

wellesleyweek

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2007

jamaican author discusses caribbean literary tradition

In the new novella *The Girl With the Golden Shoes*, a shoeless young girl tries to get to Europe after she's banished from her isolated fishing village on a Caribbean island. To its author Colin Channer, channeling the 14-year-old girl Estrella was similar to method acting.

"You get into a character," Channer said. "You inhabit a character. You become a character through tapping into the emotions of that character, which is a subset of all the emotions of every other human being, every single human character in the world, including yourself."

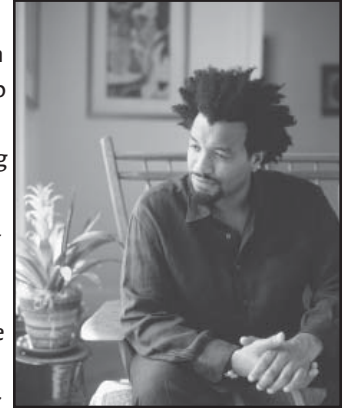
Channer will read from his latest work Monday, Nov. 26, at 6 pm in Collins Cinema. Margaret Cezair-Thompson, English, said the event is a great opportunity, as Channer will not only read from his novella but will also talk with students and answer their questions about the writing process, his own career as both a writer and reggae musician, and the Caribbean literary tradition.

"I'm delighted that Colin Channer will be here on the campus," Cezair-Thompson said. "He's an exceptionally vibrant, talented writer, one we will keep hearing more and more about. *The Girl with the Golden Shoes* is a literary gem, with well-drawn, memorable charac-

ters. "It has the accessible yet resonant quality of that classic Jamaican film *The Harder They Come* and of Bob Marley's best lyrics."

Critics agree. Naming it a "Spring Pick," *The Washington Post Book World* notes, "Estrella Roselyn Maria Eugenia Thompson, the heroine of the short, beautiful novella *The Girl With the Golden Shoes*, is one of those characters who steal your heart. It seems not exactly correct to call her a character, however. She feels too real, too genuine."

Channer was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and moved to New York in his late teens. He is the editor of the anthology *Iron Balloons: Hit Fiction from Jamaica's Calabash Writer's Workshop* and the author of two novels, two novellas and a collection of stories. He is an assistant professor of English at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, N.Y. For more information, call x2591.



speaker focuses on obsolescence in architecture

In the mid-20th century, buildings, neighborhoods or cities could be called obsolete in the United States.

"There were housing surveys done under methods that were created by public health experts to determine if a building was sanitary enough or in good enough condition," said Daniel Abramson, a Newhouse Fellow. "If they didn't meet certain standards, they could be determined obsolete."

Abramson will discuss the idea of obsolescence and the built environment in the 20th century during the ninth annual Harry Halverson Lecture on American Architecture, "Let the Cities Perish: Urban Renewal and the Politics of Obsolescence," Wednesday, Nov. at 5 pm in Jewett 450. A reception will follow.

Initially, this concept of obsolescence was applied mostly to buildings, as renowned skyscrapers and commercial buildings were demolished to make way for newer, more efficient buildings or even parking lots. The

term "obsolete"—first applied to buildings in the late 1910s—soon extended to neighborhoods and cities. Officials would triage neighborhoods to determine which areas needed to be redeveloped. The West End in Boston was one local area deemed obsolete and substandard.

"These areas had, in a way, lost their value and functionality by outside standards, not necessarily to the people who lived in them," Abramson said.

As for the West End, the neighborhood was demolished in the early 1960s and replaced with high-rise apartment buildings and modernist townhouses, Abramson said.

Abramson is an associate professor of art and art history and the director of architectural studies at Tufts University. While at Wellesley, Abramson is working on a book provisionally titled *Architecture in the Age of Obsolescence*. For more information, call x2042.

and then there were...

Upstage, Wellesley's student-run theatre organization, will present *Ten Little Indians* on the Barstow Stage in Alumnae Hall. The play is Agatha Christie's own adaptation of her book of the same name, also known as *And Then There Were None*.

"A group of people is invited to an island for a weekend party, but it soon turns out that their host is a mysterious and seemingly absent person who knows more about their pasts than they would like," said Sophia Giordano '09. "After one of them turns up dead, they realize that even more is at stake and begin to suspect each other of being 'Mr. U. N. Owen' or 'unknown.'"

Performances will be held Thursday, Nov. 29, at 7 pm; Friday, Nov. 30, at 8 pm; Saturday, Dec. 1, at 2 and 8 pm; and Sunday, Dec. 2, at 2 and 7 pm. For tickets, call x2220.

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/archive-week.html. For more events, go to <https://calendar.wellesley.edu/wv3> for the online campus calendar.

news

lecture and workshop focus on chinese calligraphy

Chinese calligraphy is an art form ancient in origin and rich in tradition, dating back thousands of years. For those who practice and appreciate it, calligraphy is not simply a means of communication.

“Calligraphy is more than just a form of Chinese writing,” said Amy Dai ’09. “It is an abstract art where brush strokes can portray emotion and expression as well as meaning.”

Calligrapher Shirley Doo will discuss the history and sensory aspects of the art form at “The

Representation of Emotion in Chinese Calligraphy” Tuesday, Nov. 27, at 4:30 pm in Pendleton West 212. A workshop will follow

senior gift 2008 aims for 100% participation

The Senior Gift Campaign, which emphasizes class participation and raises awareness of Wellesley’s need for philanthropic support, is underway. Senior Gift Chair Ashley Benner ’08 says the goal for senior giving this year is 100% participation by graduation. The current record is 90%, held by the classes of 2000 and 2004. This year the senior class has decided to raise money for an International Students Financial Aid Fund and for the Unrestricted Fund.

“As students, it’s important to remember that 55% of us would not be here if it weren’t for the generous donations of alumnae,” Benner said. “Unrestricted is commonly

at 5:30 pm in Pendleton West 209 where students can learn the basics of calligraphy.



Doo has been practicing and studying Chinese calligraphy since childhood and has received numerous awards for her art including Taipei City’s Collegiate Chinese Calligraphy Championship in 1983 and a full scholarship to Minneapolis College of Art and Design in 1987. She is a frequent lecturer on the art of Chinese calligraphy and designs greeting cards using the art, in addition to being a successful businesswoman, part-time writer and mother to Wellesley student Florence Doo ’10. For more information, contact CSAmail@wellesley.edu.

used for financial aid, which is why it is important to give back as seniors.”

One feature of senior giving is the opportunity to nominate Wellesley College faculty and staff to the Community Appreciation Society. With each gift of \$35, a student can nominate any Wellesley employee (excluding students) to thank them for their hard work or extra time. Each honoree will receive a letter stating their membership in the society, and each student will be invited with their honorees to a reception in the spring.

Seniors can visit https://www.wellesley.edu/Resources_giftnew/giftform.html to make a gift or call x2229.

lip-syncing rugby team takes top honors

In late October, Wellesley College held a lip-sync contest with a prize of \$150. Coincidentally, the rugby team needed new uniforms. Now all the team needed was a song and a plan. Out of 10 student groups competing in the contest, the prize went hands down, so to speak, to the rugby song-and-dance team consisting of juniors Becky Chan, Maryska Kaczmarek and Erika Navarro, sophomores Ali Pappas and Cathy Chu and first-year student Kris Arden. Since that night, the rugby team has been celebrated for their version of Kanye West’s song “Stronger” and its popular YouTube takeoff, “Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger” by Daft Hands.

The Daft Hands version has had more than 7 million hits and involves a performance that is part mime/part contortionist, with words written on the fingers and palms of the performer. You can see the Wellesley rugby version on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsfW4RLEoSU. It involves a team dance with words written on arms, backs and stomachs. In the end, the team proved to be “Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger” than the competition.

“We were so excited when we won, not just because we really needed the \$150 to put toward new uniforms, but just because everyone loved it and all our hard work paid off,” Navarro said.

colleagues

in the news

jane mendillo, chief investment officer, has been awarded the 2007 Industry Leadership Award, presented by the board of directors for 100 Women in Hedge Funds “in recognition of her talent, ethics and passion, which help define the hedge fund industry’s standard of excellence.” Mendillo has overseen the management of the \$1.5 billion endowment of Wellesley College since 2002. Prior to becoming Wellesley’s CIO, Mendillo was a portfolio manager at Harvard Management Co. where she was responsible for approximately \$7 billion in assets. She joined Harvard Management Co. in 1987 and during her 14-year tenure managed equities, private equity, real estate and hedge fund investments. Mendillo’s predecessor at Harvard, Jack Meyer, managing partner and CEO of Convexity Capital, commented on the award, “Jane has a fierce intellect, a steely resolve and incredibly high standards for herself and those around her. She has been quick to master and excel in every position she’s held. For Jane, there are no limits.”

julie norem, psychology, gave a lecture, “Happiness is Not Always the Point: Different People, Different Goals, Different Strategies,” at the University of New England. The lecture was part of the university’s Core Connections Lecture Series, which explores the theme of “The Problem of Happiness” from political, historical, citizenship, scientific and environmental perspectives. During her lecture, Norem reviewed the undervalued potential benefits of pessimism and the often-ignored costs of optimism. She argued that understanding the “problem of happiness” depends greatly on our willingness to accept the complexity of individual differences and contextual influences on human endeavors. The author of *The Positive Power of Negative Thinking*, she has spent 20 years exploring defensive pessimism, its implications for the adaptation of those who use it and the ways in which it stems from and influences other aspects of self-concept and personality. Her current research examines the relationship between impostor feelings, self-knowledge and adjustment. Her work has been cited in publications including *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

calendar

monday november 26

classes resume.

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

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

book reading. Colin Channer, author of *The Girl with the Golden Shoes*. 6 pm, Collins Cinema. Info: x2591. (See story, page 1.)

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.

tuesday november 27

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

lecture. "The Representation of Emotion in Chinese Calligraphy." Speaker: Shirley Doo, calligrapher. 4:30 pm, PNW 212. Info: CSAmal@wellesley.edu. (See story, page 2.)

info session. "Pre-Departure Meeting for Students Studying Abroad in Spring 2008." 4:30-5:30 pm, PNE 239. Sponsor: International Study. Info: x2320.

meeting. "Meditation." 7 pm. (See 11/26 listing.)

wednesday november 28

food drive. To benefit Natick food pantry, A Place to Turn. 7:15-9:45 am, main entrance and Founder's lot. Sponsor: CWS. Info, volunteers: x3789.

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

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

cws info session. "Lumpkin Summer Institute for Service Learning." 12:30 pm, PNW 116. Info: x2356.

info session. "Pre-Departure Meeting for Students Studying Abroad in Spring 2008." 1-2 pm, PNE 239. Sponsor: International Study. Info: x2320.

cws info session. "American Cities Internship Program." 4:30 pm, PNW 212. Info: x2356.

lecture. "Let the Cities Perish: Urban Renewal and the Politics of Obsolescence." Speaker: Daniel Abramson, Newhouse Center. 5 pm, Jewett 450. Sponsor: Art. Info: x2042. (See story, page 1.)

gathering. Unitarian Universalist worship circle. 6 pm, Schneider loft. Info: x3484.

lecture. "Good Health Care: A Right, Not a Luxury." Speaker: Mark Meaney, president, National Institute for Patient Rights. 6:30 pm, Library Lecture Room. Cost: \$5. Sponsor: Democrats. Info: Democratsmail@wellesley.edu.

swimming vs. Tufts. 7 pm, Sports Center. Info: x2900.

thursday november 29

meeting. "Meditation." 12:30 pm. (See 11/26 listing.)

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

save the date!

12/4: Lecture. "American Foreign Policy in the Middle East." Speaker: Michael Oren, historian. 4:30 pm, Collins Cinema. Info: friendsofraelmail@wellesley.edu.

12/19: Winter Solstice/Holiday Brunch. 9 am, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Sponsor: President's Office. Info: x2384.

Info: x3571.

cws info session. "Elisabeth Luce Moore '24 Internships in Asia." 12:30 pm, PNE 239. Info: x2356.

cws info session. "L.A. Film Internship Program." 4:30 pm, PNE 339. Info: x2356.

poetry reading. Speaker: John Ashbery, poet. 5 pm, Collins Cinema. Info: x2541. (See story, page 4.)

memorial service. In honor of Irina Lynch, Russian. 5 pm, College Club. Info: x2685.

info session. "Pre-Departure Meeting for Students Studying Abroad in Spring 2008." 5-6 pm, PNE 239. Sponsor: International Study. Info: x2320.

meeting. "Regional Orientation Dinner for Students Studying Abroad in Spring 2008." 6-7:30 pm, PNE Atrium. Sponsor: International Study. Info: x2320.

esl tutoring. (See 11/26 listing.)

meeting. Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. 7 pm, Wang 413. Info: x4428.

lecture. "How Has the Female Body Been Portrayed Through the Ages?" 7 pm, Bates living room. Sponsor: Health Services. Info: x4157.

theatre. *Ten Little Indians*. 7 pm, Barstow Stage, Alumnae Hall. Info: x2220. (See story, page 1.)

lecture. "Bring on the Heat Climate Change Series." Speaker: Jim Motavalli, author, *Breaking Gridlock: Moving Toward Transportation that Works*. 7 pm, Library Lecture Room. Info: WEEDmail@wellesley.edu.

performance. *Rum & Coke*. Performer: Carmen Pe-láez, Cuban-American artist. 7 pm, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Sponsor: Spanish. Info: x2402.

friday november 30

bible study. 7-11:30 pm, Wang 415. Info: mkhoo@wellesley.edu.

concert. Fiddleheads. 7 pm, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028.

films. *The Breakfast Club*, 7 pm; *16 Candles*, 9 pm, Collins Cinema. Info: jbindfel@wellesley.edu.

dance. "Irish Ceili." 7-9 pm, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Sponsor: Fiddleheads. Info: x4836.

theatre. *Ten Little Indians*. 8 pm. (See 11/29 listing.)

concert. *Tupelos Fall Show*. 9 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Info: tupelosmail@wellesley.edu.

cws info session. "Wellesley in Costa Rica Internship Program." 12:30 pm, PNE 239. Info: x2356.

cws info session. "Wellesley in Africa and India Internship Program." 4:30 pm, PNE 239. Info: x2356.

saturday december 1

workshop. "Relational Mindfulness." 9:15 am-4 pm, Wang 416. Cost: \$175. Sponsor: Jean Baker Miller Training Institute. Info: x3007.

basketball vs. Emerson. 2 pm, Sports Center. Info: x2900.

theatre. *Ten Little Indians*. 2 pm and 8 pm. (See 11/29 listing.)

films. *16 Candles*, 7 pm; *The Breakfast Club*, 9 pm, Collins Cinema. Info: jbindfel@wellesley.edu.

concert. *Toons Fall Show*. 7 pm, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Info: toonsmail@wellesley.edu.

concert. Yanvalou. 8 pm, Jewett. Info: x6577.

sunday december 2

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

concert. Chamber Music Society. 2 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028.

theatre. *Ten Little Indians*. 2 pm and 7 pm. (See 11/29 listing.)

gathering. Catholic mass. 4 pm, Schneider chapel. Sponsor: Newman Catholic Ministry. Info: x2688.

concert. Chamber Music Society. 5:30 pm, PNW 220. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028.

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

concert. "Vespers." Featuring choir and chamber singers. 7:30 pm, Village Church, 2 Central St., Wellesley. Info: x2028.

monday december 3

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. 10 am, Academic Council Room, 4th floor, GRH. Info: x2333.

meeting. "Meditation." 12:30 pm (See 11/26 listing.)

cws info session. "Stipend Information." 12:30 pm, PNE 239. Info: x2356.

cws info session. "Public Health Admissions Panel." 12:30 pm, SCL 277. Info: x2356.

italian table. (See 11/26 listing.)

senate meeting. (See 11/26 listing.)

esl tutoring. (See 11/26 listing.)

panel discussion. "Pakistan: Voices of Civil Society." 4:30 pm, Collins Cinema. Info: (617) 901-8901.

lecture. "Bring on the Heat Climate Change Series." Speaker: Jane Holtz Kay, author, *Asphalt Nation*. 7 pm, PNE 225. Info: WEEDmail@wellesley.edu.

ongoing

exhibition. *Don't Look: Contemporary Drawings from an Alumna's Collection and Global Feminisms*. DMCC. Through 12/9. Info: x2034.

don't miss ...

celebrated poet and art critic to read from his works

The *New York Times* described him as “an 80-year-old poet for the MTV generation.” This August, MtvU, an MTV channel broadcast only on college campuses, named John Ashbery its first poet laureate.

Ashbery, author of more than 20 books and recipient of nearly every major award for poetry, will read from his work Thursday, Nov. 29, at 5 pm in Collins Cinema. A reception will follow in Collins Café.

“John Ashbery is probably the most celebrated American writer at this point, poet or otherwise,” said Dan Chiasson, English. “He’s the central poet of American life and has been for some time.”

The English Department is sponsoring the event in conjunction with the Davis Museum and Cultural Center and the Poetry Society of America. The event marks the first event in the Davis Museum’s new literary series, which will be an opportunity to explore the connections between the literary and visual arts, said Barbara Levitov, DMCC.

Ashbery is a notable art critic, having written for *Newsweek* and *New York Magazine*. He has served as art editor for the European edition of the *New York Herald Tribune* and *ARTnews Magazine*. His most famous poem, “Self Portrait in a Convex Mirror,” focuses on a painting by the artist Parmigianino. The work received the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, the National Book Critics Circle Award and the National Book Award.

“To have Ashbery as the first feature in the series is really appropriate,” Chiasson said. “All across Ashbery’s works you see an interest in the visual arts, so it’s a perfect fit.”

The event is the culmination of a class taught by Chiasson on Ashbery’s work—“John Ashbery and the New York School.” Topics for the class have included his works, New York City in the 1950s, poems by his friends, the art world and post-modernism. For more information, call x2034.



Image by David Shankbone