

# Wellesley Students and Alumnae Make Headlines with Innovative Programs and Achievements



## Wendy Chen '14 Wins Most Promising Young Poet Award

The Academy of American Poets awarded the inaugural Ailiki Perrotti and Seth Frank Most Promising Young Poet Award to artist and poet Wendy Chen '14 for her poem, "They Sail Across the Mirrored Sea." Chen is now a University Fellow, pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in poetry at Syracuse University. Many of America's most esteemed poets won their first recognition through this program: Louise Glück, Sylvia Plath, Joy Harjo, this year's Wallace Stevens Award-winner Robert Hass, and former Wellesley professor Robert Pinsky. *Photo: Wendy Chen's sculpture—among her creative works.*



## Merging liberal arts intellectual traditions with digital technologies

Robbin Chapman, associate provost, academic director of diversity and inclusion, and lecturer in the Education Department, has created a new interdisciplinary course at Wellesley. It will support the development of thoughtful and responsive young educators who can address the unique challenges that come with the technology-rich options of today's learning environments. Her goals include inspiring students to imagine new technologies for learning. Chapman says, "My vision was to seed the course with a mix of STEM and humanities perspectives and have them tackle sticky learning technology issues. Throw in malleable digital technologies, stand back, and watch our students create amazing learning and teaching spaces." She says she's captivated by the possibilities.



## 40 Students Participate in 2015 Albright Institute for Global Affairs

At the 2015 Madeleine K. Albright Institute Wintersession Program, 23 juniors and 17 seniors representing 25 majors and 8 countries spent their winter break in an intensive, three-week course of collaborative, cross-disciplinary work addressing world problems. They worked directly with influential leaders, academics, policymakers, business executives, and journalists in the fields of science, engineering, sociology, political science, arts and literature, and economics. Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Korbell Albright '59 met with the 40 Albright Fellows on January 22 and gave a free, public talk focusing on ending poverty and transforming economies through sustainable development.



## Wellesley Professor, Students, Alumnae Excavate in Greece

Associate Professor of Classical Studies Bryan Burns, co-director of the Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project, led fieldwork in an area of Greece believed to be one of the earliest inhabited regions in ancient times. Joining Burns at the dig were: Morgan Condell '09, Ph.D. student at UPenn; Haley Bertram '13, M.A. student at U. of British Columbia; Sophie Rowland '17; Tessa Kellner '17; and Chandra Boudreau '17. The Wellesley group is part of an international team of 50 scholars and students that participated in six weeks of excavation at ancient Eleon. The Classical Studies Department funded awards for the three sophomores' academic travel. Through a work-study position, Kellner will continue to work on excavation records and analysis during the academic year.



## Alumnae Lead in Top Posts in Thailand, Indonesia, Uzbekistan

In November, an international trio of Wellesley alumnae were appointed to leadership positions in their respective governments, all with a mission to make their nation or world a better place. Kobkarn Suriyasat Wattanavrangkul '83, minister of tourism and sports for Thailand, seeks to sponsor government initiatives to further the development of Thailand. Rini Soemarno '80, minister of government enterprises of the Republic of Indonesia, brings to the Cabinet vast experience in banking and international trade. Stateside, career diplomat Pamela L. Spratlen '76, now U.S. Ambassador to Uzbekistan, will continue her work as a defender of human rights.



## Professor Mata focuses on Chicana/Latina immigrant stories

Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies Irene Mata reframes Chicana/Latina immigrant stories expressed through theater, film, literature, art, and photography in her new book, *Domestic Disturbances: Re-Imagining Narratives of Gender, Labor, and Immigration*. She says her book "contributes to a growing dialogue on what it means for individuals to live under the current global conditions of immigration." Her research blends her love of literature and popular culture in an effort to investigate how women of color, especially immigrant women and their labor, are represented in contemporary cultural productions. To complement her teaching, Mata arranges for artists and activists to come to campus to share their diverse stories with the larger Wellesley community.





## Arlevea Freeman '15 authors "Why Wellesley?" on The Root

In November, The Root, a news, opinion, and culture site for African-American influencers, founded by Harvard professor Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., asked senior Arlevea Freeman to write about why she chose to attend a "predominantly white institution" generally, and Wellesley in particular. Freeman, an economics major and religion minor, member of the Shakespeare Society, intern in the Center for Work and Service, and Academic Peer Tutor Coordinator, will work as an analyst in the statistics department at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago after graduation and study to earn her CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst).

See her post at <http://www.wellesley.edu/news/2014/11/node/51621>.



## Wellesley Astronomers Explore New Realms

Wellesley alumnae and faculty are leading pioneering research on Saturn, Mars, and other planets in their various roles within the global community of astronomers. On October 23, Dean of Academic Affairs and Astronomy Professor Richard French led the Radio Science Team in an experiment conducted during a flyby mission of the NASA Cassini spacecraft on Titan, a moon of Saturn. Turning to Mars, M. Darby Dyar '80 and Melissa Rice '05 have been working with NASA to find the best way to analyze rocks and soil on Mars using extraterrestrial rover Curiosity.



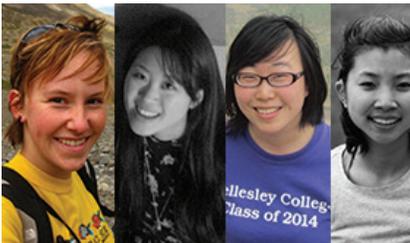
## PBS's Makers: "Women in Business" highlights Lulu Chow Wang '66

Lulu Chow Wang '66 was highlighted in the PBS series *Makers: Women Who Make America* episode "Women in Business." A member of Wellesley's Business Leadership Council, Wang is CEO of Tupelo Capital Management and trustee emerita of the College. The PBS series chronicled the struggle of women gaining entry into every sphere of American life. Interviews with trailblazing women—both known and unknown, gave a glimpse of what it was like to be pioneers in their fields. Other Wellesley alumnae featured in the series were Cokie Roberts '64 and Hillary Rodham Clinton '69.



## Ashley Funk '16 Wins Prestigious EPA Fellowship

Ashley Funk '16 joins a line of Wellesley women who have won Greater Research Opportunity fellowships, which are worth approximately \$50,000 toward undergraduate studies and a summer Environmental Protection Agency internship. The award supports Funk's efforts to decrease America's addiction to fossil fuels. A member of Wellesley's Sustainability Cooperative, vice president of Wellesley Energy and Environmental Defense (WEED), and a core member of Fossil Free Wellesley, she is an environmental studies major from Mt. Pleasant, PA, who continues to invest her energy in the need for social and infrastructural rebuilding.



## Four Young Alumnae Awarded Fulbright Fellowships

In May, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Fulbright Program awarded travel grants to Cailey Stevens '12 (Mexico, Binational Business Internship), Sophia Mo '14 (France, English Teaching Assistant), Jennifer Lu '12 (Germany, English Teaching Assistant), and Christine Keung '14 (China, Research Grant). Each alumna will engage with local communities in these countries through research, teaching English, and civic engagement. The Fulbright Program is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and people of other countries.



## Sue Wagner '82 Named to Apple Board of Directors

Wellesley alumna, trustee, and 2014 commencement speaker Sue Wagner '82 has joined the leadership team of Apple. Wagner earned a BA in economics and English at Wellesley and an MBA at the University of Chicago. After starting on a traditional path in the world of finance, developing financial services products that were new to the market, and setting a new direction in the industry, she took the bold move to join the other founders in launching BlackRock, Inc., now the largest asset management firm in the world. She's been honored by *Fortune* as one of the 50 Most Powerful Women in Business as well as by the National Council for Research on Women.



## Students Explore Computer Science at International Tech Conference

Computer Science Professor Ellen Hildreth and 15 Wellesley students joined 8,000 attendees from academia, industry, and government organizations at the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing in Phoenix, Arizona, in October. Shirley Lu '15, Michelle Olynyk '16, Claire Schlenker '16, and Cali Stenson '17 each presented posters on their research at the conference, which is considered "the world's largest gathering of women technologists." Students met and were inspired by successful women in all areas of technology, learned about computer science research, and attended workshops on career development and new technologies. Some of the 15 students received scholarships and travel funding to attend.