

# wellesleyweek



27 nov.-  
4 dec.  
2006

## nabokov novel is this year's common text project

Each year Wellesley's Common Text Project selects a work of art that will serve as the focus of community attention, discussion, debate and enjoyment. This year's common text, Vladimir Nabokov's novel *Lolita*, will be celebrated Wednesday, Nov. 29, from 5-8:30 pm in Tishman Commons, Wang Center. The events will focus on the novel's "Enchanted Hunters" scene and will include clips from two film versions of *Lolita*, an audio clip from actor Jeremy Irons' recital of the text and a scene study staged by Theatre Studies.

"Nabokov [at right] had great difficulty publishing *Lolita* at first and was refused by four big American publishing houses," said Adam Weiner, Russian. "It wasn't until great writers like Graham Greene began to defend *Lolita* as a work of unheard-of genius that U.S. and British publishers dared to come out with bigger, main-



stream editions. Now Nabokov is regarded as a great innovator in English prose. Time has vindicated his prediction that 'the shadow of the Russian bough' would 'tremble upon the marble of [his] hand.' The same can be said of the American bough, although I don't know of any statues of Nabokov in the U.S."

The Common Text Project is funded by a gift from Naida Wharton '80 and is organized by the Newhouse Center for the Humanities. Past common texts have included Robert Lowell's *For the Union Dead* (2004-2005) and the Japanese film *Godzilla* (2005-2006). This year's selection is enhanced by its special connection to the college—Nabokov taught at Wellesley from 1941-1947 and founded its Russian Department in 1943. For more information, call x2698.

## trustees to move forward on 2015 commission

According to Vicki Herget, chair of the board of trustees, the issues raised in the 2015 Commission report and the recommendations of its two working groups will guide much of the board's agenda for the coming year.

"The ideas and vision articulated by the 2015 Commission give us the opportunity to have substantive conversations about Wellesley's future," Herget said after the board's October meeting. "These discussions, at the board level and campus-wide, are vitally important as we consider some of the choices and opportunities we face. They will guide us not only this year but next year as we welcome a new president."

As an example, Herget pointed to the board's actions at its recent meeting when it took up two issues that emerged from the working groups. The trustees approved a change in the endowment spending rate, one of the recommendations of the financial planning working group. The new policy

narrows the spending range and changes the methodology used to calculate the spending rate, bringing Wellesley's methodology more in line with that used by other colleges and universities.

The board also had an in-depth discussion of some of the recommendations related to faculty governance, contained in the governance working group's report. Although the board did not vote on any specific proposals, the trustees discussed issues related to strengthening the role of departmental chairs and revitalizing the role of Academic Council.

"At our January meeting, we will review other proposals from the financial planning working group," explained Herget. "In April, after members of the campus community have had further opportunities to discuss the findings of the 2015 Commission, the board will incorporate that feedback into its deliberations of the issues identified in the Commission's report."

## stereotype threat

Josh Aronson, applied psychology, NYU, will visit Wellesley Nov. 28-29, to continue a campus-wide discussion of stereotype threat. He will present a talk, "The Nurture of Intelligence," Nov. 28 at 5 pm at the College Club.

On the 29th he will meet with small groups of students, staff and faculty. Aronson's programs will focus on Wellesley-specific issues and explore, in more depth, questions raised by the audience at the Stanford social psychologist Claude Steele lecture Nov. 17. "We urge all members of the college community to join us for the second portion of our exploration of this important topic," said Adele Wolfson, associate dean of the college. Details of the schedule and links for RSVPs for the upcoming Aronson events can be found at [www.wellesley.edu/Chemistry/Flick/aronson.html](http://www.wellesley.edu/Chemistry/Flick/aronson.html).

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## news

### taking a historical look at united nations development

In *The United Nations Development Programme: A Better Way?* (Cambridge University Press, 2006), Craig Murphy, political science, traces the history of the UNDP's organizational structure and mission, its relationship to multilateral financial institutions and the development of its doctrines. The book involved hundreds of interviews and archival work in more than 30 countries. Murphy enjoyed "seeing a bit of the U.N. very 'up close,' a sort of 'West Wing' view of the U.N. system, and a huge contrast to most of my research work, which was in the field in the poorest countries."

Murphy was chosen from a field of international experts by U.N. Deputy Secretary General Mark Malloch Brown

### writing on the cultural commonalities of journeys

Roxanne Euben, political science, has written a new book, *Journeys to the Other Shore: Muslim and Western Travelers in Search of Knowledge* (Princeton University Press, 2006). While Western travel is associated with a pioneering spirit of discovery, the dominant image of Muslim mobility is the jihadi who travels not to learn but to destroy. The book challenges those stereotypes by charting the common ways in which Muslim and Western travelers negotiate the dislocation of travel, which signifies not only a physical movement, but also an imaginative

to produce the book. At its launch at the U.N., Murphy said, "Sixty years ago, on Dec. 5, 1946, Fiorello LaGuardia, the Republican from New York, made an impassioned speech to the first session of the U.N.'s Second Committee. He urged the U.N. to keep the promise made to people of Africa, Asia and Latin America during the Second World War by setting up permanent programs to bring technical assistance in all fields to all parts of the developing world. UNDP is what kept that promise."

The UNDP is the central network coordinating U.N. work in over 160 developing countries. Murphy argues that its founding principles remain as relevant today as they were in the aftermath of World War II.

journey in which wonder about those who live differently makes it possible to see the world in a new way.

Euben shows that the fluidity of identities, cultures and borders associated with our postcolonial, globalized world has a long history—one shaped not only by Western power but also by an Islamic ethos of travel in search of knowledge. "This is a major book," noted Dale Eickelman, Dartmouth College. "It transcends the imagined great divide between East and West by examining the role of travel in shaping one's imagination of societies—both one's own and those of others."

## colleagues

### in the news

mary lefkowitz, classical studies emerita, has been awarded the National Humanities Medal, presented by President Bush at an awards ceremony in the Oval Office. She joined eight other scholars and the Hoover Institution in receiving the honor for 2006. Lefkowitz's research has challenged the Afrocentric theory. The National Humanities Medals recognize work that has "deepened the nation's understanding of the humanities, broadened our citizens' engagement with the humanities or helped preserve and expand Americans' access to important resources in the humanities." It is presented by the National Endowment for the Humanities and is awarded to as many as 12 recipients each year.

The *Boston Globe* has called melinda lopez, theatre studies, the "biggest success story" of the Huntington Theatre Co.'s Stanford Calderwood Fund for New American Plays, which allows the theatre to commission new plays. Lopez was among the first group of Huntington playwriting fellows. Her play *Sonia Flew* opened the Huntington's second stage in its new Calderwood Pavilion and has since received prestigious productions at the Coconut Grove Playhouse in Miami, the Contemporary American Theatre Festival in West Virginia, the Summer Play Festival in New York City and the Laguna Playhouse in California. It opens in December at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Co.

takis metaxas, computer science, presented a keynote speech, "How Google Works (and Why You Should Care)," at the World Usability Day New England conference organized by Dartmouth and Landmark Colleges. The conference theme was "universal usability to enhance learning, effectiveness and understanding for people of all abilities."



### playing shakespeare behind bars

What can Shakespeare bring to prisoners serving hard time? The documentary film *Shakespeare Behind Bars* follows the year-long journey of violent criminals as they rehearse and perform Shakespeare's visionary play about sin, redemption and forgiveness, *The Tempest*. The result is a compelling, funny and moving drama that chronicles the ways inmates struggle to understand how the characters they play can illuminate their own troubled journeys. The film will be shown Thursday, Nov. 30, at 7:30 pm in Collins Cinema followed by a discussion with Curt Tofteland, producing artistic director of the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival and founder of the Shakespeare Behind Bars program at the Luther Lockett Correctional Complex in Kentucky. A reception follows. For more, call x2638.



# calendar

## monday november 27

thanksgiving recess ends. Classes resume.

lecture. "East Asian Studies in the 21st Century." Speaker: Li Bozhong, Tsinghua University, Beijing, and University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. 4:30-5:30 pm, PNW 212. Sponsor: EALL. Info: x2188.

lecture. "Integrating Social Action into Zen Everyday Life." Speaker: Bernie Glassman, founder, Zen Community, New York. 4:30 pm, Collins Cinema; reception, 6 pm, Collins Café. Sponsor: Hillel. Info: Irabinow@wellesley.edu.

esl tutoring. 6-8:15 pm. Sign up in PLTC small conference room. Info: x2480.

meeting. "Zen and Creativity." 7 pm, lower chapel. Sponsor: Buddhist Community. Info: x2793.

basketball vs. Rhode Island. 7 pm, Sports Center. Info: x2003.

## tuesday november 28

japanese table. 12:30 pm, Tower Court private dining hall. Info: x7685.

calderwood lecture. "Rethinking the Wealth of Nations." Speaker: Daron Acemoglu, economics, MIT. 4:15 pm, PNW 212. Sponsor: Economics. Info: x2157.

alumnae panel. "Computer Science Careers and Graduate School." 4:15 pm, SCI 278; dinner following, Sage Lounge. Sponsor: CS. Info: x3162.

alero olympio memorial panel. "Modern, Sustainable Architecture for African Cities." 4:30-6:30 pm, Collins Cinema. Sponsor: Art. Info: x2185.

meeting. "Kaffee." Advanced/native German speakers. 4:30 pm, pool table area, 3rd floor, Wang Center. Sponsor: German. Info: x1239.

## wednesday november 29

sale. Davis Museum Spring Cleaning. 10 am-2 pm, 1st floor, DMCC. Sponsor: DMCC Student Advisory Council. Info: x4926.

meeting. "Meditation." Noon-12:30 pm, lower chapel. Sponsor: Buddhist Community. Info: x2793.

spanish table. 12:30 pm, Tower Court private dining hall. Info: x3571.

chinese table. 12:30 pm, Stone-Davis living room. Info: x7685.

russian table. 12:30 pm, FND 416. Info: x3549.

german table. 12:30 pm, Severance basement. Info: x1239.

cws info meeting. "Stipends." 12:30 pm, Library Lecture Room. Info: x2352.

world AIDS day event. "Walk of Hope." 12:30 pm, Anderson Forum, Wang Center. Sponsor: Health Services. Info: x2810.

workshop. "Mat Cutting." Instructor: John Ros-

setti. 5-7 pm, Davis Museum. Sponsor: Applied Arts. Registration: jrossetti@wellesley.edu.

gathering. Unitarian Universalist worship circle. 6 pm, Little Chapel. Info: x3484.

film/discussion. *Balseros: Cuban Rafters*. Speaker: Alejandra Osorio, history. 6:30 pm, SCI 277. Sponsor: CLIO. Info: x4523.

## thursday november 30

french table. 12:30 pm, Bates private dining hall. Info: x2415.

italian table. 12:30 pm, Tower Court private dining hall. Info: x2616.

exhibition games. Peking University table tennis delegation. 4:30 pm; reception at 5, Sports Center. (See story, at right.) Info: x2015.

esl tutoring. (See 11/27 listing.)

meeting. Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. 7-9 pm, Wang Center 413. Info: x4335.

film/discussion. *Shakespeare Behind Bars*. 7:30-9:30 pm, Collins Cinema. (See story, page 2.) Sponsor: English. Info: x2638.

## friday december 1

deadline. Class of 2009 major declarations if intending to study abroad.

service. Jumah. 12:30-1 pm, Muslim prayer room, Houghton Chapel. Info: x2656.

seminar. "Cybercrime." 12:30 pm, SCI E11. Includes lunch. Sponsor: CS. Info: fturbak@wellesley.edu.

films. *Cars*, 7 pm; *Monster House*, 9 pm, Collins Cinema. Sponsor: Film Society. Info: x1311.

concert. Blue Notes. 7-10 pm, Houghton Chapel. (See story, page 4.) Info: BlueNotesmail@wellesley.edu.

public night. 7-9 pm, Whitin Observatory. Sponsor: Astronomy. Info: x3156.

performance. Amnesty International Coffeehouse. 7 pm-midnight, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. (See story, page 4.) Info: Amnestymail@wellesley.edu.

## saturday december 2

concert. Awaken the Dawn. 4-7 pm, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. (See story, page 4.) Info: Awakenmail@wellesley.edu.

films. *Monster House*, 7 pm; *Cars*, 9 pm, Collins Cinema. Sponsor: Film Society. Info: x1311.

performance. Yanvalou Drumming and Dance Ensemble. 8-10 pm, Jewett Auditorium. (See story,

## save the date!

12/13/06: Greenhouse Light Show. 5-8 pm, Greenhouses and Visitor Center. Sponsor: FOH. Info: x3504.

## ping pong play

A 16-member table tennis delegation from Peking University, Beijing, China, will offer exhibition games at the Sports Center Thursday, Nov. 30, at 4:30 pm and a reception at 5. The delegation has traveled to the U.S. to participate in the 2006 Stiga North American Teams Championships in Baltimore. According to Yue Hu, physics, the Boston area trip follows activities at the U.N. to commemorate the 35th anniversary of "ping pong diplomacy," which helped to normalize relations between the U.S. and China in the early '70s, and to celebrate the 2008 Beijing Olympics, where table tennis will be held at Peking U's new gymnasium. Two delegation members, Liang Ge-liang and Liu Wei, are world champions. For more information, call x2015.

page 4.) Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028.

## sunday december 3

meeting. Darshana. 4:30-6 pm, lower chapel. Sponsor: Hindu Community. Info: x2794.

concert. Vespers. Performers: Wellesley Choir, Chamber Singers, Glee Club. 8-10 pm, Houghton Chapel. (See story, page 4.) Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028.

## monday december 4

cws deadline. Résumés for on-campus recruiting program.

esl tutoring. (See 11/27 listing.)

meeting. CG Senate. 6 pm, Academic Council Room, 4th floor, GRH.

film/discussion. *Born into Brothels*. Speaker: Nikhil Rao, history. 6:30 pm, PNE 239. Sponsor: CLIO. Info: x4523.

meeting. "Meditation." 7 pm. (See 11/29 listing.)

## ongoing

exhibit. *Fifty Years of the Janus Press*. Special Collections, 2nd and 4th floors, Clapp Library, through Nov. 30. Info: x2129.

exhibit. *Contemporary Art from Mali*. 8:30 am-10 pm, Jewett Arts Gallery, through Nov. 27. Sponsor: Art. Info: x2042.

food drive. To benefit A Place to Turn, Natick. Through Nov. 30. Drop boxes in Science, Wang and Knapp centers, Pendleton Atrium, Green Hall. Sponsor: CWS. Info: x2352.

# don't miss ...

## wellesley hills are alive with music this weekend

The Blue Notes will offer its fall concert, "CrazySexyBlue," Friday, Dec. 1, at 7 pm in Houghton Chapel featuring guest musical groups Amherst Route 9 and Colby8. The Blue Notes will sing "Blue" by Joni Mitchell, "Sway" by the Pussycat Dolls and "Hide & Seek" by Imogen Heap, among other tunes. Amnesty International will sponsor a coffeehouse Dec. 1 at 7 pm at Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Yanvalou Drumming and Dance Ensemble will perform, among others. "There are some big names coming—The Young Republic and Joe Hogan, who both have a considerable fan base," said Amnesty's Susie Conwell '07. Sumita Chakraborty '08 will perform spoken word, and Emilie Colyar '08 will sing and play guitar. Hogan is a singer-songwriter from Worcester and The Young Republic is a popular indie band from Berklee College of Music in Boston. "We will be selling baked goods including authentic French crepes and drinks," said Kelsey Bundy '07, Amnesty president, "and we will be having an art show and silent auction. All proceeds will go to Amnesty International's Control Arms Campaign and the Adopt a Landmine program in Cambodia. It should be a great night!"

Awaken the Dawn will present its fall concert Saturday, Dec. 2, at 4 pm in Tishman Commons, and at 8 pm, Yanvalou will offer a performance in Jewett Auditorium. On Sunday, Dec. 3, the Wellesley Choir, Chamber Singers and Glee Club will perform the annual Vespers concert at 8 pm in Houghton Chapel. For more information, see *WellesleyWeek* calendar.

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