



NEWSLETTER

September 4, 2014 | Issue V

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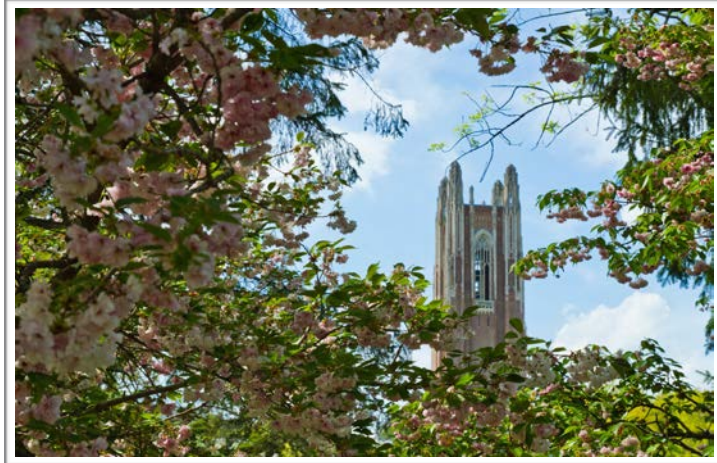
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View of Galen Stone Tower taken May 10, 2013. Source: Wellesley College Flickr

Presidents' Letter

Hey W3A!

We hope you are all enjoying the last days of summer as we enter the fall. Clubs across the country launched Wellesley students new and old to campus for a new year, and W3A is jumping back into action. Despite busy schedules, W3A hosted some great summer programming, including a W3A-members only private tour of a new exhibition at the artist co-op, Commonwealth and Counsel, in Los Angeles.

Our September 2014 issue includes a new section focused on sharing general on-campus news, in addition to our usual Asian-specific news. We are excited to spotlight LA-based filmmaker and '04 alum, Jin Yoo Kim, as she talks about her experiences in the entertainment industry and her company, Little Red Car Productions.

Next month, W3A celebrates its 1st year anniversary as a recognized organization housed under the WCAA. Thanks to our dedicated board, we will have a chance to celebrate our achievements and reflect on how we can continue to better serve all of you. Cheers all around as we head into the final quarter of the year!

Best Wishes,

Jessica Chin '11 and Connie Yee '11, W3A Co-Presidents

Events



Stay Connected with W3A

Send us an email if you have any questions, comments, or feedback at wellesley3A@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you! You can also check us out online:



[W3A Wellesley Asian Alumnae Alliance](#)



[Wellesley Asian Alumnae Alliance \(W3A\)](#)



[Wellesley College Website](#)

We want to make sure we keep you connected to W3A no matter where you are. Please be sure to keep your contact information with the College current. You can call 1-800-339-5233 or email updates@alum.wellesley.edu with any changes.

Regional Representatives Needed!

The Programming team is looking for regional representatives to help coordinate local events! If you're interested in getting involved with organizing and running events in your city, please apply [here](#). If you have any questions about the position, email [Leah Driska](mailto:Leah.Driska).

Wellesley alumnae in Los Angeles attended a private exhibition tour of "The Floor and The Cane" led by Melanie Ouyang Lum '07 and joined the artists, Iris Yirei Hui and David Bell, for a discussion about their work on August 30th at Commonwealth and Counsel. Attendee Rebecca Leo '13 said about the event: "I'm really glad I came and had the opportunity to listen to Iris and David explain their works of art. It made me think critically about identity and its connection to our personal histories. Awesome afternoon!"



Alumnae in Los Angeles with artists Iris Yirei Hui

Wellesley College Alumnae of Boston's Fall Meeting: "Lifecycle of a Job Transition"

When: Thursday, October 2nd from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Where: Mintz Levin - One Financial Center, Boston (Parking is Available at the South Station Bus Terminal, and T is accessible at South Station.)

Cost: \$25 for WCAB Members; \$35 for Non-Members and Guests

RSVP and Questions: rsvp@wellesleyboston.com

Are you planning a job or career change – or in the midst of one? If so, you're in good company in today's fast-evolving economy. Come find support and ideas that will position you as a strong, strategic career decision-maker at WCAB's Annual Fall Meeting! An alumnae panel from class years ranging 1983-2010 will discuss their diverse careers and different paths they've taken, along with obstacles and help they encountered and lessons learned along the way, at "Life Cycle of a Job Transition." Moderated by Babson Professor and mentoring expert Wendy Murphy and supported by the Wellesley College Center for Work and Service, this event is sure to inspire you and will offer opportunities to share your own experiences at pre-event networking and during the panel. Please send career-change questions you'd like the panelists to consider to amy.wyeth@gmail.com (by 9/20). We look forward to seeing you there!

Boston Asian American Film Festival

When: October 23-26, 2014

Where: Boston and Cambridge, MA

Cost: TBD

RSVP and Questions: W3APrograms@gmail.com

Join us at New England's largest Asian American Film Festival! The lineup has not been released yet, but we'll be in touch when a schedule and more information is available. In the meantime, please save the dates on your calendar so you can meet us at the movies!

Alumna Spotlight

*The Alumna Spotlight solely represents the views of the alumna interviewed.
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JIN YOO-KIM '04



Jin Yoo-Kim is a filmmaker, foodie, and globetrotter. She has two surnames because she was born to Korean parents in Bolivia, where kids keep both of their parents' surnames. Her name was hyphenated when she moved to America, due to the cultural bias toward one last name.

With film degrees from Wellesley College and the USC School of Cinematic Arts, Jin has crafted her voice through narrative comedies and documentaries. She has many passions, and as an Asian American female director, won't be isolated to making films solely about ethnic identity. Jin has directed projects ranging from food politics to dating, all of which, however, always feature strong female characters. Jin uses film to access the human condition. She stretches herself artistically by taking on projects that expand her artistic horizons. Jin is eager to direct her debut feature, which offers a fresh portrayal of the modern Korean American family.

If you are comfortable sharing, please state your graduation year, major(s)/minor(s), activities, clubs, interests and any awards that you received at graduation.

I graduated in 2004 with a double major in Psychology and Cinema & Media Studies. I was in WAA's Eboard, I was the President and Co-founder of DisOrient, an Asian American Theater Collective that may or may not exist anymore, I was in SBOG, I was an RA, I tried dorm crew for a semester, I did chamber music for a semester or two, and really, anything I could get my hands on. That's what I loved about Wellesley. I don't even remember all the things I tried and yet I love that I spent four years in this institution doing anything and everything that I wanted.

(Alumna Spotlight continued on next page)

Alumna Spotlight Continued



Why did you choose Wellesley? Was Wellesley your first choice and if so why or why not? If not, where did you want to attend college and why? Did you still feel this way when you graduated, why or why not?

Wellesley was my first choice in women's colleges. I was still on the fence about going to a big university vs. a small liberal arts college, but what won me over was the fact that I didn't have to declare my major until the second year and my desire to grow into becoming a confident woman. Although I felt like I knew myself as a rising college student and was determined to become a therapist, I'm so glad that I chose Wellesley for my education because if I hadn't, I may have indeed become a therapist instead of a filmmaker. Looking back at it now, there was no way for me to have known that going into college. It wasn't until the second semester of my sophomore year when I seriously considered the filmmaking path. Without Wellesley's flexibility in major declarations, my career path may have taken longer to unfold. Aside from the career-based revelation, my time at Wellesley was a time for personal growth. I didn't have sisters growing up and my high school experience in Santa Cruz, Bolivia was drenched in patriarchy, misogyny, distrust, and insecurity among women. I wanted to be surrounded by intelligent women who were confident in their abilities and who didn't limit themselves based on their gender. I wanted to give myself an experience where I could fully embrace women empowerment and come away feeling like I understood what true sisterhood meant. Today, some of my closest friends are from Wellesley.

What do you remember most about Wellesley? Are there any vivid memories, or much-told stories, you could share with us about your experience as a Wellesley student and/or alumna?

I have so many vivid memories of Wellesley that it's hard to pick out one particular memory out of the rest. But for me, the really wonderful things were the every day things that engraved a Wellesley experience for me. From sitting around the dining tables during lunch or dinner, hoarding mass amounts of food and exchanging ideas about politics, social norms, campus news, and venting frustrations to each other, to going away on an e-board retreat to Cape Cod on a cold and stormy winter, every Wellesley experience was one of my firsts and that is what makes them unforgettable.

(Alumna Spotlight continued on next page)

Alumna Spotlight Continued

What are some, if any, academic, intellectual, social, etc. experiences cultivated at Wellesley that you have taken with you in your life and others that you have dismissed?

I took my first CAMS class with Elena Creef called “Asian American Women in Film.” This class was the single most important class I took at Wellesley because it was through this class that my understanding of my racial identity was formed as well as my passion for using filmmaking as a tool to re-write the way I wished to represent Asian American women in film. After I took this class, I knew just how powerful film was in creating images that far outlasts its creators. Film wasn’t just an art form, but a tool to express, a tool to communicate, and a tool to change the way people understood the world. This class ignited my passion for filmmaking and I decided to stay at Wellesley my junior year instead of going abroad and took as many CAMS courses as possible to pick it up as a second major. After Wellesley, I had an opportunity to screen my senior thesis film project that was shot at Wellesley at the San Diego Asian Film Festival, which propelled my filmmaking career. I was awarded the Armed with a Camera Fellowship sponsored by Visual Communications, the nation’s premier Asian American Filmmaking network. Later, I enrolled in UCLA Extension’s Film Studies program and then finally decided to earn my MFA in TV and Film Production at USC School of Cinematic Arts. Since then I’ve had my work broadcasted on the Documentary Channel; a web series I directed won the student Emmy’s for “best series;” I’ve traveled throughout the U.S. to screen my films in film festivals; had some distribution on online platforms; and am currently developing a fiction narrative and two feature documentaries. The road to becoming an independent filmmaker is not easy, especially as an Asian American woman. It feels as though I must constantly prove myself in this unstable industry and it often times feels like I’m set up to fail, but as long as there are stories left to tell, I want to be a key player in creating these stories. I was fortunate enough to marry a man who shares my passion for filmmaking and who is willing to sacrifice the comforts of a stable career to pursue our passions. I feel very lucky that I am able to live my dream.

(Alumna Spotlight continued on next page)



Alumna Spotlight Continued

Have you visited Wellesley recently? When you were last on campus, what do you most remember about the experience? What was it like?

I last visited Wellesley for my ten year college reunion earlier this year. It was one of the most invigorating experiences I had since I graduated from Wellesley. I hadn't been able to make it out for my five year reunion and even though I had visited the campus a handful of times since I graduated, being able to show my husband where I used to live, where I used to eat, and point out where so many of my memories were created was such a treat. I bumped into classmates I haven't seen for a while and other who I haven't seen in a decade and it felt just like yesterday when we were abiding by the honor code, catching up in the dining halls, and walking to the ville for some Amarin Thai. I was able to catch up with Karen Shih and Elena Creef, two of my favorite mentors, and only at Wellesley would a professor come out to cheer you on during the parade and carve out time to reconnect. After the reunion, my husband remarked how he finally understood why I loved my Wellesley experience so much and constantly brags about Wellesley's reunion weekend when we meet our friends. I hope to be able to return every five years to rekindle my love for Wellesley, my awe for my sisters, and re-establish roots and reconnect with my past.



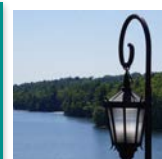
*Photos taken from
Wellesley College Instagram*

If you are interested in being interviewed for an Alumna Spotlight or would like to nominate someone, please email Afshan Bokhari and Vickie Nam at W3Aalumnaspotlight@gmail.com.

*Please note: The editors of the W3A bios will make every attempt to include all submitted bios, however, they cannot guarantee inclusion.



Campus Corner

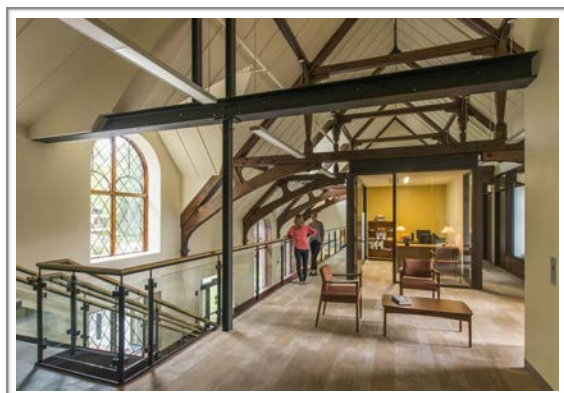


Goodbye, summer! Hello Wellesley! September 2nd marked the start of the academic year for current Wellesley students. Seniors put on their academic robes for the first time and all classes took part in step singing at Convocation.

The first-year purple class of 2018 arrived on campus a week in advance for Orientation activities. According to the [Wellesley Daily Shot](#), "The 595 members of the newest purple class come from 44 states plus the District of Columbia, and from 29 different nations of citizenship. Twelve percent of these students are the first in their families to attend college. Forty-three percent of the students are African American, Latina, or Asian, with eight percent identifying themselves as biracial or multiracial. Eleven percent of the class has international citizenship."



*Student leaders welcome first-year students moving in to McAfee during Orientation.
Source: Wellesley College Instagram.*



*An inside look at the newly renovated Schneider.
Source: <http://www.wellesley.edu/about/campusrenewal/schneider>*

Do you recognize that building? The newly renovated Schneider shown in the photo to the left is almost unrecognizable now! Don't be surprised if offices and departments are not where you remembered them to be the next time you visit campus! As a result of the [Campus Renewal](#) program, many academic departments and administrative offices have moved to other buildings or relocated to a different floor. Over the summer, Founders and Green halls underwent renovations to create state-of-the-art classrooms and more unified faculty office space. Senior Lecturer in Theatre Studies, Diego Arciniegas, and Senior Lecturer in Spanish, Veronica Darer, made a [video spoof](#) (of an HGTV show) to show off the newly renovated spaces. Watch the video [here](#)!

Asian/Asian American Campus Update

Karen Shih, Advisor to Students of Asian Descent, and the Pan-Asian Council are putting on a special event for the first-years: Lunch & a Boston Duck Tour. The all-day program will be on September 6th, with activities beginning at Wellesley, followed by lunch in Boston, and finally, a Duck Tour! This annual welcome event will give Asian students in the class of 2018 a chance to get to meet one another and to hear from upper-class students.

*Students take in Boston's major sites from inside a renovated WWII vehicle that can go on land and in water.
Photographer: Rachel Shuen '12.*

