

# wellesleyweek



## 2008 tanner conference celebrates a world of learning



**Tanner presenter Sophie Feather-Garner**

Sophie Feather-Garner '09 learned an important lesson during the first lecture of her semester abroad in South Africa: If an ostrich is chasing you, lie flat on the ground, but when a rhino charges you, climb a tree. Working with the Organization for Tropical Studies in South Africa, she explored the effects

of seed-eating small mammals on the African savanna ecosystem. Feather-Garner will discuss her research in the presentation, "Tough Nuts to Crack: Seed-Hungry Mammals in an African Savanna" at the annual Tanner Conference.

On Tuesday, Oct. 28, the conference will bring together students, faculty, staff and alumnae in an exploration of off-campus study that adds to the knowledge and understanding of the greater world. With projects ranging from "A Mosaic of Morocco: Life as a Nomad" to

"The No-Minute Nap: Improving Your Memory by Falling Asleep," Wellesley travelers return to share their experiences.

Another Tanner presenter, Kacie Kocher '09, followed up a semester abroad in Morocco with a four-week nomadic exploration of the country — collecting tiles from 13 sites to create a mosaic representation of Moroccan migration. "Essentially, the intent of my project was adventure, testing my personal and intellectual limits and creating something remarkably unique," she said.

How much sleep is needed to benefit your memory? Sara Teichholtz '09 set out to determine if just the process of falling asleep could generate benefits. "Preliminary analysis of the data showed that this period of quiet wakefulness produced semantic memory improvements over movie watching, a finding that may affect many areas of sleep research, as well as encourage you to take a break," she said.

This year's conference represents the work of nearly 300 students, faculty, alumnae and staff. The annual event was established in 2001 through the generosity of Wellesley trustee Estelle "Nicki" Newman Tanner '57. For more information, visit <http://www.wellesley.edu/CWS/Tanner/>.

## speaker addresses the economics of climate change

In October 2008, Peter Orszag, director of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), testified before Congress that retirement plans have lost two trillion dollars in the past 15 months.

Whether the current financial crisis will affect retirement decisions remains to be seen, but Orszag cited a paper that showed no change in the retirement age among people in households owning stock after the stock market decline of 2000 — findings originally published by Wellesley economics professors Courtney Coile and Phillip Levine as "Bulls, Bears and Retirement Decisions" in *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*.

As director, Orszag oversees the agency's work in providing objective, nonpartisan analyses of various economic and budgetary

issues, supervises the analytical papers and cost estimates that the agency produces, and presents the results — frequently testifying before Congress.

Orszag will present the fall 2008 Goldman Lecture in Economics "Preparing for Our



Common Future: Policy Choices and the Economics of Climate Change" Monday, Oct. 27, at 8 pm in Tishman Commons. During his talk, Orszag will discuss the contributions that economic analysis can make to a discussion of climate change.

"Climate change is a topic that has received a lot of attention from the policy community, but it has not been a focus of economic analysis," Levine said. "Peter's comments will represent the viewpoint of a policymaker actively engaged in addressing the topic." For more information, call x2154.

## tanner conference goes green

The Tanner Conference has partnered with the Sustainability Advisory Committee this year to reduce the conference's impact on the environment. All utensils and meal packaging are compostable and will be composted by the We Care facility. The Tanner program is printed on 100% recycled paper with soy-based ink. Locally produced food will be featured throughout the day.

Please do your part by bringing your own mug or cup for enjoying the beverages that will be available throughout the day and by taking care to place compostable packaging and recyclable products in the appropriate bins.

**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/](http://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](http://www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/WellesleyWeek/Forms/wellswkform.html) or e-mail [wellesleyweekcalendar@wellesley.edu](mailto: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](http://www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/WellesleyWeek/archive-week.html). For more events, go to <https://calendar.wellesley.edu/wv3> for the online campus calendar.

## news

### drinking alcohol associated with smaller brain volume

The more alcohol an individual drinks, the smaller his or her total brain volume, according to a report in the October issue of *Archives of Neurology*, one of the JAMA/Archives journals.

Carol Ann Paul, neuroscience, and colleagues at Boston University School of Public Health, studied 1,839 adults who were part of the Framingham Offspring Study, which began in 1971 and includes children of the original Framingham Heart Study participants and their spouses. Between 1999 and 2001, participants underwent magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and a health examination.

“As part of my master of science thesis at Boston University School of Public Health, I asked the question, ‘Is there a beneficial effect of consuming small amounts of alcohol on normal decline in brain volume, as is found in the cardio-vascular system?’” explained Paul. “It is known that, on average, brain volume declines at about 1.9%

each decade. I wanted to know if consuming small amounts of alcohol reduced this normal decline with aging.”

Paul’s objective was to correlate alcohol consumption with brain volume. The subjects were divided into five groups: abstainers, former drinkers, low, moderate and high.

“To my surprise, after adjusting the data for variables such as age, sex, body mass index and other cardiovascular variables, there was a significant negative linear relationship between alcohol consumption and brain volume,” Paul said. “Thus it can be concluded that there is no beneficial effect of low alcohol consumption in reducing normal decline in brain volume.”

Paul noted that, while these findings are interesting, it should be remembered that this was a cross-sectional study — a snapshot in time. Longitudinal studies, which collect data over time, are needed to confirm these results.



### wellesley senior - and yaks - help tibetan peasants

Jenny Chu '09 is a political science major who has the gift of gab. Her ability to sell a newly developed yak cheese to high-end restaurants made her a one-woman sales force recently, finding markets for cheese produced by one of China’s most prolific animals, the yak.

Chu worked as an intern this summer in Shanghai with Ventures in Development (ViD), an organization that creates social and business development for impoverished people. In China, the group identifies rural poor who are disenfranchised from the benefits of the country’s economic boom, using business solutions to address sustainable development issues.

The yak cheeses, as well as yak cashmere woolens, are giving new hope to poor farmers in Yunnan province in western, or Tibetan, China. Chu worked to benefit a new business, Mei Xi-ang Yak Cheese, a for-profit social enterprise that brings yak cheese from Yunnan province to gourmet cheese consumers, providing a steady source of income to local herding communities. The factory is run by an enterprising Tibetan family who hope to bring development to their village. They have been trained by a U.S. cheese expert from Wisconsin and have been helped in their marketing efforts by Chu. To read more, visit [www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/Releases/2008/101608.html](http://www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/Releases/2008/101608.html).



Jenny Chu, fourth from left, with yak knitters

## colleagues

### in the news

Several members of the Wellesley College community traveled to Seoul, South Korea, to participate in the Ewha-Wellesley Global Leadership Conference, in partnership with Ewha Womans University. [jennifer thomas-starck](#), international studies; [michelle lepore](#), student life; [laura bey](#), registrar’s office; and [ellen widmer](#), East Asian languages and literatures, took part in the event, which is part of the larger World Women’s Forum — an international conference committed to addressing important issues related to women. Bey gave the lecture “Cross-Cultural Communication and Women’s Leadership,” while Widmer delivered a keynote address, “Alice R. Appenzeller (Wellesley Class of 1909, Ewha President 1922-39) and the First Stage of Ewha-Wellesley Dialogue.”

[sumru erkut](#), Wellesley Centers for Women, presented a paper “Women’s Rights and Immigrant Women’s Rights to Culture: Seizing Opportunities, Upholding Rights” at the International Conference on Gender, Migration and Development in Manila, Philippines. The program had its beginnings at WCW in 2006, when scholars [pamela alexander](#), [susan mcgee bailey](#), [rangita de-silva de-alwis](#), and Erkut met with Sylvia Lichauco of the Philippines. The group brainstormed about issues that affect the well-being of women with particular relevance to the Philippines. A total of 436 participants — advocates, academics, international organizations and leaders of NGOs — from 36 countries and five continents attended. The conference ended with the joint development of the “Manila Call for Action,” to be presented to the participating states at the Second Global Forum on Migration and Development in Manila chaired by the government of the Philippines, Oct. 27-30.

[akila weerapana](#), economics, was quoted in “Got Stocks? Look to the Long Term” in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Many people nearing retirement have been particularly rattled by recent financial events. “If you are not retiring in the next five years, then on a day-to-day basis, it shouldn’t affect what you are doing,” he said. “The question is, what is your horizon?”

# calendar

## monday october 27

**gathering.** Buddhist sitting. 12:30 pm, meditation room, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Religious and Spiritual Life. Info: x2793.

**german table.** 12:30 pm, Tower Court private dining room. Sponsor: German. Info: x4177.

**gathering.** Pooja service. 7:15 pm, Multifaith Center, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Hindu Community, Religious and Spiritual Life. Info: x2974.

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

**goldman lecture.** "Preparing for Our Common Future: Policy Choices and the Economics of Climate Change." Speaker: Peter Orszag, director, Congressional Budget Office. 8 pm, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Sponsor: Economics. Info: x2154. (See story, page 1.)

## tuesday october 28

**tanner conference.** No classes.

**gathering.** Buddhist sitting. 12:30 pm, meditation room, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Religious and Spiritual Life. Info: x2793.

**soccer vs. Wheaton.** 3 pm, Sports Center. Info: x2003.

**poetry reading.** "The World of Arun Kolatkar." Speaker: Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, English, Allahabad University. 4:30 pm, Newhouse Center, Green Hall. Sponsor: English. Info: x2590.

## wednesday october 29

**gathering.** Buddhist sitting. 8:30 am, meditation room, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Religious and Spiritual Life. Info: x2793.

**meeting.** Administrative Council. 11 am, Academic Council Room, 4th floor, Green Hall. Info: x3337.

**discussion.** Speaker: Doris Dorrie, German film director. 11:10-12:20 pm, FND 319. Sponsor: German. Info: x2584.

**chinese table.** 12:30 pm, Tower Court private dining room. Sponsor: CSA. Info: CSAmal@wellesley.edu.

**cws info session.** Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. 12:30 pm, PNW 116. Info: x2352.

**lecture.** "Act to Mitigate Global Warming!" Speaker: Lilah Glick, global warming coordinator, Clean Water Action. 12:30 pm, Anderson Forum, Wang Center. Sponsor: WEED. Info: WEEDmail@wellesley.edu.

**museum tours.** Led by museum docents. 2 pm, Davis Museum Gallery. Sponsor: DMCC. Info: x2051.

**info session.** Study Abroad Advising Fair. 3 pm, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Info: x2320.

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

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

**info session.** "Interested in Latin America?" Meet faculty, learn about courses; dinner included. 6 pm,

Pendleton Atrium. Sponsor: Latin American Studies. Info: x2202.

**lecture.** "Israel and Modern Feminism." Speaker: Elana Yarom, Israeli affairs scholar, University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice. 7 pm, PNW 212. Sponsor: Friends of Israel. Info: yfredric@wellesley.edu.

## thursday october 30

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

**french table.** 12:30 pm, Bates private dining room. Sponsor: French House. Info: x2413.

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

**gathering.** Buddhist sitting. 12:30 and 7 pm, meditation room, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Religious and Spiritual Life. Info: x2793.

**lecture.** On the book, *The Return of Desire—Expanding Perspectives on Women's Sexual Intimacy* by Gina Ogden, sex researcher. 12:30 pm, Cheever House. Sponsor: WCW. Info: x2500.

**debate.** "American Hegemony is a Good Thing." Speakers: Robert Lieber, government and international affairs, Georgetown University; Michael Allan, editor, *Democracy Digest*; Bill Kaufmann, author; Andrew Bacevich, history and international relations, Boston University. Moderator: Vanessa Arslanian '09. Buffet dinner to follow. 4:30 pm, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Sponsor: President's Office. Info: x2141. (See story, page 4.)

**esl tutoring.** (See 10/27 listing.)

**concert.** Performers: Claire Bloom and Eugenia Zukerman, voice, and Craig Ketter, piano. 8 pm, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028.

## friday october 31

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

**gathering.** Shabbat service. 6 pm. Contact rrostin@wellesley.edu for weekly location. Sponsors: Hillel; Religious and Spiritual Life. Info: x2687.

**films.** *Psycho*, 7 pm, *The Birds*, 9 pm. Sponsor: Film Society. Info: eglatter@wellesley.edu.

## saturday november 1

**films.** *The Birds*, 7 pm, *Psycho*, 9 pm. (See 10/31 listing.)

## sunday november 2

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

**open house.** "Family Day @ the Davis." 1 pm, Davis Museum. Sponsor: DMCC. Info: x2051.

**fashion show.** "Dress for Success." 2 pm, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Contact rmarucc@welles-

## save the date

11/4: Election Night event. 7:30 pm, Pendleton Atrium. Info: CPLAmal@wellesley.edu.

11/5: Lecture. "Surfing the Quantum Internet." Speaker: Seth Lloyd, quantum-mechanical engineering, MIT, and director, W. M. Keck Center for Extreme Quantum Information Theory. 12:30 pm, SCI 278. Sponsor: Computer Science. Info: x3120.

11/6: Lecture. "From Passing to the Post-Racial: Does Race Still Matter?" Speaker: Bliss Broyard, author of *One Drop*. 4:30 pm, Library Lecture Room. Sponsor: Africana Studies. Info: svickery@wellesley.edu.

ley.edu for VIP seating. Sponsors: À La Mode; CWS. Info: x2352.

**dance performance.** Choreography by Samantha Cameron, physical education; percussion, Martin Case; performance by student dancers. 3 pm, Davis Museum Gallery. Sponsor: DMCC, PERA. Info: x2051.

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

## monday november 3

online registration for spring 2009 begins.

cws application deadline for Luce, Carnegie Fellowships. Info: x2352.

**gathering.** Buddhist sitting. (See 10/27 listing.)

**german table.** (See 10/27 listing.)

**cws workshop.** "Applying to Graduate School – Creating an Outstanding Application." 5 pm, PNW 212. Info: x2352.

**gathering.** Pooja service. (See 10/27 listing.)

**esl tutoring.** (See 10/27 listing.)

**lip sync.** 8 pm, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Sponsor: House Presidents Council. Info: HPCmail@wellesley.edu.

## ongoing:

**exhibit.** *The Way We Were*. 4:30 pm, Jewett Sculpture Court. Through 11/25. 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.

**exhibit.** *Black Womanhood: Image, Icons and Ideologies of the African Body*; *Ellen Zweig*; HEAP; *Recent Acquisitions: Works on Paper*. Davis Museum and Cultural Center. Through 12/14. Sponsor: DMCC. Info: x2034.

**exhibit.** *Art From the Native Soil: Chinese Paintings and Prints from Huxian, Junshan and Qijiang*. Jewett Art Gallery. Through 11/8. Sponsor: Art. Info: x2056.

# don't miss ...

## wellesley debates encourage the discussion of difficult issues

Often on college campuses, public discussions are lectures put forth by one ideological view. Wellesley College will celebrate the diversity of viewpoints with the institution of the Wellesley Debates, modeled on the Oxford Union Debates at Oxford University, where provocative motions are put forth for debate.

"In each debate, two people argue for and against the motion, in a structured, but heated format that is meant to show that intellectual discourse is both emotional and rational and that, more importantly, controversial issues can and should be debated openly in a pluralist society," said Thomas Cushman, sociology, head of the organizing committee.

The Wellesley Debates will begin with the resolution "American Hegemony is a Good Thing" Thursday, Oct. 30, at 4:30 pm in Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Audience members will vote on the motion by secret ballot before and after the debate. A buffet dinner will follow.

"In relation to America, [hegemony] has generally been understood to be a situation in which America is the dominant power in the world: politically, economically and especially militarily," Cushman said.

Speaking for the motion are Robert Lieber, a professor of government and international affairs at Georgetown University, and Michael Allen, editor of *Democracy Digest* and special assistant to the vice president of government and external affairs at the National Endowment for Democracy. Speaking against the motion are author Bill Kauffman and Andrew Bacevich, a professor of history and international relations at Boston University. Vanessa Arslanian '09 will moderate the debate.

Cushman said the format and topic each semester will vary, and in the future will include debates among faculty members and students. For more information or to suggest a future debate topic, call x2141.

WELLESLEY MA 02481  
106 CENTRAL STREET  
OFFICE FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION  
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