



WELLESLEY COLLEGE

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION
MAY 10, 2011

WELLESLEY COLLEGE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

H. Kim Bottomly

May 10, 2011

Today marks a significant moment in the life of Wellesley College, as we bid farewell to the 10 employees who are retiring this year. As you read through the tributes on the pages that follow, I think you'll agree that it is a powerful and moving testimony to have the contributions of these individuals – our friends and our colleagues – captured in writing so that we may read, and re-read, them at our own pace. It is fitting, too, that these words of homage can be archived and become a part of the College's historical record.

Each of you being honored today has contributed tremendously to our community. Thank you for all that you have done for Wellesley College, for your dedication and your service, and for helping to make this institution the remarkable place that it is.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'HKB', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the bottom right.

H. Kim Bottomly
President



Honored Guests

MAY 10, 2011

| Years | Name | Department |
|-------|--------------------|--|
| 34 | Kathryn Osmond | Student Financial Services |
| 25 | Elizabeth Febo | IS/Research Instruction & Computer Support |
| 21 | Judith Mitchell | Office of the Provost |
| 19 | Sandy Roberts | IS/Technical Infrastructure |
| 17 | Mary Melo | History |
| 17 | Karen Wilcox | Student Financial Services |
| 16 | Rebecca Mattison | Geosciences |
| 14 | Bernice W. Speiser | Education |
| 12 | Dennis McFadden | Davis Museum & Cultural Center |
| 11 | Jean Wellington | Wellesley Centers for Women |

TRIBUTES BY CHAIRS/SUPERVISORS (OR OTHER DESIGNEE) ON BEHALF OF 2010-2011 RETIREES

Kathryn Osmond

Executive Director of Student Financial Services

By Jenn Desjarlais

Kathy first came to Wellesley in 1972 as the Assistant to the Director of Financial Aid, making immediate contributions in the Financial Aid Office and rising through the ranks in responsibility. In 1981, she left the College for another position, but returned in 1986 as Deputy Director. She was promoted to Director of Financial Aid in 1992. In 1999, following the completion of a reorganization effort to combine the offices of Financial Aid, Student Employment, Student Accounts and Educational Financing into one department, Kathy assumed the leadership role for the newly created Student Financial Services department, serving most recently as Executive Director.

Under Kathy's leadership, issues of access and affordability have been paramount. She has provided critical leadership in the development and implementation of key policy changes in the financial aid program, including most notably in recent years the advancement of financial aid packaging policies designed to mitigate the burden of debt for students and families. Kathy's commitment to Wellesley's mission throughout her tenure with the college has ensured that literally generations of Wellesley women from many backgrounds and experiences have had access to an educational experience they might have perceived to have been beyond their reach.

Wellesley has benefitted from Kathy's active participation and leadership in numerous national professional organizations, and she has been an unwavering supporter, mentor and trusted advisor, often involved with developing services and programs to meet the professional needs of colleagues. She has been an outstanding and engaged community member here at Wellesley, and we have valued her friendship, mentorship, and sincere engagement in a community to which she has dedicated so much of her professional life. We wish her all the best in her retirement and thank her for her extraordinary service to the College.

Elizabeth Febo

Research and Instructional Librarian

By Megan A. Brooks

"Attention Baffled First Years: A quick guide to names of some students, staff, and one great delivery guy who will make your Wellesley experience easier." So reads a headline from the September 1, 2006 edition of the Wellesley News. The article by Anabel Lee '07 goes on to describe Research and Instruction Librarian Betty Febo as the person who "can generally be relied on to make any research experience a walk in the park." Ann Velenchik (Economics) has said "The best thing about my time with Betty Febo was seeing how much she enjoys her work. It is just so great to see someone getting so into their job!" Both these quotes illustrate Betty's career at Wellesley College; she loves teaching students how to do research, and the students and faculty recognize her exceptional teaching and research expertise. Along with her research and instruction work, Betty established the Friends of the Library-sponsored Student Library Research Award, participated in numerous planning committees

within the libraries and information services, and coordinated Wellesley's participation in the Federal Depository Library Program. She will be sorely missed in Library and Technology Services and widely across campus. Best wishes, Betty!

Judith A. Mitchell

Administrative Assistant Office of the Provost

By Andy Shennan, Liz Lieberman, Mary Pat Navins

Judy Mitchell started working at Wellesley College in the fall of 1990. After brief stints in the admissions and continuing education departments, she took a position as administrative assistant in the office of sponsored research in 1994. Since that time, her efforts have benefited both sponsored research and the office of the dean of the college (now the provost's office). In the true spirit of a "utility player," Judy has been the most flexible of the people in our office, willing to take on whatever tasks need doing, always working with a positive, can-do attitude that is inspiring to all of us. Her most public role has been to provide coordination support for the Ruhlman Conference for the last nine years. From sending out all publicity to receiving student applications and abstracts, to making sure the conference booklet is accurate, to tasting food and making endless arrangements, Judy has either done it herself or assisted others, and she has done it well. She has also provided substantial support for many aspects of the lives of faculty, including sabbatical leaves, faculty awards, appointment and salary letters, Banner data management and much more. We will miss her cheerful presence in our office, as well as the wonderful bouquets of flowers from her garden.

Sandy Roberts

Director of Systems and Networking Support

By LTS Directors

Sandy began her career in Telecommunications, arriving to implement and manage the new phone system, which would provide student phones and direct dial (rather than going through a switchboard operator). Sandy has stayed at the front of a huge number of technological developments, and has been an active member of industry organizations. When most people might start to limit their commitments to the institution, Sandy increased hers, taking on leadership of the Technology and Infrastructure group. Always willing to take on new challenges, Sandy, together with Eileen Hardy, stepped in to lead Information Services for an entire year during the search for a CIO.

These statistics don't tell you about the qualities that are paired with technological knowledge and leadership abilities that make Sandy such a valuable coworker. Sandy is dogged -- when a problem arises she stays involved until it is resolved, and resolved to her satisfaction (sometimes to the chagrin of vendors). Those who have worked closely with her know how much she cares for her coworkers and their well-being, celebrating their successes wholeheartedly and experiencing any setbacks as her own. For all of this, we thank Sandy sincerely for 19 years of committed and energetic service to the College -- we will miss her greatly.

Mary Melo

Administrative Assistant, History Department

By Nina Tumarkin

“Behind all the centers and departments at this great university,” intoned the inimitable Peter Gomes, the Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church at Harvard University at an event honoring the administrative assistant of one of its many research centers, “stands a phalanx of formidable females, the administrative assistants without whom those institutions would cease to function.” Mary Melo is just such a formidable female, one who has steered the History Department on its even and steady course in the twenty-first century, past the shoals and shores of controllers, registrars and looming deadlines, and carrying with her hundreds of students and the spirited History department faculty. Highly organized and efficient, Mary’s professionalism and competence in her role as administrative assistant of the History Department have been legion and we are most grateful to her.

Karen Wilcox

Associate Director of Financial Aid

By Jenn Desjarlais

Karen Wilcox joined the Financial Aid Office as an Associate Director in 1998. Over the course of her 17 years at Wellesley, Karen has counseled countless families as they navigated what can often be a daunting process for many. She approached her work with clarity and compassion, giving particular attention to the individual situations presented by families in the process and responding to questions and concerns in detail. Karen’s careful attention to detail allowed her to not only attend to the needs and concerns of students and families, but to also be a successful steward of institutional funding in support of access and affordability. Karen’s service to various constituents is perhaps best demonstrated by her contributions to the crafting of policies and processes supporting the departmental principles of equity and fairness. We have all enjoyed the opportunity to travel the world vicariously through Karen’s stories of her adventures cruising with Howard to fascinating ports of call, and hope that her retirement brings more opportunities to enjoy travel, music, theater, her gardens, and time together with family. We wish you all the best, Karen, and thank you for your contributions to the Wellesley community.

Rebecca Mattison

Lecturer, Geosciences

By James R. Besancon

Becky Mattison provided a unique set of skills in the Geosciences Department, first as Lab Instructor, and finally as Lecturer teaching historical geology and paleontology. Becky came to us initially as a special student after serving as a volunteer and staff member at the Museum of Science. A graduate school recommendation written during her last year here as a student read: “She is intelligent, imaginative, self-directed, tenacious, and has a lively sense of humor” and this describes her equally well today. After completing her Ph.D. in evolutionary biology, she returned to Wellesley to teach. Her broad general knowledge of natural history and curiosity about the world suffuses her teaching. She expects students to act as adults but is relaxed in class and exceptionally creative in her approach.

As organizer or co-leader of several field trips to New England, the Southwest, and Hawaii, she brought strong planning and organizational skills, and advice on many aspects of natural history and life. Our department will miss her unique skills and personality.

Bernice Speiser

Senior Lecturer of Education and Director of Elementary Education Program

By Kenneth Hawes

Bernice began teaching courses in the College's elementary teaching program in 1997. Before that she had been a supervisor of student teachers, and soon after that she began directing the program, which depends on the collaboration of a team of elementary school teachers in its courses on curriculum and methods. Under Bernice's leadership, the team has evolved and the program has become renowned for its mature and skilled graduates as well as for its deeply humane approach. Every student receives personally-attuned attention and support. Bernice guides and counsels students throughout their entire time in the program, including carefully selecting a mentor teacher for each student. Because of this, students' growth and ability to trust and collaborate is remarkable. Mentor teachers in the schools love working with Bernice and her students. They have been stunned to find that their student teachers, when Bernice is coming to observe them, may choose to do lessons in their areas of weakness. Students know that Bernice is there to help them improve, not to judge them. Alumnae tell us that the teaching and guidance they received from Bernice stands out to them as exceptional in their entire career (and indeed many alumnae come back to Bernice for further guidance). I myself have benefited tremendously from having Bernice as a colleague. Much of what I know about collaboration I feel I learned from her. We co-taught a course for several years and ever since then we easily turn to one another for discussion when we are unsure how to work with a particular student. My colleagues in the Education Department join me in expressing our deep admiration and appreciation to Bernice for all that we have shared and learned from her, and for the outstanding program and example she is leaving as her legacy.

By Barbara Beatty

Bernice Speiser has made so many valuable contributions to the College, the Education Department, and to elementary education students over the many years that she has been at Wellesley. Wise, kind, supportive, thoughtful, Bernice is a brilliant clinician who understands the complexities of student development and school life. She has a genius for helping students who want to become teachers progress through stages in the transition from students to teachers themselves. Closely attuned to individual needs and group dynamics, Bernice understands how important process is in all aspects of life. She is truly reflective. She models the ideal of the reflective teacher that she inspires her students to be. She has helped members of our department, including me, become more reflective about our own work. Highly respected by teachers throughout the Boston area, she has forged a network of urban and suburban teachers who help Wellesley students become teachers. Deeply committed to expanding opportunities for Wellesley students, she has developed numerous school partnerships and internships. Caring may be an over-used word, but that's what Bernice does, she cares, about and for her students, deeply. I am deeply grateful for everything Bernice has done, and know that Ken Hawes and other members of our department join me in wishing her all the best in the experiences that lie ahead in the next phase of her career.

Dennis McFadden

Associate Director of Davis Museum

By Andy Shennan

Dennis became Associate Director of the Museum in 1999 and during the course of his tenure has twice served as Interim Director. While his primary responsibilities have been the oversight of financial and administrative matters, he has also played an active role in organizational and program planning, resource development, and major capital projects at the Museum including the repairs to the roof and the creation of the Freedman, Levine, and Friends of Art Galleries.

Successive deans and directors of the Davis have relied on Dennis' insights into the culture of the Museum and the College. Over the years of his tenure, Dennis has demonstrated an admirable capacity for consensus-building and keeping the museum firmly focused on its essential contribution to the curricular and cultural life of the campus even during a time of great uncertainty. He has a well-deserved reputation as one of our most highly respected and professional senior administrators. We will all miss his genial, thoughtful, even—dare I say—professorial style and his deep expertise, which he wears lightly and without bombast.

Jean Wellington

Administrative Assistant, Wellesley Centers for Women

By Kathryn S. Scott

Jean Wellington arrived at the Wellesley Centers for Women to work on the Family Child Care Home Study grant with Nancy Marshall in 2000. She continued working on that project until it was concluded, and then began working with Nancy Mullin on her Teasing and Bullying Project. In 2008 after Nancy relocated and her project ended, Jean worked with Monica Driggers and Erika Kates on the Gender and Justice Project and with the National Institute on Out of School Time. All of this attests to Jean's versatility and willingness to try new projects and learn new things. Jean is a wonderful community member. Many people on campus know her through golf or other College activities. Jean has a myriad of interests and hobbies (knitting, golf, crafts, games...) and a wonderful family that she will now have more time to enjoy. We miss her, thank her for her good work, and wish her the very best in her retirement.