

Wellesley Students and Alumnae Make Headlines with Innovative Programs and Achievements

Discuss. The Humanities



New website showcases Wellesley's humanities vast offerings

The new humanities website offers a single space to easily access Wellesley's vast offerings in the humanities and to spread the word about the crucial place of the humanities in a liberal arts education. "Humanities disciplines emphasize human creativity, imagination, morality, and rich cultural complexity. They equip us to step outside of ourselves and re-examine our past, present, and future from viewpoints we might otherwise never inhabit," said Russian Professor Thomas Hodge. Here you can learn about innovative humanities courses and student blogs, read humanities faculty profiles, see examples of what our graduates do, find a calendar of on-campus humanities events, and much more. Go to: www.wellesley.edu/academics/humanities.

Alvarez '16 chosen as an inaugural Schwarzman Scholar

Savitri Restrepo Alvarez '16 has been named a member of the inaugural class of Schwarzman Scholars, a highly selective program founded by Stephen A. Schwarzman, chairman and co-founder of the Blackstone Group. The Schwarzman Fellowship recognizes the importance of China in addressing current global challenges. It invests in individuals of enormous promise as change-makers, enabling a nuanced and intimate knowledge of China and developing a strong network of young leaders who will collaborate together on the international stage for decades to come. The scholars, chosen from all over the world, will take classes and live at the new Schwarzman College on the Tsinghua University campus in Beijing, all expenses paid.

Gore '15 finds lasting way to support Wellesley pre-med students

In high school, Danielle Gore '15 learned first-hand that serious medical issues are often influenced by sociological factors. As a Wellesley junior, an internship at Harvard Medical School's Center for Primary Care enabled her to delve more into the social determinants of health and fueled her desire to support other students. As a result, she founded a Wellesley chapter of the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS), which teaches members to study effectively, choose classes, deal with heavy workloads, etc. The Wellesley branch was named the 2015 MAPS Chapter of the Year for New England, which Gore says was "absolutely one of the proudest moments of my academic years."

10 Wellesley women named Fulbright Scholars

Wellesley women won ten Fulbright awards this year from the US Department of State's flagship exchange program and were offered study opportunities in Malaysia, Korea, Chile, Scotland, South Africa, Russia, Brazil, and China. Scholars include: Faith Fells '15, political science and education; Charlotte Fitzek '15, East Asian studies; Kimberly Geronimo '08, political science and Spanish; Esther Im '12, international relations; Maria Labouyer '15, biology and art history; Lucia Perez '14, astrophysics; Paulina Perlin '15, political science and mathematics; Nathalie Rivas '15, biochemistry; Christy Rozek '15, cognitive and linguistic sciences and Italian studies; and Jocelyn Wong '15, art history.

Zangari '08 among team to power NASA's Pluto mission

Amanda Zangari '08, who studied astrophysics at Wellesley, then planetary science at MIT, is a postdoctoral researcher on NASA's New Horizons flyby team. The New Horizons spacecraft has reached Pluto, some three billion miles from Earth, after a nearly decade-long journey through the solar system. "New Horizons is going to bring back pictures of a world humanity has never seen before," said Zangari. The spacecraft has since taken the sharpest photos ever seen of the celestial body. Zangari is most excited about learning from these images.

Lin '15 leads robotics workshops for girls in South Africa

Veronica Lin '15 spent 10 weeks in Cape Town, South Africa, with ORT SA CAPE, an NGO that offers educational enrichment through robotics and reading programs to children and teachers in impoverished communities. Funded in part by a Wellesley Serves! Grant, her mission in Cape Town was to create a robotics curriculum to inspire more girls to pursue robotics and technology. When Lin saw that most of the children they worked with were boys, she convinced ORT SA CAPE to offer a few workshops for girls only, modeled after "Girls Who Code" classes and workshops she taught while at Wellesley. Soon thereafter she hosted the first two "Girls in Action" workshops.





NSF grant enables HCI Lab to purchase MultiTaction displays

Eight state-of-the-art MultiTaction displays, which support collaborative interaction using touch, tagged objects, infrared pens, and personal devices, were recently installed in the Wellesley Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Lab. The Computer Science Department purchased these displays using part of a nearly \$500,000 National Science Foundation grant to support the creation of an interactive visualization facility for interdisciplinary research. This research will include collaborative exploration of large data sets in various domains ranging from genomics and chemistry, as well as social computing, learning analytics, and digital humanities.



Architect Ogbu '98 helps fosters social change

Liz Ogbu '98 (*right*), architect and social justice advocate, has served as Design Director of Public Architecture, Innovator in Residence at IDEO, environmental design lecturer at U.C. Berkeley, and faculty member at Stanford University. In a recent TEDx talk, she told the audience that her work begins on the community level. She emphasized interaction with “citizen experts”—individuals with the experience of living or working in a specific community—as a key element of her design strategy. “Whether I’m working in a poor African American community in San Francisco or a low-income Kenyan neighborhood in Nairobi, those people know more about what it’s like to live in their communities than I ever will. I learn more about here by going outside and seeing how people live.” She says her Wellesley education helped prepare her for that framework.



MasterCard Foundation gift honors alumna; funds the Lois Juliber International Internship Program at Wellesley

The MasterCard Foundation, which advances youth learning and promotes financial inclusion to catalyze prosperity in developing countries, gave \$1 million to Wellesley to endow the Lois Juliber International Internship Program at Wellesley. This gift, which honors Lois Juliber '71 (*center*), outgoing Chair of the Board of Directors of The MasterCard Foundation, will support seven internships each year that will place students with organizations in developing countries that are focused on microfinance, youth learning, and poverty alleviation. According to Juliber, “The creation of the internship program marries so much of what I stand for: opportunities for women, opportunities for young people to explore and find their passions, and opportunities for people to give back and change the direction of the world.”



Students and professor study ecological secrets of Lake Baikal

Last summer, Bella Nikom '17 and Kristin Huizenga '16 joined Environmental Science and Biological Sciences Professor Marianne Moore on a summer expedition to Lake Baikal, the oldest, deepest, largest, and most biodiverse lake in the world. Moore is collaborating with 15 scientists from the USA and Russia who are exploring how Lake Baikal’s stunning biodiversity may respond to contemporary climate change. The research team performed experiments to determine what the major grazer (a copepod, or tiny crustacean, called *Epischura*) eats. Huizenga says this research was extraordinary: “On any given day I could be measuring rope, picking copepods, filtering water, or rowing out into the waves of Lake Baikal to deploy the equipment.”



Gurtov '07 part of team that discovered new human ancestor

An international team of scientists in the Rising Star Excavation uncovered more than 1,500 well-preserved bones and teeth in a barely accessible chamber of a cave near Johannesburg, South Africa. Archaeologist Alia Gurtov '07 was one of six women chosen to join the expedition. She said, “The quantity of ancient human bones lying on the surface [was] enough to drop anyone’s jaw, including the hominin whose hemi-mandible we picked up first.” Attributing her participation in international archaeological research through Wellesley as a large part of what earned her a spot on the Rising Star Excavation and Workshop, she said, “I couldn’t be more grateful.”



Saueressig '19 and Olson '18 honored for work on hunger issues

The Borlaug Dialogue, an international symposium that brings together leading scientists and global leaders to discuss agricultural and food security issues, recognized two Wellesley students for their excellent research as interns. Ali Saueressig '19, who plans to major in environmental studies, wrote a paper on the impact of agricultural credit on the social and economic empowerment of tenant farmers in Bangladesh. Anthropology major Sophie Olson '18 wrote a paper on hybrid rice and possibilities of chloroplast transformation. Through the Borlaug-Ruan international internship program they had completed summer internships in Bangladesh and China respectively.