

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The documents compiled from the Wellesley College Archives provide a vital foundation for the CE/DS History Project. Through the archival material, we celebrate more than 40 years of effort by administrators, faculty, staff, students and alumnae to create and strengthen a program for non-traditional age students at Wellesley. The archival record traces the origins of Continuing Education at Wellesley from the late 1960s, through its growth and successes to the Davis Scholar program today. A sampling of items that reflect our identity and growth over the years is listed here. For further research, visit the Archives in Clapp Library.

The CE/DS History Project committee members thank Archivist/Records Management Officer Ian Graham and Assistant Archivist Jane A. Callahan for their valuable help and cheerful availability.

Spring 2011

The CE Program during the 1960s and 1970s

Selected notes from the archives that reflect CE student experiences and development of the CE program during the late nineteen-sixties and the decade of the nineteen-seventies.

- 21 Nov. 1968
 - Resolution was submitted to Academic Council concerning a Program for Continuing Education and was resolved:
 - that CE Program be established to enroll students in course work presently offered at the College, on a part-time basis, when appropriate leading to the B.A. or M.A. degree;
 - that there be a pilot project to begin in 1969-70;
 - that the mechanics of the Program be run by a Director of Continuing Education Program and staff.

- 6 March 1969
 - Resolved: that beginning in 1970-71 students may be enrolled on a part-time basis for study toward the B.A. degree and that Articles of Government be amended to permit part-time work toward the B.A. degree.

- 1970
 - Eleanor Webster was named Director of Continuing Education Program .

- 29 June 1973
 - Students increased from 50 in 1972 to 100 in 1973.

- 13 August 1973
 - Suggestion for meeting with CE students.
 - The dean of college expresses her interest in meeting with some of the CE students and listening to their experiences at Wellesley and problems.
 - Suggestion for child care facility on campus for CE students is made.
 - Recommendation of Betty Lou Marple to direct compiling data for future planning of CE.

- 7 September 1973
 - Thank you note for the president's support of CE program.

- 29 November 1973
 - Discussion on financial aid for CE students.
 - Up to this time the only financial assistance for CE students came from student aid and a token grant from some alumnae. There was an agreement of scholarship funds for full time undergraduates to CE program for 1974-1975.
 - Need to solicit funding for scholarship for CEs beyond 1975.

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- 25 January 1974
 - To CE students from Betty Lou Marple. A day care center, sandwich seminar, etc.
 - Wellesley Community Children's Center opens as of February 4, 1974, and is located at Alumnae Hall. It is available for children between the ages of 2 years 8 months and five years.
 - The first sandwich seminar starts on February 6 in Phi Sigma House [CE House].

- 19 February 1974

Betty Lou Marple. Wellesley 's intention to join the Coalition for Research on Women

 - Wellesley College's membership was approved on April 11.

- 8 May 1974
 - Betty Lou Marple. Needs for Financial Aid for CE students and for a committee.
 - Betty Lou Marple struggles with "second class treatment" for CE students needing financial aid.
 - A need is expressed for a committee on CE, which should have as its main topic of interest CE's peculiar problems.

- 10 April 1974
 - To CE students from Betty Lou Marple. Invitation to the annual CE party at College Club and other announcements.
 - An annual CE party is held on May 8 at College Club since CE students have outgrown Phi Sigma House.
 - A Students' Lounge for students living off campus is open in 110 Billings.

- 23 April 1975
 - A list of issues to discuss about CE Program.
 - Financial aid, criteria for admission, credit for courses taken elsewhere, number of students in program.

- 24 November 1975
 - Enrollment of CE students.
 - 109 students were enrolled as of September 1975.
 - Need to publicize the program "in competition with the numerous similar "programs".

- 13 April 1976
 - The enrollment increased from 26 in 1970 to 130 in 1976.

- 26 October 1976
 - Conference at Smith College on continuing education programs .
 - The participants from Wellesley are glad to learn that Wellesley's CE Program is "one step ahead of the game."

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- 9 May 1976
 - A brochure and advertisement for CE.

- 29 November 1976
 - Commuting CE students.
 - A concern for CE students who have to travel in the bad weather.
 - Suggestion to set aside a few rooms for CE students in Cheever House.

- 2 May 1977
 - Research proposal on CE Program.
 - Interviews to be conducted with members of the administration.
 - Questionnaires to be given out to CE Program graduates.

- 8 May 1977, 8 September 1977
 - A CE student requests campus housing, but no dorm room is available.

- 30 June 1977
 - The study on CE is carried out by sociologists Mary Sacks and Susan Calechman and will be completed during 1977-78 year.
 - There are 143 students in CE Program. Median age is 36 for degree, 26 for non-degree. Median grade is B+.

- 13 October 1977
 - Reviewing the present program, examining plans for expansion and exploring areas of present concern.

- 20 October 1977
 - Placement of CE ad in 8 newspapers during the week of October 23.

- 10 April 1978
 - To Wellesley community and CE alumnae from Betty Lou Marple. CE alumnae questionnaire.
 - In October 1977, 142 questionnaires were sent to former CE students.
 - 72 returns were received, indicated 53% working, 37% attending graduate schools.
 - Of 66 responses to marital status, 16 reported change.

- 9 June 1978, 15 June 1978
 - Continuing Education articles.
 - Attempted to contact 22 graduates and spoke with 13 in order to interview and to write articles about their Wellesley CE experience.
 - Its goal is to "give recognition to the achievements of the women and of allowing a large public in the Greater Boston area to become aware of the opportunities Wellesley provides for mature women to resume their education."
 - All of the above graduates have expressed gratitude to Wellesley for the support and opportunities provided them through the CE Program.

The CE Program during the 1960s and 1970s

•• 30 June 1978

- Annual Report, 1977-78
 - CE students add a unique dimension to the College and enrich the community.
 - 215 responded to two advertisements in suburban newspapers in October and February.
 - A committee was formed to evaluate CE as a part of the re-accreditation process.
 - The new CE student organization was started and the importance of CE House is emphasized.
 - There are 143 students in CE Program. Median age is 36 for degree and 28 for non-degree. There are 84 students with children. Median grade is B+.

•• July 28, August 3, August 10

- Wonderful articles about CE students written by Ruth Kramer Baden were published in various newspapers.

•• 17 October 1978

- Final report on publicity for CE graduates.
 - Editors of the papers were cooperative and articles appeared between July and October. 17 subjects were placed out of 22.
 - Most of the articles included pictures.
 - A radio show "Women's Beat" to be aired in late fall.
 - The graduates "cited the encouragement and support provided by the CE department and other students in the CE Program as instrumental in their mastery of their fears, problems and in their success."
 - Susan Calechman in *News Tribune*, Geri Di Savino in *Boston Herald-American*, G. Di Savino & Pat Nagi in *Wayland-Weston Town Crier*, Suzanne Frederick, Debora Gately, Diana Phillips in *Wellesley Townsman*, Blvira Kisteneff in *Dai/y Transcript*, Molly Newbold in *Associated Press*, Joellen O'Neill, Kathy Sanford, Jackie Turin in *Billerica Action*, *Lexington Minute Man*, *Burlington Times-Union*, *Belmont Citizen*, *Hansconian*, *Concord Journal*, Barbara Riley in *Cape Cod Times*, Laraine Stepner in *So. Middlesex News*, Claudia Ward in *Plymouth County Journal*, Susan La Tour and Carolyn Bacon in *Sudbury Town Crier*, Anne Cooley in *Somerville Journal*, Eleanor De Lorne in *Patriot Ledger*.

•• 15 November 1978

- CE advertisement generated 85 replies and about 12 telephone calls.

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•• 24 April 1979

- Susan A. Calechman and Mary M. Sacks complete the paper "A Study of the Continuing Education Program at Wellesley College."
 - Continuing Education student sample indicates their motivation for enrollment to be "enhancement of self-esteem" and "the desire to complete interrupted studies in order to be better educated, the need for a BA degree to be better qualified for the job market or to enroll in graduate school and the need of intellectual stimulation.
 - Over 2/3 of the respondents rate their academic activities as "difficult, demanding, challenging and highly satisfactory."
 - Participation in the program had given CE students "confidence and increased self-esteem. It has given them a sense of heightened self-awareness and insight, had informed them of alternatives and options and had provided a catalyst or means to pursue further education."
 - They were happier women.
 - For most of the students, family obligations-including housework and children, lack of time and costs of the program presented problems.
 - The lack of adequate financial assistance affects many women who return to college. "CE students as a group will not be full, first-class members of the Wellesley College community **until** they are accorded **all** the privileges, including access to their fair share of financial assistance, now available to other undergraduate" (Betty Lou Marple).
 - A recommendation is made to integrate CE students fully into college social life.

•• 14 December 1979

- Boston Herald American article "50s prime time for education", four Wellesley CE students Phyllis Nygard, Dorothy Merrel, Helen Kilbridge, Virginia Pittman are honored with academic scholarships under a pilot national Elder Scholar Program.