

Moving Our Community Forward

I am sure you are all as tired as I am of hearing the bad news about the economy, so it is a pleasure *this* month to tell you instead about some new developments that will further Wellesley's mission—even as we continue to deal with current financial challenges.

In a recession, it is natural and necessary to think about what you can do without. At the same time, it is also essential to think about what we *cannot* do without, what we *must* have, what is necessary to our vision. Fixing our attention on our core values will ensure that rough patches are only temporary, and that when conditions improve—as they must—we will recover more quickly and be in a stronger position than ever.

To ensure our premier position through these times of economic uncertainty, we are sharpening the focus on our top priorities—educating our students and nurturing the Wellesley intellectual community. I am pleased to tell you that, despite financial hardships, we have reinforced the well-known excellence of a Wellesley education by recruiting and hiring some remarkable new tenure-track faculty members this year.

These appointments represent a forward-looking investment in outstanding profes-

sors, who will supplement the intellectual diversity of our faculty and bring us new areas of specialization. I want to welcome them formally to our community. They will take up their posts in the fall. In alphabetical order, they are:

1. Angela Carpenter CE/DS '99, *cognitive and linguistic sciences*: A specialist in language acquisition, Angela is well known to the Wellesley community, having been a Davis Scholar, a class dean, director of Harambee House, and postdoctoral fellow.
2. Alexander Diesl, *mathematics*: A specialist in ring theory who has won several undergraduate teaching awards at the University of California, Berkeley.
3. Charlene Galarneau, *women's and gender studies*: Her work deals with ethics in health and health care, and she will be taking up a new position in gender and global health.
4. Katharine Grandjean, *history*: An expert on early American history, with a focus on travel and communications in colonial New England and cultural encounters among Europeans, Native Americans, and Africans.
5. Laura Grattan, *political science*: A specialist in political theory, who recently co-edited a book titled *Deliberation and the Work of Higher Education*.
6. Anjeana Hans, *German*: A specialist on early 20th-century German literature and film, with particular interest in representations of gender and sexuality.

7. Soo Hong, *education*: An urban-education-policy specialist who has also spent some years working with the Chicago public schools.

8. Michael Jeffries, *American Studies*: A postdoctoral fellow this year, Jeffries taught courses in race, ethnicity, and politics, and popular culture (such as hip-hop). He is one of our first hires into the interdepartmental program in American Studies.

9. Jenny Johnson, *music*: An internationally recognized composer and music theorist whose dissertation included creating a chamber opera.

10. Eugene Marshall, *philosophy*: A specialist in modern philosophy, with a particular interest in Spinoza.

11. Irene Garcia Newton, *biological sciences*: A microbiologist who was a Howard Hughes Medical Institute predoctoral fellow and a National Science Foundation minority postdoctoral fellow.

12. David Olsen, *art*: His work in new media, which can be seen at <http://www.siamesebirds.com>, has been featured in many museums (including the Davis).

13. Gauri Shastri, *economics*: Her work in economic development has focused on the economic consequences of health and education.

14. Edward Silver, *religion*: A specialist in the Hebrew Bible, with a particular emphasis on ancient prophecy.

In addition, we will be welcoming Deborah Klimburg-Salter, a distinguished historian of Indian and Islamic art from the University of Vienna, as the Cornille Visiting Professor for 2009–10.

We also did not allow economic setbacks to delay our search for a new director for the Davis Museum and Cultural Center. (Did you know that Wellesley has been collecting and exhibiting visual art since 1889? And that the so-called “Wellesley Method” was a ground-breaking approach that combined direct encounters with original works of art and hands-on studio exploration with traditional lectures, making the College's collection central to the learning experience?) At Wellesley, our arts curriculum and our museum are crucial and irreplaceable components of the outstanding liberal-arts education we offer. The search is now under way, and we look forward to announcing a new director once one has been selected.

I am pleased to announce these additions to the Wellesley community. Our newest accomplished faculty members join the rest of our outstanding faculty who, as a group, are the foundation of our intellectual community and the ultimate source of our academic standing.

On a personal note, I can't overstate how delighted I am to be writing about exciting investments in our future rather than about coping with the economy. No matter what the future brings, our first priority—as always—is to ensure the very finest education for our students. And that's a charge a college president never tires of pursuing.

H. Kim Bottomly

