

wellesleyweek



environmentalist bill mckibben takes on climate change

Last January, renowned author and environmentalist Bill McKibben testified on climate change at the Vermont Statehouse.

"It's warmer than it has been since the beginning of primate revolution," he said at the time.

Fortunately, change can start today if people begin to organize politically and make sure politicians know that they demand action on the issue, McKibben said. McKibben will present the 2008 Carolyn Wilson Lecture "Building the New Climate Movement" Thursday, Jan. 31, at 8 pm in the Alumnae Hall Auditorium.

It will take a movement to force change, he believes, one that is as urgent as the civil rights movement was a generation ago

"After 20 years of inaction, the race is finally underway," he wrote in *The Washington Post*. "Global warming has a huge head start; the sprint to catch up is the story of our time."

McKibben frequently writes about global warming, alternative energy and the risks associated with human genetic engineering. Beginning in the summer of 2006, he led the organization of the largest demonstrations against global warming in American history. His book, *The End of Nature*, published in 1989, is regarded as

the first book for a general audience about climate change.

Wellesley's Wilson Lecture is named for alumna Carolyn Wilson '10. A pioneering reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*, Wilson was one of the few women to cover the battlefronts of World War I. Years later she endowed the lectureship with the goal of engaging students in the most significant issues of the day.

The lecture is hosted by Wellesley Focus the Nation, a subcommittee of Wellesley Energy and Environmental Defense (WEED), a campus environmental group. More than 800 colleges, universities, high schools and civic groups have signed on to a one-day educational initiative to focus on climate change called Focus the Nation, with events like Wellesley's taking place across the country on Jan. 31. For more information, call x 2373.



two astronauts to speak about 'women in space'

Back in October, Wellesley College alumna and trustee Pamela A. Melroy '83 made an unusual long-distance call to folks at her alma mater. At the time, she was commander of the NASA Space Shuttle Discovery, which was docked at the International Space Station. On Friday, Feb. 1, at 4:30 pm, she will talk about her experience in person at "Women in Space," an event held in Jewett Arts Center Auditorium. She will be joined by fellow NASA astronaut Stephanie D. Wilson.

Only the second woman to pilot a space shuttle, Melroy made history with last fall's 215-mile-high mission. When she docked Discovery with the space station and greeted its commander, Peggy Whitson, it was the first time two female commanders met in space. Melroy also



oversaw some outstanding scientific and engineering achievements during the 15-day, 6.25 million-mile mission.

Wendy Bauer, astronomy, was among the NASA VIPs on hand to watch the shuttle launch. "I remember saying 'You go, girl!' and noticing that it wasn't a smooth contrail like you see from an airplane passing above you, that there was a lot of buffeting," she recalls. "My friend was on top of a barely-controlled explosion. There were puffy clouds, and they went right through them, and the cloud lit up." After the successful liftoff, more than a few eyes were full of tears, she noted, adding, "It was an unbelievable experience." For more information, call x2373.

black history month

Films, talks, performances and a month-long art exhibit all mark the beginning of Black History Month at Wellesley College. "Black History Month 2008 explores artistic expression of the African-American experience in North and South America," said Angela Carpenter, director, Harambee House. "We will begin with a movie showing of *Roots*."

The 1977 mini-series traces the development of one African-American family beginning with the pre-slavery life of their ancestor on through the Civil War. A key feature of the month will be a Feb. 28 talk by LeVar Burton, who played Kunta Kinte in the series. The talk will begin at 7 pm in PNW 212. The five-part film will be shown in the Harambee House living room Sunday, Feb. 3, at 7 pm; Monday, Feb. 4, at 7 pm; Tuesday, Feb. 5, at 7 pm; Wednesday, Feb. 6, at 7 pm; and Thursday, Feb. 7 at 7 pm. For more information, call x2134.

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 students study active volcanoes in hawaii

Students in James Besancon's Geosciences 220 class felt the heat this winter. As part of a Wellesley Wintersession course, students studied and flew over an erupting volcano in Hawaii. Tied to a class taught every other fall at Wellesley, the Hawaii trip offers basic field geology and study and analysis of the volcano.

A living laboratory for a Wellesley classroom, Hawaii's Volcanoes National Park shows the results of 70 million years of volcanic transformation that brought bare land from the sea and produced a unique ecosystem and culture. Besancon is leading the trip with Rebecca Mattison, geosciences.

"We are staying for the most part in dormitory rooms at Kilauea Military Camp, a Joint Armed Services Recreation Facility which also takes educational groups and is conveniently situated at the summit of Kilauea Volcano," explained Besancon. "We are only a few hundred yards from the rim of the summit caldera, the 2½-mile-wide, down-dropped roof over the magma source."

A highlight of the trip was a day spent with Dr. Don Swanson of the U.S. Geological Survey, an eminent volcanologist who conducts research on the workings of Kilauea.

"Kilauea Volcano is one of the most active on earth and has erupted almost continuously for several decades," Besancon said. "For most of that time, the eruption



site, called Puu 'O'o, or Hill of the 'O'o bird, sent lava several miles down the slope to the ocean. During July, activity shifted to vent D to the north and east. Today our class flew over the vent on chartered helicopters and saw the active lava flowing across a relatively flat area as well as the huge steam and sulfur dioxide cloud coming from the nearby Puu 'O'o vent."

For students like Courtney A. White 'og seeing a volcano from the top down is a memory to cherish.

"Today Mattison took us on a helicopter tour of Pu'u O'o vent of Kilauea volcano, and I am so grateful to learn under the guidance of such an enthusiastic lab instructor," she said. "We are keeping track of live eruptions every day and understanding the geologic history behind the formation of the Hawaiian islands. There's no question that these two weeks...will leave us with practical skills and happy memories to last a lifetime."

wellesley receives grant to support the sciences

First-year female students are significantly less likely than first-year male students to pursue a science major, studies say. Female students are also more likely to switch out of the sciences. The opportunity to participate in research early in an undergraduate career helps ease this discrepancy by attracting students to scientific disciplines and nurturing their future plans to pursue scientific careers. Thanks in part to a new grant, Wellesley College's summer research program will be expanded to provide opportunities for rising sophomores and juniors.

Wellesley College has received a \$150,000 grant from the Sherman Fairchild Foundation's Summer Stipend Program in the Sciences. The three-year grant will provide a total of 30 summer research positions—allowing more students to engage in scientific research early in their academic careers. Funds will be used for student stipends, a housing allowance and laboratory supplies. Summer scholars will conduct faculty-supervised research in biological science, biochemistry, chemistry, geology, neuroscience, physics and astronomy.

"Wellesley's Summer Research Program is an integral part of the college's efforts to provide students with the professional and personal development that will prepare them for successful careers in the sciences," said Dean of the College Andrew Shennan. "We're delighted to have the opportunity to broaden students' experiences earlier in their academic development."

colleagues

in the news

In Another Light: Danish Painting in the 19th Century, by [patricia berman](#), art, was named one of the best art books of 2007 by *The London Times*. "It's an engagingly written, attractively illustrated study of what for most people is entirely uncharted territory: Danish painting in the 19th century," the *Times* noted. "Almost any art lover would be delighted to be given this book." *In Another Light* was published simultaneously in the United States, England and Denmark.

[catherine collins](#), health services, recently received a New England College Health Association (NECHA) grant. The grant was awarded to Collins for her planned work with resident directors [kim atkins](#) and [jes-sica hyland](#) on a proposed campaign aimed at creating a "body positive" environment at Wellesley. Although the target population for the communication campaign is students, Collins and Atkins will work with the cultural advising network, the professional staff of residential life, athletics, the health center and the counseling center to promote the program. The overarching goal of the project is to reduce the incidence of eating disorders, disordered eating and negative self-esteem.

[claire fontijn](#), music, was awarded the Nicolas Slonimsky Award for Outstanding Musical Biography in the concert music field by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) for her book, *Desperate Measures: The Life and Music of Antonia Padoani Bembo*, published by Oxford University Press. Fontijn is currently working on the screenplay and soundtrack for a film version of the book, which will be an Italo-French collaboration film. The award was established to honor the memory of Slonimsky (1894–1995), the Russian-American composer, conductor, musicologist and critic. Established in 1914, ASCAP is the leading American music organization representing the world's largest repertory totaling over 8.5 million copyrighted musical works of every style and genre from more than 300,000 songwriter, composer and music publisher members.

calendar

save the date!

2/6: Lecture. Speaker: Gloria Steinem, journalist and women's rights advocate. 7:30 pm, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Sponsor: Students for Reproductive Rights. Info: WomenforChoice@mail@wellesley.edu.

2/7- 2/10: Theatre. *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Alumnae Hall Auditorium. Sponsor: Upstage. Info: upstagemail@wellesley.edu.

2/8: Alumnae Achievement Awards. 5:30 pm, Alumnae Hall Auditorium. Sponsor: Alumnae Office. Info: x2398. (See story below.)

2/13: Quintessence Day. Sponsor: Ethos. Info: ethosmail@wellesley.edu.

2/20: Lecture. "The Making of Roots." Speaker: LeVar Burton, actor, director and author. 7pm, Pendleton West 212. Sponsor: Harambee House. Info: x2134.

2/21: Film showing and discussion. Speaker: Alan Ball, director, will present *Towelhead*, based on the novel by Alicia Erian, English. 5 pm, Pendleton West 212. Sponsor: English. Info: x2591.

2/21: Red Cross Blood Drive. 10 am, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Info: x2357.

monday january 28

first day of classes. Add period begins.

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

tuesday january 29

wednesday january 30

cws deadline. Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship. Info: x2352 or <http://www.wellesley.edu/CWS/students/cookefs.html>.

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

cws meeting. "Stipends." 12:30 pm, Pendleton West 212. Info: x2352.

cws workshop. "Résumés—Preparing for the Wellesley Women in Science Job Fair." 5 pm, Science Center 104. Info: x2352.

thursday january 31

cws workshop. "Citibank—Interviewing 101." For sophomores and juniors interested in the financial services industry. 5 pm, Pendleton East 239. Business casual attire required. Info: x2352.

theatre. *The Mai*. The Wellesley Summer Theatre Company. 7 pm, Ruth Nagel Jones Theatre, Alumnae Hall. Tickets: \$25, general admission; \$15, students and seniors. Info: x2000. (See story, page 4.)

wilson lecture. "Building the New Climate Movement." Speaker: Bill McKibben, author and environmentalist. 8 pm, Alumnae Hall Auditorium. Info: x2373. (See story, page 1.)

friday february 1

lecture. "Women in Space." Speakers: Pamela Melroy '83 and Stephanie D. Wilson, NASA astronauts. 4:30 pm, Jewett Arts Center Auditorium. Info: x2373. (See story, page 1.)

reception. Opening of Black History Month art exhibit featuring local artists Laura Palmet Edwards, Crystal Brown-Brattle, Joan Cameron and students Rebecca Amponsah '08 and Taylor Holloway '08. 6 pm,

Harambee House. Info: x2134.

theatre. *The Mai*. 8 pm. (See 1/31 listing.)

saturday february 2

theatre. *The Mai*. 3 pm. (See 1/31 listing.)

theatre. *The Mai*. 8 pm. (See 1/31 listing.)

sunday february 3

gathering. Darshana. 11 am, meditation room, Schneider Center. Sponsor: Hindu Students. Info: x2794. theatre. *The Mai*. 2 pm. (See 1/31 listing.)

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

film. *Roots*. First of five-part showing. 7 pm, Collins Cinema. Info: x2134. (See story, page 1.)

monday february 4

cws deadline. Beinecke and Udall Scholarships. Info: x2352 or <http://www.wellesley.edu/CWS/students/fellowships.html>.

cws workshop. "Résumés—Preparing for the Wellesley Women in Science Job Fair." 12:30 pm, SCI 104. Info: x2352.

arabic table. (See 1/28 listing.)

film. *Roots*. Second of five-part showing. 7 pm, Pendleton West 212. Info: x2134.

ongoing

exhibit. Black History Month, featuring local artists Laura Palmet Edwards, Crystal Brown-Brattle, Joan Cameron and students Rebecca Amponsah '08 and Taylor Holloway '08. Harambee House. Through 2/29. Info: x2134.

rsvp for alumnae achievement awards by jan. 31

They have advocated for the health and rights of the poor, written extensively on Greek mythology, worked on international development and led Wellesley College.

In addition to bringing honor to themselves for excellence and distinction in their fields, Ophelia Dahl DS '94, Mary Rosenthal Lefkowitz '57, Katherine Marshall '67 and Diana Chapman Walsh '66, have brought honor and added to the legacy of Wellesley College.

All four women will be honored at the 2008 Alumnae Achievement Awards Friday, Feb. 8, at 5:30 pm in the Diana Chapman Walsh '66 Alumnae Hall Auditorium.

Following the ceremony there will be a reception on the fourth floor of the Lulu Chow Wang Campus Center. All members of the Wellesley College community are invited to attend the ceremony and reception. An RSVP is required for admittance. Members of the Wellesley College community can RSVP online at <http://www.wellesley.edu/Alum/Awards/AAA/index.html> before Jan. 31.

The award is the highest honor given to alumnae for excellence and distinction in their fields and has been presented annually since 1970. Former recipients include U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton and former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. For more information, call x2398.

don't miss ...

'the mai' tells tale of four generations of irish women

It's a colorful story about the lives of seven women spanning four generations in one Irish family. The band of women reaches from Grandma Fraochlan, the opium-smoking 100-year-old matriarch who presides over all, to her quiet 16-year-old great-granddaughter Millie who searches her memory for the "thread that would stitch us together again" as a family.

The Wellesley Summer Theatre Company will present *The Mai*, a play by Irish playwright Marina Carr and named "Best New Play" by the Dublin Theatre Festival, through Sunday, Feb. 3, at the Ruth Nagel Jones Theatre.

Set on the banks of the legendary Owl Lake in western Ireland, the heart of the play lies within its title character, a beautiful 40-year-old woman named Mai. Abandoned by her husband after 17 years of marriage, Mai throws her heart and life into building a dream house in the hope that it will bring him back home.

"Honest emotions and real characters have been the hallmark of Wellesley Summer Theatre since it first opened 10 years ago, and they're very much in evidence in their current production of *The Mai* (pronounced "may") by Marina Carr," a review in *The Metrowest Daily News* noted. "It's an exquisitely written, contemporary Irish play that makes us laugh out loud and breaks our hearts in virtually the same moment."

The Mai will be presented Thursday, Jan. 31, at 7 pm; Friday, Feb. 1, at 8 pm; Saturday, Feb. 2 at 3 pm and 8 pm; and Sunday, Feb. 3, at 2 pm. Tickets are \$25 general admission and \$15 for students and seniors. To purchase tickets, call x2000 or visit www.wellesleysummertheatre.com.

