

# A Wellesley Welcome

*A warm welcome to President Paula A. Johnson from the alumnae community*





# A Wellesley Welcome

*A warm welcome to President Paula A. Johnson from the alumnae community*

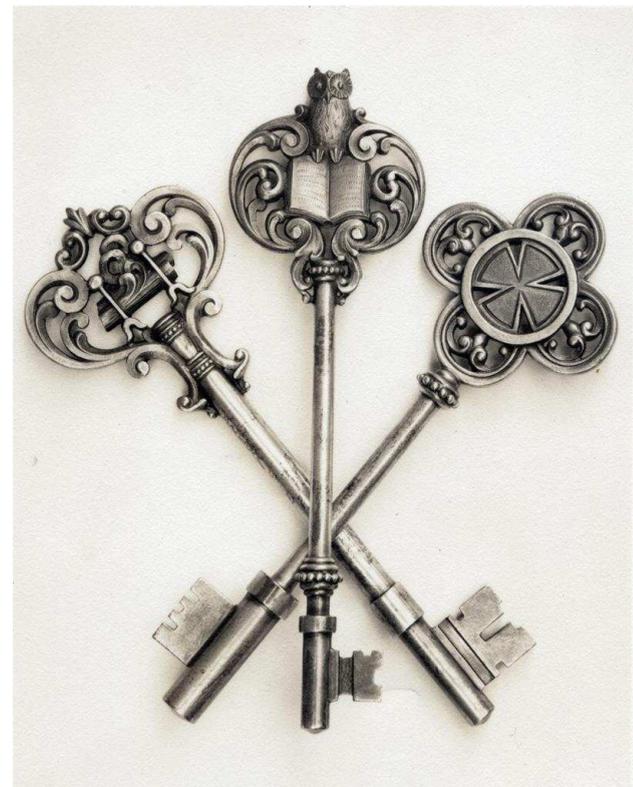


*Your tenure is a significant moment for all of us...*

Dear President Johnson,

Wellesley's history is rooted in a unique set of traditions, places, and experiences that connect alumnae across generations to one another and to the College.

In anticipation of your arrival on July 1, 2016, alumnae opened their hearts and shared some of their Wellesley favorites in an effort to introduce you to all things uniquely Wellesley. This book is a collection of those treasured responses—created to commemorate this special moment in the College's history and to offer you a warm welcome. Enjoy!



Keys to the College



# *Traditions*

"*Wellesley has stayed true to tradition* while growing in every conceivable way."

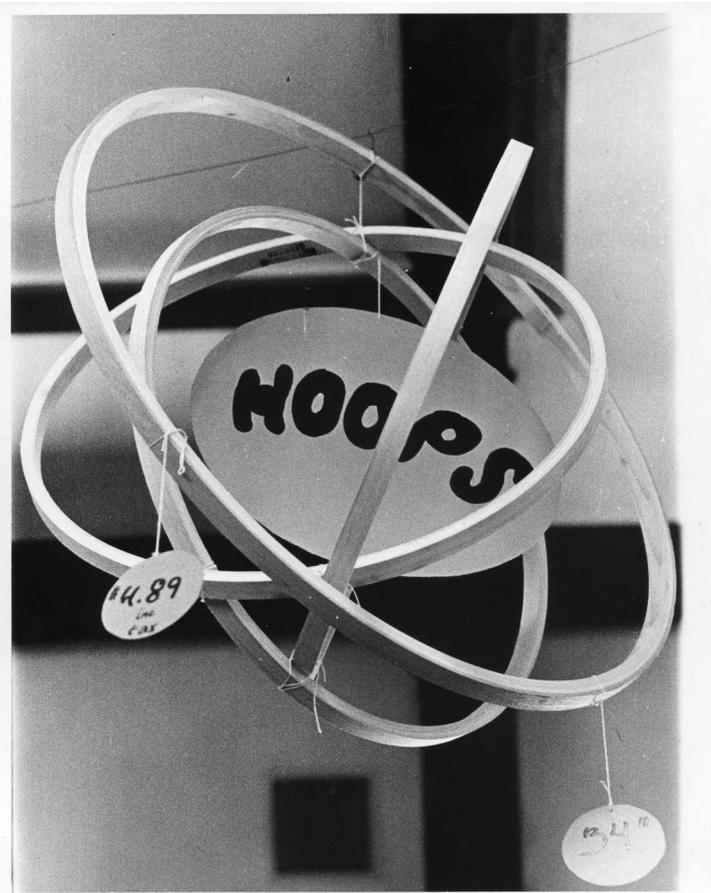
– *Madeleine K. Albright '59*  
2007 Wellesley College Commencement Address

# Hooprolling

*Hooprolling began as an activity held on May Day—a day of frivolity and child's play to escape from real-world worries.*

Students celebrated by dressing up in children's clothing and playing games on Severance Green. One of the most popular was the hooprolling races.

Hooprolling has since become a Wellesley tradition in itself, now held in late April for graduating seniors. Little Sisters camp out the night before the event to hold a spot for their Big Sisters on Tupelo Lane. Hoops are passed down to seniors or provided by Cafe Hoop—and then are decorated. Come morning, the seniors arrive dressed in their commencement gowns and class color. At a signal, the seniors race down the lane, pushing their hoops. The winner is carried away by her Wellesley sisters and has the honor of being thrown into Lake Waban!



"I love hooprolling, a spring tradition that is always filled with excitement and humor. *The victorious senior is tossed into Lake Waban* and, as legend has it, is assured of success in whatever realm she pursues."

— Rebecca Sher '00



"[My favorite Wellesley tradition is] by far hooprolling! Little Sisters saving a place at the starting line for their Bigs, the humor in it all, and then the quick event... it's like the adrenaline you get watching the Kentucky Derby."  
– Julie Kriegsfeld '02

"Hooprolling was a fun tradition. In 1964; winning the race meant being the first of the class to marry."  
– Kathryn Pope Olsen '64



# Stepsinging



*Stepsinging evolved from informal social gatherings at the college center.*

With the dedication of Houghton Memorial Chapel in 1899, students began to assemble on the chapel steps, and a new tradition was born.

Today, there are two Stepsinging events each academic year and one during reunion. In the fall, after Convocation, it is held in Hay Outdoor Amphitheater at Diana Chapman Walsh Alumnae Hall. On the last day of classes in the spring, students gather on the chapel steps, with a champagne toast to graduating seniors.

Students assemble by classes, dressed in their respective class colors, to try to out-sing and out-cheer the other classes. The rainbow of class colors—red, yellow, purple, and green—serves as a reminder that despite differences, Wellesley students form a cohesive and dynamic community of scholars (and in this case, singers!).

"I loved Stepsinging—especially the last one of the year, when the classes 'move up' and the seniors slip off..."

– Nancy Hutson Wiecking '48

"Stepsinging—a part of Wellesley's history, and tons of fun!"

– Darcy Kupferschmidt '12



"Stepsinging is my very favorite Wellesley tradition. *I never missed a chance to gather with my friends and classmates on the chapel steps to sing traditional Wellesley songs.*"

– Nancy Wanderer '69

"I always loved Stepsinging. I'm not a great singer, but that didn't matter. The old songs were great. Singing them at reunions always brings back wonderful memories of the chapel steps."

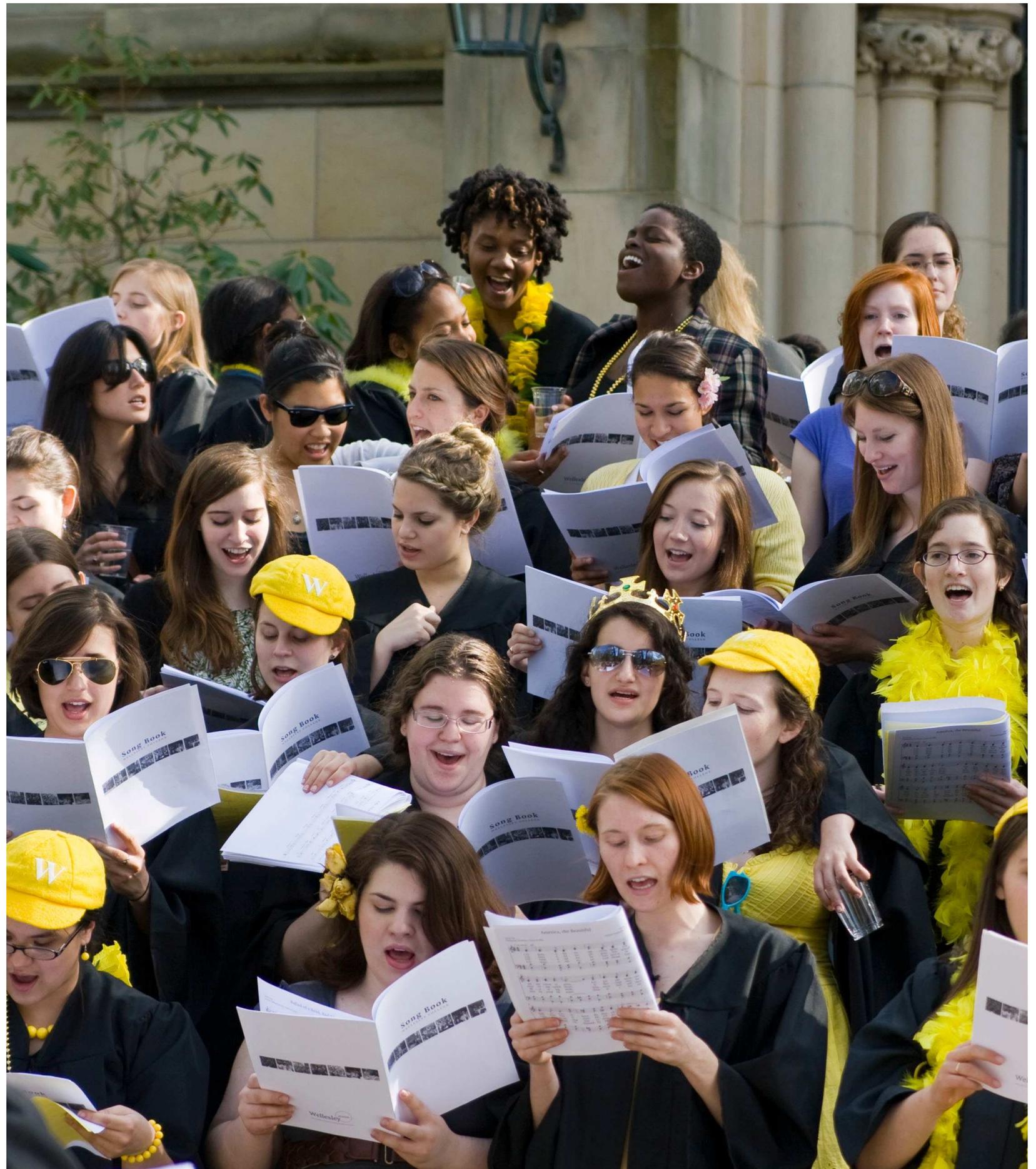
– Linda MacPike Stern '66

"Stepsinging. Seeing large groups, each class wearing their class color and crazy hats and outfits... I used to dye myself green for it! *Singing together created a tremendous sense of camaraderie.*"

– Claudia Newcorn '81

"Music is my passion and Stepsinging at Wellesley is my favorite tradition. Having songs that all the classes know and can sing at reunion is a great source of friendship and bonding. I look forward to it every five years!"

– Barbara Welther '61



# Flower Sunday



*Dating back to 1875, Flower Sunday is the oldest tradition at Wellesley.*

Every year, on the first Sunday after the start of the academic year, all entering students are matched with a Wellesley big sister from an older class. As tradition goes, "Bigs" bring bouquets of flowers or small gifts to their "Littles" as a welcome into the Wellesley community. They then accompany the first-year students to the flower-filled Houghton Chapel and Multifaith Center for the Flower Sunday festivities. It features a multicultural and multifaith pageantry of song, music, poetry, and dance.



"My favorite [tradition] was Flower Sunday. *You feel the tradition and the connection of Wellesley across the classes and back to the very beginning.* Plus, it's always lovely to give and receive flowers!"

– Jennifer '93

"On Flower Sunday I consciously chose to become a member of this community. *To me, Flower Sunday was a moment that captures and epitomizes being and becoming a Wellesley Woman.*"

– Halimatou Hima '10

# Traying on Severance Green



"One of my favorite Wellesley traditions was *borrowing trays from the dining hall and sledding down Severance Green.*"  
– Mari Myer '83

"I'll never forget traying down the lawn in winter."  
– Joy Styles '96



"Traying at midnight after the first real snowfall."  
– Janet Hostetler '97

"Sliding down the hill by Severance Hall during the snow months."  
– Parul Sharma '07



# The Scream Tunnel

*Wellesley students have gathered to support and cheer on runners since the very first Boston Marathon.*

The support grew each year and eventually became the much-loved tradition now known as the Scream Tunnel. Students make signs, cheer, and give high fives (and, yes, sometimes kisses too) to motivate runners.

Although the ritual is known to have gained momentum in the 1970s when women were finally allowed to officially run the race, students were there in force in 1966 to support Roberta Louise "Bobbi" Gibb, the first woman to run the Boston Marathon.



"I always looked forward to the barbeque on Munger Meadow on Marathon Monday!"

– Hye In (Lisa) Koo '13

"I remember watching the Boston Marathon from my window."

– Nancy Hutson Wiecking '48



"I loved Marathon Monday (and volunteering at the Sunday night pasta party)! It always *restored my faith in humanity* and gave me the boost to get through the rest of the semester."

– Graeme Durovich '15

"[My favorite Wellesley tradition was] making signs and gathering for Marathon Monday. The celebration felt like *a chance for Wellesley to show its powerful presence in the world*, if only by virtue of being in the middle of a marathon route."

– Natasha Roule '11



*Perhaps the best expression of the close bond between Wellesley College women and their campus is the tradition of the class tree.*

There is a designated tree on campus for *every* class that has graduated—from the very first in 1879. Each class tree has an associated stone marker carved with the class year. One of Wellesley's oldest rituals, this celebration has taken on many forms over the years. Over time, the tradition has become for each class to plant its tree during its sophomore year. Class trees remain a powerful symbol to Wellesley alumnae of their connection to the College, flourishing markers of the growth they experienced both during and after their time here.



"My favorite tradition was Tree Day. True performance art! *I loved the pageantry.*"  
 — *Laura Grosch '67*

"I always enjoyed the Tree Day ceremonies."  
 — *Patricia Wood Eckels '48*

# Class Trees & Tree Day

Wellesley's co-founder Henry Durant's idea was that students would have "*a tree, whose growth they could watch, as it watched theirs, all through [their] college years ... a tree in which, on every future visit, they would recognize a long-acquainted friend!*"



"Tree Day was such fun—rushing about campus on a beautiful May Day to view the newly planted class tree and watch the ritual stage play unfold on Severance Green while being seated above on the hill."

— Diane Speare Triant '68

"[I will always remember]  
Tree Day, *dancing barefoot  
on the great lawn...*"

— Marilyn Horlick Fishel '55



# The Alumnae Parade

*The Sunday morning of reunion weekend features a perennial favorite tradition—the Alumnae Parade.*

All reunion classes come together to show their class pride and celebrate Wellesley. Alumnae, wearing white outfits and their class insignia, parade through campus by class while being cheered on by guests and their fellow alumnae. The oldest classes attending reunion have the honor of riding in special antique cars during the parade! At the end of the parade route, each class pauses to perform their class cheer before the president of the College.



"I love the Alumnae Parade. It's emotional seeing the eldest Wellesley alumnae attend reunion—*being on campus again is a commitment they make even when they're not as mobile as they once were.*"

—Julie Kriegsfeld '02

"My favorite Wellesley tradition is wearing white for the Alumnae Parade during reunion weekend, shouting class cheers, and seeing the sea of class colors."

—Desirée Urquhart DS'99

"It's so moving to see the older Wellesley alumnae in antique cars during the Alumnae Parade."

—Julie Donahue '83

"My favorite part of reunion is the Alumnae Parade, particularly seeing the older alumnae. *Each time my own class moves closer to being the oldest graduates, my bonds to Wellesley become stronger.*"

—Kathy Gustafson Byers '67

"The Alumnae Parade is so amazing! Especially seeing the older classes march through."

—Beth Musser '03



"The Alumnae Parade! *I experienced it for the first time at my fifth reunion in 1976 and was bowled over by the 'timeline' of alumnae—beginning with the oldest women in antique cars and finishing with the youngest reunion class.*"

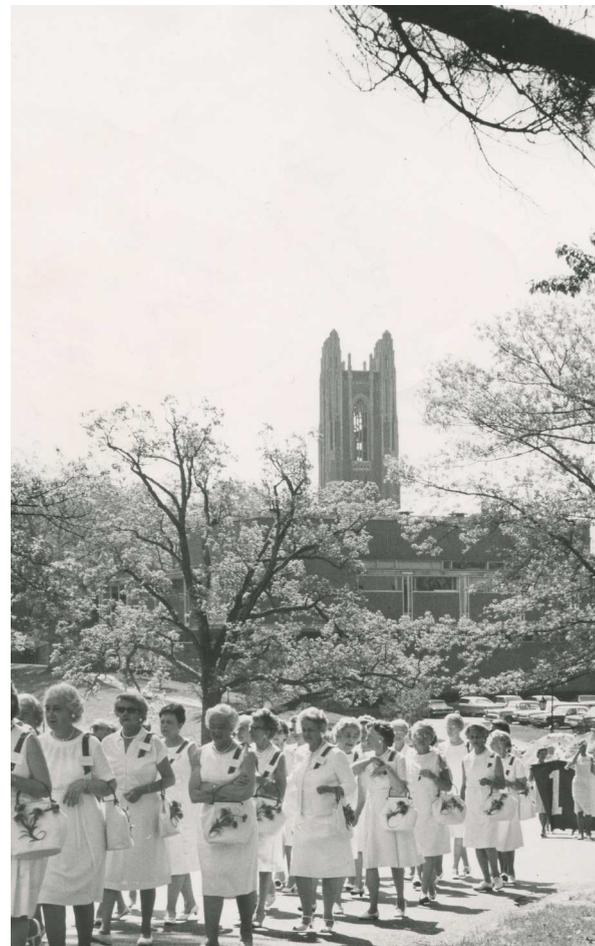
—Helen Fowler '71

"My favorite tradition, hands down, is the Alumnae Parade at reunion. It was inspiring to me even as a student, seeing *all of the alumnae looking so strong and beautiful in white*. It continues to inspire me now as I approach my 50th reunion—still strong and maybe even beautiful."

—Nancy Wanderer '69

"The Alumnae Parade—*a living river of Wellesley history moving past me, then sweeping me up in it...*"

—Amy Weiner '85



## Afternoon Tea



"High tea on Wednesdays—*a modern take on an old tradition.*"

— *Shobhana Rishi '76*

"Afternoon tea in jeans."

— *Mary Pierson '75*

"My favorite tradition was tea on Wednesdays. I still remember eating Pepperidge Farm cookies, drinking tea, and watching General Hospital in the common room of McAfee my freshman year."

— *Jane Smith-Vaniz '87*

"Afternoon tea served each Wednesday afternoon in the dorms. At Tower Court, *our head of house poured tea from a genuine, large tea pot and the dining room ladies were kept busy running to and from the kitchen with plates of delicious cookies.*"

— *Helen Fowler '71*

"Afternoon tea and playing bridge with friends."

— *Jean Jamison '73*

## Junior Show



"I loved working on Junior Show. I made a sign that read 'Why Fight?' in Gothic lettering. I researched Gothic script in the library to make sure it was authentic. *I was thrilled at the audience reaction* when it was carried on stage in the production."

— *Kathy Gustafson Byers '67*

"When I was at Wellesley, I loved the Junior Show that we did. I still remember it well!"

— *Ginny Holmes Nightingale '76*

"Junior Show was special and fun!"

— *Lynn Kraemer Goldfarb '61*

"My favorite tradition while at Wellesley was creating a fully developed Junior Show. *We had a team on the Cape in August before our Junior year, busy writing a full-blown musical*—including choreography, original music and lyrics, and the script."

— *Annie Spader Byerly '77*

## Lake Day



"Waking up and realizing it's Lake Day!"

– Jessica Daigle '12

"The joy of Lake Day was not only that it was a surprise, but that *it encouraged us to take a break, spend time with one another, and enjoy our beautiful campus.*"

– Bridget O'Connor Garsh '04

"Lake Day was my favorite tradition while at Wellesley."

– Jessica Espinoza '99

"Lake Day, when it was actually a whole day and not just a few hours in the afternoon!"

– Tracy Barry Ahlquist '05

"I always loved the surprise of Lake Day!"

– Monique Maas Gibbons '87

## Senior Prank



"As a prospective student, I visited Wellesley right after the graduating seniors had decorated the campus. Having the opportunity to leave my own (yellow!) mark on the same building was a large moment in my final year."

– Madeleine Prenner '11

"Decorating Jewett on the night of senior prank was a fun way to celebrate the art department faculty and show our appreciation for all the guidance and knowledge they imparted to us during our four years at Wellesley."

– Dominique Ledoux '14

"The *senior prank is one of the most silly and joyful traditions at Wellesley.* Back in my day, students would dress up the taxidermy animals in the Science Center with little hats and streamers at the end of the year."

– Lisa Scanlon Mogolov '99



# Places

"Just look around you. Look at these historic buildings surrounding us ... the ornate architecture, the Galen Stone Tower. And further out, the roundabout paths that allow you glimpses of the lake when you least expect it, the rhododendrons in the small valley by the library, the sound of the carillon, stone bridges, secret passageways, the iconic lampposts barely lighting the path, the half-timbered Shakespeare House, the 'spoon holders,' the special nooks and crannies of campus that generations of Wellesley alums have discovered and enjoyed. *This place has shaped and guided you*, just as your professors, your classes, your peers, and your experiences have influenced you."

– *Former Wellesley College President H. Kim Bottomly*  
2012 Wellesley College Commencement

# Lake Waban & the Butler Boathouse



"One of my favorite places on campus is Lake Waban. My walks recharged my batteries, reconnecting me with the natural world in a way that helped me clear my head to be able write the paper I was working on or study for the upcoming exam."

– *Kathy Gustafson Byers '67*

"I loved walking around Lake Waban with my boyfriend. *He asked me to marry him at Tupelo Point.*"

– *Heather Davis '63*

"My favorite place was in a canoe on Lake Waban."

– *Patricia Wood Eckels '48*

"Walking around Lake Waban in each season. The quiet and diversity of flora and fauna made it *a respite from and catalyst for the academic rigors of college life.*"

– *Esther Kang Cheng '92*

"I love walking sections of Lake Waban—out to Tupelo Point and then back toward Severance, stopping at the stone overlooks. It's my personal Wellesley tradition!"

– *Laura Hussong '77*

"One of my favorite places was the middle of Lake Waban in the fall with all the beautiful leaves. *We used to row out in the middle of the lake and just sit.*"

– *Ailene Blizzard Feldherr '55*





"Walking around Lake Waban, especially in the fall when the leaves are changing. I used to get up every morning and walk around the lake before class... what a great way to spend forty-five minutes at the beginning of your day."

– Julie Kriegsfeld '02

"Lake Waban was my favorite place. When overwhelmed with school work and stressed out, *walking around the lake offered me a meditative, extravagantly beautiful, calming and inspiring outlet.*"

– Sonali Laschever '92

"Lake Waban, of course. Being out on the water, running or walking around it, or studying on one of the platforms below Tower Court."

– Graeme Durovich '15

"Lake Waban! Rowing, swimming, ice skating, or just gazing at the lake – all delighted me. Walking around the lake was, and remains, one of my favorite peaceful activities."

– Helen Fowler '71



"In the spring, I loved to go down to Lake Waban in between classes and *listen to the melting ice crackle.*"

– Charlene Logan CE'87

"The walk around Lake Waban... with or without a date!"

– Kathryn Pope Olsen '64

"Halfway around Lake Waban there is a little point with a great view of campus. I loved going there, especially in spring, on the first truly warm day."

– Jane Smith-Vaniz '87

# Clapp Library



"I loved the seats on the lower-level of the library—overlooking the lake and Severance Green."

— *Nina Kaufmann '87*

"[My favorite place] on campus was the wood-paneled room in the library."

— *Debra Nyul '85*

"The special collections section in the library."

— *Suzanne Gaintner '96*

"The very top floor of the library—*with blinding sunlight coming through the glass* and the very comfortable sofas (for naps in between writing multiple papers).

— *Halimatou Hima '10*

"The fourth floor of the library."

— *Tess Opferman '16*

"The library study desks and tables that face Lake Waban—especially during sunset, rainy days, or snowfall."

— *Brittany Lamon-Paredes '15*

# The Margaret C. Ferguson Greenhouses



"I loved the greenhouses. *My favorite spot was the room with the frog fountain.* I would sit on the bench and relax with the calming sound of the water and the vibrant koi fish swirling about."

– Rebecca Sher '00



"All first-year students receive a plant from the greenhouse. I kept mine alive through all four years! It really brightened up my dorm rooms and felt like a special welcome gift. I even joined the horticultural society upon graduating and remain a supporter today."

– Risa Greendilinger '86

"*I fell in love with the greenhouses...* full of plants and flowers!"

– Nancy Taylor Crawford '63



# The Whitin Observatory

"The observatory was my 'spiritual home' during my time at Wellesley. It is especially gorgeous post-renovation and has great views of campus."

– Alessandra Springmann '07

"I have a special place in my heart for the observatory."

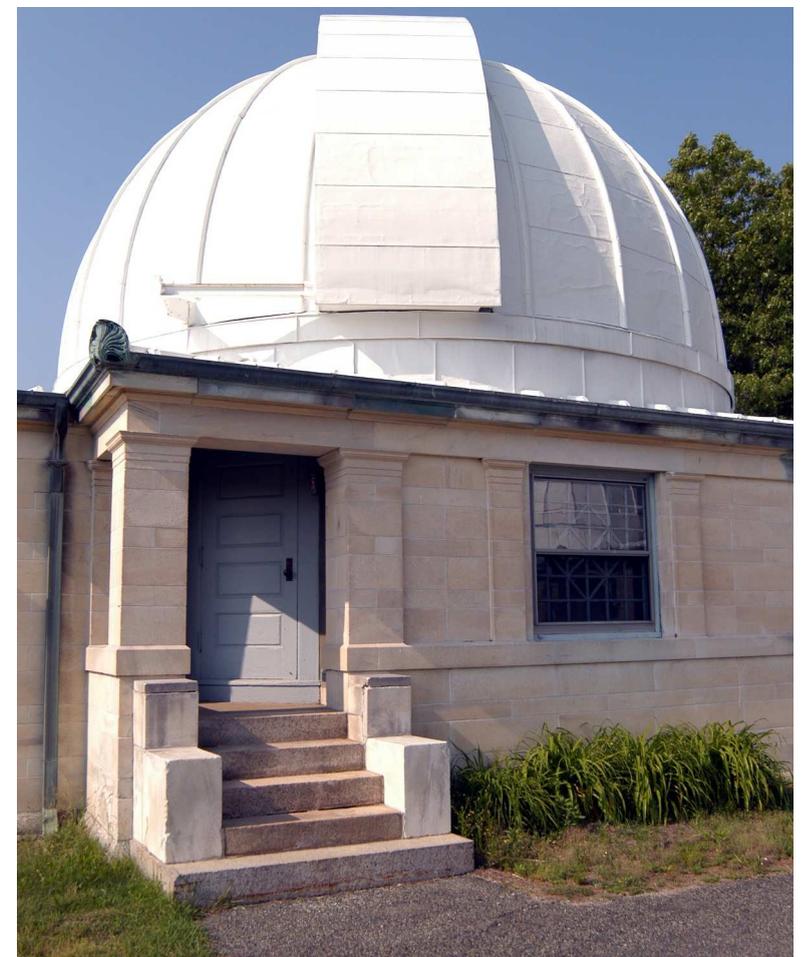
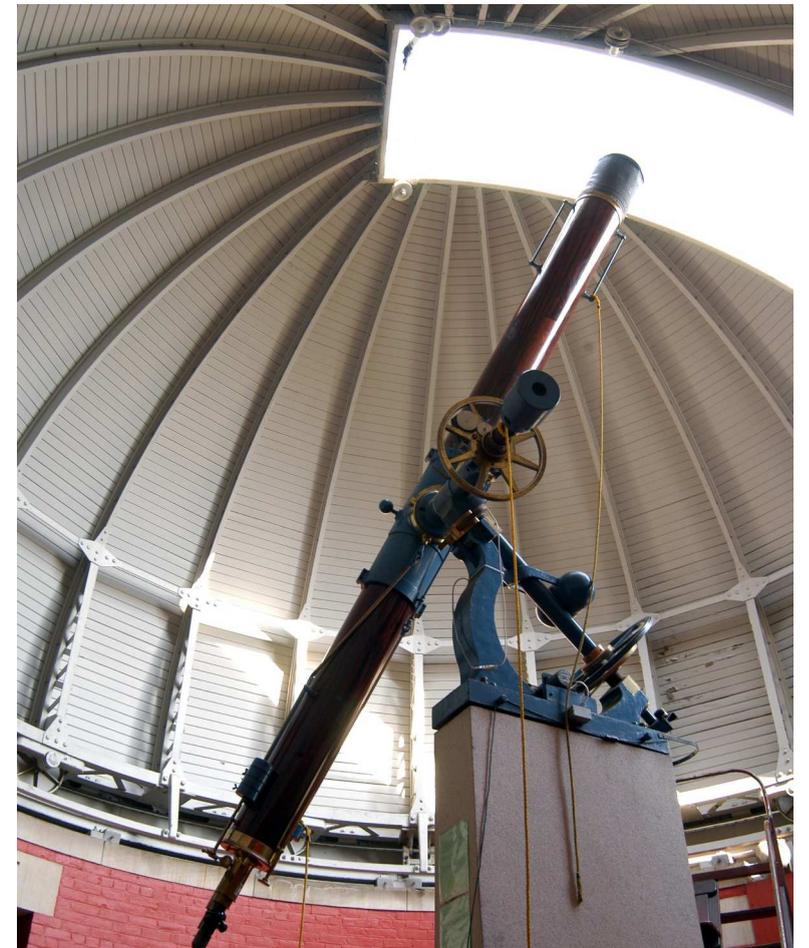
– Tracy Ahlquist Barry '05

"My favorite place on campus is the observatory at night."

– Cristi Carlstead '01

"As an astronomy major, I spent most of my time in the Whitin Observatory. Its oriental carpet and large round table in the library made it *my home away from my dorm*. I loved studying there with the sidereal clock ticking in the background."

– Barbara Welther '61



## Harambee House



"Harambee House!"

*Marseille Allen '01*

*Janelle Faulk '04*

*Bai Kamara '08*

*Hollee Mangrum-Willis '04*

*Heather Smith '16*

*Kristin Williams '16*

"Harambee House will always be my favorite gathering place on campus because *it afforded me the opportunity to commune with my sisters* in a way that was distinctly representative of the rich culture of those of us of African descent."

*– Tracy Atchison Brown '84*

"I can still hear the Harambee choir!"

*– Claudia Francis '74*

## Paramecium Pond



"Paramecium Pond was my favorite spot to follow the change of seasons."

*– Mary Porter '70*

"The bench area by Paramecium Pond—I often found myself and other students and campus visitors lounging during weekend afternoons."

*– Laura Stevens '11*

"My favorite place on campus was Paramecium Pond."

*– Samantha Chmelik '93*

## The Juliet Balcony



"One of my favorite places is the Juliet balcony and courtyard outside Founders."

– Katherine Jordan '15

"The small balcony opening when the stairs from the parking lot take you up to Founders. I always thought of it as my 'Juliet balcony.' On my way up the stairs *I would pause and drink in the unexpected peace and beauty found there.*"

– Dorothy Freeman '50

"My favorite place on campus is the Romeo and Juliet balcony."

– Tahani Chaudhry '16

## Tower Court



"My favorite place on campus was Tower Court. When I came to campus from war-ravaged Greece, *this building looked like a palace to me!* I had a splendid view of Lake Waban from the top-floor room."

– Elli Barnstone Tzalopoulou '48

"I still remember the Tower Court mixer!"

– Kerry MacNeil '93

"My favorite place was the Tower Court living room."

– Patricia Christensen '90

"There is nothing like *Tower Court courtyard on a sunny day.*"

– Deena McCloskey '86

## Dining Halls



"My favorite place was Stone-Davis dining hall. I loved beginning each day eating breakfast in the glass-fronted round nook."

– Esther Kang Cheng '92

"The dining hall being in the dorm is the place I remember most. We would spend countless hours there—loved it! *That's where all my friendships blossomed.*"

– Elizabeth Verduzco '87

"The Schneider Center dining lofts."

– Rebecca Webb '85

"Munger dining hall."

– Beth Musser '03

"Sit down dinners in the dorm dining halls."

– Susan Hazelton Hilpert '61

## Spoon Holders



"My favorite place to sit on campus was in one of the spoon holders around Lake Waban. (I was proposed to in one of them!) They are *wonderful retreats that overlook the lake.*"

– Diane Speare Triant '68

"I love the spoon holders (sometimes called 'spooners') along the path to the Lake. I became engaged in one while a junior at Wellesley. *My second marriage, to a woman, took place 42 years later—in a spoon holder!*"

– Nancy Wanderer '69

"My favorite place on campus was what we called the 'spoon holder' in the 40s."

– Barbara Van Tassel Vanderkay '45

"No question about it—my favorite place on campus is the benches in the trees by the lake."

– Ginny Holmes Nightingale '76



# Community

"*The Wellesley community transcends time* by continuing to support us even after we receive a diploma, *and it transcends space* by existing even when we step off this campus."

– *Katherine D. Tran '15*  
2014 Wellesley College Convocation Speech

What is it about Wellesley that creates this *transformative* experience, this *atmosphere*, this lifelong *sense of community*?

"Wellesley attracts women whose mission is not only to succeed, but to use that success to help and to celebrate other women. We know that we are stronger together. (And our gorgeous campus is just transcendent!)"

– Darcy Kupferschmidt '12

"The sense of belonging to a continuum of women that is even greater than the sum of its parts."

– Virginia King '77

"Being on a beautiful campus, knowing that generations of strong, smart women also walked the same halls, pathways, and road to the Vil."

– Maxine Shen '02

"I think much of it has to do with the fact that Wellesley is a women's college. For further proof of that sense of community: I graduated in 1948 and until 2013 seven of us kept a sound relationship going. I am now the only one still alive."

– Patricia Wood Eckels '48

"The bond among women which creates lifelong friendships."

– Charlene J. Larsen '78

"The students, administration, and professors are proud of the institution and are deeply vested in the success of all students. It makes graduates want to continue seeing it succeed."

– Vielcka Mansukhani '99

"*Sisterhood*. I arrived at Wellesley an only child, but left with a family of sisters."

– Melissa Spencer '05

"Intellectual curiosity!"

– Roberta Robles '83

"Wellesley's motto: *non ministrari sed ministrare*; and the idea that an empowered community of women can achieve anything."

– Rebecca K. Schindler '91

"Telling [students] that Wellesley women help other Wellesley women and that Wellesley women change the world."

– Madeleine Brumley '11

"Wellesley is a ruthless intellectual bootcamp—a marathon at full sprint with gradually heavier ankle weights as time goes on, until you feel like maybe you can't take another step. But once you cross the finish, you realize that you can run faster than you thought you could, and you will never stop running, never stop learning for the sheer joy of it."

– Esther Gonzalez '13

"Every student is passionate about one thing, if not more. *It's hard to walk away from that type of environment unchanged.*"

– Eileen Crehan '08

"The empowerment of a united sisterhood!"

– Noreen Rodriguez '96

"The beauty of our campus of course, but also being surrounded by other strong, talented women! I started my Wellesley education at age fifty and am so proud to know I was able to work up to the high Wellesley standard."

– Suzanne Gaintner '96

"The sheer beauty of the campus made me feel that I was beginning a new life where my old pains and troubles would be mitigated."

– Phyllis Lachs '52

"Wellesley is set apart because it is an all-female learning environment. Back in the 1950s, this encouraged women to speak up more in class."

– Karen Signell '58

"I maintain my *Wellesley friendships* with classmates and faculty – to this very day!"

– Cynthia Livingston '62

"Really smart women in a beautiful place... learning, writing, talking, agonizing over boys, shopping, eating. How could it not foster a great sense of community?"

– Nancy Davis '87

"This community is the embodiment not only of *women who will*, but also *women who will help each other* achieve amazing things. The support among students and alumnae is like no other!"

– Kristin Noonan '10

"Wellesley students encourage each other. They become friends and sisters. *The classes, people, and campus inspired me to be my best and to see myself as a beautiful contributor to this world.* I still visit campus!"

– Jessica Daigle '12

"[Wellesley is] a place with an incredible sense of empowerment for women. *In this environment, the glass ceiling doesn't exist.*"

– Kelly Grover '03

"Sixty years ago, I loved Wellesley because it allowed me to meet people from so many parts of the country and the world."

– Margie Helm Van Meter '54

"The people make Wellesley *Wellesley*: professors, staff, health personnel, maintenance crew, and of course, the students!"

– Nancy Levering Bowman '53

"Our outgoing president said it well in the last issue of the alumnae magazine: 'People [at Wellesley] are kind.'"

– Christine Baglin '87

"The beauty of the campus."

– Lorraine Barse '58

"Everything! From the campus to the students to the professors and alumnae, *Wellesley is a one-in-a-kind experience that I will treasure forever.* I am so excited to return for my fifteen year reunion!"

– Janelle Faulk '04

"[Wellesley] is special because it remains a women's college, fostering sisterhood and women's empowerment. Also, it has made significant, and wonderful, strides in diversity since I was there in 1966!"

– Janet Bogardus '66

"I have lived in Los Angeles, New York City, Washington D.C., and San Francisco. Everywhere I go, the women I like almost all turned out to have gone to Wellesley!"

– F. Keven Ryan Bellows '59

"There is a great sense of community on campus; Wellesley women support each other through everything. And no wonder we are some of the smartest people in the world—we learn so much from each other and our diversity."

– Lynn Geiger '13

"The diverse and passionate people who attend Wellesley sparks a loving, sisterly atmosphere that lasts forever."

– Willa Freedman '11

"Financial aid makes all things Wellesley possible!"

– Carolyn Crowell '60

"Five or six of my Wellesley classmates and I still hold mini-reunions annually. (Also, I'm so proud to be a member of the community that produced the first women candidate for president of a major political party!)"

– Ellen Carlson '70

"Wellesley students and alumnae respect and support each other's passions. The College's success in building an intellectual community of diverse minds endures beyond graduation!"

– Shannon Ward '12

"Smart, funny *women doing great things for the world!*"

– Jennifer Opel '76

"Critical thinking is why we all go to college. Wellesley taught me to think outside of the box and to exercise more than just my intellect in approaching a solution to any problem. *I am still unwrapping that gift, nearly 30 years later!* It affects every layer of my life; I am so grateful!"

– Heather Williamson Burbage '90

"*Women in leadership and women succeeding* is all a given at Wellesley."

– Francesca Bartolomey '06

"Women leading women. [Wellesley] inspires hope, resolve, and service. It also recognizes the resilience and ingenuity of women working together."

– Marie Casey '76

"So much! The small classes, the focus on quality of education, participation, the campus itself, the faculty, and the staff (to name a few). Alumnae role models and the alumnae network are invaluable."

– Eleanor Oxman '90

"Wellesley's reputation got me my first job, second job, third job, and led to an amazing career!"

– Kristine Governo '86

"It's the friendships. At Wellesley you meet *incredible, dynamic, intelligent women teeming with future greatness!* No matter how many years go by, every reunion, we all become those girls we were in college—full of excitement and energy."

– Joy Styles '96

"*Being surrounded by excellence and beauty.* The examples of accomplished women. The support the administration provides through tough times."

– Lynn Christopher '69

"Reuniting with fellow alumnae and learning the parallels of our lives keeps our sense of community strong."

– Audrey Jones '72

"I like to take some time on every visit to campus to visit the portrait of President Pendleton. *I take a few minutes to reflect on the spirit, strength of will, intelligence, sisterhood, and curiosity which seems to flow through Wellesley women.* Whether we go on to teach, lead, invent, or nurture—that "Wellesley" something is there. It is what makes a school rise again from the ashes, and what sends young women forward to make a difference in the world."

– Meghan Pendleton '95

"[Wellesley] gives the students the autonomy—while requiring accountability—to step into greater versions of themselves."

– Nina Kaufmann '87

"Smart women who meet during the formative years of young adulthood."

– Joan O'Neill '80

"Tenured female faculty members who mentor students. Learning how to synthesize information from disparate sources and express findings. An invaluable education!"

– Moira Schoen '80

"I always have smart, professional, and dynamic women as role models—Wellesley teachers, staff, and alumnae. My peers who do important work in all of life's domains continue to inspire me!"

– Christina Wilson '81

"It's inclusiveness."

– Mary Botts Wickwire '56

"Wellesley attracts thoughtful, adventurous women *and then supports their curiosity.*"

– Samantha Chmelik '93

"[Maintaining a sense of community after graduation] is made easier by the constant reach out to alumnae and the W Magazine (best I've seen!). The magazine is engaging and interesting and connects you to the community."

– Christine Conroy Muth '77

"The heart of Wellesley is made up of authenticity, support, high expectations, and friendship."

– Jennylou Bassett Powers '91

"I [recently] looked up a list of women's colleges. Many of them became co-ed shortly after I graduated college in 1961. Only a few have chosen to remain true to their founder's vision. I'm proud that my alma mater still offers a choice for women to advance *the Wellesley Effect!*"

– Barbara Welther '61

"My classmates. The older I get, the less it's about the College itself and more about seeing my friends. Wellesley naturally changes with time, and much of what I loved is gone. So it becomes about the people, not the place."

– Claudia Newcorn '81

"The beauty and self-contained environment of the campus is unparalleled. There is a great community feeling in the dorms—*roommates and friends quickly become family.*"

– Pearl Bacdayan '87

"All the people involved are what creates the unique Wellesley atmosphere."

– Judith Burleigh '56

"I can say that [Wellesley is] magical and that as I progress through life, my gratitude has only grown day by day, week by week, year by year. *Not a day goes by that I'm not thankful to have attended Wellesley.* The caring faculty and staff; the brilliant and committed students; and the true heartfelt dedication of the College to educate *women who will* make a difference in this world!"

– Aditi J. Rao '99

"The people make Wellesley what it is!"

– Julia Denardo Roney '12

"The Wellesley environment and faculty gave me the support to fulfill my lifelong dreams, which led to my PhD in theoretical cosmology. The faculty encouraged me about opportunities that I otherwise wouldn't have felt worthy of pursuing. *Wellesley provided me an academic family to nurture dreams I never believed were possible,* changing my life as it still does through alumnae connections."

– Rebecca Danos '98

"The students, the professors, and the music from Galen Stone Tower!"

– Jeanne Xu '15

"[Wellesley offers] an exciting, challenging variety of curriculum. Students are encouraged to share ideas and experience a diverse community of faculty and students."

– Mary Jane Brooks '57

"Once I was able, I became a Slater host family (my best Wellesley friend had a Slater host family, and I always wanted to give that experience to another student). These young women became part of our family, and allowed me to see Wellesley and the community through new eyes. It has been a very rich experience for all involved."

– Laura Hussong '77

"Wellesley is a special community that welcomes diversity. When you leave Wellesley at graduation, you have a leg-up in the job market."

– Heather Davis '63

"As a women's college, Wellesley cultivated a sense of identity, empowerment, and values—*one felt a freedom to follow her dreams and intellectual ambitions.* The fact that the faculty was dedicated to teaching and not consumed by excessive demands of research was invaluable. The exquisite natural setting allowed the soul to breathe, the heart to imagine, and the intellect to roam free."

– Catherine Allen '75

"I loved attending Wellesley and love it even more now as a Wellesley alumna. *The W Network is real and powerful and strong.*"

– Moussa Dioula Hima '10

"The life of the mind... and making wonderful friendships!"

– Sherry Putney '56

"I spent a summer at Harvard after my junior year. It was so crowded, but I always felt lonely. Despite myriad opportunities for privacy—*at Wellesley, I never felt lonely.* Wellesley is inclusive. There is a common value among members of the campus community: everyone is welcome if she cares enough to give it her all!"

– Rebecca Webb '85

"I left home (where I stood out, for better or worse) and found hundreds of women like me at Wellesley. Finally *fitting in somewhere, being accepted, and finding sisters was everything.*"

– *Morgan Munro '03*

"Wellesley provides a world-class education and a stimulating environment both with faculty and students (not to mention the beautiful campus!)"

– *Blanchette Wells Bailey '52*

"The alumnae."

– *Mary Bernson '69*

"[Wellesley] is a sisterhood of women who support each other in many ways, at many times throughout our lives."

– *Ginny Hendricks '03*

"The sisterhood of being surrounded by intelligent and passionate *women who will.*"

– *Lila Durnan '05*



Each spring, campus comes alive with blooming daffodils, overlooking the lake—a lovely gift made to the College.



At least 130 years old, the Durant Camellia was a gift from Wellesley's co-founder himself, Henry Durant.

*It's partly about shared traditions like Flower Sunday, Stepsinging, and hooprolling. It's partly about the revelation that all the most courageous, most provocative, most accomplished people on campus are women. It's partly about the simple, lifelong joy of being friends with those women. It's mostly about 2,300 smart, singular women feeling the power of being 2,300 smart, singular women together, with the world before them...*

What is your *welcome wish* for President Johnson?

"Dr. Johnson, welcome to a wonderful community!"  
– *Eleanor Frey Counselman '66*

"My wish for you is that *Wellesley will bloom and grow with you*. It is a place that will creep into unforeseen places and wrap roots around your heart."  
– *Elizabeth Grab '14*

"I am so excited that you are coming to lead Wellesley at such an important time in our College's history, President Johnson. I love that you have Wellesley connections in your family and that you have focused on women's health in your career. It's thrilling that you are a woman of color as well. Thank you for taking this position! I know you will love it at Wellesley!"  
– *Nancy Wanderer '83*

"I have a feeling that you will become one of Wellesley's legendary leaders. The College needs you. Welcome!"  
– *Harriet Feinberg Segal '53*

"I am so proud that Wellesley has selected you as our next president. I look forward to you accomplishing great things in your new role!"  
– *Mari Myer '83*

"I hope you come to love Wellesley as much as I do."  
– *Linda MacPike Stern '66*

"I wish you all the best in your new job, Wellesley is a wonderful school!"  
– *Ailene Blizzard Feldherr '55*

"My wish is that your presence at Wellesley will help unite us across race, class, and sexual orientation."  
– *Salome Nyokabi Katwiwa Jeune '08*

"May your tenure at Wellesley be wonderful. Focus on the students more than new buildings. Focus on helping young women be prepared to both practically and aspirationally go out into the world."  
– *Claudia Newcorn '81*

"May you be greeted and welcomed to Wellesley as warmly as I was when I got off the train from Chicago in 1956. Thank you for joining the Wellesley family!"  
– *Junia Gratiot Hedberg '60*

"Welcome to *a campus that is like oxygen for women's academic and career dreams*. Anything is possible here and lifelong curiosity and learning is the ultimate pursuit. I wish you much success in your leadership role at Wellesley!"  
– *Rebecca Sher '00*

"Welcome to Wellesley! Remember that quiet students also love Wellesley, even if they experience it in more solitary ways."  
– *Laura Hussong '77*

"Welcome to the sisterhood!"  
– *Stephanie Martin '82*

"Welcome to the most beautiful campus on earth! Enjoy your new life here at Wellesley."  
– *Ginny Holmes Nightingale '76*

"I wish you a very successful tenure as the president of Wellesley!"  
– *Martha van Beuren Story* '62

"Welcome, welcome—what an exciting  
adventure awaits!"  
– *Frannie Robertson* '77

"My wish is that you not miss any of the visual and intellectual  
Wellesley discoveries that will inundate your mind and spirit and  
enrich your soul."  
– *Carolyn Lefevre Alexander* '50

"Welcome Dr. Johnson! Buy an all-white outfit for the Alumnae  
Parade!"  
– *Laura Adamczyk* '87

"I can't wait to see all the amazing things you will lead the College  
to do in the coming years!"  
– *Deena McCloskey* '86

"Dr. Johnson: We are so delighted and honored to have such an  
accomplished person join the Wellesley family. As a resident of  
Wellesley Hills, I have had the pleasure of being a member of  
numerous campus committees (including the alumnae board)  
throughout the decades. I look forward to meeting you!"  
– *Diane Speare Triant* '68

"Enjoy putting your own mark on the College! For a 'get away  
from it all,' take a walk among the trees—walk on a bed of pine  
needles, and spot a chipmunk now and then."  
– *Doris Rosenbaum Teplitz* '57

"Welcome to a very special place for women. Enjoy facing the  
challenges and share with others your joy in your successes."  
– *Dorothy Freeman* '50

"A big welcome hug from the Chicago Wellesley Club and the class  
of 1977! Have a walk toward Green Hall, up from the parking lot  
past a tree hanging with wisteria, to a cloistered stone stairway, up  
the steps worn and dipped from the feet of thousands of students,  
to the landing where you look out over the 'Juliet balcony.' Pause,  
inhale, and smile at all the beauty around you."  
– *Helen Kriz Marshall* '77

"I hope that you fall in love with the  
*vibrant, dynamic, always challenging*  
*community* that is Wellesley."  
– *Cristi Carlstead* '01

"Goodluck! Welcome to Wellesley!"  
– *Monique Maas Gibbons* '87

"Welcome and best of luck to you! You are beautiful!"  
– *Anna Kim* '11

"My wish for you is that you enjoy the Wellesley experience from  
the administrative end as much as I did as a student."  
– *Virginia Whittemore Packer* '43

"Godspeed, Dr. Johnson!"  
– *Alexa Rice* '11

"Welcome to Wellesley, home to many, varied and uncommon  
women! May all good fortune be yours as you navigate each path  
that makes Wellesley so unique in higher education."  
– *Helen Fowler* '71

"I was pleased and proud to learn a woman of color would be  
Wellesley's new president."  
– *Ruth Crosby* '89

"President Johnson: I hope that your leadership of Wellesley goes  
as well as possible! Welcome."  
– *Alessondra Springmann* '07

"*Welcome to the Wellesley sisterhood!* I sincerely wish you the best with your presidency and have so many hopes for your success. I dream of you leading the College to more pro-active and imaginative strategies to counter the national backlash against the liberal arts, creating a more racially diverse faculty, building a better environment for working-class students on campus, attacking the sexist roots of the stress culture on campus and so much more. Very best wishes for success!"

– Sarah Rowley '99

"Welcome to Wellesley! I hope you enjoy the College and community as much as I did (and still do)!"

– Melody Kao '95

"I wish you the warmest welcome to the Wellesley College community. Wellesley provides a unique and unparalleled environment for women's empowerment in the realm of higher education. I encourage you to use your first year here to understand what comprises the culture of Wellesley. Pinpoint the heritage of the College and what the students hold dear to them."

– Brittany Lamon-Paredes '15

"My first week at Wellesley, I walked around campus, in a daze, as I tried to settle in. As you know, it's incredibly beautiful. But one moment helped me find my place. Strolling, I caught sight of Alumnae Hall on the hill and thought "oh my goodness, it's all for women! Only women. This entire college and its campus was designed, built and maintained for the education of women." There's not much in the world you can say that about—it helped me understand what it meant to be at Wellesley and remains one of my forever moments."

– Rebecca Harvell Federspiel '99

"Dear Paula... welcome to our home!"

– Fiona Almeida DS'15

"Dr. Johnson: Should you need anything, you have a friend in Los Angeles. I know you'll do a fantastic job!"

– Shukri Abdi '01

"Welcome to Wellesley, where so many women have found their calling and started to make a difference in the world. *Our sisterhood is strong and we welcome you to it.* May you have a wonderful tenure at this truly special place."

– Kathy Byers '67

"A big fat warm welcome to you, President Johnson! I hope you will learn more about the crazy history of Wellesley and the women who have passed through. You need to hear alumnae stories!"

– Annie Spader Byerly '77

"I hope [President Johnson] comes to love the place as much as I did!"

– Nancy Hutson Wiecking '48

"President Johnson, be sure to go see the rhododendron garden! Cheers."

– Laura Grosch '67

"I would like to express to you my warmest welcome. I couldn't be more delighted to have you on-board as Wellesley's newest President and I look forward to the leadership you'll bring to our great institution."

– Tracy Atchison Brown '84

"Welcome to Wellesley! I'm sure you can't wait to find all your own favorites!"

– Crystal Brunelli '94

"Welcome President Johnson! It's such an honor and a delight to have you at Wellesley's helm. I can't wait to see the wonderful things you're going to do!"

– Tracy Ahlquist Barry '05

"I am so excited to have you as our president. I can't wait to see you at future reunions!"

– *Nana Akom '11*

"Welcome! I am so excited to be witness to your years at Wellesley."

– *Neeloofar Jenks '01*

"Welcome aboard Dr. Johnson! While I've never achieved headlines for any of my activities, I have a wonderful husband and five successful adult children. Twenty-five years after graduation I returned to school and received an MLS from Syracuse University which led to a twenty-five year career as a school librarian. Wellesley opened my eyes to a big, wide, wonderful world and I have always appreciated it."

– *Nancy Taylor Crawford '63*

"Welcome, welcome, welcome to our cherished little community!"

– *Julie Kriegsfeld '02*

"Welcome! I can't wait to meet you."

– *Carrington O'Brion '15*

"Welcome to Wellesley! I will forever be indebted to her for providing me with so many unbelievable opportunities!"

– *Frances McVay '08*

"May the blessings and joy you reap outweigh the challenges!"

– *Esther Kang Cheng '92*

"Welcome to Wellesley! *We're so excited to have you join us.*"

– *Beth Musser '03*

"Wellesley is lucky to have you, President Johnson. Get ready for the most wonderful job you will ever have! Welcome to Wellesley."

– *Drue Neel Glauber '90*

"Wellesley, its beautiful campus and the friends I made there continue to be an important part of my life. I hope your time at Wellesley will be a happy and fulfilling part of your life as well."

– *Marilyn Horlick Fishel '55*

"Welcome President Johnson!"

– *Lisa Chiu '02*

"You are becoming part of an amazing family and school. I am thankful, every day, for Wellesley's role in my life. *I hope it has as great an impact on yours.* Welcome!"

– *Maddy Prenner '11*

"I [recently] organized a major conference at my university. I contacted a Wellesley alumna about connecting me with a potential keynote speaker—one of the most influential African women. Only days after our initial contact, the keynote speaker agreed to participate! This was something amazing, made possible by the W Network. Welcome Madam President. I am honored to have a black woman serve as [Wellesley's] president. I look forward to helping you thrive in pursuit of our mission, in any way possible."

– *Moussa Dioula Hima '10*

"Welcome to the wonderful world of Wellesley! We are so glad to have you as part of our history. All the best!"

– *Joy Styles '96*

"Welcome to a very special place!"

– *Adrienne Britt Edwards '57*

"I am beyond excited to have such a dynamic leader coming to campus! Welcome!"

– *Maureen Atkins '96*

"Please try to relax and treasure this moment, Dr. Johnson. Know that none of us is perfect. You are welcomed and valued and that is enough!"

– *Suzanne Sorkin '74*

"Whether walking, biking, or driving, pick a spot, any spot on campus and sit quietly there once a quarter to enjoy the difference in scenery and smells of all four seasons from that one spot."

– *Desirée Urquhart DS'99*

"Welcome to Wellesley! I look forward to hearing how you will continue to make Wellesley College a place that accepts and values students and professors and their contribution to society, as well as a place that prioritizes quality learning and the development of core life values rather than superficial show."

– *Natasha Roule '11*

"You have come to a wonderful place. Enjoy every moment and inspire each woman!"

– *Peg Kessler Lower '49*



# *An Open Letter to President Johnson*

by the alumnae editors, contributors, and readers of Wellesley Underground

Dear President Johnson,

The alumnae of Wellesley College welcome you to our Wellesley family! Many of us received the news of your role via social media or from texts and messages from our friends—and couldn't contain our excitement! We all look back at our time at Wellesley fondly—Wellesley helped us become the people we are today and was also the space where we established life-long friendships. We write to you from across the country and around the world. We serve various roles in our respective communities: we are activists, leaders, volunteers, educators, caregivers, storytellers, whistle-blowers, and innovators. Some of us are parents, some of us are spouses/partners, and some of us construct our lives in other ways. Despite these myriad roles, the one thread that connects us is our time at Wellesley and the principles that we carry together.

Many of us were student leaders and activists during our time at Wellesley—and some of us still are. A consistent goal among many generations of Wellesley students and alumnae is to ensure that Wellesley is a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students. In the past year, we have seen great steps forward in the form of a new admissions policy explicitly welcoming transgender women (no matter where in their gender affirmation process they are) as students and the formation of a multicultural student center. These changes represent a great deal of hard work and endless conversations over the last couple of decades over many graduating classes between students, alumnae, and the college administration.

As you begin your tenure as the new president of Wellesley College, we hope to continue these conversations with you. We will continue to advocate for the administration to address wide ranging issues such as rising tuition costs, staff and student awareness on racial and cultural issues, campus sustainability, and mental health services, among other concerns. For instance, alumnae only recently learned that a banner in the Multifaith Center was defaced with Islamophobic hate speech in the fall of 2015, demonstrating an imminent need on campus to build solidarity with the Muslim community. When professors of color are hired, retention has been difficult; a signal that Wellesley, despite its best of intentions, must still work to ensure that faculty of color feel welcome. Additionally, in recent years, the college has suffered the tragic loss of students to suicide, highlighting the urgent need for improved mental health services. We want all women, from all backgrounds, and with all experiences to have a full and purposeful Wellesley experience. To this end, we want to recognize and encourage targeted outreach and support when needed, while maintaining the inclusive, interwoven sisterhood that makes Wellesley the unique and wonderful place it is.

We bring up these issues to lend a hand of solidarity and support to you as you take over as president of the College. You'll find that despite our various physical distances from the College—some of us are on the other side of the globe and some of us are only one mile away—we root for Wellesley, and the larger Wellesley community, in making our world a better place. We have consistently held a high

participation rate in past giving campaigns, and the momentum of the Wellesley Effect campaign is proving the same. You'll find that we take our college's mantra of *non ministrari sed ministrare* to heart in almost everything we do, and if there is a call to action, we will bring all that we have to offer. We are committed to continue Wellesley's legacy as a leader in women's education and beyond.

Lastly, but surely not least, we want to celebrate with you. It is especially momentous for the first time in our history, to see a black woman pioneer in medicine and science become the most visible leader on our campus and the champion of causes that improve the condition and opportunities available to women everywhere. We know that you have responsibility of something larger, beyond the brick and mortar of the campus, and this is an opportunity for new beginnings and real change. Your tenure is a significant moment for all of us and we are excited to take the next step with you as our new president of Wellesley.

Signed sincerely yours,

Hoi-Fei Mok '10, Clare Kim '09, Portia Allen-Kyle '07, Emily Steiner McGhee '08, Shelly C. Anand '08, Cleo Hereford '09, Makkah Ali '10, Alyssa Beauchamp '10, Janée Spruill Wallace '09, Dominique Parris '08, Alyssa M. Torres '09, Anita Leechor '10, Jennifer Chun '10, Marianne Xu '11, Meera Mohan-Graham '05, Rebecca Danos '98, Beilin Ye '10, Grace Liu '14, Anna Kurien '04, Julissa Paulino '13, Lee Hanae Ung '10, Megan Strait '10, Marjahn Golban '10, E.B. Bartels '10, Patricia Gonzalez '08, Amita Rao '05, Samantha Bellach '10, Asha Sundararaman '04, Alison Nikyar '15, Gabriela Lanza '14, Lisa M. Selker '06, Polina Soshnin '14, Nuriesya Abu Bakar '09, Elizabeth Barker '09, Jean Yau '09, Ashleigh Georgia '05, Rita Inoue-Gibson '97, Claire Droste Schell '10, Margaret Weirich '08, Emily Henderson '05, Amanda Kedaigle '12, Han Pham '01, Clara Kang Wee '09, Elle Wibisono '13, April Zhu '14, Carly Gayle '13, Berenice Rodriguez '08, Grace Mandel '12, Stephanie Keep '01, Meredith Fenton '98, Safia J. Lakhani '06, Kimberly Chin '05, Kristel Dupaya '10, Flo Doo '10, Jenn Moriuchi '09, Anne Radford '98, Maryska Kaczmarek '09, ZhanTao Yang '10, Betsy Raymond '10, Magenta Ranero '09, Arianne Jong '10, Paige Miranda '14, Katie Joh '14, Joy Ding '09, Dahnne Tran '11, Farah Ahmed '11, Courtney Streett Reynolds '09, Emily Randall '08, Lauren Lewis '07, Chaitra Nerurkar '13, Christie Sze '10, Stefanie Chan '10, Rakeen Mabud '09, Dominique Hazzard '12, Mehreen Iqbal '09, Shirley Palomino '10, Yi Zhang '10, Alia Ali '09, Allison Bland '09, Esther Im '12, and Rosa Fernández '07

*The alumnae editors, contributors, and readers of Wellesley Underground wrote this open letter welcoming the 14th president of Wellesley College, Dr. Paula A. Johnson. The appointment of Dr. Johnson is a momentous occasion for the Wellesley College community as she is the first African-American to hold this position and a renowned leader in women's health and medicine. While this letter is drafted and signed by alumnae of Wellesley College, it should not be read as representative of the Wellesley College Alumnae Association or all Wellesley alumnae, but rather as a selection from Wellesley Underground, "An Alternative Alumnae Magazine for Graduates of Wellesley College."*



Illustration by Emmy Zhang '10





WELLESLEY

