

wellesleyweek



2008 ruhlman conference celebrates student research

The 2008 Ruhlman Conference, to be held Wednesday, April 30, from 9 am-6 pm on campus, will feature presentations of projects completed by nearly 300 Wellesley students. The projects range from “Being Black and Mormon: Exploring How Boundaries are Negotiated” to “A Permanent Sprinkle of Gold or a Transient Midas Touch? The Effects of Hosting the Summer Olympics on Housing Markets.”

The Ruhlman Conference helps to foster collaboration among students and faculty across academic disciplines while enhancing the intellectual life of the College. Reflecting the diversity of student interest and accomplishment, it presents student work in a variety of formats: papers, panels, posters, exhibitions, musical and theatrical performances, interactive teaching presentations and readings of original work. The day is organized around eight themes: Cross Cultural Research, Economic Issues, Gender and Sexuality, Literature and Arts, Original Creative Work, Science and Technology, Social Analysis and Political Development.

In addition to the quality of work, the wide-ranging topics make the Ruhlman Conference an exceptional event. Under the theme of social analysis for example, you can choose among 18 presentations,

including “The Influence of Maternal Depression on Preschoolers.”

One project has been undertaken by eight students in an environmental studies course. Their presentation, “Climate for Change: A Look at Wellesley’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions,” presents the findings of their semester-long assessment of Wellesley’s greenhouse gas emissions.

“The presentation addresses what Wellesley has done and what it can continue to do to lower its greenhouse gas emissions and become more environmentally friendly,” said Courtney Streett ’09, an environmental studies and Africana studies major.

Refreshments will be served throughout the day including lunch on the Wang Campus Center lawn from 12:10-1:30 pm. For more information and a full schedule of events, visit www.wellesley.edu/DeanCollege/Ruhlman/home.html.



mayer lecture focuses on the potential of stem cells

Douglas Melton, a professor of natural sciences and an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, was studying frog development when his infant son was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

“When my son Sam was diagnosed, I did what any parent would do: I asked myself, ‘What can I do?’” Melton recalled.

Melton will present the 2008 Mayer Lecture in the Life Sciences, “Stem Cells for Diabetics: Regenerating the Pancreas,” Thursday, May 1, at 5 pm in Science Center 278. Refreshments will be served at 4:30 pm in Sage Lounge.



For more than a decade, Melton has studied how embryonic stem cells give rise to the pancreas and its insulin-producing beta cells, which are destroyed in patients with type 1 diabetes. Ultimately, his studies could lead to ways to generate new pancre-

atic beta cells that could be used as a treatment for diabetes. Human embryonic stem cells have the remarkable capacity to mature into all of the 200 kinds of cells that make up the human body, including skin, bone, nerve, blood and heart cells. With this trait, the cells hold great promise for treating devastating diseases like Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, cancer and diabetes.

“Dr. Melton is a world-renowned expert in the areas of developmental and stem cell biology,” said Kimberly O’Donnell, biological sciences. “More recently, he has turned to studies of mammalian stem cell biology and organ development, particularly the pancreas. One fascinating area of this research is pancreas regeneration, and whether or not stem cells can be used to treat diabetes.” For more information, call x3154.

not another brick in the wall

“Nothing astonishes men so much as common sense and plain dealing,” noted poet and essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson. On Tuesday, April 29, at 12:30 pm in Pendleton Atrium, Kevin Kumashiro will bring his take on common sense to Wellesley with a talk and book signing. Associate professor and director of the Center for Anti-Oppressive Education at the University of Illinois-Chicago, he has recently published a book, *The Seduction of Common Sense: How the Right Has Framed the Debate on America’s Schools*.

Critical of both the right and the left, Kumashiro examines how these two political perspectives have framed the debate on education in the United States. He discusses the insidious nature of current educational reforms and offers promising directions for change. For more information, call x3232.

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

wellesley receives education grant of \$1.2 million

Do cleaning products affect our health? Does mercury in rivers and streams harm the ecosystem? Can an invasive species deplete biodiversity, hurting the environment and human health?

Research into these questions – and many more – just received a boost at Wellesley College with a new \$1.2 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). A year ago, HHMI issued a challenge to 224 undergraduate colleges nationwide: identify creative new ways to engage your students in the biological sciences. Now HHMI has named Wellesley one of 48 award recipients that will receive a total of \$60 million to help usher in a new era of science education.

According to Barbara Beltz, neuroscience, and John Cameron, biological sciences, the HHMI grant will benefit the entire Wellesley science faculty and their students. It is the sixth HHMI grant to Wellesley, for a total of \$6.4 million over the last 20 years.

“Historically, Hughes support has made an enormous difference for us,” Cameron said. “Wellesley has been phenomenally successful in terms of graduating students who go

on to receive Ph.D.’s in the sciences, and I think an enormous part of that has been the research experience our students get. Hughes has been a major factor in that.”

With the award, Wellesley’s Undergraduate Science Education Program will build



on past accomplishments and tackle lofty goals. The program aims to attract and retain women who will go on to advanced degrees and careers in the sciences, to encourage science education for all students and to expand interdisciplinary teaching and research.

Among its highlights, the grant underwrites a new plan to hire students to work as postgraduate interns with professors still establishing them-

selves in their fields, a luxury most junior faculty members don’t enjoy. The HHMI grant will also strengthen a multitude of academic programs, benefitting hundreds of students over for next four years. In addition, for the first time, Wellesley’s Outreach Program, which encourages youngsters’ interest in science education, will have a formal budget, thanks to the HHMI grant. To read more, visit www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/Releases/2008/042208.html.

budget, arrivals, departures top trustee meeting

At its April 11 meeting, Wellesley’s board of trustees approved the \$232.9 million operating and capital budget for the 2008-09 fiscal year, a 5.5% increase over the current year’s budget.

Dean of Admission Jennifer Desjarlais gave a preliminary glimpse at the class of 2012, sharing information about the admitted students, who have until May 1 to notify the College of their enrollment decisions. Several hundred admitted students and family members visited during Spring Open Campus on April 17-19.

In other business, the board had an in-depth discussion of Wellesley’s efforts to recruit and retain a diverse faculty, reviewing hiring and retention efforts over the past decade. The Student Life Committee of the board discussed the College’s multifaith initiatives and programs, looking forward to the completion of the renovation of Houghton Memorial Chapel and the creation of the new multifaith center, slated to open in the fall.

The trustees re-elected Alecia DeCoudreaux to another term as chair of the board and elected Sidney R. Knafel to the role of vice chair. Five retiring trustees were given emeritus/a status as they completed their service to the college: John Clarkeson, Nader Dahreshori, Dozier Gardner, Judith Jones and Regina Montoya.

colleagues

in the news

ophera davis, Africana studies, presented a paper on her research project — “Women’s Voices from Hurricane Katrina” — at Oxford University. Davis and 35 other scholars from around the world discussed diversity and its impact on globalization. Oxford University has hosted the event for the past 25 years. Davis has published articles in several academic journals, including the *Harvard Journal of African Studies and Public Policy*. Her other research interest is career counseling in multicultural populations.

katharine moon, political science, was interviewed about the recent visits of two Korean leaders to the United States and their policies towards North Korea for CityLine on ABC TV Boston. New President Lee Myung Bak and former President Kim Dae Jung, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2000 for his “sunshine policy” of engagement with North Korea, both visited the United States in April.

susan reverby, women’s studies, is part of a WBUR documentary on primary care, “The Doctor Can’t See You Now.” The documentary details the changing roles of doctors in a patient’s medical journey in the modern healthcare environment. “The result in the short term is that patients are finding it harder and harder to get in to see a primary physician,” said reporter Rachel Gotbaum. “In the longer term, many policy makers and practitioners think that a lack of focus on primary care across the country means that we are losing out on an important way of improving the nation’s health and reducing the spiraling costs of healthcare.” Reverby served as one of those interviewed, and helped Gotbaum find others to interview for the series. To learn more, visit <http://www.insideout.org/documentaries/primarycare/>.

flomina steady, Africana studies, gave the lecture “Internationalism: The Impact on Women” at the Black Alumnae Symposium at Simmons College. She also presented a talk, “Ethos and Africana Studies: A Family Tradition at Wellesley,” at the 40th anniversary of Ethos.

calendar

save the date

5/9: Inauguration of President H. Kim Bottomly. Events surrounding the installation of Wellesley College's 13th president include fireworks, performances and presentations celebrating the arts at Wellesley, and a multi-faith community gathering. For more, visit www.wellesley.edu/Inauguration/.

monday april 28

arabic table. 12:30 pm, Tower Court dining hall. Sponsor: Middle Eastern Studies. Info: x4827.

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

korean table. 12:30 pm, Stone-Davis dining room. Info: ykim3@wellesley.edu.

senate. 6 pm, Academic Council Room, 4th floor, GRH. Sponsor: College Government.

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

book reading. In *The Mouth*. Speaker: Eileen Pollack, English. 7 pm, Zeta Alpha House. Sponsor: Society Zeta Alpha. Info: vlau@wellesley.edu.

tuesday april 29

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

gathering. Knit for Peace. 12:30 pm, Anderson Forum, Wang Center. Info: x3484.

lecture and book signing. *The Seduction of Common Sense: How the Right has Framed the Debate on America's Schools*. Speaker: Kevin Kumashiro, director, Center for Anti-Oppressive Education, University of Illinois-Chicago. 12:30 pm, Pendleton Atrium. Sponsor: Education. Info: x3232. (See story, page 1.)

recital. Works In Progress. 4:30 pm, Wang Center 104. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2077.

lecture. "America: The Land of Legal Immigrants." Speaker: George Allen, former governor of Virginia, U.S. senator and U.S. representative. \$5 for off-campus students, \$10 general entrance. 5 pm, Collins Cinema. Sponsor: WC Republicans. Info: Republicansmail@wellesley.edu.

engineering colloquium. "Teaching Creativity: Working with LEGO, Steinway and without Gravity." Speaker: Chris Rogers, mechanical engineering, Tufts University. 4:45 pm, Science Center 278. Info: x3156.

gathering. "Lessons from the Lives of Women in the Bible." 6:30 pm, Protestant Chaplain's Office, Billings. Sponsor: Protestant Chaplaincy. Info: x2655.

wednesday april 30

No classes.

ruhlman conference. Student presentations. 9 am – 6 pm, Science Center, Pendleton Hall, Clapp Library, Jewett Art Center, Wang Center, Davis Museum, Col-

lins Cinema, Alumnae Hall. Sponsor: Dean of the College. Info: x3586 or ruhlman@wellesley.edu. (See story, page 1.)

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

russian table. 12:30 pm, FND 416. Info: x2418.

lecture. "Power of Intuition & The Exploitation of Ignorance." Speaker: David Johnson, economics. 12:30 pm, Wang 413. Sponsor: Economic Students Association. Info: esbmail@wellesley.edu.

meeting. "Love Your Body: How To Feel Good Naked." 1:30 pm, Stone Center. Sponsor: Counseling Services. Info: x2839.

fitness. "Wellesley Intramural Wednesday." 4:30 pm, Sports Center. Sponsor: PERA. Info: x2019.

gathering. Unitarian Universalist Worship Circle. 6 pm, Interim Chapel, Schneider. Info: x3484.

thursday may 1

spanish table. 12:30 pm, Tower Court small dining room. Info: x3571.

lecture. "Stem Cells for Diabetics: Regenerating the Pancreas." Speaker: Douglas Melton, professor and investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute. 5 pm, Science Center 278. Info: x3154. (See story, page 1.)

lectures. "Sexual Politics in the Transatlantic Mirror. Comparing France and the United States in the 1990s" and "Back Through the Looking Glass: Multiple Narratives, Meaning, and the Thomas Confirmation Hearing." Speakers: Eric Fassin, social sciences, École Normale Supérieure, Paris, and Anita Hill, Newhouse fellow. 5:30 pm, French House. Sponsor: French House. Info: x2415. (See story, page 4.)

esl tutoring. (See 4/28 listing.)

book reading. *Sloppy Firsts*. Speaker: Megan McCafferty, author. 7:30 pm, Pendleton Atrium. Sponsor: Society Zeta Alpha. Info: vlau@wellesley.edu.

friday may 2

seqs available.

films. *Bourne Identity*, 7 pm, and *Ocean's 11*, 9 pm. Sponsor: Film Society. Info: bhendric@wellesley.edu.

lecture. "The Forgotten Threat: Nuclear Arms." Speaker: Jonathan Schell, Yale Center for the Study of Globalization. 4 pm, Library Lecture Room. Sponsor: Philosophy. Info: x2993.

lecture. "The African Origins of Christianity." Speakers: Pashington Obeng, Africana studies, and Charles Finch, Morehouse School of Medicine. 5:30 pm, PNE 239. Sponsor: Protestant Chaplaincy. Info: x3676.

saturday may 3

concert. Guild of Carillonners Open Tower. 1-3 pm, Galen Stone Tower, Green Hall. Info: x1311.

films. *Ocean's 11*, 7 pm, and *Bourne Identity*, 9 pm. (See 5/2 listing.)

performance. Wellesley College Dancers Spring

Show. 7 pm, Alumnae Auditorium. Info: WC-Dancers-mail@wellesley.edu.

performance. Blue Notes Spring Show. 8 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Info: BlueNotesmail@wellesley.edu.

sunday may 4

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

gathering. Catholic mass. 4 pm, blue room, Schneider. Info: x2688.

recital. Synergy Jazz Strings Ensemble/Body & Soul. 7 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028.

monday may 5

arabic table. (See 4/28 listing.)

italian table. (See 4/28 listing.)

korean table. (See 4/28 listing.)

senate. (See 4/28 listing.)

esl tutoring. (See 4/28 listing.)

ongoing

botany walks. Weekly displays of Greenhouse employees' favorite plants. 8 am-4 pm, Greenhouse Visitor Center. Sponsor: Ferguson Greenhouses. Info: x3504.

exhibits. *Exploring Elbert: Giving Voice to African American History and Selections from the Grabhorn Collection*. Mon-Thurs: 8:15 am-noon, Fri: 8:15 am-7 pm, Sat: noon-7 pm, Sun: noon-midnight, Clapp Library, 4th floor. Sponsor: Special Collections, Clapp Library. Info: x2129. Through 4/30.

exhibit. *Grand Scale: Monumental Prints in the Age of Dürer and Titian*; Jem Southam: Upton Pyne; and *American Experience: Nineteenth-Century Landscapes from the Wheeler Collection*. Tue-Sat 11 am-5 pm, Wed until 8 pm, Sun 12-4 pm, Davis Museum. Sponsor: DMCC. Info: x2051. Through 6/8.

museum tours. Public tours led by museum docents. Wed at 1 pm and Sun 2 pm, Davis Museum. Sponsor: DMCC. Info: x2051. Through 6/8.

seqs available

The Office of the Dean of the College would like to remind students that the online SEQ system will be available from May 2-12. The SEQ conference on students' FirstClass desktops will be used to communicate SEQ information throughout this period.

Each student is required to complete an evaluation for each instructor in every course in which she is enrolled. Members of the faculty and the administration take SEQs very seriously, and student compliance with this requirement is very important. For more information, call x3587.

don't miss ...

anita hill and sociologist eric fassin to speak on clarence thomas hearings

Anita Hill will talk about her role and her recollections of the 1991 Clarence Thomas Supreme Court confirmation hearings in a talk, "Back Through the Looking Glass: Multiple Narratives, Meaning and the Thomas Confirmation Hearing," Thursday, May 1, at 5:30 pm in Wellesley College's French House, 33 Dover Road, Wellesley, Mass.

She will be joined by sociologist Eric Fassin, who has written about the Thomas hearings for scholarly journals as well as the French national press. He will present a lecture, "Sexual Politics in the Transatlantic Mirror: Comparing France and the United States since the 1990s."

Hill, a professor of social policy, law and women's studies at Brandeis University, is a visiting professor in Wellesley College's Newhouse Center for the Humanities and a senior scholar at the Wellesley Centers for Women this year. During her time at Wellesley, Hill has been analyzing the nearly 25,000 pieces of correspondence she received in the wake of her testimony at Thomas' confirmation hearing. She is producing a project titled "Lessons in the Letters: Learning About Race and Gender From the Private Responses to the Clarence Thomas Confirmation Hearing."

The May 1 event was inspired by a course, "American Through French Eyes," taught by Venita Datta, French.

"One of the topics we study is the French reaction to the Thomas hearings," Datta said. "When I found out that Anita Hill was going to be in residence, I thought it would be a great idea to introduce her to Eric Fassin, whom I have known for many years. The joint presentation will provide both students and faculty an opportunity to gain not only a cross-cultural perspective on the Thomas hearings, but also to hear about the voluminous correspondence Professor Hill received in the wake of the Thomas hearings. As she told me, these letters transcend divisions of gender, race, class and age."

Fassin, who studies the politics of gender, sexuality and race, is a professor at the Ecole Normale Supérieure and currently a visiting professor at New York University's Institute of French Studies. His publications include *The Inversion of the Homosexual Question* and *From the Social Question to the Racial Question?*. For more information, call x2415.

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