**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

 **Twelve Wellesley College Students Selected to Attend U.S. Department of State “Women in Public Service” Colloquium**

**Wellesley, Mass., (December 9, 2011)** – Twelve students from Wellesley College will be among the attendees at the U.S. State Department’s Women in Public Service Colloquium on December 15, 2011.

The colloquium was announced this week as part of the larger Women in Public Service Project, an innovative initiative that pairs the power of public service with the Seven Sisters Colleges of Barnard College, Bryn Mawr College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, and Wellesley College to engage and inspire future generations of women leaders in the United States and around the world. The Project will identify and educate a new generation of women committed to public service, create an infrastructure of support and mentoring, and help enable more women to enter public service and political leadership.

The inaugural colloquium will feature Secretary of State Hillary Clinton '69 and a global representation of government leaders, policy makers, public officials, scholars, students, researchers, and leaders in public service. Confirmed speakers include Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Christine Lagarde, Administrator of the UN Development Programme Helen Clark, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright '59, former Congresswoman and Director of the Woodrow Wilson Center Jane Harman, President of Kosovo Afitete Jahjag, Liberian Minister of Agriculture Florence Chenoweth, Lt. General Claudia Kennedy, Gloria Steinem, and Director-General of UNESCO Irina Bokova.

The Wellesley College students selected to attend the colloquium, including name, class year, major or majors and hometown are:

Rebecca Barnard ’14, American Studies, Shaker Heights, Ohio

Lindsay Barnes ’12, Economics, Reston, Va.

Merene Botsio ’12, Africana Studies/International Relations, Accra, Ghana

Samantha Crowell ’12, African Studies/Political Science, Fort Wayne, IN

Kristin Dorozynski ’12, Individual Peace & Justice Studies, Red Hook, N.Y.

Alexandria Icenhower ’12, Political Science, Coronado, Calif.

Elizabeth Pan ’12, American Studies, New York, N.Y.

Maggie Polachek ’12, Political Science, San Anselmo, Calif.

Kim Quarantello ’13, Mid East Studies/Political Science, Ridgefield, Conn.

Anne Sgroi ’15, Political Science, Prairie Village, Kan.

Nirali Shah ’12, International Relations/Political Science, Basking Ridge, N.J.

Rebecca Turkington ’12, International Relations/History, Lyme, N.H.

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The colloquium can be watched live on the Project's web site: <http://womeninpublicservice.org>, and the State Department website: <https://statedept.connectsolutions.com/wps>.

**About Wellesley College**

Since 1875, Wellesley College has been a leader in providing an excellent liberal arts education for women who will make a difference in the world. Its 500-acre campus near Boston is home to 2,400 undergraduate students from 50 states and 75 countries.

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