

wellesleyweek



visiting scholar talks elvis, detective fiction and greek prose

To some, Elvis Presley, detective stories and Greek prose might seem to have little in common. To Leslie Kurke, the Mary L. Cornille Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities, one topic can help explain the other.

Her varied academic pursuits represent the different teaching and research interests Kurke has developed through her joint appointment in classics and comparative literature at the University of California, Berkeley. Comparative literature provides the opportunity to wrestle with similar kinds of problems across very different domains of evidence, she said.

“All three disparate topics allow me to think through the interactions between popular forms and high culture—thinking about the popular mythology of Elvis in modern culture, for example, turns out to be a very suggestive parallel for what’s going on with Aesop in ancient Greek culture,” Kurke said. “In the same way, detective fiction is a popular form, but it interacts significantly with literary and scholarly discourses. Teaching detective fiction also allows me to think seriously about narrative, and this in turn is useful for my work on Aesop.”

Kurke will present a lecture, “Herodotus and Aesop, or The Socio-

politics of Greek Prose,” Thursday, Oct. 18, at 4:30 pm in the Library Lecture Room.

While at Wellesley, Kurke is teaching a course on detective fiction and psychoanalysis and is leading a faculty seminar, “Elvis Presley and the Myths of America.” She is also working on the last chapters of a book about Aesop in ancient Greek literature and culture.

“Specifically, I’m using Aesop—both the fables and especially the weird stories that circulate about the life of Aesop—as a way of gaining access to otherwise entirely lost aspects of ancient Greek popular culture and how they interact in a complex dialogue with the texts of Greek high culture,” Kurke said.

In support of her offerings, screenings of Elvis Presley movies will be held in Collins Cinema this fall. *Loving You* (1957) will be shown Thursday, Oct. 25, at 7:30 pm and *Jailhouse Rock* (1957) will be presented Thursday, Nov. 15, at 7:30 pm. For more information, call x2698.



campus focuses on sustainability in october

Checking the tire pressure of your car, taking shorter showers and bringing your own shopping bag are just a few of the suggestions offered to members of the Wellesley community during Sustainability Month.

“Throughout the month of October the Sustainability Advisory Committee, in collaboration with committees and departments across the campus, will be hosting programs for the campus community,” said President H. Kim Bottomly. “I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities to learn more about sustainable practices, to enjoy some locally grown food products, to experiment with some new approaches to everyday behaviors and to have some fun.”



Events will also include a series of lectures sponsored by Focus the Nation, a student organization dedicated to raising awareness of the problem of global climate change. Richard Lindzen, the Alfred P. Sloan professor of meteorology at MIT, will kick off the “Feel the Heat” series Monday, Oct. 15, at 7 pm in Pendleton 225. His interests include the broad topics of climate, planetary waves, monsoon meteorology, planetary atmospheres and hydrodynamic instability. He is also a climate change skeptic.

“We hope that by bringing somebody who is a skeptic, we will be able to generate a lot of conversation on campus,” said event organizer Darrah Hafner ’08. For more information, call x2239.

WellesleyWeek is published each Monday during the academic year by the Office for Public Affairs. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. For directions, go to www.wellesley.edu/CampusMaps/. Phone numbers are dialed 781 283-xxxx. Campus-sponsored event listings are welcome via an online form at www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/WellesleyWeek/Forms/wellswkform.html or e-mail wellesleyweekcalendar@wellesley.edu. Submissions can be mailed to WellesleyWeek, Office for Public Affairs, Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley, MA 02481. Deadline for calendar submissions is noon on the Monday prior to publication. For paid subscriptions, call 781 283 2373. View **WellesleyWeek** online at www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/WellesleyWeek/archiveweek.html. For more events, go to <https://calendar.wellesley.edu/wv3> for the online campus calendar.

pedestrian signal installed

Wellesley College has partnered with the town of Wellesley to install a high visibility pedestrian crossing signal on Washington Street (Route 16) at Upland Road, the site of a pedestrian accident earlier this year. Before entering the crosswalk, pedestrians now can activate the flashing yellow signals to alert drivers.

The College approached town officials about improving safety at the location last spring after a college professor was seriously injured while crossing Washington Street from the campus to faculty housing.

The College paid \$15,000 toward the cost of the signals’ purchase and installation.

news

professor's latest novel tells of troubled legacies

It's a fictional story that incorporates an all-too-real "pirate" – swashbuckling actor Errol Flynn – as one of its main characters. *The Pirate's Daughter* (Unbridled Books, October 2007) by Margaret Cezair-Thompson uses Flynn's history and personality to weave a novel filled with attachments and betrayals.

"Errol Flynn is a symbol as much as a character in the novel for me," said Cezair-Thompson, English. A native of Jamaica, she had heard from childhood about Flynn's wild life as a sometime island resident.

"He died when I was 3, but I remember loving the pirate movies he was in," she said. In combination with British colonial history in Jamaica, Flynn as a character represented "the imperial wanderlust—it was interesting to me that he really lived the role he of-

ten played—he was bad, he misbehaved – he really was a pirate."

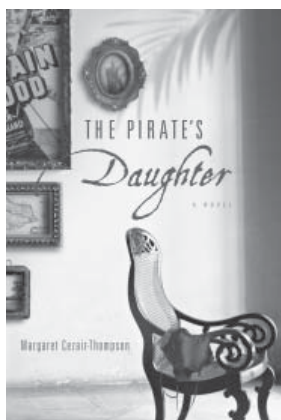
Cezair-Thompson's book is described as a coming-of-age saga focusing on Ida Joseph, a Jamaican teenager who falls in love with

Flynn after he nearly shipwrecks off the Jamaican coast. Flynn decides to escape his scandalous state-side life and buys an islet off the Jamaican coast.

There he begins a new round of glittering parties and affairs. Ida finds herself expecting, but Flynn refuses to take responsibility for the resulting child, May. The story follows May's search for a father she never knew with the backdrop of an emerging black nation and its white, expatriate society.

"Probably the word 'daughter' in the title is the most meaningful in what I was trying to do," said Cezair-Thompson. "The central idea that propelled me forward was the problematic identity that comes from things that are both grand and ruined. The young woman is symbolic of anyone trying to make his or her way through a troubled legacy. You ultimately have to stop grappling with all these shadows and move forward with your life." For more, visit

www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/Releases/2007/092507.html.



fall music faculty concert at wellesley

Esteemed members of the performance faculty at Wellesley will present a "Faculty Classical Concert" Sunday, Oct. 21, at 7 pm in Jewett Auditorium.

Each year, two concerts in the "Concert Series at Wellesley" are dedicated to showcasing the diverse talents of the performance faculty in the Music Department. All faculty members maintain active performing careers in addition to teaching. The 2007 fall faculty concert will feature Andrea Matthews and Aaron Sheehan, voice; Barbara Lafitte, oboe; Jan Pfeiffer, cello; Kathy Matasy, clarinet; Tracy McGinnis, bassoon; Nona Gainsforth, horn; and Eliko Akahori, Karen Sauer, Jenny Tang and Olga Talroze, piano.

A highlight of the program will be a performance of *Cassiopeia*, Lexington-based composer Hayg Boyadjian's composition for clarinet, cello and piano. Also on the program are Benjamin Britten's "Canticle 1, 'My Beloved is Mine,' Opus 40," for voice and piano, "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 14" by Franz Liszt, Richard Strauss's "Four Last Songs" for voice and piano and the "Quintet in E-flat for Piano and Winds, Opus 16" by Ludwig van Beethoven.

The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call x2028.

colleagues

in the news

marion just, political science, has received the 2007 Murray Edelman Distinguished Career Award, presented by the Political Communication Section of the American Political Science Association at its annual meeting in Chicago. The award honors her books (*Common Knowledge: News and the Construction of Political Meaning* (University of Chicago Press, 1992); *Crosstalk: Citizens, Candidates, and the Media in a Presidential Campaign* (University of Chicago Press, 1996), which won the Doris Graber Outstanding Book Award for a book with the greatest impact in the past 10 years; and her latest co-authored book on local news, *We Interrupt This Broadcast: How to Improve Local News and Win Ratings, Too* (Cambridge University Press, 2007), as well as several edited volumes, peer reviewed articles in communication, collaborative communication research projects in the 1992 and 1996 election campaigns and a conference on terrorism in 2003, service to the APSA's Political Communication Section (including founding and chairing) and mentoring of junior scholars in the discipline.

patrice williamson, music, will perform at Quota International of Andover's "Evening at the Cotton Club" fund-raiser Saturday, Oct. 20, at 7 pm at the Stevens Estate, 723 Osgood St., North Andover. Quota International, a women's service organization, will donate proceeds to the YWCA of Greater Lawrence Fina House for women and their children and the Esperanza Academy for middle-school girls in Lawrence. Williamson was featured in *The Boston Globe*, which noted, "Patrice Williamson was introduced to the music of Louis Armstrong, Nat King Cole and Lena Horne by her father, an amateur singer and choir director. She took up the violin at age 4, the piano at 7, and the flute at 11. A principal flutist for opera and symphony orchestras, she was given her first vocal solo when the conductor of the University of Tennessee Studio Jazz Orchestra overheard her singing during a break." To read more, copy and paste the following link into your browser: www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/10/04/women_and_children_first/.

calendar

monday october 15

fall open campus. For prospective students and parents. Sponsor: Admission. Info: x2270.

meeting. "Meditation." 12:30-1:30 pm, Schneider Loft meditation space. Sponsor: Religious Life. Info: x2793.

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

cws info session. "Quinnipiac University School of Law." 12:30 pm, PNE 231. Info: x2356.

senate meeting. 6 pm, Academic Council Room, Green Hall, 4th floor. Info: sanand@wellesley.edu.

esl tutoring. 6-8 pm, PLTC small conference room. By appointment. Info: x2480.

lecture. "Bring on the Heat: Climate Change Series." Speaker: Richard Lindzen, Meteorology, MIT. 7 pm, PNE Atrium. Sponsor: WEED. Info: WEEDmail@wellesley.edu. (See story, page 1.)

panel discussion. "Time Abroad Talk" with five seniors. 9:30 pm, Pomeroy Hall living room. Sponsor: International Study. Info: x2320.

tuesday october 16

french table. 12:30 pm, Bates dining room. Info: x2413.

japanese table. 12:30 pm, Tower private dining hall. Info: JapanClubmail@wellesley.edu.

cws info session. "Writing Effective Cover Letters." 12:30 pm, GRH 428. Info: x2352.

field hockey vs. Wheaton. 3:30 pm, Sports Center. Info: x2900.

meeting. "Meditation." 7 pm. (See 10/15 listing.)

concert. Folk music with Beth DeSombre, political science and environmental studies, and area musician Adam Sweeney. 8 pm, Punch's Alley. Info: x2168.

wednesday october 17

chinese table. Noon, Davis living room. Info: CSAMail@wellesley.edu.

german table. 12:30 pm, Tower private dining room. Sponsor: German. Info: x2584.

meeting. Academic Council. 12:30 pm, Academic Council Room, 4th floor, GRH. Info: x3583.

disability discussion. 12:30-1:30 pm, FND 305. Sponsor: Disability Services. Info: x2434.

workshop. "Financial Aid and Study Abroad for Juniors." 1 pm, GRH 330. Info: x2320.

cws info session. "Georgetown University Law School." 4:30 pm, PNE 127. Info: x2352.

gathering. Unitarian Universalist worship circle. 6 pm, interim chapel, 2nd floor, Schneider. Info: x3484.

film screening. *The Ritchie Boys*. 6 pm, Collins Cinema. Info: x2596. (See story, page 4.)

intramural kickball. 6-7:30 pm, P.E./Rec. field. Sponsor: Athletics. Info: x2016.

film screening/discussion. Part of "Teacher Flicks"

save the date!

10/24: Campus Sustainability Day webcast.

Noon-1:30 pm, Collins Cinema. Sponsor:

President's Office. Info: x2239.

10/25-10/28: *The Foreigner*. Performed by Upstage theatre. 10/25 at 7 pm; 10/26 at 8 pm; 10/27 at 2 and 8 pm; 10/28 at 2 and 7 pm, Ruth Nagle Jones Theatre, Alumnae Hall. Info: upstagemail@wellesley.edu.

series. *Stand and Deliver*. 6:30 pm, PNE 151. Sponsor: Education. Info: x3232.

intramural basketball. 8-9:30 pm, Multipurpose gym, Sports Center. Sponsor: Athletics. Info: x2016.

thursday october 18

meeting. "Meditation." 12:30 pm. (See 10/15 listing.)

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

wcw seminar. "Adolescents Expressing Identity through Media Production." Speaker: Linda Charman, research fellow, WCW. 12:30 pm, Cheever House. Info: x2500.

talk-back session. "Reproduction and Motherhood." In conjunction with *Global Feminisms* exhibit. Speakers: Sealing Chen, women's studies, and Dennis Smith, biology. 4 pm, DMCC. Info: x2034.

lecture. Cornille Lecture in the Humanities. "Herodotus and Aesop, or the Sociopolitics of Greek Prose." Speaker: Leslie Kurke, visiting professor, humanities. 4:30 pm, Library Lecture Room. Sponsor: Newhouse Center. Info: x2698. (See story, page 1.)

engineering seminar. "Engineering as a 21st Century Liberal Art: From Education to Research in Fluid Dynamics." Speaker: Howard Stone, engineering, Harvard. 4:45 pm, SCI 278. Info: x3047.

cws info session. "Management Basics." 5 pm, Science Center, Sage lounge. Info: x2352.

esl tutoring. (See 10/15 listing.)

info session. "Off-campus Study in the U.S." 7 pm, Wang 210. Sponsor: International Study. Info: x2320.

meeting. Interservice Christian Fellowship. 7-9 pm, Wang 415. Info: x4335.

health program. "Breast and Reproductive Health." 7 pm, Beebe living room. Sponsor: Health Services. Info: x2821.

lecture. "One Woman's Courage to Speak Out for Peace." Speaker: Nonie Darwish, author, *Now They Call Me Infidel*. 7:30 pm, Collins Cinema. Info: friends ofisraelmail@wellesley.edu.

friday october 19

comedy. "Bridging the Cultural Divide." Stand-up comedian Bill Santiago. 7 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Sponsor: Mezcla. Info: mezcl@mail@wellesley.edu.

bible study. 7-11:30 pm, Wang 415. Sponsor: Asian Baptist Students Koinonia. Info: mkhoo@wellesley.edu.

films. *Children of Men*, 7 pm; *Gattaca*, 9 pm, SCI 377. Sponsor: Film Society. Info: jbenfel@wellesley.edu.

saturday october 20

festival. "Falling Leaves Medieval Festival." 10 am-4 pm, Wang Center lawn. Sponsor: Felding Medieval Society. Info: FeldingMedievalmail@wellesley.edu.

films. *Gattaca*, 7 pm; *Children of Men*, 9 pm, SCI 377. Sponsor: Film Society. Info: jbenfel@wellesley.edu.

sunday october 21

gathering. Protestant worship service. 7 pm, Schneider chapel. Sponsor: Protestant Christian Chaplaincy. Info: x2655.

gathering. Darshana. 11 am, meditation room, Schneider Center. Sponsor: Hindu Students. Info: x2794.

concert. "Faculty Classical Concert." 7-9 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Info: x2028. (See story, page 2.)

monday october 22

class. "Little Seeds." Story and activity hour in the greenhouses for children ages 2-4 with adult companion. 9:30-10:30 am, Greenhouse Visitor Center. Info: x3504.

meeting. Administrative Council. 11 am, Academic Council Room, 4th floor, GRH. Info: x2333.

meeting. "Meditation." 12:30 pm (See 10/15 listing.)

lecture. "Anna Ivey Law School Admissions." 12:30 pm, Pendleton Atrium. Sponsor: Pre-Law Society. Info: Pre-LawSociety@mail@wellesley.edu.

cws info session. "Yale Divinity School." 12:30 pm, PNE 351. Info: x2352.

italian table. (See 10/15 listing.)

senate meeting. (See 10/15 listing.)

esl tutoring. (See 10/11 listing.)

ongoing

exhibition. *Transfigured Texts*. Special Collections, 4th floor, Clapp Library. Through 11/07. Info: x2129.

exhibition. U.S. Constitution Display. Celebrate U.S. Constitution Week by learning how the Constitution was conceived, debated and passed. Clapp Library, 2nd floor. Through October. Info: x3426.

exhibition. *Patterns in Nature*. Multi-media art works by Judith Greenberg. Greenhouse Visitor Center. Sponsor: Friends of Horticulture. Through 11/15. Info: x3094.

exhibition. *Don't Look: Contemporary Drawings from an Alumna's Collection*. Davis Museum and Cultural Center. Through 12/9. Info: x2034.

exhibition. *Global Feminisms*. Davis Museum and Cultural Center. Through 12/9. Info: x2034.

don't miss ...

documentary about world war II soldiers to be shown at wellesley

As a teenager, Hans Loeser fled Nazi Germany and emigrated to the United States. He knew little about the country that would become his home, and he and other German-Jews feared their troubles might follow.

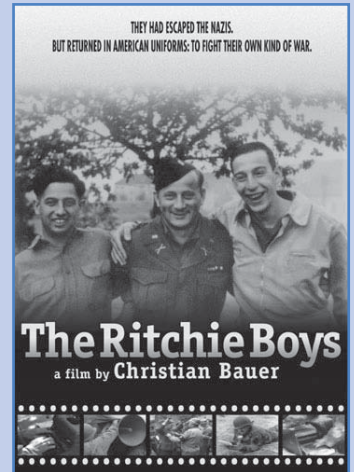
“We were very much afraid that Hitler would come here next,” Loeser said. “And even if he would not come here physically with his armies, that similar ideas or ideologies would take over. So for us, Pearl Harbor and the declaration of war by Germany, against the U.S., were an enormous relief. We were most enthusiastic about the war, and I enlisted in the Army in June 1942.”

Wearing his U.S. Army uniform, Loeser returned to the European continent a few years after his departure to fight his own kind of war. He was one of a group of young German-Jews recruited for an elite intelligence unit and trained at Camp Ritchie, Maryland, with the mission of using their collective knowledge about Germany to fight against Germany.

Loeser will introduce *The Ritchie Boys*, a film about this mission, Wednesday, Oct. 17, at 7:30 pm in Collins Cinema on the Wellesley College campus.

After his training at Camp Ritchie, Loeser was attached to the 82nd US Airborne Division as an intelligence officer and saw much combat, particularly during the Battle of the Bulge. After assuming the role of chief of the intelligence section in the U.S. Military Government in Germany in 1945, Loeser was responsible for the denazification of Bavaria, a task that turned out to be essential for the democratization of the new West German state.

“Our teams were bright, available, not always courageous — not always expert warriors, but certainly our heart was in it,” said Victor Brombert, another “Ritchie Boy” who is now a professor emeritus at Princeton University. For more information about the documentary, by Christian Bauer, call x2626 or visit <http://www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/Releases/2007/100407.html>.



WELLESLEY MA 02481
106 CENTRAL STREET
OFFICE FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION
WELLESLEY COLLEGE

wellesleyweek

