

wellesleyweek

30 april-
7 may
2007

ruhlman conference celebrates student projects

The 2007 Ruhlman Conference, held Wednesday, May 2, from 9 am- 6 pm on campus, will feature presentations of projects completed by nearly 300 Wellesley College students. The projects range from "Storybooks Aren't Just for Fairy Tales: Explorations in Printmaking and Book Arts" to "Being the Privileged 'Other': Confronting White Privilege in India."

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 seven themes: About Wellesley, Cross-cultural Research, Economic Issues, Literature and Arts, Original Creative Work, Science and Technology and Social Analysis.

In addition to the quality of work, the wide-ranging topics make the Ruhlman Conference an exceptional event. Under the theme of Social Analysis, you can choose among 13 presentations such as "What We Say and How We Say It." Under

Literature and the Arts, students will present 11 topics including a performance, "From the Highlands to the Islands in Story and Song."

One project has been undertaken by seven students in an Environmental Studies course. Their presentation, "Green is the New Gothic: Wellesley's Greenhouses in the 21st Century," proposes a cost-effective and sustainable building on the Wellesley College campus. "In this presentation we will cover why we should build green and what makes for a green building," said Anita Yip '07, an environmental studies and media arts and sciences 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, go to <http://www.wellesley.edu/Dean-College/Ruhlman/home.html>



Students perform at 2006 Ruhlman

scholars to discuss cognitive science, universals

Most scholars of the arts have long been committed to some form of "social constructionism," which stresses differences among cultures and historical periods, and rejects the idea that there are universal aspects of thought and experience. New thinking in cognitive science and neuroscience, however, suggests that significant elements of human cognition are broadly shared, and that humanists may need to rethink their commitment to social constructionism.

Patrick Colm Hogan, professor of English and comparative literature at University of Connecticut, Storrs, and Alan Richardson, professor of English at Boston College will explore this topic during the Magge Colloquium, "Literary Universals: Yes, They Exist,

and Why They Matter," Thursday, May 3, at 4:15 pm in Collins Cinema.

"Cognitive science and neuroscience are the areas of intellectual life where the most vital, far-reaching and important transformations in our understanding of human life are taking place," said Vernon Shetley, English. "This event will help to demonstrate how advances in the study of cognition can offer new answers to the questions that inform the study of art."

Among Hogan's many publications is *Cognitive Science, Literature, and the Arts: A Guide for Humanists*. Richardson is the author of several books, most recently *British Romanticism and the Science of the Mind*. For more information, call x2434.

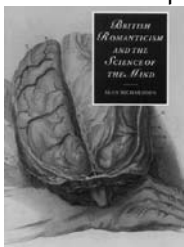


seqs available may 4

The Office of the Dean of the College would like to remind students that the online SEQ system will be available from May 4 through May 14 at 11 pm. 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 x3583.



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

news

professor writes new book on religion, immigration

“Religion and immigration inspire passionate disagreements among Americans,” said Peggy Levitt, below, sociology chair and co-director of the Transnational Studies Initiative and associate at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and the Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations at Harvard. “But many of these debates are based on assumptions that are out-of-sync with our national reality.”

To illuminate that reality, Levitt has written a new book, *God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape* (The New Press, June 2007).

Immigrants don't cut off ties to the past when they reach America's shores, she explains. “More and more, people continue to invest, vote and raise children in their homelands at the same time that they put down strong roots in the United States,” she said. “What's more, they use religion to do so.”

Religious ties can integrate immigrants into this country while connecting them to others around the world,

biological sciences discusses bacteria and neurons

Faculty members from the department of biological sciences will explore questions about the behavior of bacteria and the formation of neurons at the Brachman Hoffman Symposium, Thursday, May 3, at 5 pm in Science Center 277. A reception will precede the event at 4:30 in the Science Center Lounge.

The Brachman Hoffman fellowships were established by Marilyn Brachman Hoffman '52 to encourage creative and innovative research by Science Center faculty. This year's symposium will feature Brachman Hoffman fellows Mary Allen presenting “Bacteria Under Stress: Responses of Cyanobacteria to Acidic Conditions,” as well as Barbara Beltz who will examine “Neuronal Assembly Lines in the Adult Brain.”

creating new global networks. It's a new melting pot of religious values.

“That most Americans equate religion with Christianity blinds us to faith's Hindu, Muslim and Buddhist forms,” she said. “That we also assume that religious life stops at our national borders also means we miss the many ways that American religion is just as global as our economics and politics. Our values are not just made in the U.S.A. but across the globe.”

While many may fear changes in America's religious landscape, Levitt says the commonalities in religious beliefs and values have the power to build new connections between old and newcomers to our shores.

“Their respect for family, neighborliness and the law bolsters American values and steadies our religious boat rather than rocks it,” she said. “Even more, people who know how to live lives that cross cultures are miles ahead of most of us. They are the translators and bridge-builders that America so desperately needs.”

Allen's lecture will focus on research carried out with student and faculty collaborators on how cyanobacteria respond to acid conditions. “As lakes become polluted with acid rain, the environment becomes difficult for the bacteria to grow, so we are trying to determine what the cells do when this happens,” Allen said.

According to Beltz, her talk “will discuss the finding that new neurons are born in the brains of adult humans and many other organisms. My lab is focusing on the sequence of cellular and molecular events that lead to the production of new neurons in adult brains, as well as the environmental factors that regulate how many neurons are born.”

For more information, call x3087.



colleagues

in the news

An article co-authored by [drew webb](#), biological sciences, in 1984 has just been republished in the May 1 issue of *Journal of Immunology* (http://www.jimmunol.org/current.shtml#PILLARS_OF_IMMUNOLOGY) as part of its “Pillars of Immunology” series. The accompanying editorial by Pizarro & Cominelli entitled “Cloning of IL-1 and the Birth of a New Era in Cytokine Biology” refers to the more than 40,000 references to this work in the interim 20 years or so, and comments that “The original cloning of IL-1 by [this] group made all these discoveries possible.”

[rosanna hertz](#), sociology and women's studies, is a finalist for the C. Wright Mills Award given by the Society for the Study of Social Problems for her book, *Single by Chance, Mothers by Choice: How Women Are Choosing Parenthood Without Marriage and Creating the New American Family*. She has recently been interviewed by *USA Today* for a story on mothering styles and by *The Washington Post* for a story on in vitro fertilization.

[mark goldman](#), physics and neuroscience, is among 21 New England researchers to be honored with a 2007 Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellowship. Each scientist is expected to receive a \$45,000 two-year grant, and the fellowships begin Sept. 1. His research is in the field of computational neuroscience, which uses computer and mathematical models to understand a variety of brain functions. “The Sloan is money to work on whatever questions I find interesting at the time,” Goldman said. “It's a merit fellowship, as opposed to a grant for a specific topic of research.” Established in 1955 to provide research grants to early-career scientists and scholars, the Sloan Research fellowships are awarded to investigators in fields including physics, chemistry, mathematics and molecular biology.

calendar

monday april 30

event. "Walking the Labyrinth." 10 am-8 pm, Houghton Chapel. Info: x2685.

german table. 12:30-1:30 pm, Tower Court private dining hall. Info: x1239.

lecture. "Intimate Politics: How I Grew Up Red, Fought for Free Speech and Became a Feminist Rebel." Speaker: Bettina Aptheker, author and activist. 12:30-2 pm, Collins Cinema. Sponsor: Women's Studies. Info: x2538.

lecture. Speaker: Christopher Hill, Assistant Secretary of State. 12:30 pm, PNE Atrium. Sponsor: Committee for Political and Legislative Action. Info: CPLAmail@wellesley.edu.

lecture. "Ethnobotany On a Roll in Vietnam." Speaker: MyLien Nguyen, postdoctoral fellow, biological sciences. 4:30-5:30 pm, PNE Atrium. Sponsor: Disability Services. Info: x2434.

religious class. Halaqa Islamic Studies. 5 pm, Muslim prayer room, Houghton Chapel. Info: x2656.

graduate panel. 5 pm, SCI 278. Sponsor: Biological Chemistry. Info: x3154.

esl tutoring. 6-8:15 pm. Sign up in PLTC small conference room. Info: x2480.

meeting. College Government Senate. 6 pm, Academic Council Room, 4th floor, GRH.

concert. Chamber Music Society. 7:30 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028.

performance. Lip Sync. 8:30-11 pm, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Sponsor: House Presidents' Council. Info: HPCmail@wellesley.edu.

tuesday may 1

japanese table. 12:30 pm, Tower private dining hall. Info: x7685.

meeting. "Meditation." 12:30-1 pm, meditation room, lower chapel. Info: x2793.

religious class. "Tajweed." 12:30-1:30 pm, Houghton Chapel. Info: x2656.

wednesday may 2

ruhlman conference. 8 am-5:30 pm. No classes. (See story, page 1.)

buddha's birthday. Buddhist tradition.

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

chinese table. 12:30 pm, Bates private dining hall. Info: x7685.

russian table. 12:30 pm, FND 417. Info: x3549.

gathering. Unitarian Universalist worship circle. 6 pm, Little Chapel. Info: x3484.

jazz band study hour. 7-9 pm, Punch's Alley.

save the date!

5/9/07: Last day of classes.

5/10/07: Reading period begins.

5/12/07: Performance by Yanvalou Drumming and Dance Ensemble. 8-10 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028.

5/15/07: Final exams begin.

5/21/07: Final exams end.

Info: MollysPubmail@wellesley.edu.

thursday may 3

french table. 12:30 pm, Bates private dining hall. Info: x2415.

meeting. "Meditation." (See 5/1 listing.)

magee colloquium. "Literary Universals: Yes, They Exist, and Why They Matter." Speakers: Patrick Colm Hogan, English, UConn- Storrs, and Alan Richardson, English, BC. 4:15 pm, Collins Cinema. (See story, page 1.) Info: x2698.

brachman hoffman symposium. "Bacteria Under Stress: Reactions of Cyanobacteria to Acidic Conditions." Speaker: Mary Allen, biological sciences; and "Neuronal Assembly Lines in the Adult Brain." Speaker: Barbara Beltz, biological sciences and neuroscience. 4:30 pm, SCI Sage Lounge. (See story, page 2.) Info: x3000.

lecture. "How Examining a Computer is Like Exploring a Dumpster." Speaker: Alice Chung, president, Team Werks. 5 pm, PNW 212. Sponsor: Quantitative Reasoning. Info: x2154.

esl tutoring. (See 4/30 listing.)

meeting. Interservice Christian Fellowship. 7-9 pm, Wang 413. Info: x4335.

friday may 4

seqs available.

seminar. "Twelve Stepping a Trillion Dollar Industry Through Green Chemistry." Speaker: Prof. William "Flick" Coleman. 12:30 pm, Pendleton East Room 351. Sponsor: Environmental Studies. Info: x2989.

service. Jummah. 12:30 pm, Muslim prayer room, Houghton Chapel. Info: x2656.

spring walk. "A Landscape History." With Peter Fergusson, art. 3:30 pm, meet in Academic Quad in front of Green Hall. Sponsors: Environmental Studies, WEED. Info: x2820.

meeting. "Meditation." 5-5:30 pm. (See 5/1 listing.)

films. *Casino Royale*, 7 pm; *V for Vendetta*, 9 pm, Collins Cinema. Sponsor: Film Society. Info: x1311.

concert. Synergy Jazz String Ensemble/Body and Soul. 7-9 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Info: x2028.

concert. Blue Notes Spring Concert. 7-9 pm, Houghton Chapel. Info: BlueNotesmail@wellesley.edu.

saturday may 5

concert. Awaken the Dawn Spring Concert. 4:30-6 pm, Collins Cinema. Info: Awakenmail@wellesley.edu.

performance. "Choreography: The Writing of Places." 7 pm, Alumnae Hall. Sponsor: Wellesley College Dancers. Free with Wellesley ID, \$5 for off-campus. Info: x4507.

films. *V for Vendetta*, 7 pm; *Casino Royale*, 9 pm, PNW 212. Info: x1311.

concert. Tupelos Spring Concert. 7:30-10 pm, Houghton Chapel. Info: Tupelosmail@wellesley.edu.

sunday may 6

worship service. Protestant service. 10:30 am, Houghton Chapel. Info: x2685.

performance. "Choreography: The Writing of Places." 3 pm. (See 5/5 listing.)

worship service. Catholic mass. 4 pm, Houghton Chapel. Info: x2688.

worship service. Darshana. 4:30-6 pm, meditation room, Houghton Chapel. Info: x2794.

concert. Chamber Orchestra. 5 pm, Tower Court West Great Hall. Info: x3377.

concert. MIT/Wellesley Toons Spring Concert. 7-9 pm, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Info: Toonsmail@wellesley.edu.

concert. Prism Jazz. 7-9:30 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028.

monday may 7

event. "Walking the Labyrinth." (See 4/30 listing.)

german table. (See 4/30 listing.)

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

religious class. Halaqa Islamic Studies. (See 4/30 listing.)

esl tutoring. (See 4/30 listing.)

meeting. CG Senate. (See 4/30 listing.)

don't miss ...

wellesley music ensembles present end-of-the-year concerts

Several music ensembles will present their end-of-the-year concerts this week. Prism Jazz will perform Sunday, May 6, at 7 pm in Jewett Auditorium. "Prism Jazz presents classic jazz and new grooves featuring the music of Duke Ellington, James Brown, Miles Davis and more," said Cercie Miller, music. "The singing and playing of graduating senior and Prism president Margaret McGovern will be highlighted."

The Chamber Music Society will offer four end-of-the-year concerts, starting Monday, April 30, at 7:30 pm in Jewett Auditorium. The concert will feature music ranging from Bach to Heitor Villa-Lobos and from string quartets to a duo for clarinet and viola. The society's other concerts are Saturday, May 5, at 1 pm, Tuesday, May 8, at 7:30 pm, and Wednesday, May 9, at 7 pm in Pendleton 220W.

Synergy, Wellesley's improvising string ensemble, will perform Latin, jazz and rock in its annual spring concert with jazz vocal group Body and Soul, directed by Patrice Williamson, music, Friday, May 4, at 7 pm in Jewett Auditorium. As always in the spring concert, graduating seniors perform their choice of tunes, which in past years has ranged from jazz standards to the theme for "Mario Brothers." For the first time, the concert will be held in Jewett Auditorium instead of Beebe living room. "We try to keep the concert short and sweet, and hope to create the same cozy atmosphere we had at Beebe," said Paula Zeitlin, music. "Now there's room for dancing in the aisles."

Several a capella concerts will also be presented. Blue Notes will sing Friday, May 4, at 7 pm in Houghton Chapel. Christian group Awaken the Dawn will perform Saturday, May 5, at 4:30 pm in Collins Cinema. Tupelos will croon Saturday, May 5, at 7:30 pm in Houghton Chapel. The co-ed group, MIT-Wellesley Toons, will show off Sunday, May 6, at 7 pm in Tishman Commons. In addition to these concerts, a Chamber Orchestra concert will be held Sunday, May 6, at 5 pm in Tower Court West Great Hall.