



## FROM THE EDITOR

**If the fire marshal** had been there, we would have been so busted.

If you ever want to know how many people can fit in a good-sized Pendleton lecture room (114 seats), announce to the College community that Chip Case is giving his final class as a Wellesley professor before retiring, and tell everyone they're invited. You'll be astonished at the number—and variety—of people who will squeeze into the room. Campus Police, faculty from at least 10 departments, Admissions, the registrar's office, members of the Board of Trustees, varsity coaches, and two Wellesley presidents (one sitting and one emerita) were among the crowd who turned out to celebrate Chip at the end of last semester. Every seat was taken, and nearly every inch of floor space occupied. Not great for safety codes, but perfect for honoring a man who has given 33 years to Wellesley College.

The size and makeup of the crowd said a lot about who Chip is in this community. The unflagging sports fan who cheered countless student games. (He was the proud recipient of a "Sixth Player" award from the varsity basketball team a few years ago.) The host parent to international students. The one-man recruiting machine, who sang the praises of the College, chaired the Board of Admission, and helped seal the deal for both student and faculty recruits. The economics titan—co-creator of the Case-Shiller Home Price Indices, a widely used measure of residential real-estate values nationwide—who has been quoted by the press literally thousands of times, always with a mention of Wellesley College.

But most of all, the teacher. "I'm never going to stop teaching," Chip said at his last lecture. "You get a lot of ahas! That's what teachers get. It's like a drug." He estimates that he has taught about 5,000 Wellesley students since 1976.

Talk to even a handful of them about his teaching, and a theme quickly emerges: His love for his subject is contagious. "He exudes a deep enthusiasm about economics and motivates everything in class with important, real-world examples," says Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach '95, a Ph.D. in economics who now teaches at the University of Chicago. "You just can't help but think that it's interesting."

You also get the picture that he has steered a lot of talent toward economics—encouraging students to go to graduate school, mentoring them as they launched careers. "He believed I could do it, even when I didn't know myself that I could," says Kristin Butcher '86, now a professor of economics at Wellesley. And her colleague, assistant professor Olga Shurchkov '01, adds, "He didn't forget about me even after my graduation from Wellesley, frequently meeting with me to talk about my future goals and my academic career. I am the rule, not an exception with him."

People like Chip make Wellesley what it is, and it's a little hard to imagine the place without them. But this is a time of change for Wellesley, as the institution responds to the shifting financial climate and a drop in the endowment. Departments are reorganizing, seeking to operate more efficiently with smaller staffs after last year's layoffs. Across the College, many longtime employees have accepted retirement incentives, including senior faculty like Chip. We salute all of them—who have given so much for so long.

At the end of his last class, Chip reminded the crowd that despite his retirement, he isn't going far. "I only live 4/10 ths of a mile away," he said. And, of course, like others departing from across the College, he leaves a big imprint on the place. Take the next generation of faculty in the econ department, for example. Olga Shurchkov sums it up pretty well: "I only hope that I will become as great a teacher and mentor to my students, following Chip's legacy."

*Alice M. Hummer, Editor*

*To watch a video of Chip's last class, visit <http://www.wellesley.edu/Computing/Itunesu/>.*