

THE ELISABETH KAISER DAVIS DEGREE PROGRAM



For women beyond traditional college age who aspire to complete a bachelor's degree, the Elisabeth Kaiser Davis Degree Program provides the opportunity to pursue one of the best liberal arts educations available today.

Wellesley College



Shahar Groode

PAST LIFE: Student in Israel and United States

MAJOR: Psychology

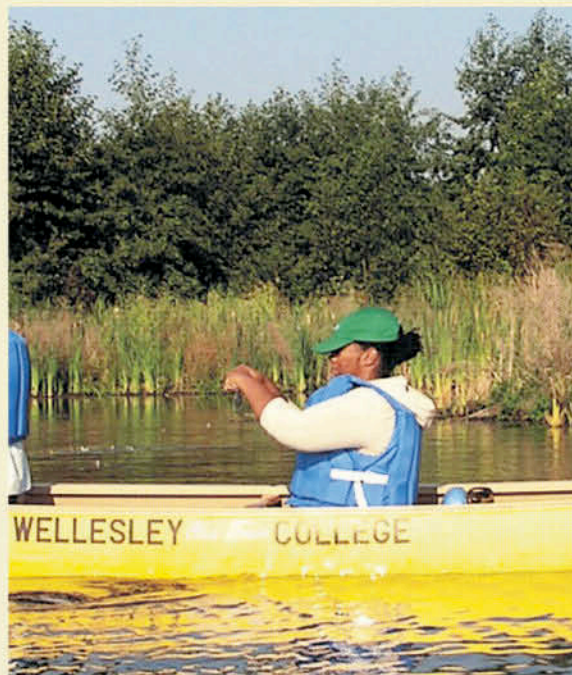
I had fantasized about a place that values tolerance and patience, where learning and cooperation are more important than competition. And I envisioned a community in which students and professors help one another to grow and where the life of the mind is taken seriously. In my first semester at Wellesley, I realized that I had found the institution of my dreams and that Wellesley had far exceeded this dream.

Susan Hall

PAST LIFE: Staffing supervisor, substitute teacher

MAJOR: Environmental Studies

At Wellesley, be ready to grow and to learn, uncomfortably at times, as you prepare to leave your mark on the College and in the world. The Davis Degree Program has enlarged my perspective academically and globally. As an Environmental Studies major focusing on environmental justice, I have received an experiential education through a Wintersession course and a follow-up internship in Kingston, Jamaica. I learned firsthand about the interconnectedness of poverty and political powerlessness in the lives of Jamaicans who want a cleaner, healthier environment.



Wellesley encourages students to engage in a broad range of learning experiences so that they develop their interests and explore them from multidisciplinary perspectives. I was awarded a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, which offers a generous stipend to support academic research throughout the year. I'll be doing research on lead contamination in the Neponset River (MA) and working on architectural preservation with the Boston Preservation Alliance.

— Melinda Rios, Davis Scholar

To read more about the insights and experiences of Davis Scholars, go to www.wellesley.edu/admission/davisprofiles.

53

is the average number of students enrolled in the Elisabeth Kaiser Davis Degree Program at Wellesley. Davis Scholars come to Wellesley from a wide range

of academic institutions, including many community colleges. They must meet the same rigorous standards for the Wellesley degree as traditional-age students.

CONTINUING YOUR EDUCATION AS A DAVIS SCHOLAR

A Davis Scholar has enormous energy, a fierce intellect, and emotional maturity. She is a woman with spark, as well as a juggler of time, commitments, responsibilities, and interests. She is somewhere between 24 and 60+ years of age and has never lost her passion for learning.

An academic experience of the highest caliber. Launched by Wellesley faculty as Continuing Education in 1970, the Elisabeth Kaiser Davis Degree Program set out to educate women in the community who were beyond traditional college age and eager to pursue college degrees. What began with a few local students has grown into a program of more than 900 graduates and approximately 50 women each year from across the United States and several other countries. Wellesley renamed the program on its 20th anniversary, in honor of alumna Elisabeth Kaiser Davis '32, whose extraordinary generosity continues to support scholarships, housing, and enriched educational opportunities for Davis Scholars.

What Davis Scholars have in common with their traditional-age classmates (affectionately called “trads” by the “nontrads”) is a desire for an intensive undergraduate academic experience of the highest caliber. What sets Davis Scholars apart is the distance they have traveled along unconventional routes to arrive at the same place. Although Davis Scholars, unlike traditional-age students, can opt for a part-time

schedule, the two groups pursue their college education together, attend the same classes, meet identical distribution and major requirements (minus physical education), have the same professors, and partake in the same spectrum of campus activities. These women wind up as close friends and support one another's shared academic endeavors.

Financial aid: a high priority at Wellesley. Providing financial assistance to eligible students remains a high priority at Wellesley. The College's strong, stable, and healthy endowment allows us to enroll and retain the best and brightest students. Wellesley's loan policy starts with no student loan in the financial aid package, depending upon a student's economic circumstances, and progresses minimally to low loan amounts.

As with traditional undergraduates, Davis Degree Program candidates who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States are selected without regard to their ability to pay. This need-based policy has historically been the key to the College's ability to attract a diverse

and academically talented population. Therefore, no student should refrain from applying to the program for financial reasons. On average, 65 percent of Davis Scholars receive financial aid.

Portrait of a typical Davis Scholar.

While most students of traditional age come to Wellesley right out of high school, Davis Scholars—whose average age is about 34—have spent from 2 to 40 years accumulating experiences as restaurant managers, community college students, office workers, military personnel, mothers, programmers, dancers, and sales representatives—a diverse cross-section.

A Davis Scholar might want to become a physician, lawyer, architect, or Broadway producer. She may commute from quite a distance or live on campus with other Davis Scholars. It is likely that she has completed college courses elsewhere, and will probably spend three years or less finishing her education at Wellesley. She will likely pursue a new or renewed career after graduation, or go on to graduate school. In the beginning, she may believe she is the single mistake the Board of Admission made. She is not. She belongs here.

A Sampling of Past Lives of Davis Scholars

Actress
African drummer and dancer
Artist (botanical illustrator, ceramist, seamstress)
Assistant at a university dental lab
Ballerina (professional)
CFO of a livestock company
Critical-care registered nurse

Decorative painter
Entertainer for children's parties
Hair designer
HIV caseworker
House cleaner
Humanitarian aid worker in Uzbekistan
Landscape designer
Manager of a retail store
Massage therapist

Musician
Owner of a day-care facility
Past president of Survivors of Homicide
Portrait photographer
Research assistant at a marine biology lab
Senior systems analyst
Singing member of a Native American drum group
Teacher of English as a Second Language

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

As a Davis Scholar, you are held to the same high standards as Wellesley's traditional-age students, and you pursue your education side by side with them. The life experience, maturity, and perspective that you bring enrich both the classroom and the community.

Because you might have considerable responsibilities in addition to earning your college degree, you will find yourself doing some extra juggling in order to have enough time for your studies. Wellesley's program is demanding and not to be undertaken "in your spare time," advises one Davis Scholar alumna.

The College has found that women who become Davis Scholars are extraordinarily motivated, eager to learn, capable of handling more than the usual daily routine, and likely to use their experiences and maturity to excellent academic advantage. As a Davis Scholar, you might occasionally doubt your own ability to keep up with the pace, but you can trust the wisdom of our admission team. You can find any help you need from the wealth of academic resources available—some for all students, some specifically for Davis Scholars. Whatever the problem, someone can help you find the answer.

Low student-faculty ratio. Wellesley classes are small, held in seminar-style settings, and average 17 to 20 students. The student-faculty ratio is 9 to 1. More than half the tenured

faculty are women, and all are dedicated to teaching undergraduates as well as pursuing their research. They are an exceptional group, including scientists, historians, economists, artists, authors, and researchers. From them, students receive individual attention that extends beyond the classroom to office hours, email, walks across campus, and mealtime. Wellesley's faculty never stops urging students to think for themselves, try new perspectives, deepen their discoveries, and exceed their own expectations. They are genuinely enthusiastic about and grateful for the presence of Davis Scholars in their classes.

Davis Degree Program requirements. The Davis Degree Program requires that you meet all of the degree requirements of the College. This means successfully completing 32 units of coursework, at least 16 of which must be undertaken in Wellesley courses. Courses are rigorous, and there are over 1,000 from which to choose.

Additional opportunities. As a Davis Scholar, you will have opportunities to do honors work and independent

research, and to have considerable interaction and joint projects with faculty. You can cross-register at MIT, Brandeis University, Babson College, or Olin College of Engineering, or you can elect to study for a semester, a year, or during the summer at a variety of other colleges and universities, depending on the number of transfer credits you bring to Wellesley. You can also study in Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, Latin America, and South America.

Departmental majors. Every student at Wellesley selects a major field of study and secures a faculty advisor in that field. You may choose from over 50 major fields or select a self-designed option.

GUIDANCE, ADVISING, AND SUPPORT

The class deans provide overall guidance for Davis Scholars while they are at Wellesley. They offer academic advice and personal support, as well as oversee Davis Scholars' progress toward their degrees. In addition, planned events and

1000+ courses to choose from, taught by a diverse faculty. Wellesley has established a reputation for intellectual achievement and distinction. The College is also known for its outstanding faculty, 98 percent of whom hold a Ph.D. or the highest degree in their field.

Departmental Majors

Africana Studies
Anthropology
Astronomy
Biological Sciences
Chemistry
Chinese
Computer Science
Economics

English
French
Geosciences
German
Greek
History
History of Art
Italian Studies
Japanese

Latin
Mathematics
Music
Philosophy
Physics
Political Science
Psychology
Religion
Russian

Sociology
Spanish
Studio Art
Women's Studies

Interdepartmental Majors

American Studies
Architecture
Astrophysics



Ashley Hubbard
PAST LIFE: Professional ballerina
MAJOR: Undeclared

Wellesley will change your life. The Davis Degree Program offers everything you missed at age 18, plus a comprehensive support system and the encouragement of the Wellesley community. You will grow in knowledge, confidence, friendships, and life experience. It's the opportunity of a lifetime.

programs enhance student life for Davis Scholars. Many of these events are primarily social, but others address academic issues of concern to returning students. "Lunch and Learn" workshops, for example, focus on such topics as study skills and time management, quantitative reasoning, writing skills, and computer competence. The Pforzheimer Learning and Teaching Center also offers professional tutoring and workshops to all Wellesley students.

As a Davis Scholar, you will be assigned a peer mentor, another student in the Davis Degree Program who provides personal support, technical training, and information to help ease you into life at Wellesley.

New student orientation. During orientation you will meet your fellow Davis Scholars, as well as other members of the Wellesley community. You will hear about student activities and leadership opportunities and discuss course options with faculty members at an academic fair. Additionally, you will discover the many campus resources designed to support your academic life at Wellesley. If you have chosen

to live on campus, one of your first evenings at Wellesley will include a welcoming orientation that will ease your transition into communal living as well as into academic life on campus.

The Center for Work and Service.

Davis Scholars looking for career or graduate school opportunities have found Wellesley's Center for Work and Service (CWS) to be an invaluable resource. Trained professionals offer individual guidance and workshops designed for the career needs of Davis Scholars. Internships and special programs can be arranged through the CWS. Seminars, alumnae workshops, and pre-arranged luncheons can help to familiarize you with a variety of professional fields. Supplementing the center is a large network of Wellesley alumnae eager to share news of career opportunities and to provide information and connections for new graduates.



Deborah French
PAST LIFE: Nurse, flight attendant, real estate agent, mom
MAJOR: Women's Studies

Hands down, my favorite thing about Wellesley is the opportunity to take classes with traditional-age students. I have observed the dedication and diligence of my college-age daughters, and it is an honor to attend classes with their peer group. As a nontraditional student, working alongside traditional-age Wellesley students bridges the generation gap, expands my world of friendships, and deepens my relationship with my daughters.



Biological Chemistry
 Chinese Studies
 Cinema & Media Studies
 Classical Civilization
 Classical & Near Eastern
 Archaeology
 Cognitive & Linguistic Sciences
 East Asian Languages &
 Literatures

Environmental Studies
 French Cultural Studies
 German Studies
 International Relations
 Jewish Studies
 Latin American Studies
 Media Arts & Sciences
 Medieval/Renaissance Studies
 Middle Eastern Studies

Neuroscience
 Peace & Justice Studies
 South Asia Studies
 Russian Area Studies
 Theatre Studies

Individual Majors
 You also have the option to create your own major.

LIFE AS A DAVIS SCHOLAR

As integrated into the Wellesley community as the Davis Scholars are, they are also a community unto themselves. They have in common the untraditional path that led them to Wellesley, and they revel in the richness of one another's stories, support, and intellectual gifts.



Continuing Education (CE) House.

Some Davis Scholars do not live on campus, but they find an on-campus "home" in the Continuing Education (CE) House. The large, comfortable living room is a gathering place for student meetings, study groups, workshops, special events, and informal get-togethers. There is also a kitchen and computer space.

On-campus housing. All Davis Scholars living on campus are required to carry a full course load. They are each assigned single rooms. Most Davis Scholars who decide to live on campus reside in one of two small residence halls especially reserved for them. One of these, Cedar Lodge, is available 12 months a year for 11 students who choose year-round housing. The second hall, Homestead, offers nine-month housing. Both Cedar Lodge and Homestead include kitchen facilities for residents who decide not to select the College's regular meal plan.

Housing is not guaranteed for Davis Scholars, but every effort is made to accommodate the need each year. Priority for on-campus housing is given to students who live 75 or more miles from campus. There is no campus housing for Davis Scholars' families.

Transportation. Many Davis Scholars drive to campus, where on-campus parking is available for a fee. Some use public transportation to connect with the MIT shuttle bus, which commutes hourly between the Wellesley and MIT campuses. You can also take a commuter rail train to the Wellesley station and then walk the few blocks to campus.

Health Insurance. Davis Degree Program candidates are automatically enrolled in Wellesley's Basic Health Insurance. You can choose to waive this insurance if you present evidence of equivalent coverage. Family, dependent, and major medical coverage may also be purchased through the College's insurer for additional fees.

Childcare. Most Davis Scholars make their own day-care arrangements. Very limited space is available in the two childcare centers on campus; the waiting list for these slots is very long.

Activities. Davis Scholars elect their own House Council president and Council members who plan activities for their community and advocate for the unique needs of the Davis Scholar population. They are also

LIFE AFTER WELLESLEY

Although Davis Scholars enter Wellesley from widely divergent paths, they exit via routes remarkably similar to those followed by traditional-age students. They

go on to graduate school or pursue various careers. The College's alumnae files are fast expanding with news of Davis Scholars' accomplishments. These graduates can be found in the worlds of education, business and finance,



Alyssa McConkey
PAST LIFE: Hair designer
MAJOR: Peace & Justice Studies

I was an avid applier for anything that included the word "abroad." By the end of my Wellesley experience, I will have lived, worked, and/or studied in Japan, India, South Africa, and Argentina. My advice: Come to Wellesley. Work hard.

Have fun. Apply for everything! Ask for help when you need it.

represented in College Government.

More than 160 student organizations and community service groups operate on campus. In addition, lectures, film series, concerts, and theatre productions are held throughout the year. The Center for Work and Service sponsors community service projects, not-for-profit networking fairs, and an online database of volunteer opportunities.

Athletics and recreation. Davis Scholars may participate in athletics and recreational sports, or classes in fitness, yoga, dance, or other wellness activities. The Keohane Sports Center complex includes a swimming pool; courts for badminton, racquetball, and squash; exercise and dance studios; and much more.

You can also pursue your interest in aerobics, take a fencing class, use the weight room, play on the indoor tennis courts, or jog on a 200-meter track. In warm weather, there are always activities on and around Lake Waban. A Davis Scholar crew team competes in the intramural residence hall competitions every year. You may want to head for Wellesley's nine-hole golf course—the oldest in the country—for a game. Or, if you prefer, spend an afternoon studying and relaxing by the lake.

volunteerism, the arts and humanities, science, law, and politics. A survey of a class of Davis Scholars showed that 98 percent were making post-graduate career plans and that 64 percent planned to continue on to graduate school.

Jayne Lew

PAST (AND CURRENT) LIFE: Assistant Director,
Wellesley College Alumnae Office
MAJOR: Biology/pre-vet

Although I was raised in the inner city, I have dreamed of being a large animal veterinarian ever since I can remember. I now have the opportunity to become what I always wanted to be. The academics here are challenging, to say the least. It's very different to study the sciences again—the element chart has grown since I was last in school, and the students here are so smart! But it says something when I can converse with my best friend's son, who just graduated, about PAX gene knockouts in mice, and he and I are the only ones who can understand the conversation.



Priscilla Watson

PAST LIFE: U.S. Army—deployed in Iraq, Kuwait, and Kosovo
MAJOR: Environmental Studies and Philosophy

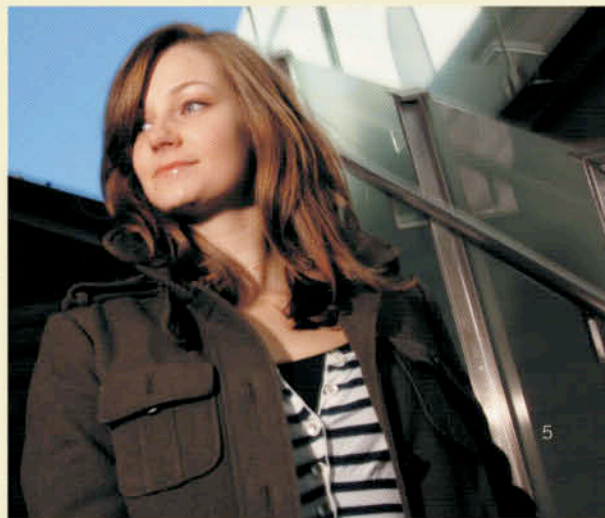
When I left the military, I was afraid that I would never find the same sense of camaraderie that I had with my fellow soldiers and leaders. However, Wellesley and the Davis Scholar

community have given me a wonderful amount of support.

Leah Thiffault

PAST LIFE: Dancer, automobile marketing
MAJOR: French, Women's Studies

I've learned that I really love to learn and how important it is to have an active mind. In my jobs, that wasn't really asked of me. To think critically, to look for solutions, just to have a wider awareness of the audience—it's great.



THE ELISABETH KAISER DAVIS DEGREE PROGRAM

ADMISSION TO THE DAVIS DEGREE PROGRAM

Standards for admission to Wellesley are the same for both Davis Scholars and traditional undergraduates, although the evaluation of talent, potential, and performance is necessarily different for a woman who is returning to college after time away.

Credentials. The Board of Admission looks for evidence—especially recent academic coursework—that demonstrates a Davis Degree Program candidate's intellectual ability, preparation, and initiative to be successful in the program. The board places emphasis on motivation, perseverance, and emotional maturity. The final criterion in evaluating a candidate lies in her ability to meet the challenges of a demanding academic program and a substantial workload.

Many applicants to the Davis Degree Program have not experienced a traditional college-preparatory secondary school program, or their transcripts from the past are not an accurate reflection of current abilities. Such applicants are urged to complete at least four college-level liberal arts courses for credit to strengthen their academic skills and credentials before applying to the program. In particular, an applicant needs to show training in the principles of mathematics, including algebra and trigonometry, and she must demonstrate strong writing skills and the ability to think coherently. Students with little or no experience in studying a foreign language should also complete some coursework in this area prior to applying. An Admission staff member is available to talk with prospective Davis Scholar applicants about their individual academic backgrounds and coursework they should have prior to applying to the program. We encourage you to contact us with your questions.

Interview. Interviews are required for applicants to the Davis Degree Program. Applicants may call the Board of Admission to schedule an interview at any time during the year, but arrangements should be made at least two weeks before the admission application deadline. For those living outside the region, an interview can usually be arranged with a Wellesley alumna.

Deadlines. Applications are considered once a year, and all credentials must be submitted by March 1 for September entrance. International applicants must submit all application materials by January 15. Candidates are encouraged to start the application process well in advance of the deadlines and may submit transcripts and recommendations in advance of their completed application form.

Transfer Credit. Any coursework presented for transfer credit must be accompanied by a course description from the time the course was taken, along with the degree requirements of the institution. At least 16 of the 32 units required for the B.A. degree must be completed at Wellesley.

More Information. For further information on all admission procedures, please contact the Wellesley College Admission Office and ask for the Davis Degree Program coordinator.

Apply. www.wellesley.edu/Admission/admission/davis.html

COSTS & FINANCIAL AID

Tuition. Davis Scholars in residence are charged full tuition. Non-resident Davis Scholars are charged by the course. The fee for each one-semester course is set each year, and slight increases can be expected annually.

Financial Aid. Providing financial assistance to eligible students remains a high priority at Wellesley. As with traditional-age students, Davis Degree Program candidates who are U.S. citizens and permanent residents are selected without regard to their ability to pay. This has historically been the key to the College's ability to attract a diverse and academically talented population. Therefore, no student should refrain from applying to the program for financial reasons.

The high cost of tuition makes it necessary for each individual to look at the best ways to finance her education. The College's Office of Student Financial Services serves as a resource center for students of all income levels. Aid programs include traditional need-based financial aid programs as well as a variety of financing options that enable students to pay Wellesley's costs over a number of years.

Financial aid applicants must submit the Wellesley College Form for Davis Scholars as well as the required federal forms. These can be obtained from the Office of Student Financial Services. All forms must be completed by March 1 for September entrance.

To apply for financial aid, please go to:

www.wellesley.edu/SFS/ApplyProspective.html

For additional information, please call or write:

Board of Admission
Wellesley College
106 Central Street
Wellesley, MA 02481-8203
Tel: 781-283-2270
Fax: 781-283-3678
Email: admission@wellesley.edu
Website: www.wellesley.edu/Admission

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Among the steps you must complete before being considered for admission are:

- A personal interview with a Wellesley staff member or alumna
- Submission of an up-to-date résumé
- Completion of the Davis Degree Application, including essays
- Submission of three letters of recommendation, preferably from college faculty members
- Submission of **all** official transcripts from secondary schools and from all colleges and universities you have attended

Note: If you already hold a bachelor's degree and are interested in admission to Wellesley as a postbaccalaureate student, please go to www.wellesley.edu/Admission/admission/Postbac.html for more information.

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