Hepburn Professor of Economics, developed a simple online tool, My inTuition, to quickly provide families with a realistic estimate of the cost of a Wellesley education, a tool that we anticipate may revolutionize the higher-education market. (Economics alumnae were critical to the launch of this tool as we relied on them to help us in beta testing.)

Jacki Musacchio ’89, professor of art, teaches with the letters of Anne Whitney, an important 19th-century poet and sculptor, and is working to make those letters digitally accessible. Adam Van Arsdale, assistant professor of anthropology, is leading the first WellesleyX course this fall on human evolution (as of October, nearly 19,000 people worldwide were enrolled).

Many alumnae are familiar with the innovative course on Lake Baikal, taught by Marianne Moore, professor of biological sciences, and Tom Hodge, professor of Russian, which includes a visit to Siberia (see page 5). Perhaps you’re not as familiar with the impressive work of Amy Banzart, the College’s first engineering faculty member, who brings a team-based approach to addressing issues that affect underserved communities through her course Making a Difference Through Engineering.

And the list goes on. Truly, Wellesley is Wellesley because of our faculty. We must always strive to support them fully in their teaching and in their research. And we must always continue our tradition of having an extraordinary faculty—to ensure that future generations of Wellesley students continue to have the opportunities that you had as students.

"From the beginning, we have recruited and retained professors who are both outstanding teachers and serious scholars.” —President H. Kim Bottomly
What does one do for fun in Siberia? Try to spot a nerpa, the world’s only freshwater seal. Eat fish for breakfast! Learn firsthand what Dramamine can offer! Forage for wild Siberian raspberries! Eleven students and three faculty members did all this and more during a three-week research trip in eastern Siberia in August.

The team members participated in last spring’s 200-level course, Lake Baikal: The Soul of Siberia. Taught since 2001, this was the first class to unite Wellesley’s humanities and science departments. Russian Professor Thomas Hodge taught the first half, which delved into the culture and history of the lake, considered a national treasure and the birthplace of Russia’s environmental movement; in the second half, Marianne Moore of the biology department focused on the scientific value of the world’s deepest (1,642 meters), oldest (25 million years young), and most biotically rich lake.

With that foundation, the team made the long, looong journey to the village of Bol’shie Koty, a field station of Irkutsk State University more than 3,300 miles from Moscow and reachable only by boat. For three weeks in August, they conducted research for a National Science Foundation biodiversity project, working alongside researchers from other institutions.

—Jennifer Flint
You can read the students’ travelogue here: wellesleybaikal2013.blogspot.com.
ON AUG. 19, IKA KOVACIKOVA ’14 swam the English Channel, crossing one of the world’s busiest shipping lanes in 60-degree waters, one of about 1,840 officially recognized solo swimmers to do so. Her goal was 14 hours, but it only took 11 hours, 28 minutes. Only indeed.

Success rates for swimmers hover around 10 percent, a result of the Channel’s unique challenges. The waters are highly variable; cold, obviously; favored by super tankers and jellyfish (Kovacikova counted 39); and able to produce waves higher than six feet. The choppy surface tosses the swimmer around, breaking her rhythm and giving her the sense of being repeatedly and forcefully knocked down like an outclassed boxer—and challenging even the hardiest of stomachs.

“Swimmers who are a lot better than I am have had to stop because they got too nauseous,” Kovacikova says. “So the whole time I was thinking about not getting seasick. Someone told me that the reason you get seasick is because you get disoriented. That little fact popped into my head at the beginning of the swim, when I started to get seasick. I knew the horizon was to my right, and that wasn’t going to move, and the boat was on my left. So for the first seven hours, all I thought to myself was boat, horizon, boat, horizon, boat, horizon, boat. … It’s annoying to just repeat two words over and over in your head, but I knew I had to do it to finish.”

At some point, she looked at the horizon and realized France was not getting closer. Tides were pushing her parallel to the shore, forcing her to swim a zigzag pattern much longer than the 21-mile course of a crow’s flight. She switched to a new refrain: I am warm. I am strong. I am patient. I can do this. “Then I also told myself that I wouldn’t look at France again, because it was so discouraging,” she says. “So when I actually got to shore, I was surprised that I was there.”

In mental breaks from the mantras, Kovacikova thought about her Wellesley teammates, many of whom sent her encouragement over the summer or joined her for taxing training swims. Three friends bobbed alongside her, on the deck of the boat that tracked her progress (and beamed it to scores of at-home and on-campus spectators who watched her progress in real time online). Her Wellesley swim coach of three years, Bonnie Dix, was also on board, prepared to make the difficult decision to pull Kovacikova out of the water if necessary—or, alternatively, push her harder.

Reflecting on her swim this fall, the 21-year-old kept bringing the conversation back to her network of support. “Without my team, it really would not have been possible,” she says. (She also makes a point of mentioning the Center for Injury Research and Prevention at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; she swam in part to raise funds for the organization, where she worked for a summer.) Her next big goal is to finish senior year, then take the MCAT in May. “It’s a similar sort of challenge for me,” the health-and-society major says. Judging by her undertaking of the Channel challenge, she’ll exceed her expectations, with grace and good sportsmanship, and discipline in spades.
Pulling Hard

BECCA KIMBALL ‘14, one of the tri-captains of the Wellesley crew team, is in the sights of USRowing. Last summer, the governing body of the sport selected Kimball for its Pre-Elite Training Camp, which focuses on developing athletes for the US Under-23 and Senior National teams. She was one of 10 rowers (and the only Division III competitor) who participated in the grueling program—which involved three workouts a day devoted to teaching sculling and developing conditioning and speed. Sculling was new for Kimball. “There were times when I wanted to quit, when I didn’t know if I was going to get it,” she says. “I tried to stay positive and keep pushing, and in the end, I improved immensely and was able to compete at a really high level.” She wrapped up the summer at the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, one of only two doubles from her camp to advance to the semifinals.

Island Life

STUDENT: Elizabeth Torres ’14
MAJOR: Women’s and gender studies
HOMETOWN: Los Angeles
STUDYING IN: Samoa

Tell us about your program.
SIT Samoa offers students an opportunity to compare and contrast perceptions of island life with the actual experience. The program is based in Apia, Samoa, with excursions to local villages, American Samoa, and Fiji. I chose SIT Samoa because I was interested in learning about a culture that is not heavily influenced by Western ideals.

What were your first impressions of Samoa?
When I first arrived in Samoa, I thought of paradise! There were clear, blue skies, gorgeous beaches, and wonderful people everywhere I looked. Nonetheless, I have learned about the issues Samoa faces with poverty and the problems of labeling it as a paradise location.

What are you studying?
My program is research-based. As a women’s and gender studies major, I am studying Samoan perspectives of beauty compared to American beauty ideals. During a recent village stay, I conducted surveys that asked individuals what they thought was beautiful, why they were beautiful, and whether they would like to change something about their body. I am also studying the Samoan language and attending other classes and lectures.

What other activities have you been involved in?
Some of my most memorable experiences have been swimming and snorkeling with turtles, attending a traditional coming-of-age tattooing ceremony, and enjoying the traditional Sunday meal called to’ona’i.

What is your favorite part of the daily routine?
[I love] looking at the Milky Way and the stars at night and realizing how amazing it is to be abroad in a place that looks like a dot on our world map. I feel like the stars connect me to home and the rest of the world.

—Sidrah Baloch ’14
Wellesley women are everywhere … and increasingly, so is the College.

As part of a new initiative called Women World Partners, President Kim Bottomly and Peking University President Wang Enge signed a memorandum of understanding in Beijing last summer, marking the beginning of a partnership between the two institutions. The partnership was kicked off in Beijing with a 10-day academic program for 20 Wellesley students and 20 Peking University students modeled on the Madeleine Korbel Albright Institute for Global Affairs.

“Wellesley has been expanding its reach into the world as a global entity. The way that we’ve chosen to expand has been through partnership with leading international institutions,” says Joanne Murray ’81, the director of the Center for Work and Service at Wellesley College and the director of the Albright Institute. “We chose to partner in China because of China’s place and prominence in the world, and because Wellesley has a long history with China.”

Just as in the Albright Institute on campus, the students worked together in small teams and gave presentations at the end of the program. Each group addressed a different question relating to worldwide urbanization, such as how to deal with food scarcity and wildlife preservation. The students were taught by both Wellesley and Peking University faculty, as well as by international thought leaders and practitioners with “in field” experience. Madeleine Korbel Albright ’59 herself participated in the program, teaching a master class to the 40 students, leading a faculty forum on the importance of the liberal-arts disciplines in a global world, and co-presenting a dialogue on US-China relations with Ming Yuan, director of the Institute of International Relations at Peking University.

“We [selected] students [for the program] that we felt would have the resilience to step off the plane and help us create this institute … It’s not about us giving them something, it’s about all of us together building something,” says Murray. And not surprisingly, the students exceeded her expectations.

—Lisa Scanlon ’99

After the student program concluded, PKU and Wellesley sponsored “Women’s Leadership: Making a Difference in the World,” a conference attended by more than 300 women with high-ranking positions in government, the arts, science, and business. Speakers ranged from Yan Lan, China’s most well-known media entrepreneur, to astronaut Pamela Melroy ’83. The panel above, on leadership challenges, featured Mona Locke (journalist and nonprofit executive), Wu Qing (legislator and educator), Sarah O’Donnell ’85 (CEO of Hong Kong Seibu Enterprises), and Lin Tianmiao (artist).

Below are students’ reflections on their experience in China:

NEHA DOSHI ’15

MAJOR: Economics
HOMETOWN: Hixson, Tenn.

What was the most interesting part of the academic program for you?

Though the overarching theme of the institute was urbanization, many of the lectures were on not-so-obvious aspects of urbanization. For example, one of my favorite lectures was on panda bears! Additionally, not only did we attend these lectures, but we were encouraged to consult with many of the lecturers and other leading experts for our group projects. This was a tremendous opportunity and very different from the internet research I am primarily accustomed to.

Could you describe one of your favorite moments of the Institute?

As part of one of our lectures on migrant workers in China, we took a trip to a migrant school in Beijing and did an arts-and-crafts activity with a group of elementary school students. It was incredibly inspiring and educational to work with such a great group of enthusiastic children!

HANA GLASSER ’15

MAJORS: American Studies and Computer Science
HOMETOWN: Charleston, W.V.

How did you find working with the Peking University students?

Absolutely one of the most valuable parts of the program was that the Wellesley and PKU students lived together, which made growing close so natural. Things would have been very different if we had only been able to connect within the classroom. As far as the educational experience goes, PKU is very structured. Students go into their programs in their first year knowing exactly what they’re going to study. I tried a little bit of everything at Wellesley before settling on my two
(very different!) majors—American studies and computer science. Neither discipline was a part of my original plan when I applied to Wellesley as a high-school senior.

Another thing a lot of the working groups brought up in our closing discussions was how the Wellesley students wanted to devote a lot of time at the start, middle, and end of the project to throwing around different ideas, talking through each one, and often wanted to follow research down new paths and switch things around. On the other hand, the PKU students largely preferred to make a final plan, stick to it, and hit the road running. I think we were all pleasantly surprised to see that both approaches can be successful, and even complementary.

**ISABELLA DOUGHERTY ’15**

**MAJORS:** Economics and Chinese Language and Literature  
**HOMETOWN:** Roseville, Minn.

**What was one of your favorite experiences?**

One night, after my research group had finished a Skype interview with an education professor at Fudan University in Shanghai, we decided that we had done enough research for the night, and decided to go out to dinner to celebrate China’s Dragon Boat Festival. A PKU student in our research group invited us to join her family, and we all went out and enjoyed a traditional Chinese meal and celebration. None of us had expected to have this experience, but being able to celebrate a national holiday with a Chinese family led to a night I will never forget.

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**The Debate Over the PKU Partnership**

With international partnerships can come complex decisions. As this magazine went to press at the end of October, the College administration and faculty were weighing how to respond to a vote by the Peking University economics faculty on Oct. 17 not to renew the contract of Professor Xia Yeliang. A prominent critic of the Chinese government and human-rights activist, Xia had taught economics at PKU since 2000.

In September, 136 members of the Wellesley faculty signed an open letter to the leadership of PKU, standing in solidarity with Xia: “We, the undersigned faculty of Wellesley College, are writing to you to affirm our commitment to the principle of academic freedom, which holds that scholars must be able to pursue their research and teaching free from ideological pressure, and that their jobs should never be in jeopardy because of their political views,” the signers wrote. “If [Xia] is dismissed, we will encourage Wellesley College to reconsider our institutional partnership.”

After the October vote, President H. Kim Bottomly spoke with PKU President Wang Enge, who told her that the contract was not renewed because the quality of Xia’s teaching and research fell below the standards of the economics faculty. “This explanation of Professor Xia’s nonrenewal,” Bottomly said in an Oct. 22 statement, “is quite different from the view held by many (including members of our faculty) that the underlying reason for PKU’s decision was Professor Xia’s outspoken support for academic freedom and human rights in China.”

At press time, Bottomly had called for a special meeting of Academic Council, the faculty governing body, to discuss the future of the partnership. Also under discussion within the College community was a proposal to bring Xia to Wellesley as a visiting scholar for the Freedom Project, led by Professor Thomas Cushman of the sociology department.

In earlier statements to Academic Council and the press, Bottomly had called academic freedom a “basic premise of our educational system,” a core principle to the College. She noted that the partnership would only continue with the support of the faculty. But she also voiced her ongoing support for the institutional collaboration. “Partnerships with leading colleges and universities around the globe are important, because of their potential to enhance our students’ education, and because of the relationships and opportunities they open up for our faculty,” she said. “The continued exchange of ideas is essential to achieving academic freedom, and to advancing the entire academic community worldwide.”

—Alice Hummer

To read the full text of the open letter, visit bit.ly/16BJ6Zk.
The New Schneider: Back to the Future

BACK IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE COLLEGE, it was a music hall, complete with organ and trusses that soared above performance space. Alumnae from the ‘70s, ‘80s, and ‘90s remember it as a student center, with a tangle of mezzanines hanging off those trusses. It has most recently been home to the black-box theater, serving as swing space during campus renovations. But this summer, Schneider Center was stripped back to its essential structure—foundations, brick walls, soaring trusses—ready to be fitted for a new use.

By the summer of 2014, the building will bring together a host of offices that provide services to students, from the registrar’s office, to student financial services, to Students’ Aid. Its interior—to be designed by designLAB architects, the firm that renovated the observatory—will include a welcome desk to orient students, two floors of offices, and a two-story atrium running the length of the building where the historic trusses will be fully visible.

“DesignLAB is working to reclaim the initial scope, majesty, and character of this beautiful old building and bring it into current use,” says Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Jennifer Desjarlais, chair of the campus committee that is overseeing the renovation. “We want to create a space that is conducive to collaboration among offices, where students will feel welcome.”

As part of the renovation, the turned-wood trusses will be meticulously restored. Numerous holes, created when the mezzanines were hung, will be filled and the woodwork refinished. In the second-floor area that once housed Molly’s Pub (and decades before that, the music library), an original fireplace was liberated from behind a wall. Historically appropriate windows will replace those left over from the ‘60s renovation.

“We are opening it up and seeing the rebirth of a building,” says Desjarlais. “We are honoring its history as we welcome the current environment and look ahead.”

—Alice Hummer

Schneider Center in 1977 (above, left) and today. This summer, the building was stripped of 1960s renovations, and the trusses protected before restoration, as the College prepares to fit the building for a new use.

Planted at Wellesley

A LANYARD, a T-shirt in your class color, your Wellesley ID... and a lovely jade plant (Crassula ovata). Since the fall of 1985, Wellesley has given away easy-to-care-for plants to new students. “Our goal is that no Wellesley student spends four years here without having visited the greenhouses,” says Gail Kahn, assistant director of the Wellesley College Botanic Gardens. This year, 682 plants were given away for adoption. In addition to jade plants, other specimens on offer were Moses-in-the-crades (Rhexo spathacea), pothos (Epipremnum aureum), spider plants (Chlorophytum comosum), and lucky bamboo (Dracaena sanderiana). An intern at the Dorothy Thorndike Botanic Gardens and volunteers from Wellesley College Friends of Botanic Gardens explained what plants were available and helped students decide which plants work best for their dorm conditions. Kahn urges alums who still have the plants they received as first-years to post updates on the Wellesley College Botanic Gardens Facebook page.

—Lisa Scanlon ’99
The new Human-Computer Interaction Lab in the Science Center looks more like the headquarters of a small startup than a classroom, and that’s no accident. Here, students and other researchers are designing, building, and evaluating next-generation human-computer interfaces, from large, touch-sensitive tabletop computers to small, handheld devices that respond to gestures.

The lab was designed to encourage collaboration, says Orit Shaer, the Clare Boothe Luce Assistant Professor of Computer Science. “We know that students learn best when they work in teams, and that’s also true for researchers,” she says. All of the furniture is moveable, so students can work in groups of different sizes and change the room’s setup on the fly. The room also supports creativity, from the whiteboard-lined walls to a grid on the ceiling that allows students to easily wire different technologies. And with its funky lights, fun furniture, and open feel, the lab itself is a reminder that aesthetics do matter.

—Lisa Scanlon ’99
No one knows the name of the fresh-faced young woman. Her elaborate gown and opulent jewelry point to a life of wealth and privilege in Colonial-era Lima. Some clues exist as to her family background. But how the 18th-century portrait traveled from the Peruvian capital to a California movie lot to Mexico City remains a mystery.

When James Oles, senior lecturer in the art department, spotted the painting in a Christie’s catalog in 2011, he was smitten. The auction house referred to it simply as Portrait of a Young Woman, ca. late 18th century, artist unknown. The painting was missing an inscription, which likely had been damaged and cut from the bottom of the canvas. It presented a tantalizing opportunity to expand the Davis Museum’s Latin American holdings, but the patchwork provenance left Oles with questions.

A number on the back, with the letters WB, seems to indicate it had been part of the Warner Bros. prop department, giving credibility to the previous owner’s story that it appeared in a Bette Davis film. It’s possible that movie mogul Jack Warner purchased the painting on one of his art-buying trips in the 1930s and ‘40s.

The pose and style of dress place the painting’s date between 1790 and 1810. After the Davis purchased the picture, research turned up other portraits of Peruvian nobility, including that of a countess whose earrings match those in the painting of the young woman. Was this a daughter of the Salazar Gabino family, who drew their wealth from sugar cane? Portraits of both the count and countess survive, rendered by Pedro José Díaz, an elite painter whose work was patronized by viceroys. Could it have been his brush that captured the young heiress?

More research is needed to fill in the gaps and to resolve the identities of painter and subject, Oles says, but the intriguing puzzle lends even more cachet to an already arresting work of art. “This is a young woman at the pinnacle of her world,” he observes. “She is so clearly of that particular time and place and so different from any portrait of that period in either Europe or the US.”

The importance of Portrait of a Young Woman lies not just in the painting’s mysterious past, but also in its future as a rare example of Latin American Colonial portraiture. “It’s a miracle that we were able to get this picture,” Oles says. “As more people see it and write about it, as the scholarship increases, we’ll see the painting expand what we know about Colonial Peruvian art and society.”

—April Austin

Unknown (Lima School), Portrait of a Young Woman, ca. late 18th century. Oil on canvas 54 ¾ by 39 ¼ in; museum purchase, funded by Wellesley College Friends of Art. 2011.17
### BY THE NUMBERS / THE CARILLON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of carillons in the US</th>
<th>Number of carillons in the US played by students, instead of professional carillonneurs</th>
<th>Number of bells in Wellesley’s carillon</th>
<th>Weight (in lbs.) of its biggest bell</th>
<th>Number of public attempts to play Lady Gaga’s “Bad Romance”</th>
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### REPORTS FROM AROUND CAMPUS

**College Road**

**POLYGLOT AND THEN THERE WERE 15.**

Fifteen languages taught at the College, that is, with the addition of Portuguese this fall. Also on the linguistic menu:

- Arabic
- Chinese
- French
- German
- Hebrew
- Hindi-Urdu
- Japanese
- Korean
- Latin
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Thai
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese
- Welsh
- Yiddish
- Russian
- Italian

### OVERHEARD

‘A professor just came in looking for a laser pointer for the color-blind (which we do not have). Instead, he left with a 4-foot-long foam pool noodle we use for our displays. We really wish we could be in that class to see the faces of the students when he first uses it!’

—Post on Tumblr by Library and Technical Services (wellesleycollege-libtech.tumblr.com)

### My inTuition

Dreaming that your daughter will go to Wellesley? Trying to figure out how much her tuition might set you back? Phil Levine, professor of economics, has invented a college cost estimator that asks just six straightforward questions before providing a personalized estimate of an individual’s college costs at Wellesley. (Many online calculators require answers to more than 40 questions.) Dean of Admission Jennifer Desjarlais says many students rule out schools based on their sticker prices. The message of the calculator? “If you’re a good fit for Wellesley, our financial-aid policies are designed to help you make it affordable,” she says. Run your numbers at www.wellesley.edu/costestimator.

### Farewell TO TWO DEANS

IN OCTOBER, Michelle Lepore, associate dean of students, and Victor Kazanjian, dean of religious and spiritual life and intercultural education, said goodbye to Wellesley as they moved to San Francisco to pursue career options there. Lepore traded her Wellesley blue for cardinal red as she joined Stanford University as assistant dean of admission for alumni volunteer relations. Kazanjian became the executive director of the United Religions Initiative, a global grassroots interfaith organization aimed at ending religiously motivated violence and creating cultures of peace, justice, and healing.

At a packed farewell lunch in the Houghton Chapel—a fitting location, as Kazanjian oversaw the renovation of the chapel and the creation of the Multifaith Center in its lower level—the couple, husband and wife, were bedecked with flower crowns as Wellesley community members serenaded them to “If You’re Going to San Francisco.” Through a series of tributes from their colleagues and friends, it was clear just how many people in the College were touched by Kazanjian and Lepore.
most people think of an imaginary friend as another child, a playmate who happens to be invisible. But in fact, says Tracy Gleason, professor of psychology, “the range and variety is enormous.”

“I’ve met children who were very close to a herd of multicolored cows. That’s always been one of my favorites. A participant in one of my studies told me about a little boy who was close friends with one of those tiny cans of tomato paste. He would carry it around everywhere,” Gleason says. “And then there’s fairies, dragons, dolls—one little boy had a nice relationship with his shadow, which I thought was a good one.”

The idea that there’s a rich diversity of imaginary friends among children—and that these companions are helpful, not a sign that something’s wrong with a child—are at the core of Gleason’s research. She has spent her career analyzing children’s friendships with other children and with imaginary companions, and has found them to be more socially aware than many adults realize.

Some of Gleason’s research has been conducted at the Wellesley Child Study Center, where she is psychological director. The Center, now celebrating its 100th anniversary, fosters the emotional, physical, and social development of young children and also serves as a laboratory for Wellesley’s Department of Psychology.

Much of the research conducted at the Child Study Center is by students in developmental psychology or introduction to psychology.

“It’s a great place to try out experiments,” Gleason says. “But more than that, the staff does an unbelievably fabulous job of training the students in how to talk to children, and how to get the best data you can, which is not training that most people get.”

Gleason notes that there are very few liberal-arts colleges with this kind of resource—most schools use videotapes to show examples of children’s behavior, or simply lecture about what children say or do. But at Wellesley, students have the ability to observe and interact with real children firsthand.

Students learn to respect children, Gleason says, and to understand that part of doing research is caring for the child that you are researching.

“Children have rights, and those rights must be respected. So if a child says, ‘I don’t want to play this game anymore,’ you’re done,” Gleason says.

This past year, some of Gleason’s students did a study about executive function at the Child Study Center, looking at how well children are able to control their responses to things by playing games like Simon Says. One of Gleason’s thesis students, Paula Yust ’13, did a longitudinal study where she examined the quality of children’s friendships. Part of that work was presented at the American Psychological Association conference this past summer.

“The Child Study Center changes your life,” Gleason says. “It’s hard for me to express how important it is. It’s an integral part of exposing students to developmental science—without it, we could do it, but the experience would be like studying stars without an observatory.”
A Poet’s Identity

Poet Frank Bidart, professor of English and Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities, is famously elusive on campus. Bidart, who has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and is a four-time finalist for the National Book Award, doesn’t use email and isn’t always easy to track down by phone. Students often look for him in class—or in his writing.

Now, with the publication of *Metaphysical Dog*, readers will see their clearest glimpse of Bidart yet—and may also see some of themselves.

The shared journey begins with the second poem, “Writing ‘Ellen West,’” a powerful reflection on the death of Bidart’s mother and how poetry enabled him to transform, or redirect, his feelings about her passing and their turbulent relationship. The intersection of art and experience becomes a crucial thread throughout the collection.

In the second section, Bidart addresses another core issue: living as a gay man. The poem “Queer” highlights the ambivalence that he and many of his peers felt about their hidden selves: “For each gay kid whose adolescence/ was America in the forties or fifties/ the primary, the crucial/ scenario/ forever is coming out— / or not. Or not. Or not. Or not.

Bidart writes unflinchingly about the fear, self-loathing, and rigid social norms that trapped people in constructing fictions. He also looks with stark honesty at the larger issues of longing, intimacy, and the isolation people feel when sexuality can’t meet the deep need for connection.

Identity is fluid, as these poems suggest, but Bidart’s search for authenticity and truth is constant.

Throughout the collection—Bidart’s best in years—he explores the influence of history (both individual and collective), religion, and the cultural myths people inherit and pass along. Nothing fully satisfies as he searches for answers to archetypal questions about mortality, the absolute, and the ability of art to mitigate loneliness and loss. In “Elegy for Earth,” he looks back at his younger self and the idealistic notion that his purpose was to “Decipher/ love. To make what was once whole/ whole again: or to see/ why it never should have been thought whole.”

Has this interest in music shaped your teaching?

I always have music by Russian composers playing quietly in the room when my students arrive for class—a different piece every morning. In Russian 101, that means about 40 different pieces over the course of a semester. In my literature teaching, I often include excerpts from operatic or symphonic adaptations of whatever my students and I are reading together.

Any particular highlight of your music–notes career?

My proudest moment was when Deutsche Grammophon asked to publish my commentary on a Salzburg Festival recital that soprano Anna Netrebko gave with Daniel Barenboim in 2009. The CD came out the next year, and I was blown away to have played some small role in the recording: Deutsche Grammophon recordings were my soul food back in the 1970s. It was a childhood dream come true. Plus, I more or less worship Anna Netrebko.

—Alice Hummer

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

The (Russian) Music Man

In junior high, Professor of Russian Tom Hodge fell in love with the music of Russian composer Mussorgsky, then Tchaikovsky. “Then I couldn’t stop,” he says. He spent countless hours in college discussing classical music with friends. But he never expected this love would turn into an active side gig for his work at Wellesley. An expert in the nexus of 19th-century Russian literature and music, Hodge has been writing program notes for organizations such as the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Salzburg Music Festival, as well as liner notes for Deutsche Grammophon, since the 1990s.

What kinds of music have you written about over the years?
The musical genres have ranged from opera, to instrumental music, to chamber pieces, to full-blown orchestral showpieces. I’ve also written quite a bit for vocal recitals.

What do you enjoy about Russian music that draws you to this kind of writing?
It was the direct emotional appeal and melodic beauty of late-19th-century Russian music that grabbed me as a teenager. As I came to study literary culture seriously in college and grad school, I relished the rich transpositions of poetry, plays, and novels contained in Russian music, as well as the vivid record of Russian history and folk culture embedded in Russia’s formal music. But beyond all that, it simply gives me great pleasure to help audiences understand and drink in the music that has meant so much to me.
ShelfLife

Reviews of books by Wellesley authors

Hard-Boiled in Boston

INGRID THOFT ’93
Loyalty
G.P. Putnam’s Sons
416 pages, $25.95

When we first meet Fina Ludlow, Ingrid Thoft’s entry into the tradition of hard-boiled female detectives, she’s attempting to eat a burger and flip the bird while driving in Boston. A private detective who works for her family’s law firm, she’s quickly summoned to investigate the disappearance of her sister-in-law.

At first assumed to be merely the stunt of a spoiled housewife, it’s quickly revealed that there is more to investigate than a marital spat. As Fina gets pulled deeper into the mystery, the threads of the investigation lead her from dealings with shady Boston crime figures to prostitution rings. But some of the most tension-filled moments happen between her and family. The patriarch, Carl Ludlow, rules over his firm—and his three lawyer sons—with an iron fist. Specialists in personal-injury law, the family is “disliked by entire populations in the city, including the police and blue-blooded Brahmins.” Fina, the only daughter and the only nonlawyer offspring, thanks to failing out of law school, manages to exist on the periphery of the clan, despite working for the firm.

As the investigation drags on and her brother is implicated, Fina’s loyalty to her family, her friends, and her job is tested, and she has to question just where that loyalty should lie. Helping her along in the investigation are her mentor, Frank Gillis; her best friend/sometime-lover/sometime-masseur, Milloy; and her cop friend/sometime-lover, Cristian.

Although the story is tight and fast-moving, there is perhaps too much time dedicated to the Ludlows’ genetic-lottery-winning good looks and the trappings of wealth and not enough time spent on developing Fina’s character. She’s nearly killed multiple times—and nearly kills someone—but this is shrugged off as casually

Continued on page 76

Where Art Happens

HOSSEIN AMIRSADEGHI, EDITOR; MARYAM HOMAYOUN-EISLER ’89, EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Art Studio America: Contemporary Artist Spaces
Thames & Hudson
600 pages, $95

Art Studio America: Contemporary Artist Spaces offers a rare, compelling look at the work spaces of 115 leading artists in the United States, from painter Chuck Close to tattoo-artist-to-the-stars Mister Cartoon. The book, which includes essays, Q&A-style interviews, and portraits of the artists in their studios, gives the reader a fascinating overview of the American art scene today. In the photograph at left, Marilyn Minter stands in front of one of her “photo-replacer” paintings in progress at her Garment District studio in New York City.
Bi Pics

Cinephile Maria San Filippo ’98 has parlayed her critical interest in film and TV representations of sexuality into a scholarly study of bromance, lesbian vampire exploitation, and beloved cult films such as Chasing Amy. Her monograph, The B Word: Bisexuality in Contemporary Film and Television, calls upon a half-century of moviemaking to examine the tendency of filmmakers to avoid representing bisexuality save as a way station on the road to “compulsory monosexuality.” San Filippo is an assistant professor of gender studies at Indiana University.

What was the genesis of The B Word?
Believe it or not, the origin was in female vampire “sexploitation” films of the 1970s. Existing scholarship characterized the vampires only as lesbian, while I found that their indefinable nature (neither alive nor dead) and sexual voracity (anyone warm blooded will do!) resonated with cultural associations about bisexuals. Once I began noticing other character tropes and plot devices signaling our cultural fascination with and anxiety about bisexuality, the project coalesced.

Of the feedback you’ve received, what’s been the most rewarding or surprising?
Surprisingly, the chapter that seems to draw the most positive response is the one on male bisexuality in the contemporary Hollywood bromance. It was the last chapter I conceived and one that I wrote in a bit of a fugue state, driven by the debates around marriage equality going on at that time. It was surprising because I had not originally planned to cover male bisexuality, and because my reading of Brokeback Mountain alongside films like Wedding Crashers seemed rather provocative.

Is there anything in particular you’re watching now, for pleasure or study?
I regret not being able to include Netflix original series Orange Is the New Black in my chapter on bisexuality in female institution narratives. At last, there’s a TV series featuring a bisexual protagonist whose sexuality is explored realistically but without defining her exclusively, and still “the B word” goes all but unmentioned.

What do you imagine exploring next, in film studies or more broadly?
Thanks to the support of Wellesley’s Mary Elvira Stevens Fellowship, my next project is to document 21st-century independent filmmaking in Europe. Despite the common wisdom that the digital revolution is precipitating “the death of cinema,” indie filmmaking is flourishing in certain places of socioeconomic turmoil, like Greece and Romania. I’ll be blogging and tweeting about my journeys and findings at 1he Itinerant Cinephile (www.mariasanfilippo.net) and @cinemariaf.

By Lynn Sternberger ’07 | Sternberger graduated from Vancouver Film School’s Writing for Film and Television program and recently moved to Los Angeles to pursue television writing.

BiblioFiles


Katherine R. Broad ’06, Carrie Hintz, and Balaka Basu, editors — Contemporary Dystopian Fiction for Young Adults: Brave New Teenagers, Routledge

Claudia Fontaine, editor — Work Standing Up: The Life and Art of Paul Fontaine, Fontaine Archive

Janet Wyman Coleman CE/DS ’88 — Eight Dolphons of Katrina: A True Tale of Survival, HMH Books for Young Readers

Trevor Crow (Trevor Mahony Crow ’65) and Maryann Karinch — Forging Healthy Connections: How Relationships Fight Illness, Aging, and Depression, New Horizon Press

Donna Dickenson ’67 — Me Medicine vs. We Medicine: Reclaiming Biotechnology for the Common Good, Columbia University Press

Frances Di Savino ’81 and Bill Nesto — The World of Sicilian Wine, University of California Press

Bettijane Long Eisenpreis ’57 — From Generation to Generation: The Longs of Wilkes-Barre, Bettijane Long Eisenpreis

Mona Dekoven Fishbane ’69 — Loving With the Brain in Mind: Neurobiology and Couple Therapy, W. W. Norton & Company

Anne Hendren ’73 — Project Runaway, Ring of Fire Books

Carol R. Johnson ’51 — A Life in the Landscape, Daybreak Press


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Marianne Montgomery ’99 — Europe’s Languages on England’s Stages, 1590–1620, Ashgate

Anne Tews Schwab ’92 — Capsized: A Novel in Verse, piratepoems.com

Ellin Stein ’74 — That’s Not Funny, That’s Sick: The National Lampoon and the Comedy Insurgents Who Captured the Mainstream, W. W. Norton

Send Us Your Books
If you’ve published a book and you’d like to have it listed in “Fresh Ink” and considered for review, please send two copies to Lisa Scanlon ’99, Wellesley magazine, 106 Central St., Wellesley, MA 02481-8203.
Heather Woods ’97 was in the Whole Foods parking lot in Framingham, Mass., buying groceries for her family when the Supreme Court’s gay marriage decisions popped up on her phone.

“I was waiting for it, just sort of tracking when it was coming,” says Woods, whose wife, Michelle Gillett ’95, is also an alumna. “It was a regular day. I was trying to get stuff done. But when I heard, I had an immediate physical, emotional experience. I think a tear came to my eye—though I was very conscious of not breaking down in tears in the parking lot. But there’s a lightness in being recognized. It lifts something.”

Many people, gay and straight, across the United States celebrated the two historic decisions on June 26, which together paved the way for marriage equality once again to be legal in California (marriages resumed there in June) and also, for the first time, allowed the federal government to recognize same-sex marriages. Rallies lauding the decisions were held across the country. President Barack Obama called them a victory.

“It’s an important decision,” says Justice Judith Arnold Cowin ’63. Cowin, now retired, was one of the three judges on Massachusetts’ Supreme Judicial Court to rule in 2003 that gay marriage should be legal under the state constitution. “It has a psychological impact, I think, because here a court that people think of as a conservative court, is saying that the federal government can’t discriminate against these marriages. And I think that has a psychological impact on the legislative process, and maybe even on the adjudicative process.”

For Woods and Gillett—and for all alumnae in same-sex marriages living in the 14 states and the District of Columbia that (as of this magazine’s presstime) recognize those marriages—the Supreme Court decision striking down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) means legitimacy. Lesbians and gays who live in states where gay marriage is legal now have exactly the same rights as straight couples. If one spouse should die, the other can inherit his or her property free of estate taxes. If one is a U.S. citizen and the other is not, then the citizen-spouse can sponsor his or her spouse for a green card. Plus, they can share Social Security benefits.

The last was particularly important for Nancy Wanderer ’69, who is married to Susan Sanders and lives in Maine, a gay-marriage state. In 2009, Wanderer was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, and though she’s in remission, she says they both worried that if Wanderer were to die first, Sanders wouldn’t have access to Wanderer’s Social Security benefits unless “the Supreme Court did the right thing.”

Wanderer, the director of the Legal Research and Writing Program at the University of Maine School of Law, says that the Supreme Court did them one better: “It was clear that the decision recognized that there was an equal-protection aspect to this, that marriage is really a fundamental right and no group should be denied it,” she says.
No Universal Recognition

Not all lesbians and gays in same-sex marriages are as fortunate as Wanderer and Sanders. The Defense of Marriage Act had two parts. One of them, the part overturned by the Supreme Court, had said the federal government could not recognize same-sex marriages. The other part, still in effect, says no state (or territory or possession) needs to recognize gay marriages legally performed in other states.

This means that if a woman legally married her wife in, say, Massachusetts—the first state to legalize same-sex marriage, in 2004—but lives in Georgia, then parts of the federal government may recognize her marriage, but Georgia does not.

This is not a theoretical example. This is the situation faced by Laura Magidson Griffith ’94, who lives with her wife, Meredith, and their four children in Atlanta.

Georgia has a constitutional amendment barring the recognition of same-sex marriages. So even though Griffith finds Atlanta to be a warm, friendly, pro-gay place to raise a family, the state doesn’t make it easy.

Take, for instance, the day that Griffith tried to change her maiden name to her wife’s name, about two years ago. “One of the reasons you can use to get a name change is a valid marriage license,” she says. “But the name-change document specifically said, ‘Please note that any same-gender marriage performed in another state is expressly invalidated in the state of Georgia and is not a valid reason for a name change.’”

On the day they went to court to try to change Griffith’s name, she says, “There was this side contingent of gay people hanging out, wanting to change their names. And they said, it depends on what judge you get. There was a guy who’d been there four times trying to change his, and the judge kept denying it and denying it and denying it. So I was lucky—I got a pretty liberal judge who granted me the name change. But how crazy is that?”

Not as crazy as what Francine Banner-Hubbard ’93 and her wife, Taya, went through when they had their daughter.

The couple lives in Phoenix, which Banner-Hubbard says is “a little bubble of friendliness,” though she adds, “I can’t say I walk out my door and I feel discriminated against, but I think without the legal rights you just never know, right? You don’t have that backup—you don’t feel like you have a leg to stand on.”

In 2006, Arizona voters defeated Proposition 107, which would have legalized a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage and any status similar to marriage. But then, in 2008, a constitutional amendment limiting marriage to the union of one man and one woman was approved by voters. The couple was married in 2007 in Massachusetts, and Banner-Hubbard says the Arizona vote “was pretty brutal, actually. Our neighbors had signs that were, you know, not so friendly. So it was all kind of yucky.”

Banner-Hubbard is a law professor at Phoenix Law School, and she knew that, because in Arizona she and her wife are legal strangers to each other, when her wife gave birth, Banner-Hubbard would not be considered their daughter’s legal parent. And because Arizona doesn’t recognize their marriage, Banner-Hubbard can’t adopt their daughter. So the two made a decision: They wanted both parents to be on their daughter’s birth certificate. And the closest place to make that happen was California.

“A birth certificate isn’t necessarily a legally enforceable document, but it was really important to us,” Banner-Hubbard says. “So we drove back and forth for about 4 ½ hours through the desert each way for all Taya’s doctor’s appointments from five months on. And then we went to Palm Springs to actually have [the baby]. She cooperated. We were lucky!”

Standards for Who Is Married

Happily for Banner-Hubbard in Arizona and Griffith in Georgia, the Internal Revenue Service in August decided that it would use “the place of celebration” of a marriage instead of a couple’s “place of residence” to decide which couples were legally married for tax purposes.

One of the complicated issues with marriage law is that each federal department uses its own standard to determine who is married and who is not. For example, the Pentagon has decided that it will use the place of celebration standard. If a female soldier was married to another woman in a jurisdiction where same-sex marriages are legal, then the Department of Defense considers them legally married, and the military spouse is entitled to an ID, family-support services, base privileges, and other benefits reserved for spouses.

However, as of early September, the Social Security Administration uses the place of residence standard, which means that a married New York gay couple that retires to Florida won’t have the same access to Social Security benefits that they would have had it they remained in a gay-marriage state.

The IRS deciding to use the place of celebration standard means that people like Banner-Hubbard and Griffith, who both have their wives on their work health-insurance plans, will no longer have to pay taxes on their spouses’ insurance, which previously had cost thousands of dollars a year.

Tax Benefits (or Not)

Bev Luther ’03, a tax attorney who has done tax planning for same-sex couples in Minnesota as a side project, says that the IRS decision was “fantastic” news. “There are a lot of laws that are keyed into the tax code, even if they’re not tax related,” she says.

“Couples who live in states where their marriage is recognized kind of get the full shebang when it comes to tax benefits. They’re considered married for both state and federal tax purposes now. This is the first time in history that’s happened, from a tax perspective,” she adds.

However, she says, though couples like the Griffths and the Banner-Hubbards will also be able to file federal taxes as a married couple, they will still have to file as single in their states. This, Luther says, will make tax time complicated. “Unfortunately, a couple like that will likely have to do the opposite of what people had been doing in Massachusetts, where they had been filing separately for federal purposes but combining income for the state return. Now, couples in nonmarriage states will have to file separately in their states, but most likely file jointly for federal taxes. It will be even more of an administrative nightmare, I think.”

But, she adds, “At least now the burden comes with some sort of federal recognition!”

The Department of Homeland Security has gone with a place of celebration standard as well, which means that gay U.S. citizens are able to sponsor their spouses for a green card, no matter where in the country they reside.
States Where Same-Sex Marriage Is Legal
California, Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington. Also: District of Columbia

States Where the Legal Status Is Unclear
New Mexico

States Where Same-Sex Marriage Is Not Legal

States That Recognize Civil Union or Domestic Partnerships Statewide
Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Nevada, Oregon, Wisconsin

Source: Freedom to Marry
Green Card on the Horizon

DHS's decision was a green light for Lynn Sternberger '07. She had been living in Vancouver, British Columbia, with her partner, Loraine Labet, a French citizen. Sternberger's Canadian visa was expiring, and she didn’t know how they would continue to live together, since before the Supreme Court decision, gay Americans couldn’t sponsor their wives and husbands for citizenship. “We imagined a future together but had no idea how we could feasibly live together legally after my visa expired,” Sternberger says.

The two of them were in the Vancouver airport on the way to Los Angeles when they learned the news over Twitter. “We both started crying,” Sternberger says. “And then I proposed immediately. She accepted immediately. And that night we went out in West Hollywood to party with the gays over the end of DOMA and Prop 8. To be honest, they seemed totally unprepared for the good news. I don’t think I was the only one who thought things could go the other way.”

Sternberger and Labet were married in Boston on Aug. 31. But Sternberger’s Canadian visa is expiring, so she is moving to Los Angeles to pursue TV writing. Labet will stay in Canada through the immigration process, which should last nine to 12 months.

The Next Battles

Although each department of the federal government is now figuring out its response to the DOMA decision, the gay marriage battles are not over. The focus now returns to the states, most of which will have to overturn state constitutional amendments if they are going to legalize same-sex marriage (30 states have those amendments and an additional five have laws that ban same-sex marriages). The most likely states to see gay marriage in the next few years include Illinois, New Mexico (where counties started marrying people this summer and the legal status is in flux), Hawaii, and perhaps Pennsylvania, where the ACLU filed suit on behalf of 23 plaintiffs.

One of the people assisting in that fight is Nancy Cott, the Jonathan Trumbull Professor of American History at Harvard, who was the Mary L. Cornille Visiting Professor in the Humanities at Wellesley’s Newhouse Center for the Humanities last year (and taught the first-ever Wellesley course on women in American history in 1973–74, when she was a graduate student). Cott has filed expert amicus briefs in about a dozen gay marriage cases around the country, including, most recently, in Pennsylvania, and she was an expert witness in the Prop 8 trial that led to California resuming gay marriage.

“I feel certain that parts of the DOMA decision are going to be used in future court fights. There’s plenty in the decision to back up a claim to the equal right of same-sex couples to the dignity of marriage,” Cott says. “As a realist and a historian, I don’t necessarily think that the arc of history bends toward justice.”

However, she adds, “It’s been really, really stunning how rapidly social opinion on homosexuality has changed in the U.S. It’s changed far, far more rapidly than any issue on sex equality has ever changed. It’s quite stunning to someone my age, and I think it’s wonderful.”

Shifting Opinions

Public opinion is definitely changing—most polls taken in the last year or so say that more than 50 percent of Americans believe that lesbians and gay men should have the right to marry, a marked increase from the 27 percent of Americans who thought so when Gallup first started asking the question in 1996.

But changing laws and social mores is a slow process. Though some activists promise that gay marriage will be legal in all 50 states within five years, that would require many more legislators to vote to overturn marriage bans, courts to find those bans unconstitutional, and voters to approve ballot initiatives that uphold marriage equality.

Jennifer Hertz Levi ’85, the attorney for Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders who argued the Massachusetts gay marriage case at the trial court level, says there’s no way to predict how long it will take. The courts—and the court of public opinion—have already surprised her with how quickly they have moved.

But, she says, just talking about “marriage equality” may be too limited of a conversation. “I do this work with the long view toward protecting all families. Marriage is a piece of that, but there’s grandparents raising children. You have children being raised by one parent, two parents, four parents. So ultimately what I hope is that the law would treat families the same in terms of protection, whether they’re headed by married persons, unmarried persons, formerly married persons, and beyond.”

Nevertheless, there are many alumnae who are waiting for marriage equality across the country, and they hope the Supreme Court will overturn the remaining anti-marriage-equality laws, the way it did in 1967 when it struck down the remaining interracial marriage ban statutes. “I think Georgia might change, not because it wants to, but because it has to,” Griffith says. Whether you are married or not can’t be about where in the country you live, she says.

“It’s just about basic human rights, and a state shouldn’t have the ability to deny that,” she says. “If it’s just up to Georgia, it will take forever to happen. But if it’s up to the federal government, I feel very hopeful that it could be a reality for us—and that when we are sending our kids to college, they’ll be able to have parents that are as equal as any others.”

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Jennifer Vanasco ’94 is a news editor at WNYC public radio, the “Minority Reports” columnist at Columbia Journalism Review, and the former editor in chief of MTV’s 565gay.com.
Professor of English Katharine Lee Bates, class of 1880, with Hamlet, Sigurd’s successor. Hamlet, Bates wrote in a letter now at the Falmouth Historical Society, had an uncanny ability to tell time: He’d turn up in one of her seminars promptly at 4 P.M., the hour when cake was served during a classroom break. Bates wrote about Sigurd, Hamlet, and her parrot, Polonius, in her 1919 volume, *Sigurd Our Golden Collie and Other Comrades of the Road.*
SHE HAD EYES, CERTAINLY, FOR PURPLE MOUNTAIN MAJESTY
and amber waves of grain. But when at home in Wellesley, Katharine Lee Bates’ gaze was fixed squarely on her beloved collie, Sigurd. Her pen captured the antics of this “frolicsome bandit”—his delight at twirling a mortar-board by its gilt tassel, his incursions into chapel services and classes, and his proud moment leading the commencement procession of the class of 1911, clad in a special cap and gown. When he died—and was buried in a marked grave still visible today on a knoll near Whitin Observatory—a student wrote in the Wellesley News, “This beautiful, intelligent collie belonged by right of affection to the whole College. …”

Over the decades, Sigurd and numerous other canines have been part of the fabric of the College community—cheering students in need of doggy love, keeping professors company during late-night research, and romping on Severance Green (leash laws, apparently, be damned). At least one memorial to a Wellesley dog has even appeared in the pages of this magazine.

We know not everyone loves dogs. (If you’re in that category, please proceed right on to page 30.) But for those of you who do, we offer you Wellesley canines, past and present—in tribute to all the wags and barks that have brought character to campus through the years.

THE HEART OF A DOG

Where did they learn
The miracle of love,
These dogs that turn
From food and sleep at our light-whistled call,
Eager to fl ing
Their all
Of speed and grace into glad following?

Not the wolf pack
Taught savage instinct love,
For there to lack
The power to slay was to be hunger-slain;
Once down, a prey,
A stain
Of crimson on the snow, a tuft of gray.

Was it from us
They learned such loyal love
Magnanimous,
Meeting our injuries with trustful eyes?
Are we so true,
So wise,
So broken-hearted when love's day is through?

Where did they learn
The miracle of love?
Though beauty burn
In rainbow, foam and flame, these have not heard,
Nor trees and flowers,
That word.
Only our dogs would give their lives for ours.

— Katharine Lee Bates, Class of 1880
WORKING IN THE ALUMNAE OFFICE isn’t all Stepsinging and peppermint pie. (Not all the time, anyway.) There are plenty of long evenings and weekend work, particularly as reunion rolls around. Nothing helps keep spirits high quite as much as our own pint-sized pair of terriers, Bennie and Jazz.

Bennie is the better, hairier half of Heather MacLean, director of alumnae events. The rat terrier takes up sidekick duties during the all-hours reunion setup, earning him fame (or infamy?) among the grounds crew and students. He has been known to gamely go out on loan to students who are missing their family pets. That’s how he rolls.

A resident of Wellesley, Jazz takes Susan Lohin, the Alumnae Association’s director of alumnae groups, on frequent walks around and in the lake on the weekends. Like many Wellesley women, Jazzie is an independent thinker, sometimes preferring to take command, not orders. She once famously explored campus on her own for two hours, while a frantic Lohin and a herd of students formed a search party. Campus Po seemed less sympathetic when they were notified: “Why wasn’t she on a leash?” came the response. Well, she was. Independent thinker, that one.
Back in the 1980s and 1990s, Jewett was “a very, very dog-friendly place,” says Martin Brody, Catherine Mills Davis Professor of Music. His spaniel, Becky, was regularly on campus and made many friends in the art and music departments. (Brody discovered just how many fans she was cultivating when she inexplicably gained a large amount of weight. He learned she was going calling at lunchtime and mooching handouts from the art faculty.) Becky’s biggest claim to fame, however, is that she is immortalized in Brody’s opera The Heart of a Dog. Based on a satirical novel by Russian writer Mikhail Bulgakov, the opera records the transformation of a dog into a human by a surgeon. To allow his baritone lead—the dog—to, well, sing instead of bark, Brody took Becky to a recording studio and captured her growling and barking. He also recorded his own voice, then created a tape that faded out the dog voice and faded in the human voice. (“The frequency areas overlap nicely,” Brody says.) During the production, as the operation was mimed on stage, Becky’s voice rang out over the singing and became her master’s voice. And the very last sound in the opera is Becky barking, which for Brody is a sweet memorial of his beloved dog.*

When the students are protesting or the faculty is up in arms, a Wellesley president may turn to a faithful canine companion for solace. Through the years, there have been many presidential dogs, ranging from Rex in the 1880s (owned by Alice Freeman) to Harlequin in the 1970s (a standard poodle who belonged to Ruth Adams). One of the most storied, however, may have been Magellan, a cocker spaniel owned by President Diana Chapman Walsh ’66. Magellan was home alone on Sept. 10, 1998, when a fire broke out in the President’s House. The fleet of fire engines rushing to the scene caught the attention of Keif Schleifer CE/DS ’01, at the time a new Davis Scholar who had only been at Wellesley a few days. A certified firefighter, Schleifer threw on her gear and ran to the big house down the street from her dorm to try to help. The local fire chief sent her on a search-and-rescue mission for Magellan. It was only after she handed the trembling cocker to Walsh that Schleifer learned she had been in the President’s House. Magellan came through the experience unscathed. His ordeal won him a photo in this magazine (left, with Schleifer), as well as a box of dog biscuits and a chew toy presented to him by the College’s administrative staff.

Sophie and Elizabeth DeSombre, Frost Professor of Environmental Studies, usually travel as a pair, so Sophie is well-known by the Wellesley community. “I’m also always amazed when I’m on campus and people I’ve never met greet her by name,” says DeSombre. On their walks, Sophie has come to recognize Campus Police cars, as so many officers have stopped and greeted her with a dog biscuit. She’s now a senior citizen who doesn’t find walking as easy as it used to be, but DeSombre says she finds the terrier an inspiration. “She never complains. Every time something… goes wrong, she just figures out how to make the best of the situation and get on with her life. … She’s always been like that.”

*Dogs are not officially allowed in classroom buildings today, but many canines still enjoy the campus for walks. Every owner is supposed to bring a leash, and every dog is supposed to wear it.
From the very first veterinarian visit in 2009, Constance Fulenwider CE/DS ’06 knew she had picked a good pup: “Luna flopped onto the vet table like a rag doll,” confident a belly rub was in order, Fulenwider says. Luna’s trust that day was no fluke: Giving affection would become her calling card—and, in fact, her business card.

Fulenwider sought certification for Luna and herself through Therapy Dogs International in 2010, and from their first assignment, “We were hooked,” she says. “The dog loves it, I love it, and the people we visit love it.” The pair has paid visits to individuals in hospice care, to children building confidence as readers, to visitors at the makeshift memorial at the Boston Marathon’s finish line last spring (pictured here), and now to Wellesley’s own Stone Center. Luna and a black pug named Henry visit campus twice a month, accepting hugs from homesick or dogsick students. “They talk to us, they talk to each other, and they just relax. That’s what it’s all about,” Fulenwider says. “It’s just magic.”

Fulenwider says this work is perfect for her. “If I had been younger when I went back to Wellesley, I would have majored in psychology. This way we get to do some psychology, but no one knows it,” she says.
They are leaders, activists, and pioneers, and their brand of making a difference in the world is shaped by their religious traditions.
WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR A WOMAN TO BE A RELIGIOUS LEADER IN THE WORLD TODAY?

For this feature story, we wanted to profile about half a dozen Wellesley women doing remarkable things in their religious traditions and beyond. The first challenge was to narrow the list of noteworthy alums to just six or seven—Wellesley, it turns out, has nurtured many religious leaders of significance—and the second was to distill their extraordinary careers and lives into these brief snapshots.

Some of the alums introduced here are ordained religious professionals, yes; but leadership also encompasses writing books, being humanitarians, and raising voices in the public square. These seven women are all pioneers in their own ways, from the first ordained female moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to the first known Zoroastrian woman ever to graduate from Wellesley. All have allowed their faith to shape their contributions to the world: Here we see a Muslim author responding to incessant media questions in the wake of 9/11 and a Buddhist teacher whose love for the earth compels her, at age 84, to continue training activists around the world. *Non Ministrari sed Ministrare* is not just a motto to these seven alums, but a way of life.

**SUSAN ANDREWS ’71 / OSSINING, N.Y.**

When Susan Andrews ’71 was at Wellesley, she confessed to her father that she was thinking of enrolling in seminary after graduation. She was not certain how her father, a Presbyterian minister who was the son of a Presbyterian minister, would receive the news.

“My father’s first response was, ‘Oh, you’ll make a wonderful director of Christian education!’ I said, ‘No, Dad, I want to be an ordained pastor.’ And then he thought for a minute and said, ‘Oh!’”

There simply weren’t many examples of ordained Protestant women serving parishes in the 1960s, so this was relatively uncharted career territory for a young woman. But in 1974, when Andrews had finished her theological degree at Harvard and was ordained, her father preached the sermon in her honor. As an ordination present, he had his own ministerial robe tailored to fit her, and he took the template for the denomination’s certificate of ordination to a printer to have all the “he” language changed to female pronouns. “He became my biggest cheerleader by far,” she says.

After seminary, Andrews took a one-year chaplaincy job at Wellesley, the first woman to serve as the College chaplain. Although at the start she was “terrified that [she] couldn’t handle” leading the religious life of a campus where she had been a student herself just a few years before, she wound up having a very successful year, helping the College open up to interfaith life and to the voices of lesbian students on campus.

Since then she has served the Presbyterian Church (USA) in a variety of positions, from local parish minister to the elected Moderator for the whole denomination in 2003–04. Although laywomen had served as Moderator before, Andrews was the first ordained female parish pastor to fill the role. As the figurehead for the PC (USA) denomination, she traveled to 35 states and five countries, speaking widely and mediating conflicts.

The path of her religious leadership hasn’t always been easy. In the late 1980s, for example, after serving for years as an associate and co-pastor and getting a coveted doctor of ministry degree in the bargain, Andrews sought a more senior position—a natural career progression for male pastors. However, she found herself coming in second time after time, as churches that felt comfortable hiring a woman as an associate were often not ready to have a woman at the head. After a long search she finally landed a job in Bethesda, Md., as a senior pastor, a rarity for a woman in a job path where the “stained-glass ceiling” remains an obstacle.

Even when her tenure as Moderator in the denomination ended nearly a decade ago, there were still few enough women in prestigious pulpits that Andrews decided to go into administration instead. “Women as heads of churches with 1,500 or more members were unheard of even five years ago,” she says. “That was the stained-glass ceiling. It wasn’t in the cards for me to be a pastor of a very large church, so I went into administration for the denomination.” She now oversees about 85 churches and their pastors, “trying to figure out a crisis in Christianity where young people don’t come and aren’t interested. But I see the crisis not as danger but opportunity, as we reinvest in mission and justice.”
Each morning at Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital in Boston, Rebekah Ingram ’03 receives a list of patients who are waiting to see her, a list she prioritizes according to the most urgent needs. She meets with multiple patients every day and takes their histories, then communicates her observations to other staff members working on those cases. Sometimes her pager goes off, and her schedule goes out the window because of a medical emergency.

But Ingram is not a medical professional; she is a religious one. As a hospital chaplain, she is a vital part of the “patient-centered care” approach of contemporary health care. When she takes a patient’s history, it’s not just about their diagnosis. “What is most important to people? What values and principles have shaped their lives?” she asks. “I help make sure the whole team can better understand the person, even beyond the patient’s medical condition. That’s something that other health-care workers can’t always do.”

In one recent case, while Ingram was leading a spirituality group in the hospital’s psychiatric unit, she broke through to a patient who was having a particularly difficult time. In talking with this person, Ingram came to understand that the patient was a member of a religion that eschews the practice of psychiatry in the first place. She was then able to explain to other staff members why it was particularly distressing for this patient to have been diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder.

Ingram’s position is considered “interfaith,” which means she is committed to learning about patients’ own beliefs, practices, and cultures, rather than proselytizing about her own. Her own faith tradition, however, is very important to her. She is an ordained Unitarian Universalist, and an affiliated community minister with First Church in Boston, which endorses her work as a hospital chaplain. Ingram says that she first experienced the seed of a calling to ministry when she was still in high school, and that Wellesley was a unique and special place to be further nurtured in that call.

“The fact that Wellesley has a UU chaplain dedicated to serving the needs of the Unitarian Universalist community on campus was very helpful for me during a time of religious exploration and discernment,” she says.

While having a UU chaplain to talk to helped to confirm Ingram’s call and love for her religious tradition, she says that serving as a representative on the Multifaith Council cemented her commitment to working in a religiously and spiritually diverse community. As a chaplain, she is situated at the forefront of religious diversity in America, whether she is meeting with patients or serving on the hospital’s Ethics Committee and Cultural Competency Steering Committee. “I really enjoy this work, seeing each person’s experiences as unique,” she explains. “I think that Gandhi said that there are as many religions in the world as there are people.”
Spenta Captain Kandawalla ’69 was the only Zoroastrian on campus during her years at Wellesley, and may have been the College’s first Zoroastrian student. But she is accustomed to being a religious minority. The business leader and philanthropist estimates that there are only 1,800 Zoroastrians in all of Pakistan today, a country of nearly 195 million, 96 percent of whom are Muslims. Of those Zoroastrians, about 1,600 are located in Karachi, a densely populated city with more than 20 million people, including Kandawalla and her family.

Considering that Zoroastrians make up only one thousandth of one percent of Pakistan’s population (and that there are only approximately 350,000 Zoroastrians in the world), they have had an outsized philanthropic presence. Charitable endeavors represent one of the three focuses of Zoroastrianism—one of the world’s oldest monotheistic religions, founded 3,500 years ago in what is now Iran—which emphasizes good thoughts, good words, and good deeds.

One of Kandawalla’s many philanthropic responsibilities is to serve as chair of the Parsi General Hospital, a 75-year-old institution that takes care of Parsis (the historic term for Zoroastrians born in the subcontinent). “There are no poor in the Zoroastrian community,” she says. “They are never going to beg or go hungry. At the hospital, if you’re sick you can stay there for months and not pay.” This charity is especially important as more young people emigrate from Pakistan for economic opportunities and can’t take their parents with them; there is a nursing home attached to the hospital where the elderly can be cared for indefinitely.

Most of the hospitals and schools founded by Parsis are open to the wider non-Zoroastrian community, something Kandawalla hopes will also happen with Parsi General. So far, she has encountered some opposition from her fellow board members who are resistant to change, but she will continue to try.

Pushing for change, for Kandawalla, has happened not just in religion but also in business. “Being a businesswoman in Pakistan is unusual, and being a woman leader in business is unique,” she explains. “On every corporate board I’ve served on, I am always the only woman. And I have always been the first woman.” With this in mind, she works doubly hard to make a contribution wherever she serves. “I try to be an extra strong member of the board, so they can never use the excuse that ‘Oh, we had a woman on the board once, but she wasn’t very good.’”

Kandawalla’s Zoroastrian beliefs provide a sort of model for women’s equality. For example, she points out that the name of God, Ahura Mazda, contains both male (mazda, or “wisdom”) and female (ahura, or “light”) elements. In Zoroastrian families, there are no arranged marriages; women tend to marry later, get an education, and obtain employment outside the home. Zoroastrian women have a 100 percent literacy rate in Pakistan, while women in the nation more generally have a literacy rate of below 25 percent.

Kandawalla will continue doing her part to advance the cause of women, both in her religious tradition and in the broader world. “I feel it’s important to change the status quo wherever I am,” she says.

‘There are no poor in the Zoroastrian community.
They are never going to beg or go hungry. At the hospital, if you’re sick you can stay there for months and not pay.’

— SPENTA CAPTAIN KANDAWALLA ’69
I announced at my bat mitzvah that I wanted to be a rabbi,” says Rachel Isaacs ’05. While some teenagers’ career dreams waver significantly as they mature, Isaacs’ did not. Her time in high school and at Wellesley, where she was co-president of Hillel, only cemented her goal, as did the year she spent in Israel after college. And since women had been ordained in her Conservative tradition since 1985, the path seemed clear to follow her dream of the rabbinate.

Except for one obstacle. Isaacs was openly lesbian, and when she started rabbinic studies, the Conservative movement would not ordain openly gay and lesbian rabbis or even admit them to its flagship school, Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in New York. So she enrolled in Hebrew Union College (HUC), a Reform institution, which had no problem with the fact that Isaacs was out of the closet.

In 2007, JTS’s rule changed: The seminary voted to allow gay and lesbian students. Isaacs was one of the first in the door, transferring from HUC to JTS and soon becoming ordained as the Conservative movement’s first openly gay or lesbian rabbi. She is quick to point out that many other gay and lesbian rabbis had already come before her, however; they were just not able to be transparent about their identities. In fact, one of those rabbis, a mentor to Isaacs, draped the ordination tallit over her shoulders when she was ordained.

“I knew that this was a historic moment, and that I could be part of changing things,” she says of her ordination. She remains a minority within a minority: Of the approximately 1,700 Conservative rabbis in the Rabbinical Assembly, only 304 are women, and a mere handful of those are lesbian. But Isaacs says she has not faced discrimination. In fact, the people of her congregation—Beth Israel in Waterville, Maine—were so committed to hiring her as their rabbi that they actually switched their own allegiance to the Conservative movement just to facilitate her appointment.

In addition to leading Beth Israel, Isaacs directs the Hillel program and teaches Hebrew at nearby Colby College, where she is working with a colleague to found the Center for Small Town Jewish Life, “a clearinghouse for ideas of how to deal with minimal resources and small membership,” she says.

In her small town, Isaacs has dealt with those challenges creatively, integrating the college with the congregation. “The students help with Hebrew school, and the congregants have the students over for dinner and hire them to babysit their kids,” she says. Her goal is to create a strong and vibrant Jewish community for all ages. “We’re training the Colby students to be lay leaders for the future. One of the most important things I want to teach the students is that you don’t need to be a rabbi to create a strong future for Judaism. You just need to be committed and give of your heart.”

“One of the most important things I want to teach the students is that you don’t need to be a rabbi to create a strong future for Judaism. You just need to be committed and give of your heart.”

—RACHEL ISAACS ’05
JOANNA ROGERS MACY ’50 / BERKELEY, CALIF.

Faith Tradition: Buddhist

Joanna Rogers Macy ’50 was in her 30s and living in India with her husband and three children when she encountered Buddhism face-to-face for the first time. Though she had been raised as a Christian, she had moved outside that tradition after college, in part because of the broadening experience of being a religion major at Wellesley. “Wellesley prepared me by helping me see that a life within the Christian fold, which is where I thought I would keep my life firmly anchored, was not big enough for me,” Macy says.

Buddhism was. In India, she worked with Tibetan refugees—monks, lamas, and laypeople who had fled Chinese occupation by crossing the Himalayas. “These were people from a rich tradition who had lost everything, including their homes and the lives of many who walked out over the mountains with them,” she explains. “They were sick and poor and hungry, yet their way of being human, their good humor, their love for their tradition, and their artistry revealed possibilities within us all that riveted me and lifted my heart.”

She began to study Buddhism seriously, a path that eventually led her to obtain a Ph.D. in Buddhism and living systems theory, which she says “demonstrates the interactive, self-regulating processes of all life forms.” And for four decades, she has taught Buddhism in the classroom (as an adjunct professor at three Bay Area schools) and in retreats around the world. She has also written 12 books, three of which deal with Buddhism.

Macy’s particular objective is to train activists who are working for peace and environmental justice. “I’ve been known as an advisor and exemplar to a number of movements and organizations in the area of what is called ‘Engaged Buddhism,’ which is the relevance of Buddhist practice and worldview to dealing directly with the suffering, both of the natural world and our society, at this moment in history.”

While she has experience in Zen, Tibetan, and other traditions, her personal practice is mainly Theravada or Vipassana Buddhism. “I’m interested in the mindfulness tradition,” she says. But she’s committed to the idea that Buddhism is more than just meditation for one’s own enlightenment: “Sometimes I worry that Western Buddhists can seem excessively preoccupied with personal tranquility rather than with addressing the social and environmental aspects of the world’s suffering.”

At age 84, this teacher and activist shows little sign of slowing down. She recently returned from two months of teaching in Europe, with students “from all walks of life” and many nations. Through experimental group work, she encourages students to embrace their interconnectedness with all life and see how that knowledge expands their moral imagination. She does “weekend workshops, weeklong intensives—in church settings, in seminaries, in you name it,” she laughs. But for the remainder of 2013 she hopes her work will remain a bit closer to home. “I’d say that my traveling for the rest of this year will not take me farther than a 50-mile radius,” she says. “Which makes sense, don’t you think?”
On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, Asma Hasan ’97 was urgently awakened by her mother, who said the world was ending. Over the next hours, Hasan’s family had the same emotions that millions of other Americans were experiencing—disbelief, terror, grief. Added to the fear of terrorist violence was another worry: What if a fellow Muslim was responsible for the World Trade Center attacks?

That fear was of course realized, and as the nation became suddenly aware of al-Qaida and Islam, Hasan’s phone started to ring. And ring. As the author of the 2000 book American Muslims: The New Generation, she found herself in great demand. Within days, she was featured on NPR’s Fresh Air, on Fox News, CNN, and other programs, always pointing to the fact that the vast majority of Muslims were nonviolent and that American Muslims were simply the neighbors next door. “I did my best to respond to every request and every interview, because I felt it was my duty as an American and as a Muslim,” she says.

Hasan received so many requests for speaking engagements, interviews, and writing assignments that the newly graduated lawyer decided to postpone her start date at the firm where she had just been hired. And when she did begin to practice law, it was always with a significant side career as an author (two other books, Why I Am a Muslim and Red, White, and Muslim have been published) and a public voice for Islam. In 2008, she blogged about the presidential elections for Glamour magazine’s Glamocracy portal, and she has published op-ed pieces on Islam in the New York Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, and www.forbes.com.

Hasan concedes she has experienced some opposition from conservative Muslims who are upset by her visibility as a professional woman who does not wear a headscarf, and from some non-Muslim Americans who are “very jingoistic and feel that Muslims are here to take over their country.” She sees these groups as “vocal minorities” and says that most readers respond well to her as a U.S.-born daughter of Pakistani immigrants, a patriotic American who calls herself a “Muslim feminist cowgirl.”

In part, Hasan’s ability to speak about Islam in a relatable way to a non-Muslim audience was forged at Wellesley, where she served all four years as an al-Muslimat representative to the Multifaith Council. (“I kind of hogged that position!” she laughs. “I loved it.”)

In the years since 2001, the U.S. State Department, seeing Hasan as an articulate and friendly spokesperson for both Islam and for the United States, has called upon her to serve as a representative in conversations with Muslim women in France and in Ethiopia, where she was in dialogue with members of Parliament. Despite their own positions, these female legislators were astonished and delighted to see that a fellow Muslim woman had written books and established herself as an attorney. Hasan has also done teleconferences and video conferences often to all-female audiences in Cameroon, Zambia, Senegal, India, the Vatican, and other nations.

Representing her country and her religion is a “huge honor,” says Hasan, adding that she would like to do more work for the State Department in the future. “Muslim women all over the world are interested in leadership and looking for ideas.”
In 1994, Sharon McKenna ’60 opened the door of the Church of St. Thomas More in New York City, where she has worked since 1990, to find a young man delivering the church’s groceries. He spoke no English, but by communicating with him in French McKenna ascertained that he was from Burundi and was “starving and sick.”

Since she had spent 30 years as a Roman Catholic nun in a Benedictine monastery, McKenna had been trained by the Rule of St. Benedict to receive every stranger as she would welcome Christ himself. Here was a golden opportunity. The very next day, she swung into action, getting medicine for the young man, Deogratias “Deo” Niyizonkiza, and helping to find him a safer place to live than Central Park, where he sometimes slept, or the apartment where he had stayed before that, where someone had been shot on the other side of the wall.

That was the beginning not only of a beautiful friendship, but much more. Niyizonkiza, with the help of McKenna and some friends she introduced him to, moved in with a New York couple who wound up financing his undergraduate education at Columbia University. After studying medicine and public health in the U.S., in December 2007 he established Village Health Works, which created a clinic in Burundi that served 50,000 people in its first four years of operation.

Oh, and the clinic’s name? The Sharon McKenna Health Center. McKenna is modest about the role she played in all this and is eager instead to draw attention to the needs that exist in a country like Burundi, one of the world’s poorest nations, whose people were devastated by the ethnic violence of a 12-year civil war. At the clinic, the approach to health is “very holistic,” teaching women how to improve agriculture and nutrition, for example, and ensuring access to clean water for the first time.

Such an approach is not radically different from the values that McKenna was raised with in Vermont decades ago, when her family grew their own food, or the ones she embodied in three decades as a nun. “We lived very simply,” she recalls. “It was a contemplative order on over 300 acres. We made our own clothes and our own coffins.” Those are values she still lives by today, she says. “I don’t need things; I know how to sew. I ask myself: If I had a coffee from Starbucks, where else could that money go? Even a dollar can mean so much to someone.”

Her careful attention to justice and moral discernment stems from deep listening, which she feels is a lost art in a busy, consumerist culture. “The first thing the Savior did was listen, and that’s a challenge for all of us,” she says. “Each day, if we listen, our consciousness can be growing. We need to be not just hearing, but responding and acting on what we hear.”

After Wellesley, Jana Riess ’91 went to seminary to become a Protestant minister. When she left, she was neither Protestant nor a minister, having converted to Mormonism. She earned a doctorate in American religious history and is the author of several books, including her latest, The Twible: All the Chapters of the Bible in 140 Characters or Less ... Now With 68% More Humor! She blogs for the Religion News Service at janariess.religionnews.com.
Alumnae Step Up

IN MY COLUMN in the spring ’13 issue of Wellesley magazine, I asked you to join your classmates and participate by giving to the Wellesley Fund. Well, you stepped up: Alumnae participation hit 49.4 percent, almost five points higher than last year, and the highest rate in years!

The Wellesley College Alumnae Association is dedicated to supporting all alumnae and their connections to each other and to the College. We promote alumnae participation in the Wellesley Fund because it is used in determining college rankings and considered a measure of alumnae satisfaction. To me, alumnae satisfaction is many things. It is the value of our Wellesley education and the lifelong connections from our shared experience. It is pride for Wellesley, still top-ranked and highly regarded. It is wanting Wellesley to remain strong for the generations of young women to come.

Your gift, of any and every amount, to the Wellesley Fund helps achieve this. It is not about how much we give but how many of us give. As you make your year-end giving list, please put Wellesley at the top. By the way, if you use your W card to make your contribution, you’ll help the College and the Alumnae Association at the same time. (See page 77 to learn how to obtain this credit card.)

—Karen E. Williamson ’69, WCAA president

P.S. Congratulations to the red classes—winners of the Color Challenge, with 1,054 givers! In June, a total of 4,118 alumnae gave to the Wellesley Fund, exceeding the goal of 3,300 and thus securing a $100,000 gift from a trustee. I hear cries for a rematch!
**On the Road: Asia**

**AFTER THE BEIJING LAUNCH** this summer of Women World Partners—Wellesley’s initiative to educate women for leadership and to invest in women’s leadership on a global scale (see page 8)—the College’s senior administrators fanned out across the region to connect with alumnae. Sizeable groups gathered in Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Seoul, welcoming the Wellesley travelers with enthusiasm.

“What a wonderful honor to have Provost Andrew Shennan, [Dean of Admission] Jennifer Desjarlais, and [Vice President for Resources] Cameran Lougy Mason ’84 come visit us in Hong Kong this past June,” says Joansa Lam ’90, president of the local Wellesley club. “A room of 30-plus alumnae gathered for a close-up chat and Wellesley news update. This kind of intimate connection with the College was precious and simply an exhilarating experience for us all.”

Former College Trustee Shirley Young ’55 hosted a group of more than 50 alumnae, students, and parents at her Shanghai home. The event, says Shanghai Wellesley Club Vice President Diana Yin ’91, “brought Wellesley to Asia in a grand way, renewing our sense of value and relevance.” In Beijing, President H. Kim Bottomly addressed a lunch gathering, which was followed by admission and club-volunteer workshops. In Seoul, more than 30 alumnae and students gathered for dinner and a keynote by Bottomly.

“It was such an exciting opportunity for everybody to be in the same place,” says Dean of Admission Desjarlais. “Those of us from the College were able to absorb the energy of the remarkable alumnae who keep Wellesley visible in the region. It was wonderful to be able to thank them in person and strengthen connections to the College.”

**HELPING Hands**

**DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER,** Wellesley alumnae around the world turned out to lend a hand in their communities as part the College’s 14th annual Day to Make a Difference. In Bangkok, a group volunteered their time at the Ratchawithi Welfare House for Women, teaching a group of 20 girls how to make baked goods, in hopes of giving them skills to help them earn a living (left). The Wellesley Club of Los Angeles and the Wellesley College Club of Pasadena joined forces to provide SAT tutoring for Hathaway-Sycamore, a children’s mental health and welfare group. The Providence, R.I., club has adopted an urban space, picking up trash, weeding, and mulching an area they are helping to beautify. In Pittsburgh, a group prepared breakfast for the Shadyside Family House, which houses families of those undergoing medical treatment in the area. Many of the clubs launched their year with these programs, allowing alumnae to get to know each other while serving their communities.
M.A.T. from Tufts. She pursued careers in teaching as well as theater with unbridled commitment and enthusiasm and relationships with caring and love. She is survived by her sister, Geraldine Brunell ’62, extended family, and many friends.  

Susan Crystal Kohn ’66

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Continued from page 3

**THE EVER-CHANGING CAMPUS**

I was interested to hear that Schneider Center was to be converted to offices (“New Life for Schneider,” summer ’13). I wonder how many alumnae are aware of the causes for the many physical changes that have occurred since I entered Wellesley in 1940?

In 1940, the Well was located in the west end of the Alumnae Hall ballroom. Here we had “double” ice-cream cones for 10 cents and Cokes for five, as well as other snacks and drinks. In 1943, Naval officers headquartered at Harvard Business School were given the use of two Quad dorms, and the Alumnae Hall ballroom became their mess and the Wel and their kitchen. AKX, a society house, was converted into the new “Well” and years later became Harambee House. The Agora society house eventually became Slater Center for international students.

In 1963, as a member of the alumnae board, I represented the Alumnae Association president on the committee building the Wellesley College Club. The original uses of the club were to offer alumnae and active faculty a facility for meals, meetings, and overnight guests. Thus, a location for students had to be found.

The old music building was converted for student and faculty use and named Schneider Center. The Paul Rudolph buildings (Jewett) on Founder’s Hill replaced the Farnsworth Art Museum and Norumbega, a co-op dorm, by providing a new auditorium for performance.

After the opening of the Wang Campus Center, students and faculty had a new venue, and Schneider may be converted to much-needed offices. What next?

Anne Noland Winslow ’44
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

**THE EDITOR’S PERSPECTIVE**

Thank you, thank you for “From the Editor” in the spring ’13 Wellesley magazine. I appreciated the editor’s perspective on the Alumnae Achievement Awards. I have to admit that I often only skim the magazine when it arrives because my life has not been made up of big magazine-worthy accomplishments. The magazine’s articles often make me feel like I haven’t lived up to Wellesley’s expectations of achievement.

My chief occupation these days is raising my two girls, so what I particularly liked about your piece was its emphasis on kindness and
generosity of spirit. Although I certainly lose my cool regularly, what I hope I model for my girls is kindness, generosity, and gratitude. Perhaps one day, I will end up doing something Achievement Award-worthy, but my proudest accomplishment will always be my girls growing into resilient, caring women.

**Emily Klotz King ’90**
Washington, D.C.

**A LETTER OF PROTEST**
We, and other alumnae, were quite distressed to see the laudatory obituaries for Professor Tony Martin in the spring ’13 issue of the alumnae magazine (“In Memoriam”). We vividly recall that several years ago he was espousing the virulent anti-Semitic ideas of the Nation of Islam and Louis Farrakhan. At the time, there was strong sentiment among some alumnae that he be dismissed from Wellesley. It was explained that dismissal was not possible because Professor Martin had tenure. His behavior was so reprehensible that Henry Louis Gates, Jr., wrote an op-ed for the New York Times condemning it. Wellesley tries to promote diversity in order for people with different beliefs and backgrounds to understand and respect each other. To now praise a man who encouraged hate is wrong and dangerous.

**Carol Friedland Berdy ’74**
River Edge, N.J.
**Janet Curry Harrison ’53**
Williamsport, Pa.
**Judi Kupperstein Krevolin ’53**
West Hartford, Conn.
**Harriet Sagoff Samors ’53**
Providence, R.I.
**Rose Himoff Weinstock ’53**
New York

**THE BRIDGE TO RETIREMENT**
“Exits and Entrances” (spring ’13) captured well the emotions we all experience when unexpected transitions confront us. I want to share some excellent advice the company I worked for gave all of their employees and their spouses when an employee turned 50. The essence of the two-day workshop which gave practical advice for navigating toward retirement was this: Figure out what lights your fire that is different from what you are currently doing for the company and begin doing a little bit of it now. It was a wonderful wake-up call for me. Seven years later, when I accepted an early-retirement package, the beginning of a bridge from research chemistry to crafting fine furniture and sculpture was already in place. Figuring out what bridge to begin to build was not easy, but the destination has been very rewarding.

**Susan Van der Eb Greene ’65**
Richmond, Va.

**COURAGE IN TRANSITION**
Many of us probably have occasions to face transitions in our careers that could be scary because of the inherent uncertainties. In 2005, after I volunteered as a medical doctor in India in the aftermath of the tsunami, I left my job as a full-time professor in medicine and slowly carved out a half-time position in clinical medicine to enable me to continue to volunteer for several months a year. Over the last seven years, I volunteered as a mentor in the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Vietnam, Tanzania, South Africa, and Nigeria; in Haiti after the earthquake and during the cholera outbreak; in Libya during the war; in Kenya and Somalia during the drought and famine; at the Nakivale Refugee Camp in Uganda; at the Nyakabande Transit Refugee Camp for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); and most recently in the northern regions of South Sudan.

When I gazed into the eyes of a 12-year-old refugee from the DRC who lost all his loved ones, or took care of a woman with her brood of five children who walked for a month, running away from the conflict in the DRC—half of her children feverish with malaria and all of them exhausted and hungry—I struggled to understand the fierce driving force behind their desire to live, to survive, and their resilience and patience in the face of unremitting waves of violence, harsh circumstances, inadequate food, and shelters. One cannot help but be inspired by the courage displayed by these people who have so little in their transient existence in this world. The transition they face makes mine very insignificant indeed.

**Kwan Kew Lai ’74**
Belmont, Mass.

**SHELF LIFE**

**HARD-BOILED IN BOSTON**
Continued from page 16

As her relationships with Milloy and Crisian were developing, her work was still in progress. (Although stopping off for a frappe after a hard night fighting for her life and shooting someone is a terrific touch.) This distance perhaps is in keeping with the tradition of a tight-lipped, hard-loving and hard-drinking detective, but it also keeps the reader somewhat at arms length.

By the end, Fina is faced with a serious decision to make about some of the information she has uncovered in her investigation, and although the choice should be wrenching, the ending is handled a little too tidily by Thoft. That said, this feels like the first installment of what could be many books centered on the dogged Ms. Ludlow, and as such, it could be the start of something great.

— Jennifer E. Garrett ’98

Garrett is a writer and editor living in the Seattle area.

**Pesto Manifesto, Redux**

In the summer ’13 issue, Paula Butturini ’73 recorded the joys and trials of making summer pesto in Paris (“Summer in the City,” “Pesto Manifesto”). A number of readers asked for her pesto recipe, which Butturini says comes from the late Marcella Hazan. We offer it in preparation for next summer’s basil crop.

1. large bunch of fresh basil (enough to make at least two cups of leaves)
2. 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
3. 2 tablespoons pine nuts, chopped
4. 2 cloves garlic, minced
5. 1 teaspoon salt
6. 1/2 cup freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
7. 2 tablespoons freshly grated Pecorino Romano cheese (this is a sheep’s cheese)
8. 3 tablespoons butter, softened to room temperature

Put the leaves of the basil, the olive oil, pine nuts, garlic, and salt in the food processor and mix at high speed. (Chopping the pine nuts and mincing the garlic will make this easier. Otherwise, you often get lumps of raw garlic or a whole pine nut.) Stop the machine from time to time to scrape the ingredients down toward the bottom, as bigger pieces of things sometimes get stuck on the sides.

When the ingredients are evenly blended, pour it into a narrow glass bowl or jar and beat in the two grated cheeses by hand. Then beat in the soft butter until all is well mixed.

If you are not going to use the pesto immediately, pour a thin layer of olive oil over the top to keep out the air and prevent it from turning brown. Cover it tightly, and put it in the coldest spot in your refrigerator, and use within a few days, bringing it back to room temperature before serving. (You can also freeze it, but if you do, don’t add the cheeses until you’re ready to use it.)

Once you’re cooking your pasta, put the pesto in the bottom of your bowl, add 3–4 tablespoons of the hot pasta water to the sauce, then pour the drained pasta over the sauce and stir well. Add a bit more pasta water if it seems too dry. (This recipe makes enough for about a pound of pasta.)

Serve with additional grated cheese.
Nourish.

Three students examine plants in the Margaret C. Ferguson Greenhouses, which still house the most diverse collection of plants under glass in the greater Boston area. Date unknown.
Flourish.

Some of the world’s leading scientists cultivated their interest in science and environmental studies in Wellesley’s historic greenhouses. Thanks to generous gifts from alumnae, Wellesley can continue to provide resources that allow curious young minds to flourish. Please give today, and see what grows tomorrow.
Endnote

Home Again

There is a point on the Mississippi River, on the bridge that links West Memphis and Memphis (after you pass the dog track and the endless flat fields and the billboards for catfish barns and X-rated superstores), where, if you look up into the rearview mirror at just the right moment, you can catch the WELCOME TO ARKANSAS sign trailing behind you just after you pass under WELCOME TO TENNESSEE. When I noticed this for the first time, when I saw ARKANSAS behind me, I was midway through the longest drive I’d ever made by myself. In truth, it was pitifully short, at 350 miles. Little Rock to Nashville. A reality of growing up with parents and grandparents and cousins all living within a single state is that you never have to go very far, and this was certainly true for me. I’d gone to Wellesley, of course, flying alone into Logan and schlepping my 50-pound suitcase on the Silver Line and the commuter train and up to campus. But I’d never driven myself hardly anywhere, and this particular journey across the Mississippi River felt remarkably significant. Before Wellesley, all I knew was Little Rock, the capital of a mostly rural state that is filled with so much poverty, a state that is often the butt of jokes. (At least that’s how it felt to a child who grew up in the Clinton years.) Like many Arkansans, I have always felt an innate, even outsize, sense of pride for my home, where people are kind and hardworking—where I attended a famous school that played an important role in the civil rights movement. But I also held onto a fundamental truth: I went to Wellesley to move beyond all that. It seemed that “Women Who Will” did bigger things than return to their hometowns, and I was determined to buck an oft-quoted line from The Dog of the South by Charles Portis, perhaps my state’s most beloved author: “A lot of people leave Arkansas and most of them come back sooner or later.”

So graduation rolled around, and I didn’t have a job, and Nashville felt manageable and right. When I drove alone there that first time, when I noticed the sign on the bridge by the glimmering pyramid in Memphis, I had a sense that I was growing up, that I was crossing a border over the river and in myself. My past and my future were visible in the rearview and in front of me, and I would make my way in Nashville. And so I did. I found a job and had a life. There were happy years in Tennessee; I crossed that bridge over the Mississippi more times than I can possibly remember, driving to Little Rock for the holidays then back again to the other side of Memphis. Until six months ago, when I finally did the reverse. I could hardly see WELCOME TO TENNESSEE as I looked in the rearview mirror; my backseat was so crammed with dining-room chairs and boxes of books. I moved back, presumably for a job. I had discovered that there are opportunities in growing cities for smart people willing to live there, though I had felt the siren call of home for quite some time—when I allowed myself to miss my family or the joy of swimming in my favorite lake, when I acknowledged that roots pull strong for a reason. I bought a house two miles from where I grew up. Soon I’m getting married in the same cathedral where three generations on my maternal side have already said their vows.

In the beginning, it was difficult. There aren’t any honky-tonks in Little Rock; there are fewer rock clubs and record stores and restaurants and places to do zumba. But my love for this beautiful place is deep, from the Ozarks to the Delta, and I get so much pleasure in cultivating old friendships, in running into people I’ve known for my entire life, in being able to respond to family crises in person. There’s something poignant in choosing to join the community that raised you, and it makes me feel abundantly, satisfyingly full. After all, Little Rock needs strong minds educated at liberal arts colleges, free thinkers who are eager to do good work. What once felt like a weakness—my attachment to home—now feels like a strength. My roots, the ones I’d thought would drag me down? Like roots should, it turns out they give support.

Eliza Borné is an associate editor at the Oxford American magazine. She lives in Little Rock, Ark.
Three weeks were set aside for touring in Beijing during the June program that was part of the Wellesley College/Peking University Partnership for Women’s Leadership. Wellesley faculty, staff, and students, as well as some Peking University students, took a tour of the Forbidden City organized by local alum Chen Yang ’04. For more on the program, see page 8.
Getting Their Feet Wet
The varsity soccer and field-hockey teams are usually land-based, but once a year, they face off in the pool in a friendly preseason water-polo match. This year, the field-hockey team won, 5–3. However, head soccer coach Tony Mohammed had the last laugh, throwing field-hockey coach Julia King into the pool, sneakers and all.