



# NEWSLETTER

November 13, 2014 | Issue VI

## Governing Board

### *Presidents*

Jessica Chin '11  
(East Asian Studies)

Connie Yee '11  
(Political Science)

### *Programs*

Leah Driska '08  
(Music, American Studies)

### *Membership and Engagement*

Erica Wang '00  
(International Relations, Studio Arts)

### *Alumnae and Cultural Insights*

Dr. Afshan Bokhari '88  
(Art History, Architecture)

### *Communication and Administration*

Rachel Shuen '12  
(History, Spanish)

## Officers

### *Director of Programming (East Coast)*

Amanda Zhang '13  
(Sociology, Economics)

### *International Programs*

Minnie Moy '08  
(Economics)



*Outside of the newly renovated Schneider building, taken October 18, 2014.  
Photographer: Connie Yee '11.*

## Presidents' Letter

Happy Autumn!

W3A recently returned to campus for the Alumnae Leadership Council (ALC), and happily spent time in the beautiful fall foliage. After a busy first year as one of the youngest SIGS (Special Interest Groups) in the Alumnae Association, ALC allowed us to review the past year and connect with the other clubs and SIGs about best practices. As we transition to winter, the W3A board is also experiencing some seasonal change and we want to express our gratitude to Vickie Nam '97, who is departing as one of our Co-VP of Alumnae Insights. Vickie was critical in the early stages of W3A when she served as an active and influential member of our Founding Committee. We will be recruiting for additional officer positions, so please apply if you are interested!

Our November 2014 issue includes some special on-campus highlights. We are also excited to spotlight Ayesha Jalal '78, as she talks about how Wellesley shaped her intellectual interests in South Asian history.

With the New Year around the corner, W3A will be launching a new website supported by the WCAA in early January. Please look forward to a more robust online community to engage with!

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



## Stay Connected with W3A

Send us an email if you have any questions, comments, or feedback at [wellesley3A@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:updates@alum.wellesley.edu) with any changes.

### TAKE NOTE: Setup Your Wellesley Login

The College plans to roll out new systems, including a **new online community, customized websites** for classes, clubs, and shared interest groups, in **Jan. 2015**. You may recall a few emails over the past few months from the College's tech team regarding this change. Contact [helpdesk@wellesley.edu](mailto:helpdesk@wellesley.edu) or call 781.283.3333 if you either don't have this information in your inbox or experience any problems accessing the new login. Click [here](#) for instructions to setup your login.

# Events

W3A members in Boston joined together to go see a collection of short films at the **Boston Asian American Film Festival** on Sunday, October 26. The shorts included "My Revolutionary Mother", a documentary by Jethro Patalinghug about his activist mother who left her family in the Philippines to fight for her country, and "More than a Face in the Crowd", directed by Samantha Chan, about her great-aunt, actress Jane Chung.



*Pictured from left to right: Belle Peng '13, Allison Kwan '11, Eugenia Beh '99, and Leah Driska '08*

## Call for Open Positions on the Programming Team!

All W3A positions will work to connect Asian/Asian American Wellesley alumnae to each other through local programming. If you have any questions about the positions, email [Leah Driska](mailto:Leah.Driska).

### Director of National Programming (West Coast)

Work with the VP of Programming and the Director of Programming (East Coast) to coordinate local events. This will involve: monthly check ins with VP, occasional conference calls with VP and East Coast Director, delegating work to regional reps, checking in and following up with regional reps to make sure tasks are completed, providing programming suggestions to VP and regional reps based on local knowledge, understanding demographics of local alumnae.

### Regional Representatives

Work with Director of Programming to coordinate local events. This may involve: scouting or suggesting venues, calling ahead to reserve space, managing miscellaneous logistical details, attending each event, arriving early to set up a registration table with sign in sheet and name tags, sending out a post-event survey to attendees. If you're interested in getting involved with organizing and running events in your city, please apply [here](#).

# Alumna Spotlight

\*The Alumna Spotlight solely represents the views of the alumna interviewed.  
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## AYESHA JALAL '78



**Ayesha Jalal** is the **Mary Richardson Professor of History at Tufts University**. After majoring in history and political science from Wellesley College, she obtained her doctorate in history from the **University of Cambridge**. Jalal has been Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge (1980-1984); Leverhulme Fellow at the Centre of South Asian Studies, Cambridge (1984-1987); Fellow of the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars in Washington D.C. (1985-1986); and Academy Scholar at the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies (1988-1990). From 1998-2003 she was a **MacArthur Fellow**. Her publications include *The Sole Spokesman: Jinnah, the Muslim League and the Demand for Pakistan*; *The State of Martial Rule: the Origins of Pakistan's Political Economy of Defence*; and *Democracy and Authoritarianism in South Asia: a Comparative and Historical Perspective*. Jalal has co-authored *Modern South Asia: History, Culture and Political Economy* with Sugata Bose. Her study of Muslim identity in the subcontinent, entitled *Self and Sovereignty: the Muslim Individual and the Community of Islam in South Asia since c.1850*. Her most recent book is *Partisans of Allah: Jihad in South Asia*.

**Please state your graduation year and your major and a minor if you had one and any awards you received at graduation.**

1978 – Double Major in History and Political Science; Wellesley Scholar

**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?**

It was among my top choices and, once I had applied, it became my preferred place of study as I discovered more about it from my own research and from family friends in the U.S.

**What do you remember most about Wellesley? Are there any vivid memories, interests/ involvements/goals or much-told stories, you could share with us about your experience as a Wellesley student and/or alumna? Later, how did those interests endure, grow, change, etc.?**

There is much to remember about Wellesley, which I consider my “intellectual crib”. Apart from great friends and great teachers, Wellesley’s physical beauty and landscape are most memorable. It is these qualities that I

*(Alumna Spotlight continued on next page)*



## Alumna Spotlight Continued



hold dear and to which I have returned both mentally and physically over the years. As a student, I was drawn to the circle of international students and participated in events organized by Slater International Center and spent hours with friends at the former student center, Schneider. I became increasingly involved in student elections, which was a great learning experience. The opportunity to interact with and befriend students from various countries was one the most important experiences, and ones that I cherish.

### **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?**

My long-standing interest in contemporary international affairs was further cultivated at Wellesley through classroom and out of class discussions with peers and faculty. My courses in history and political science helped define my graduate school trajectory in no uncertain terms. For this, I will forever be grateful to Wellesley and its intellectual resources.

### **Reflecting on your personal/professional decisions, could you talk about the paths you've taken? And the work that you do that you find meaningful?**

I opted for a career in the academy and have spent the last several decades pursuing the study of South Asian history in addition to developing my understanding of Islam both as a religion and as a transnational historical phenomenon. I thoroughly enjoy what I do, as there is an intrinsic connection between researching, teaching, and writing.

### **What are some noteworthy successes and challenges you've experienced (e.g., home, school, work, community)? And, what are some critical skills/insights you've gained in the process of navigating these situations?**

Making a career in the academic world requires concentrated attention and hard work, something that has both been a challenge and an intellectually satisfying experience. If there is a single skill I have acquired through my education that I value the most it is the ability to communicate effectively through my research, writings, and teaching. I consider this an invaluable experience that is often underestimated by those who bypass the humanities and social sciences during the course of their undergraduate education.

*(Alumna Spotlight continued on next page)*

## Alumna Spotlight Continued

**What are some of your intellectual and practical interests outside of your profession? What intrigues you, what kinds of knowledge have you pursued for its own sake or its practical implications, what do you wish you knew more about?**

I have a keen interest in reading about the history, politics, and culture of parts of the world other than South Asia, especially the interface of Islam and Muslims in the western countries particularly in the era of colonialism and decolonization.

**What take-away lesson/advice would you give our alumnae?**

It is difficult to give a single piece of advice, but for me, the importance of my Wellesley education outside of the classroom became one of the most important aspects of my undergraduate experience. It is disheartening to learn that most students are grade-obsessed and never leave the campus or the classroom to enhance their learning. Further, I would reserve ultimate judgment on the value of the Wellesley experience both intellectual as well as personal, until later in life when I can take a more balanced perspective on things and really cherish the memories and meaningful friendships forged in what to mind remains an idyllic and ideal setting for breeding an intellect.



*Photos taken by Rachel Shuen '12*

If you are interested in being interviewed for an Alumna Spotlight or would like to nominate someone, please email Afshan Bokhari at [W3Aalumnaspotlight@gmail.com](mailto: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



## Alumnae Leadership Council 2014



*Pictured from left to right: Rachel Sbuon '12, Connie Yee '11, Amanda Zhang '13, Jessica Chin '11, Leah Driska '08.*

In October, members of the W3A governing board went back to campus for Alumnae Leadership Council, a two-day leadership training hosted by the Wellesley Alumnae Association. We met with other club & SIG leaders to discuss ideas and strategies for programming, communications, and increasing member engagement. We also heard from President Kim Bottomly about some current on-campus issues, including the Advisory Committee on Gender and Wellesley she recently formed to discuss the issue of gender identity and transgender experience relating to Admissions at Wellesley. We are excited to implement some of the new ideas and strategies we learned, and are especially looking forward to rolling out our new

website through a new platform, Alumni Connections, in early 2015!



*A sneak preview of our new website!*

## On-campus Controversy Between Two Professors

It was recently brought to our attention by a number of W3A members that there is a situation at Wellesley between two professors that is currently affecting the AA community on campus. On October 5, 2014, *The New York Times* published an article about the Wellesley-Peking University relationship and on "Policing University Partnerships in Authoritarian Countries," in which **Professor Thomas Cushman** (Sociology) accused **Professor Charles Bu** (Mathematics) of "promoting the agenda of the Communist Party of China" for taking an opposing point of view. On October 22nd, in response to these allegations, Professor Bu wrote an opinion piece in *The Wellesley News* entitled, "[I am not a Communist spy](#)", to which Professor Cushman wrote a follow-up opinion piece, "[On Charles Bu's Falsehoods](#)." A [letter to the Wellesley community](#) signed by a number of Wellesley faculty and staff was published on October 26th in *The Wellesley News*, addressing the issue. On November 3rd, the two professors released a joint statement at the urging of President Bottomly and have been meeting personally.

## Asian/Asian American Campus Update

The Pan-Asian Council (PAC) has had an event-filled semester! Here are some of their event highlights, generously shared by Bernice Chan '16 and members of the PAC eboard. There was a **Fall Retreat** for all A/AA eboard members, coordinated by the Large Events Coordinator Eunbyul Lee '17. On November 9, the Alum Liaison, Lucy Cheng, hosted **PAC Alumnae Night**, where alums came back to campus to share their post-Wellesley experiences and advice.



*Attendees engage in discussion at the Mental Health Panel.*

Ananya Ghemawat '17, PR Liaison for PAC, shared with W3A about another PAC event: "This October, PAC hosted a **Mental Health Panel**, where students and counselors congregated to talk about mental health issues within Asian/Asian-American communities. Stone Center counselors gave information about "warning" signs in friends, and what resources are available on campus, while a panel of upperclass students discussed their own experiences with mental health. It was an important talk to have, and we were glad to see so many members of our community in attendance!"



*Attendees and panelists at the PAC Mental Health panel. Photos provided by Ananya Ghemawat.*