

'black womanhood' exhibition opens at the davis museum



Amina Alio Abdi and her son Mohammed, feeding center, Somali refugee camp, Mandera, Kenya

From traditional African pottery to colonial-era photographs and postcards, images of black womanhood appear in many artistic genres. By combining divergent media from differing time periods in a new exhibit, *Black Womanhood: Images, Icons and Ideologies of the African Body*, the Davis Museum will seek to unravel many often-romanticized, sexualized and stereotyped visions of the black female body.

The exhibition — which opens Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 6 pm and remains on view until Dec.

14 — will showcase art by both male and female artists in traditional African cultures. In addition, it will feature images of black woman-

hood as viewed by Western colonial artists and by contemporary artists of the African Diaspora.

The opening celebration for *Black Womanhood* will include gallery talks on featured exhibitions by both artists and curators and a performance by the all-female musical ensemble Zili Misik. In conjunction with *Black Womanhood*, a film series, "Black Woman's Body in Africa," will begin Sept. 24 with a screening of Safe Faye's *Mossane* (1996). The film series will run on Wednesdays through Dec. 3 and will consist of works exploring various images of black womanhood in Africa, the Diaspora and the United States.

According to Davis Museum organizers, the juxtaposition of several art forms will create a deeper understanding of the ways in which black women have been represented by diverse artists in the past and present.

"The exhibition provides the opportunity to raise awareness about the history of stereotypes of black womanhood and the continued impact they have not just on artists today, but on all of us living in the global community," explained curator Barbara Thompson. For more information, call x2034.

three students awarded katharine malone prizes

At convocation on Sept. 2, Wellesley College President H. Kim Bottomly announced the names of three students being honored as recipients of Katharine Malone Prizes for Academic Excellence. The First-Year Student Prize was awarded to Caitlin Kearns, the Sophomore Student Prize to DaEun Im and the Katharine Malone Scholarship to Colleen Kirkhart.

The Malone Prizes were established in 1985 by Wellesley alumna Claudine Malone in honor of her mother, Katharine Malone. They are awarded annually to a sophomore, a junior and a senior who exhibit "the harmonious combination of academic excellence, active and contributing citizenship and accomplishment." The first-year and sophomore prizes each consist of a \$10,000 award, while the prestigious Malone Scholarship carries a \$50,000 award with eligibility for an additional \$10,000 per year of graduate study.

During her first year, Kearns was awarded the Three Generations Writing Prize, took advanced-level courses, performed with the Brandeis-Wellesley Orchestra and participated in WEED, the campus environmental organization.

Im, a neuroscience and women's studies double major, has been a student researcher in Professor Marc Tetel's laboratory, investigating how ovarian hormones act in the brain to regulate hormone-dependent behavior.

Kirkhart, a neuroscience major, was the recipient of the prestigious Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation scholarship to conduct independent research. She is using the crustacean model to investigate the effects of lithium and serotonin, treatments for bipolar and unipolar depression on adult neurogenesis. To read more about the Malone winners, visit www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/Releases/2008/090908.html.

neuroscience knowledge

Eileen Lafer, a professor of biochemistry at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center, will give a lecture, "Molecular Mechanisms of Synaptic Vesicle Endocytosis," Thursday, Sept. 18, at 5 pm in the Science Center, Room 278.

"Dr. Lafer has used a variety of biochemical and physiological techniques to learn about the processes involved in chemical communication between neurons," said Barbara Beltz, neuroscience. "Most recently, she has used the classical squid giant axon preparation to study how vesicles are recycled in the synaptic terminal. This work is critical to our most basic understanding of nervous system function."

Lafer also serves as the director of the Center for Surface Plasmon Resonance at Texas. For more information, call x3154.

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.

news

professor dan brabander works to clean up urban gardens

Dan Brabander, geosciences, wants to put the green in – and take the lead out – of sustainable urban gardening. His research focus is at the intersection of environmental geochemistry and public health.

To that end, he has received funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and formed a partnership with Boston’s The Food Project, a nonprofit organization that helps foster the development of organic urban gardens. For the past five years, Brabander



and his student researchers have been looking at lead contamination in urban backyard gardens in Roxbury and Dorchester, Mass.

“After analyzing over 1,000 soil samples we have determined that the neighborhood average soil lead concentrations are over twice the EPA action level,” Brabander said. The EPA action level is 400 parts per million of lead in soil.

His research tracks the sources of the contamination and evaluates how much lead in the soil is bioavailable, or able to be absorbed by a living organism. Lead exposure is connected to serious health issues, especially for children. Even small amounts measured in blood levels can cause learning disabilities and behavior problems in children and can contribute to high blood pressure, reproductive problems and memory loss in adults.

This July, Brabander and two Wellesley student researchers, Debra Hausladen ’09 and Heather Clark ’07, published a research paper on the subject, “Urban Gardens: Lead Exposure, Recontamination Mechanisms and Implications for Remediation Design,” in *Environmental Research*.

To read more, visit www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/Releases/2008/082508.html.

colleagues

in the news

vanessa britto, health services, has been elected to the American College Health Association (ACHA) as the regional representative for New York and New England. ACHA is the principal advocate and leadership organization for college and university health. The association provides an array of programs and services that address many health issues affecting college students, including alcohol, tobacco and drug use, nutrition, sexual health, violence and mental health.

ellen gannett, Wellesley Centers for Women, is featured in the cover article, “Climbing Career Ladders: More Youth Workers Forge their Own Paths, but Payoff Remains Iffy,” in the September 2008 issue of *Youth Today*. Gannett notes that people should approach the notion of a career ladder in the youth field with caution. Her main “gripe” with college classes for youth workers is that they often aren’t tied to government qualification mandates or to financial incentives, such as pay increases. “Unless they are, the rainbow at the end is nonexistent,” she said. “You may have made an investment in your own education, but it doesn’t change your paycheck.” Gannett is the director of the WCW’s National Institute on Out-of-School Time.

susan reverby, women’s studies, contributed to a National Public Radio piece, “Palin’s Nomination Fuels Working-Moms Debate,” which aired on “Morning Edition.” To hear it online, visit www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=94377275. Reverby was also quoted in *The Boston Globe* story, “Again, They Ask How Mothers Do it All.” She said gender bias was at play in reactions to McCain’s selection of Palin as his running mate. “There’s a double standard,” she said. “If she were a man with four [other] children and a teenage daughter who was pregnant, who would care? Who would even notice, frankly? I think this is all a real indication that we still can’t figure out what to think about women and work. Anything sets it off.” To read the *Globe* story, visit www.boston.com/lifestyle/family/articles/2008/09/04/again_they_ask_how_mothers_do_it_all/?p1=Well_MostPop_Emailed5.

wellesley students tackle organic farming

With gas and food prices mounting and concerns about climate change growing, many are rethinking the way we approach food. Some Wellesley College students have embraced the benefits of eating locally through organic farming. Last fall, El Table began buying lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, basil and garlic from the venture, “Wellesley Students for Sustainable Farms and Produce.” Now Wellesley College dining halls plan to use the student farmers’ garlic, basil, parsley and asparagus, with more options to come.

While volunteering at the Food Project, an organization that works for social justice and change through sustainable agriculture, Jo Murphy ’09 first secured her passion for farming. Farm workers’ rights, resource consumption, pesticide use and globalization are all issues that can be tackled by living a more sustainable lifestyle, Murphy said. But if those issues are intimidating or alienating to some, eating locally offers more immediate benefits — such as freshness, purity and taste.

“It doesn’t have to be a huge human rights issue,” Murphy said. “It can just be that the carrot tastes better, it was grown organically without pesticides right in front of you — that can be a huge way of connecting.”



Patrick Willoughby, co-chair of Wellesley’s Sustainability Committee, helped Murphy and her sister Eliza ’10 secure a plot of land in the college-owned community gardens on Weston Road, less than a mile from campus. To read more about the garden and other sustainability initiatives at Wellesley, visit www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/Releases/2008/062608.html.

calendar

save the date

9/23: 7th Annual Martha Davenport Heard Lecture. "The Internationalization of Mathematics in a World of Nations: 1800-1960." Speaker: Karen Parshall, University of Virginia. 4:15 pm, SCI 396. Sponsor: Mathematics. Info: x3148.

9/27: Triple Helix Concert. "Embodying the Romantic Spirit: The Music of the Schumanns and Brahms." 8 pm, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028.

10/1: Lecture. "Leading from Within: Imagining Mindful and Heartful Leadership." Speakers: Diana Chapman Walsh, president emerita, and Jon Kabat-Zinn, founding executive director, Center for Mindfulness in Medicine, Health Care and Society at UMass Medical School. 7 pm, Jewett Arts Center. RSVP and info: x2861 or lsankows@wellesley.edu.

monday september 15

deadline for Fulbright Fellowship applications, 4:30 pm. Info: x2352.

student seminar. 12:30 pm, SCI 264. Sponsor: Mathematics. Info: x3148.

cws info session. "Planning for Law School." 12:30 pm, PNE 239. Info: x2352.

info session. "PMCSF Program, Puebla, Mexico." 12:30 pm, GRH 328. Sponsor: International Studies. Info: x2320.

esl tutoring. 6-8:15 pm, PLTC small conference room, Clapp Library. By appointment. Info: x2480.

tuesday september 16

study abroad fair. 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Sponsor: International Studies. Info: x2320.

president's open office hour. 12:30 pm, GRH 350. Info: x2243.

cws info session. Brown School of Social Work, Washington University St. Louis. 12:30 pm, PNE 351. Info: x2352.

academic council. 4:15 pm, Academic Council Room, 4th floor, GRH. Info: x3583.

cws workshop. "Math Review Session for the GRE General Exam - Geometry." 6:30 pm, SCI 364. Info: x2352.

film/discussion. "Belonging Everywhere: We Are All One," a documentary on the Jews of Seifwi Wiawso (West Ghana). Presenters: Adam McKinney and Daniel Banks, filmmakers. 4:15 pm, Collins Cinema. Sponsor: Hillel. Info: psheinma@wellesley.edu. (See story, page 4.)

wednesday september 17

administrative council. 11 am, Academic Council Room, 4th floor, GRH. Info: x3337.

cws info session. "Columbia University MPA in Environmental Science and Policy." 12:30 pm, SCI 104. Info: x2352.

workshop. "We Are All One: A Community Action Dialogue." 12:40 pm, Harambee House. Sponsor: Hillel. Info: psheinma@wellesley.edu. (See story, page 4.)

info session. Study Abroad for the Class of 2011. 1 pm, SCI 277. Sponsor: International Studies. Info: x2320.

field hockey vs. Gordon College. 4 pm, Sports Center. Info: x2003.

gathering. Unitarian Universalist worship circle. 6 pm, Multifaith Center, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Unitarian Universalist Chaplaincy. Info: x3484.

cws info session. "Hopkins-Najing Center." 5 pm, FND 227. Info: x2352.

senate. 6 pm, Academic Council Room, 4th floor, GRH. Info: CG Secretary/Treasurer on FirstClass.

exhibit opening. *Black Womanhood: Images, Icons, and Ideologies of the African Body*. 6 pm, Davis Museum and Davis Plaza. Sponsor: DMCC. Info: x2304 or 2051. (See story, page 1.)

film. *Dust in the Wind*. Followed by Q&A with screenwriter Wu Nien-jen. 7 pm, Collins Cinema. Chinese appetizers will be served at 6:30. Sponsor: EALL and East Asian studies. Info: x3588.

concert. In conjunction with *Black Womanhood*. Performer: Zili Misik. 7:30 pm, Jewett Stairway. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028.

thursday september 18

spanish table. 12:30 pm, Tower Court Private Dining Room. Sponsor: Spanish. Info: x2402.

workshop. "Composers' Colloquium." 12:30 pm, JAC 218. Sponsor: Music. Info: kobermue@firstclass.wellesley.edu or pgilbert@firstclass.wellesley.edu.

cws info session. "Applying to Grad Schools in the Arts & Sciences." 4:30 pm, SCI 277. Info: x2352.

lecture. "Molecular Mechanisms of Synaptic Vesicle Endocytosis." Speaker: Eileen Lafer, biochemistry, University of Texas. 4:30 pm, Sage Lounge, Science Center. Sponsor: Neuroscience. Info: x3154. (See story, page 1.)

esl tutoring. (See 9/15 listing.)

friday september 19

deadline. January option course declaration. Paperwork to add MIT/Babson/Brandeis courses due.

cws info session. "Balancing Thesis and Job Search." 12:30 pm, Wang 104. RSVP to mcallery@wellesley.edu. Info: x2352.

film. *Gone Baby Gone*. 7 pm. 21, 9 pm. Sponsor: Film Society. Info: eglatter@wellesley.edu.

concert. Performer: Jamie Baum, jazz flute. 8 pm, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028.

saturday september 20

field hockey alumnae game. Noon, Sports Center. Info: x2003.

volleyball vs. Springfield. 1 pm, Sports Center. Info: x2003.

gathering. Catholic mass. 4 pm, Multifaith Center, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Newman Catholic Ministry. Info: x2688.

film. 21, 7 pm. *Gone Baby Gone*, 9 pm. Sponsor: Film Society. Info: eglatter@wellesley.edu.

sunday september 21

flower sunday. 10:30 am, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Religious and Spiritual Life. Info: x2685. (See story, below.)

monday september 22

cws info session. "Understanding the MBTI and Career Planning Workshop." 4:30 pm, Library Lecture Room. Info: x2352.

esl tutoring. (See 9/15 listing.)

ongoing:

exhibit. *Arrivals/Departure*. Artists: Clara Lieu, Andrew Mowbray, David Olsen, Daniela Rivera and Jim Turbert. Jewett Art Gallery. Through 9/28. Sponsor: Art. Info: x2042.

exhibit. *U.S. Constitution Display*. Theme: voting amendments. Clapp Library, 2nd floor. Through 10/31. Sponsor: Government Documents, Clapp Library. Info: x3426.

gathering. Buddhist sitting. 8 am & 12:30 pm, weekdays, Meditation Room, Houghton Chapel. Through 12/12. Sponsor: Religious and Spiritual Life. Info: x2793.

flower sunday

Each fall the members of the religious and spiritual life team and multifaith student council create and lead a beginning-of-the-year ritual called Flower Sunday. Flower Sunday is a tradition as old as the college itself in which students gather on the theme of sisterhood and love. Flower Sunday is a multi-faith ritual that draws upon the breadth of religious and spiritual traditions represented in the college community. Continuing its early traditions, Wellesley upper class "Big Sisters" are assigned first year "Little Sisters" and pick them up on Flower Sunday, bringing them to the celebration. It will be held Sunday, Sept. 21, at 10:30 am in Houghton Chapel.

don't miss ...

documentary explores living in a world with multiple identities

Filmmakers Adam McKinney and Daniel Banks will present their documentary, *We Are All One: The Jews of Sefwi Wiawso (West Ghana)*, Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 7 pm in Collins Cinema, with a reception to follow. The documentary follows the lives of several men who seek through song and story to affirm their connection to their ancient Hebrew beliefs and practices. The film records community members' personal narratives of spiritual connections to Judaism, preparations for Passover and the social struggles they face in staying true to their history and traditions. The documentary grew out of the filmmakers' personal experiences of living in a world with multiple identities and the challenge of reclaiming and reestablishing a multifaceted vision of the worldwide Jewish community.

"This program will be incredible at opening up some dialogue about the multiple identities so many of us have and how it is often difficult to straddle both worlds," said Patti Sheinman, director of Wellesley Hillel.

On Wednesday, Sept. 17, McKinney and Banks will lead "We Are All One: A Community Action Dialogue," a workshop that explores issues of identity, oppression and belonging that will result in the creation of community action projects. The workshop will be held at 12:40 pm in Harambee House. Dessert and beverages will be served.

McKinney and Banks are the co-founders of DNAWorks, an organization aimed at furthering artistic expression and dialogue by exploring issues of identity, culture, class and heritage. McKinney is a dancer, educator, choreographer, genealogist and facilitator. The world premiere of his choreographed work, "PATHWAYS," commissioned for Namarina Dance Ensemble, opens this November in Jakarta, Indonesia. He is also the recipient of the prestigious 2008 Jerome Foundation Travel and Study grant to work with the Ethiopian-Israeli Beta Dance Troupe of Haifa, Israel. Banks is a drama faculty member at the Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, and founder and director of the Hip Hop Theatre Initiative in residence at NYU. The group focuses on youth empowerment and leadership training on campuses and in communities across the U.S. and in Ghana and South Africa. For more information, call x2687.

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