

wellesleyweek



olin offers new engineering program for wellesley students

Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering has begun offering a new “certificate in engineering studies” that will enable students at Wellesley, Brandeis and Babson to explore engineering and gain experience for careers or further study. The program is designed to provide students with a fundamental understanding of engineering in a plan of study typically consisting of five courses ranging from introductory to advanced.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our students,” said Andrew Shennan, dean of the college. “This new program will give Wellesley students an excellent overview of what engineering is and what it can do.”

The program is aimed at students in nonengineering fields who are considering careers in industry, are planning on entering graduate school in engineering or are simply curious to learn more about technology-related disciplines. The certificate program offers six options that allow students to explore various aspects of engineering.

A precursor to the new program was a semester-long introductory engineering course taught last spring at Wellesley by Olin professors

Gill Pratt and Brian Storey and Theodore Ducas, physics.

“Olin’s proximity has helped us make considerable progress toward our goal of introducing engineering into women’s liberal arts education,” said Shennan, who noted that there is considerable interest in engineering among Wellesley women. In addition to cross-registration opportunities at Olin, Wellesley has a long-standing cross-registration agreement with MIT.

Wellesley and Brandeis introduced the new program this fall. Students interested in the program should consult first with their advisor at their home institutions, and after receiving the advisor’s approval, contact the certificate program coordinator at Olin.

“We are very pleased to offer this new program,” said Michael Moody, vice president for academic affairs at Olin. “There are many paths to becoming an engineer, and not all of them begin with an undergraduate engineering degree. Olin’s new certificate in engineering studies provides a structured way for students at our partner institutions to explore their interest in engineering.”



davis scholar attends supreme court session

For Davis Scholar Lesley Dyson Minearo, a political science major, receiving an invitation to a session of the Supreme Court seemed too good to be true.

Minearo’s brother-in-law, Terry Teachout, an author and cultural critic for *The Wall Street Journal*, also worked with Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas on his new autobiography. Through Teachout, she received a personal invitation from Justice Thomas to come down for a day.

Minearo was seated in a private area to the right of the Justices’ bench, where she watched two cases being tried. Minearo said it was great to see the justices considering the civil and constitutional rights of criminals who were convicted and admittedly guilty.

“I was very proud of our democracy—it was very moving to see our constitution and bill of rights in action,” she said.

According to Minearo, a Supreme Court session isn’t that different from your typical Wellesley classroom.

“(The justices) were in large chairs that overwhelmed them, and they rocked in them, slumped, fidgeted and generally acted like a bunch of students in a Wellesley College seminar class,” she said.

Following the session, Minearo had lunch with Justice Thomas and his wife Ginni. That brought both excitement and a dilemma. Her visit came just weeks after she heard Anita Hill talk at the Wellesley Centers for Women about the aftermath of those infamous Senate confirmation hearings. Minearo had found Hill to be articulate, warm, intelligent and strong. She found it difficult to reconcile her positive feelings about both Hill and Thomas.

“After enjoying Thomas and Scalia so much, I bought a ‘Bill for First Lady’ T-shirt at the airport to balance me out,” she said.

Minearo, who lives in Connecticut with her 10-year old son, splits her time between the rigors of a four-course load and demands at home. She plans to study abroad in Siena, Italy, next semester—and bring her son with her.

the beer necessities

You’ve heard of Budweiser, Coors, Miller and Old Milwaukee, but how about Ayinger, Chimay, Dogfish Head and Xingu? Have you ever noticed how many different kinds of beer are available at your local “package store”?

Jim Olson, DMCC, will bring the art of beer tasting and appreciation to Wellesley with his Wintersession course, “The Beer Necessities.” The course will cover a brief history of beer; the basics of the brewing process; beer styles from different parts of the world; the proper presentation of beer; choosing the right beer for specific foods, occasions and weather; buying good beer on a budget; taking advantage of seasonal offerings; and, of course, beer tasting.

All participants must be 21 or older with proper identification. For more information, call x3234.

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 professor releases debut folk album

Beth DeSombre, political science, first began songwriting in high school, winning a contest for her music. She later chose to attend Harvard University in large part for the Boston folk music scene. During her studies there, she stopped writing and performing in public. Graduate school required too much focus, and she wasn't sure she was good enough to make serious inroads as a singer-songwriter. More than a decade later, the first song she wrote, "Sarah's Song," dealt with the importance of music.

"The song refers to navigating 'the crooked highways of this world below' as contrasted to a focus on some heavenly reward, so I also see it as representing the fact that my songs often tell stories of different types of people just trying to get by in the world," DeSombre said.

As she began to perform again, she

quickly ended up with opportunities to play in front of big folk festival audiences. People began asking whether she had

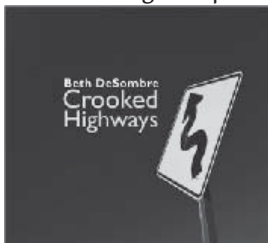
a CD.

"When I realized I'd written more than enough songs to make a CD, I started figuring out how to make that happen," she said.

Desombre will perform music from her debut CD *Crooked Highways* at her release concert and party Monday, Dec. 10, at 7:30 pm at Punch's Alley.

"I'm holding it on campus because it's my home base—I perform at the pub once or twice a semester every semester—and I thought it would be nice to do it where it would be easy for the campus community to attend," DeSombre said.

DeSombre plays around Boston and occasionally out of state, has made special guest appearances at major folk festivals and has won honorable mentions in national and international songwriting contests. For more information, visit www.bethdesombre.com.



colleagues

in the news

judith rollins, Africana studies and sociology, has been elected president of the Association of Black Sociologists (ABS). This 37-year-old organization developed out of the Caucus of Black Sociology of the American Sociological Association and is the largest organization in the U.S. for sociologists with a scholarly interest in the Africana world and/or of African descent. As president-elect, Rollins is responsible for the program of the upcoming annual ABS conference this August in Boston. The theme of the conference, chosen by Rollins, is "Challenging Hierarchies: Nation, Race, Class, Sexuality and Gender." More information about the ABS is available at www.blacksociologists.org.

tom cushman, sociology, reports that the Wellesley College book drive for the American University in Iraq in Suleimania was very successful. Contributions by members of the Wellesley community were very generous, and 25 large boxes of books (over a ton) were delivered to Iraqi Kurdistan over the summer. Cushman has become the American columnist for *Gulan*, one of the largest Kurdish weeklies in the country, and will be writing about American politics in regard to Iraq (and especially Kurdistan) for a general Kurdish audience. His first article is on the politics of the Armenian genocide, its effects on alienating U.S. ally Turkey and the dangers this poses to Iraqi Kurdistan.

marjorie agosin, Spanish, presented a lecture and led a discussion, "Always from Somewhere Else: Reflections on Jewish Women's Writing from Latin America" at Dickinson College in Shippensburg, Pa. Through stories and memories of her parents and grandparents, she explored the meaning of her Latin American Jewish identity, highlighting the intersection of language, memory, exile, nationalism and secularism. She also gave a lecture, "To Mend the World: A Poet's Response to Social Injustices," at Hood College in Frederick, Md., as part of Hood's 2007-2008 Humanities Colloquium Series, which focuses this year on human rights. Raised in Chile, Agosin is a well-known author, critic and human-rights activist.

what's new on itunes u

Ann Velenchik, economics, says she has a pathological need to give advice.

"If you walk into a restaurant and someone's walking out and they tell you what you should order—that would be me," Velenchik said. "I'm the person who says to the woman in the department store, 'Oh yes, you should get that sweater, it looks lovely on you.'"

In "How to Complete Your Degree in One Semester (Not!)," Velenchik imparts sensible and humorous advice about exploring classes and majors to first-year students at orientation. Listeners can now download podcasts of Velenchik's entertaining welcome on Wellesley's iTunes U.

Also new to iTunes U are lectures from this summer's Alumnae Summer Symposium. Lectures include "The 800-Pound Panda: China's Exchange-Rate Policy and Global Imbalances" by Akila Weerapana, economics; "Political Globalization in an Unequal World" by Craig Murphy, political science; "Globalization and Human Rights" by Tom Cushman, sociology; and "Globalization: Opportunities and Challenges" by Joseph Joyce, economics.

Listeners can also experience the 2007 Tanner Conference through several presentations. Students and recent alumnae describe a Rhodes Scholarship and a Stevens traveling fellowship, as well as internships working against domestic violence in Lowell, assisting the disabled with housing issues in Greater Boston and grappling with environmental changes in rural Costa Rica.

To download podcasts of free faculty talks, student presentations and campus events, visit itunes.wellesley.edu.

calendar

save the date!

12/11: Last day of fall semester classes.

12/12: Reading period begins.

12/14: Final exams begin.

12/20: Winter Solstice/Holiday Brunch. 9-11 am, Tishman Commons. Sponsor: President's Office. Info: x2384.

12/20: Last day of final exams.

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." 12:30-1:30 pm, Schneider loft meditation space. Info: x2793.

cws info meeting. "Stipends." 12:30 pm, PNE 239. Info: x2352.

cws info meeting. "Public Health Admissions Panel." 12:30 pm, SCI 277. Info: x2352.

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

panel discussion. "Pakistan: Voices of Civil Society." 4:30 pm, Collins Cinema. Sponsor: Barnette Miller Fund. Info: sbandial@wellesley.edu.

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.

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

tuesday december 4

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

lecture. "Power, Faith and Fantasy: America in the Middle East, 1776 to the Present." Speaker: Michael Oren, historian. 4:30 pm, Collins Cinema. Sponsor: Friends of Israel. Info: x4322.

meeting. "Meditation." 7 pm. (See 12/3 listing.)

performance. "Belly Dancing Hafra." 7-8 pm, Alumnae Hall Ballroom. Sponsor: Belly Dancing Society. Info: Bellydancemail@wellesley.edu.

basketball vs. Albertus Magnus. 7 pm, Sports Center. Info: x2900.

concert. "Collegium Musicum." 8 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028.

wednesday december 5

first day of hanukkah. Jewish tradition.

chinese table. Noon, Davis living room. Sponsor: Chinese Students' Association. Info: CSAmal@wellesley.edu.

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

cws info meeting. "Stipend Information for First-Years." 12:30 pm, PNE 239. Info: x2352.

gathering. "Disability Discussion." 12:30-1:30 pm, FND 305. Sponsor: Disability Services. Info: x2434.

gathering. Walk of Hope. 12:30 pm, starting at Anderson Forum, Wang Center. Sponsor: Health Services. Info: x2821.

lecture. Calderwood Lecture in Economics. "Covering the Uninsured in the U.S.: Lessons from Massachusetts." Speaker: Jonathan Gruber, economics, MIT. Sponsor: Economics. Info: x2156.

gathering. Unitarian Universalist worship circle. 6 pm, interim chapel, 2nd floor, Schneider. Info: x3484.

thursday december 6

open class lecture. "Iranian Women: Past and Present" and "Doing Research in Iran as an Iranian-American Woman." Speaker: Jasamin Rostam-Kolayi '92, history, Cal. State University, Fullerton. Class: 11:10 am-12:20 pm, FND 319; lunch: 12:30 pm, Library Lecture Room. Info: x2609.

meeting. "Meditation." 12:30 pm. (See 12/3 listing.)

spanish table. 12:30 pm, Tower private dining hall. Info: x3571.

president's open office hour. 12:30-1:30, GRH 350. Info: x2243.

esl tutoring. (See 12/3 listing.)

kwanzaa celebration. 7 pm, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Sponsor: Harambee House. Info: x2133.

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

basketball vs. Roger Williams. 7 pm, Sports Center. Info: x2900.

concert. Prism Jazz Ensemble. 7:30 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028.

friday december 7

bible study. 7-11:30 pm, Wang Center 415. Sponsor: Asian Baptist Students Koinonia. Info: mkhoo@wellesley.edu.

films. *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, 7 pm; *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, 9 pm, Collins Cinema. Sponsor: Film Society. Info: jbindfel@wellesley.edu.

concert. Blue Notes. 7 pm, Tishman Commons, Wang Campus Center. Info: BlueNotesmail@wellesley.edu.

saturday december 8

concert. "Guild of Carilloners Holiday Concert and Open Tower." 2-4 pm, Galenstone Tower, GRH. Info: x4384.

concert. Graceful Harmony. 2 pm, Anderson Forum, Wang Center. Info: GracefulHarmony@mail@wellesley.edu.

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

concert. Awaken the Dawn. 4 pm, Tower Court Great Hall. Info: Awakenmail@wellesley.edu.

films. *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, 7 pm; *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, 9 pm, Collins Cinema. Sponsor: Film Society. Info: jbindfel@wellesley.edu.

concert. Widows. 8 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Info: Widowsmail@wellesley.edu.

sunday december 9

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

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

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

concert. Lisa Saffer, soprano, & Judith Gordon, piano. 7 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028. (See story, page 4.)

monday december 10

meeting. "Meditation." 12:30 pm (See 12/3 listing.)

italian table. (See 12/3 listing.)

senate meeting. (See 12/3 listing.)

esl tutoring. (See 12/3 listing.)

concert. Chamber Music Society. 7 pm, PNW 212. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2077.

CD release party. *Crooked Highways* by Beth DeSombre, political science. 7:30 pm, Punch's Alley. Info: www.bethdesombre.com. (See story, page 2.)

ongoing

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

exhibition. *Global Feminisms*. DMCC. Through 12/9. Info: x2034.

seqs available

The Office of the Dean of the College would like to remind students that the online SEQ system will be available from Dec. 4-13.

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 ...

soprano lisa saffer to perform at wellesley

She is described as “one of those special singers whose technique and blooming sound always serves sense and emotion” by Leighton Kerner of *The Village Voice*. A specialist in Handel, Lisa Saffer is as much in demand for roles in Baroque opera as for the title role in Berg’s *Lulu*.

Saffer, a soprano, and pianist Judith Gordon will present a concert Sunday, Dec. 9, at 7 pm in Jewett Auditorium. The performance will feature music by Handel, Strauss and Martin Brody, music.

In a program reflective of Saffer’s diverse musical interests, the performance will include the Handel cantata *Fra Tante Pene*, Strauss’s *Mädchenblumenlieder* and Brody’s *Reasons for Moving*. Brody composed *Reasons for Moving* for Saffer and Gordon in 2001; it received its world premiere at the New England Conservatory’s Jordan Hall as part of the Boston Celebrity Series.

Saffer has received much critical acclaim for recording a series of Handel operas on the Harmonia Mundi label, including the Gramophone award-winning recording of *Ariodante*. She has garnered numerous awards, including the Diva Award from the New York City Opera, was a national finalist in the Metropolitan Opera auditions and was nominated for an Olivier Award, the British equivalent of the Tony Award.

Gordon has appeared as a soloist with the Boston Pops, the MIT Symphony and the Berkshire Symphony and has collaborated with such lauded artists as mezzo-soprano Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, pianist Leonard Stein and cellist Yo-Yo Ma. She gave her New York debut recital at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and was named 1996 Musician of the Year by *The Boston Globe*. She is an assistant professor of music at Smith College. For more information, call x2028 or visit www.wellesley.edu/Music/home.html.