

wellesleyweek

23 feb.-
2 march
2009

cirque du cs showcases creativity of the computational sciences

In previous years, they've sequenced their own genomes, built fire-fighting robots and created a virtual Rubik's cube animation that can be solved on a computer screen.

Students of the computational sciences, which includes computer science and media arts and sciences, will showcase this year's creations during "Cirque du CS," Saturday, Feb. 28, at 1 pm on the 1st floor, E- corridor of the Science Center. The event will also feature other circus staples—popcorn, cotton candy and face painting.

Randy Shull, computer science, said the event is an opportunity to share with the community the art and science of computational sciences.

"Many people don't realize how creative this field can be, and how much fun one can have," Shull said.

In one of the department's introductory courses, "Computer Science and the Internet," students find a client and work in teams to help design a Web page for them. They

design the page in consultation with the client, then implement and make a plan for the page's maintenance.

"It requires a great deal of planning and software skills, but also a great deal of creativity," Shull said.

For the first time, the event will also feature a panel of eight alumnae at various stages in their careers—including an alumna finishing her Ph.D. in computer security and another who is a software engineer—at 3:30 pm in SCI 278.

As the department marks its 25th anniversary this year, Shull says that its students have gone on to careers in everything from film production to advertising to work with start-up companies.

"One of our goals has always been to train women computing professionals in a field where they are woefully underrepresented—and I think we've done a pretty good job of that," Shull said. For more

information, call x3147.



"Many people don't realize how creative this field can be, and how much fun one can have," said Randy Shull, computer science.

printmaking professors

As educators, art professors strive to inspire students in the classroom; yet at the same time, they also excel in their own work as independent artists. The "double creative lives" of art faculty at 15 colleges and universities in New England will be the focus of *Dual Action*, a new invitational exhibition at the Jewett Art Gallery running March 2-29. The exhibition will present a wide range of printmaking work representing both traditional and contemporary techniques like etching, lithography, silkscreen, digital print media and monotype.

Gallery director Clara Lieu says this is the first exhibition to bring together printmaking faculty from institutions around the region. "The show will display the diversity, strength and activity of the printmaking community here in New England," she said. For more information, call x2056.

hippocratic society celebrates women in medicine

If a drug addict had enough self-control, could he or she simply summon the willpower to quit? Or is there something more complicated about the nature of addiction? Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, will explore the topic in her lecture, "The Neurobiology of Free Will in Addictive Disorders," Monday, March 2, at 6 pm in Science Center 377.

Volkow, whose lecture will be the keynote address in the Wellesley Hippocratic Society's fourth annual Celebration of Women in Medicine and Public Health, has spent her career investigating the impact of drugs on the human brain. Volkow's research, using brain imaging to examine the addictive mechanisms of drugs, was the first to demonstrate that drugs can actually change the brain over time. Her findings provided unprecedented support for the theory of addiction as a disease.

According to Sana Aslam '10, chair of the

Women in Medicine Committee, which invited Volkow to speak, "Her work has changed the way addiction is viewed, and her accomplishments are simply too many to name. Dr. Nora Volkow is a woman who has broken boundaries as a scientist and as a leader."

Volkow has been named one of *Time* magazine's "Top 100 People Who Shape our World," one of the 20 people to watch by *Newsweek* and "Innovator of the Year" by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2000. For more information, e-mail saslam@wellesley.edu.



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news

professor examines writers' connections with judaism

In *Writing as Freedom, Writing as Testimony* (Syracuse University Press, 2008), Sergio Parussa, Italian studies, explores the relationship between Judaism and writing in the works of four 20th-century Italian writers: Umberto

Saba, Natalia Ginzburg, Giorgio Bassani and Primo Levi. Parussa examines the ways in which each author's work responds to Judaism and the notion of Jewish identity. "My inspiration to write *Writing as Freedom, Writing as Testimony* came from friends, books and from the beautiful and deep history of the Italian Jewish community, which is the most ancient Jewish community in the Western world," Parussa said.

With great detail, Parussa shows how the four writers reflect a change in attitude toward Judaism that occurred in Italian society between the mid-19th and mid-20th centuries, from a perception of Jewish identity as a constraint to one's freedom to an understanding of it as a tool of intellectual freedom that can contribute to one's sense of

identity.

For these authors, the recovery of Judaism consists not only of telling stories with Jewish subject matter but also of the repeated act of remembering, a process by which, as



Parussa puts it, "the past is salvaged from oblivion by means of its reactualization in the present." Through memory, he suggests, one becomes free to affirm difference and to make Jewish traditions an integral part of Italian culture.

"I hope that my book will raise the interest of American readers in this history and will make them curious about the works of the four Italian writers I discuss,"

Parussa said. "I hope also that my book will help to open the field of Italian studies, which has been characterized traditionally by philological and historical approaches, to newer methodologies of literary studies, such as Jewish studies and cultural studies."

For more on his new book, go to www.syracuseuniversitypress.syr.edu/fall-2008/writing-freedom-writing-testimony.html.

colleagues

in the news

At their Jan. 30 meeting, the Wellesley College board of trustees approved tenure for the following professors: [nolan flynn](#), chemistry; [kate gilhuly](#), classical studies; [brian tjaden](#), computer science; [eric hilt](#), economics; [alejandra osorio](#), history; [marc tetel](#), neuroscience; [courtney lannert](#), physics; and [nancy scherer](#), political science.

The debut album, *Crooked Highways*, by [beth desombre](#), environmental studies, was recently reviewed by the premier folk magazine *Sing Out!* The review noted, "After many years of writing and performing in the Boston area, she has released this debut album. This is a very good thing. Not surprisingly, Beth's writing is smart and uplifting. The songs are in the story-telling style, focusing on the quiet meaning to be found in ordinary life. In that way, they carry a gentle political message."

[jenn grunzweig](#), head athletic trainer, recently spoke at the American Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Annual Assembly in San Diego, Calif. Grunzweig collaborated with team physician Dr. Joanne Borg-Stein and her associates to present the workshop "Athletic Taping of the Foot and Ankle." The hands-on workshop was attended by more than 50 physicians and medical professionals from around the country.

[barbara levitov](#), davis museum and cultural center, has been elected president of Museums of Boston, a professional organization of public relations, marketing and public affairs directors, or their designated personnel, from approximately 50 museums and other institutions. Formed in 1977, the organization provides a forum for the discussion of issues that affect public relations activities. It also works to support member organizations in developing workshops, sharing programs and in jointly promoting the member museums and institutions. The main objective of the organization is to promote cultural awareness with Massachusetts residents and greater mass appeal for tourism. Levitov has held several of the organization's meetings at the DMCC.

new student orientation publications win praise

Wellesley's new student orientation program recently won national recognition at the annual meeting of the National Orientation Directors' Association (NODA), which took place in Boston.

As part of the conference, NODA hosts a Publications and Media Showcase each year. The showcase exhibits materials from exemplary orientation programs across the United States and awards prizes for outstanding content, use of theme, style and clarity, graphic design and practical usefulness. According to NODA's Web site, "The showcase creates an opportunity to recognize, highlight and exhibit outstanding achievement and professional accomplishment in publication and marketing efforts." Materials from Wellesley's Orientation program were featured in the showcase throughout the conference and were viewed by education professionals from colleges and universities throughout the country.

This year, Wellesley was recognized in two categories: "Outstanding Publications for Family Members," for the orientation Parents' Guide, and "Outstanding Use of Theme" for the "Opening Doors" orientation theme and logo design. Each year, Wellesley's Orientation planning committee selects a theme that reflects the goals and values of the program. The Orientation 2008 theme, "Opening Doors," was inspired by the original set of keys to the College that have been presented to each new president as symbols of a shared educational mission. The key logo, designed in red for the incoming red class of 2012, was created by graphic designer Joe Moore, who also did the layout for the Parents' Guide. In 2006, Wellesley also took top honors in the "Theme" category for its orientation theme "Find Your Balance."

calendar

monday february 23

gathering. Meditation. 12:30 and 7 pm, Multifaith Center meditation room, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Buddhist community. Info: x2793.

cws workshop. "Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator." 4:30-6:30 pm, GRH 130. Info: x2352.

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

tuesday february 24

cws deadline. Summer stipend applications.

japan table. 12:30, Tower Court private dining hall. Info: japanclubmail@wellesley.edu.

gathering. Meditation. 12:30 pm. (See 2/23 listing.)

wednesday february 25

gathering. "Prepare for Easter: Making Space for God." A service of readings, song, prayers, distribution of ashes and artistic response to mark the beginning of Lent. 12:30 pm, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Catholic, Evangelical, Protestant and Unitarian Universalist chaplains.

gathering. Meditation. 12:30 pm. (See 2/23 listing.)

brown bag lunch. President H. Kim Bottomly, Dean of Students Debra DeMeis and Cameran Mason, vice president for resources and public affairs, will discuss financial concerns. 12:30 pm, Wang 413. Info: x2237.

lecture-recital. "The Fantastical, the Lyrical and the Monumental: Shared Visions of Romantic Art and Music." Performers: Triple Helix Piano Trio. 12:30 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028.

french table. 12:30 pm, Tower private dining room. Sponsor: French. Info: x2413.

american sign language table. 5-6 pm, Campus Center dining room. Sponsor: Disability Services. Info: x2434.

meeting. College Government Senate. 5:45-8:30 pm, Academic Council Room, Green Hall. Info: CGmail@wellesley.edu.



This work by Phyllis McGibbon, art, will be showcased in *Dual Action* at the Jewett Art Gallery. See the story on page 1 for more.

gathering. Unitarian Universalist worship circle. 6 pm, Multifaith Center, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Religious and Spiritual Life. Info: x3484.

performance. Poetry slam by Iyeoka. Part of Black History Month. 7 pm, Multifaith Center, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Harambee House. Info: x2133.

thursday february 26

lecture. "Adolescence to Adulthood: Trajectories of Depressive Symptoms." Speaker: Alice Frye, Ph.D., M.P.H. 12:30 pm, Cheever House. Sponsor: Wellesley Centers for Women. Info: x2500.

spanish table. 12:30 pm, Tower Court private dining room. Sponsor: Spanish. Info: x2402.

esl tutoring. (See 2/23 listing.)

gathering. InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. 6:30 pm, Wang 413. Sponsor: Religious and Spiritual Life. Info: x2685.

lecture. "Storytelling: Tales from the Diaspora, Part 3." Part of Black History Month. Speakers: Pashington Obeng, Africana studies, and Errol Estridge, Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. 6:30 pm, Harambee House. Sponsor: Harambee House. Info: x2133.

friday february 27

class drop deadline.

conference. Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium Sixth Annual Student Conference. 8:30 am-5 pm, Collins Cinema. Sponsor: Anthropology. Info: x2146. (See story, page 4.)

gathering. Muslim Friday prayers. 12:30 pm, Multifaith Center prayer room, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Religious and Spiritual Life. Info: x2655.

gathering. Shabbat. 6 pm, location to be announced. Sponsor: Hillel. Info: x2687.

films. "Slater International Film Festival, Part 2." *Sugar Cane Alley (Rue Cases Nègres)*, 7 pm; *The Battle of Algiers (La Battaglia di Algeri)*, 9 pm, Collins Cinema. Sponsor: Film Society. Info: eglatter@wellesley.edu.

saturday february 28

celebration. "Cirque du C.S." 1-5 pm, SCI Center 1st floor and E-corridor. Sponsors: Computer Science, Media Arts and Sciences. Info: x3147. (See story, page 1.)

films. "Slater International Film Festival, Part 2." *I'm Not Scared (Io Non Ho Paura)*, 7 pm; Bollywood hit (to be announced), 9 pm, Collins Cinema. Sponsor: Film Society. Info: eglatter@wellesley.edu.

concert. "Embodying the Romantic Spirit: The Music of the Schumanns and Brahms." Triple Helix Piano Trio. 8-10 pm, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028.

sunday march 1

gathering. Protestant Bible study, 10:30 am; worship service, 11:30 am. Multifaith Center, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Religious and Spiritual Life. Info: x2656.

save the date

3/4: Lecture. "Georgia's Cultural Diversity: A Privilege or a Problem?" Speakers: Archil Kikodze, Georgian novelist, and Stephen Jones, Russian and Eurasian Studies, Mount Holyoke. 7:30-9:30 pm, PNE 239. Sponsor: Russian area studies. Info: x2146.

3/6: Class of 2011 major declaration forms due.

3/5-3/28: Theatre. *The Playboy of the Western World*. Thursdays, 7 pm; Fridays, 8 pm; Sundays, 3 and 8 pm. Tickets: \$20; \$10 for seniors and students. Sponsor: Wellesley Summer Theatre Company. Info: x2000.

3/7: Whitin Observatory open house, 6:30-8:30. Telescopes will be open for viewing celestial objects, weather permitting. Info: x2726.

3/10: Lecture. "Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's." Speaker: John Elder Robinson, author. 7 pm, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Sponsors: Wellesley Parents' Advisory Council, CWS, Disability Services. Info: x2607.

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

gathering. Puja service. 4-6 pm, Multifaith Center meditation room, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Hindu community, Religious and Spiritual Life. Info: x2794.

monday march 2

gathering. Meditation. 12:30 pm. (See 2/23 listing.)

esl tutoring. (See 2/23 listing.)

lecture. Celebration of Women in Medicine and Public Health. Speaker: Nora Volkow, director, National Institute on Drug Abuse. 6 pm, SCI 377. Sponsor: Hippocratic Society. Info: saslam@wellesley.edu. (See story, page 1.)

ongoing:

exhibit. *Of Layers in Narrative*. Professor Daniela Rivera's Advanced Drawing Course. Jewett Arts Gallery. Through 2/24. Info: x2056.

exhibit. *Before and Beyond Darwin*. Crozier Reference Room, Clapp Library. Through 2/27. Info: x3592.

exhibit. *Dual Action: Printmaking works by New England-area faculty*. Jewett Art Gallery. March 2-29. (See story, page 1.)

don't miss ...

anthropology conference features research by new england students

Wellesley College students will explore everything from Balkan vampires to Lithuanian folk songs to the heroin subculture in Boston during the sixth annual Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium (GBAC) Anthropology Student Conference Friday, Feb. 27, from 8:30 am to 5 pm in Collins Cinema.

During the day-long event, students from the consortium institutions — Brandeis University, Clark University, Olin College, Tufts University, Wheaton College and Wellesley — will deliver papers and make poster presentations.

The conference is important for Wellesley students interested in anthropology to “compete” with fellow anthropology undergraduate and graduate students from participating institutions, said Philip Kohl, anthropology. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the day.

“This is a tremendously valuable, confidence-building exercise for our students — who, not surprisingly, do very well,” Kohl said.

In her poster, “Balkan Vampires: Constructing Myths, Cultures and Realities,” Jennifer Pawson '09 argues that vampires are not just legends, but also represent cultural realities, such as turmoil or adaptation to illness.

“Vampire myths and legends frequently arise from people residing alongside political and geographic boundaries,” she wrote. “These are often people who lived with a great deal of political upheaval, often leading to cultural integration of the people in these areas.”

Other student presenters from Wellesley are Emily Saras '10, Teresa Le '11, Samantha Bellach '10, Steph Tung '09, Kelsey Hanf '09, Jessica Yoo '10 and Kendall LaSane '09. For more information, call x2146.