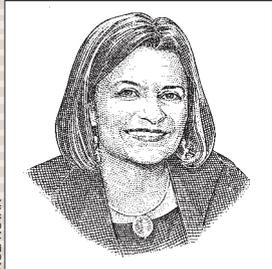


# Opening Doors



NOLLI NOVAK

*One of the consistent* messages that I hear from alumnae around the world is that the Wellesley experience is a transformative one. And this transformation—occurring from the moment a student arrives on campus to the day she receives her diploma—transcends generations.

Whether it was an “aha” moment in the classroom or lab, a pivotal conversation with a professor or mentor, an eye-opening internship or study-abroad program, or some other meaningful experience on or off campus, Wellesley opens doors for students in very real ways.

For every student who has graduated from Wellesley, there is a compelling story of how she benefitted from her college experience. For Consuelo Valdes '11, who was the first in her family to go to college, a Wellesley education enabled her to find and explore her passions, and empowered her to choose a field—media arts and sciences—in which women are underrepresented. Consuelo decided to come to Wellesley in part because of the generous financial aid she received, making it possible for her to focus on her scholarly work. Today,

All these programs help our students make a good transition to college.

There is also our generous financial support that benefits students from a wide variety of socioeconomic backgrounds, and our commitment to sending women into the world energized by potential and unburdened by huge debt. (Students from the very lowest income levels graduate without any loans, and currently, all students on financial aid graduate with no more than \$12,825 in packaged loans from Wellesley.)

I am especially proud that Wellesley allows bright young women—no matter their financial background—access to our exceptional educational experience. At the same time, I am continually impressed by our alumnae who, grateful for the educational opportunities they received here, retain a sense of responsibility for ensuring that these opportunities remain available for the generations of students that follow after them.

Why do we remain committed to providing financial aid? An investment in a robust financial-aid program is an investment in the quality and diversity of our students. Financial aid enables Wellesley to remain competitive and to provide opportunities for students to find their passion here and pursue what they love, wherever that may take them.

During the economic crisis—at a time when we needed to find ways to reduce our expenses—we actually increased our funding for financial aid, to keep Wellesley accessible and affordable to all deserving students. I am particularly proud of this decision and proud to have received the full support of the Board of Trustees in recognizing the importance of financial aid for our families. I am especially proud of our alumnae who—in the midst of the economic crisis—continued to support our Wellesley ideals.

Our institutional commitment to access and affordability is woven into the very fabric of our history and tradition. Our founder, Henry Durant, believed that a Wellesley education should be made available to all capable women. He felt this so strongly that he deliberately kept tuition low and was known to contribute, out of his own pocket, to make up any deficit.

More than 130 years after the founding of the College, we have stayed true to Mr. Durant's vision. We continue to invest in the talent and potential of our world's future leaders. I cannot think of a more worthy investment, nor a greater benefit to society.

**H. Kim Bottomly**

*‘Our institutional commitment to access and affordability is woven into the very fabric of our history and tradition.’ —President H. Kim Bottomly*

with manageable loans, she continues her research as a fellow in the College's Human Computer Interaction Lab, where she is furthering work on large multitouch tabletops.

Every year, many first-generation college students like Consuelo—from families where neither parent has a college degree—choose to come to Wellesley. Thirteen percent of the students in the class of 2016 are the first in their families to go to college, a percentage that has remained consistent over time.

Wellesley is able to attract and retain so many first-generation college students in part because of the academic support we provide, including strong advising and tutoring programs for all students, as well as WellesleyPlus, a program inviting the participation of a variety of students, some of whom are the first in their family to go to college or who are coming to Wellesley from high schools with less robust academic support programs.