

The CE/DS Program during the 1980s

Selected notes from the archives that reflect CE/DS student experiences and development of the CE/DS program during the decade of the nineteen-eighties.

•• 31 May 1980

- Betty Lou Marple, who served as director of CE Program since 1970, resigns.
- She has had "a joyous and productive 10years at Wellesley ...over 600 students have been the beneficiaries" and "the concerns of adult women at various stages in their development have been the focus of much of our work in CE"

•• 30 May 1980

- Since the fall of 1970, 600 students have been enrolled at CE Program. As of May 1980, 151 have graduated, 21 of them as members of Phi Beta Kappa, 10 as Durant Scholars, and 21 as Wellesley College Scholars. More than 30 have gone on to medical school.
- CE House hosts an art show exhibiting ten years of student art works by 16 students and Marjorie Jeffries, a student presented a concert of her original music.
- 20 prospective students attended an Open House at Wellesley College Club.
- Four students received academic scholarships of \$1,000 each and 13 students were given awards on College Recognition Day.
- Ten Year Survey was conducted and over 100 alumnae responded.

•• 20 November 1980

- The first annual "There is a life after Wellesley" alumnae panel is hosted.
 - A formal presentation by a panel of five CE graduates and Q & A time.

•• 12 February 1981

- Academic advising process such as the development of student orientation, streamlining the academic records, creation of a weekly discussion group and orientation program for newly accepted CE students, academic program planning and career advising were accomplished.
- Lunchtime meetings "Sandwich Seminars"-bring your lunch, coffee and dessert provided-are started. *CENewsletter* is redesigned and expanded,
- Donna Mesthene, a CE Student, becomes a guest-in-residence in Davis Hall.
 - Effective integration of CE students into the larger Wellesley community, more financial aid and advertising to recruit among wider audience is needed.
 - CE program has had no full time director or dean since Betty Lou Marple left.
 - CE Students have "a pervasive sense of isolation" and "feel outside of the mainstream."

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•• 15 May 1981

- Joan Esch appointed Dean of Continuing Education.
 - Efforts to move Continuing Education "in" from the periphery of Wellesley College.
 - 47 women attended the open house for prospective applicants on March 11.
 - The first week-long orientation for new students was held in January.
 - A strong outreach program for all levels of CE students, discussing a preliminary plan for course work and possible majors, was initiated by Academic Advisors.
 - Increased awareness of the resources available at Wellesley College through sandwich seminars, evening programs focused on job opportunities and through the career center.
 - The need to create an attractive, vital community of CE students is presented.

•• 21 September 1983

- Four CE students attended the R.A. (mentor) training program.
- A number of breakfasts, teas and brown bag lunches were hosted with guests from the Center for Women's Careers, a Dean, a Trustee and President Keohane.
- 23 students graduated. Seven were Wellesley Scholars and four were Durant Scholars. There are 130 degree students and 130 non-degree students.

•• 23 October 1983

- CE News
 - An opening remark by Bonnie Leonard, the dean of CE Program, about the students' first impressions of Wellesley and strategy for coping with new situations.
 - House Council is functioning and is hosting various activities such as Drop-In Brown-Bag Lunches (DIBBL) on Tuesdays.
 - An article about Susan Calechman, president of the alumnae association, on the opening meeting at the CE House in which CE students were invited into the strong alumnae network. There are now 256 CE alumnae.

•• 5 December 1983

- CE Steering Committee minutes.
 - Reunion funds raised from CE alumnae are designated for CE scholarship.
 - CE students commit to raising \$7,500 to refurbish the CE House.

•• 4 January 1984

- CE News
 - Three voting positions in Student Government are open to CE students.
 - Success of the Christmas Party-"Best party in town".

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- 2 April 1984
 - A letter will be mailed to all alumnae requesting a \$30 gift toward refurbishing the CE House. The College will pay for painting the house.
 - A limited number of single rooms for CE women will be available in one dormitory on campus.
 - Recruitment based on the successful pre-med CE students. 75% of CE students who applied to medical schools were accepted in 1983.

- 4 April 1984
 - Susan Calechman, President of Alumnae Association issued an invitation to the spring meeting.
 - \$1,855 was raised so far toward CE House refurbishment.
 - 168 students in the CE Program. Tuition fees for 1983-84 are \$1,069 per course. CE students receive financial aid according to need, but not for living expenses.
 - Oakwoods has a room available for CE students.

- 14 May 1984
 - Dean Leonard attends the New England Deans' meeting at Smith College and explores with other colleges issues such as funding, scholarships, degree requirements, policies pertaining CE programs and housing.

- 29 August 1984
 - CE advisors (formerly R.A.s) help new students make a smooth transition into academic life.
 - Dean Leonard's class at Wellesley established the Class of 1959 Memorial Fund for CE Scholarship.
 - Day Care Exchange is offered on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

- October 1984
 - Publicity committee is formed to publicize the CE Program in the Boston area.
 - Five students are living in campus housing.
 - \$6,775.00 has been raised for the CE House refurbishment project.
 - Ways are discussed of building the network between current CE students and alumnae.
 - An equitable financial aid policy for CE students is reviewed.

- 1 February 1985
 - A new CE brochure.
 - A group of past and present CE students created a new brochure for the CE Program.

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- 30 September 1985
 - The president pledges strong support to clarify CE's place at Wellesley.
 - The process of CE students transferring past credits is going very smoothly.
 - The CE Program is increasing its participation in College activities.
 - A gala 15th Birthday Party of CE Program is planned for March.
 - The goal of the equity on campus is to fund living expenses at the same level as traditional students receive for room and board.

- 6 December 1985
 - Bank will process ALAS/PLUS loans for Wellesley 's CE students

- 25 February 1986
 - An advertisement for the CE Program and a Campus Day is placed in *The Middlesex News*

- 8 March 1986, Saturday
 - Happy Birthday CE!!!Join us for a 15th year Celebration at Wellesley College Club.
 - 11:30 AM Social Hour in Wall Room
 - 12:30 PM Buffet Luncheon in Dining Room
 - 2:00 PM Original play by Christiana Lambrinidis followed by champagne and cake cutting at the CE House.
 - Quotes:
 - Lois Bienstock, CE '86, Committee Chair: *"...in this spirit of friendship that I welcome you today to celebrate the 15th birthday of the 'class of all classes. '"*
 - Susan Calechman, CE '78 President CE Alumnae. *"...Wellesley is a rare place where women of many ages can further develop the skills to meet life's challenges with courage and optimism. "*
 - Betty Lou Marple, Director of CE, 1970-80: *"...this one sprang from the fertile brain of a faculty member, the talented Ellie Webster in the chemistry department ...to risk adding another group of older women ' to the college campus ...Mary Lefkowitz was your midwife for it was she who introduced the resolution, that created you, to academic council ...When I looked at CE students 'grades at the end of the first semester, I knew we had winners. "*
 - Bonnie D. Leonard, '59, Dean of CE, 1983-: *"In your thirteenth year, I arrived as your most recent caretaker and Dean ...you have been my adored child, and I count myself the most fortunate of women to be given the opportunity to serve as your Dean...you are taking a stand ...CE students have written a position paper which states who you are and what you need for your development. You have claimed an identity which demands equal status with other students and at the same time acknowledges your special needs...as you emerge from adolescence into adulthood on this campus, the inner beauty that is yours will be manifested for all to behold and enjoy.*

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•• 20 March 1986

➤ Position Paper.

- *Position paper on the goals and priorities of the continuing education community at Wellesley College* is written by The Continuing Education House Council Ad Hoc Committee. CE students reviewed and voted on the recommendations contained in the report.
- "This paper represents our best effort to outline the most pressing needs of Continuing Education students. By presenting it, we begin a dialogue with the whole college community—a process that CEs believe will be of mutual benefit to the CE Program and the college community."

•• 8 October 1987

➤ CE Steering Committee Meeting minutes.

- Total CE enrollment is 163 students.
- The outside of the CE house was painted and new landscaping, funded by anonymous donors, was installed.
- Publicity for the CE Program has been generated through articles in the *Brockton Enterprise*, *Boston Parents' Paper*, and *Boston Woman Magazine*.
- There are 375 CE Alumnae. They plan to organize a fund-raiser.

•• 11 February 1988

- CE enrollment is down for spring '88.
- The CE Alumnae Association will give graduating seniors rainbow ribbons to pin on their robes at commencement and would like this to become a tradition.
- Student Position Paper II is being written, addressing issues on housing, financial aid and the need for priority parking for commuting CE students.

•• 29 March 1988

- Simpson West is designated as "our own CE Dorm!" If more students need housing than the College has spaces available, a lottery will determine who "wins" a room.

.. 15 November 1989

- A meeting focused on future campus housing needs. There are 16 CEs living on campus; nine in Simpson West, three in Homestead and three in Beebe.
- Four categories of women who need housing emerge: Single women, single mothers, women who live far from campus who would like to spend two or three nights a week on campus, and women who commute long distance and need to spend an occasional night on campus.
- The possibility of co-op housing for single mothers is discussed.