

Dear Wellesley Alumnae,

We invite you to join a voyage that spans the entire Eastern Seaboard of the United States, sailing from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to the southern shores of Florida. En route you will explore one of the most culturally diverse and historically important regions in the United States as you reflect on the transformation of this coastline from a world of small villages and farms to the home of some of the world's great cities.

As you cruise from port to port, you will revisit five centuries of American history. First explore Native American life at the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor, Maine. The Colonial period comes to life in Massachusetts and in the living museum of Williamsburg, Virginia. The wealth of the plantation owners of the Antebellum South is on display in New Bern, North Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia — as is the very different experience of the enslaved peoples whose labor created that wealth. You will encounter a newer sort of wealth, based on railroads and oil, in the summer "cottages" of New York's elite in Newport, Rhode Island. And in New York City, witness the result of the great waves of immigration of the late 19th and 20th centuries in one of the most culturally diverse cities in the world.

To provide context and to help make some sense of all of this, you will be joined by Wellesley Professor of Sociology Emeritus Lee Cuba. In a series of lectures and discussions drawing on his long interest in how people adapt to new places and how they build identities in changed circumstances, Lee will explore issues like the difference between forced and voluntary relocation, the connection between slavery and mass incarceration, and the criminalization of poverty and homelessness that often accompanies gentrification. And he will engage informally with alumnae throughout the voyage on shore excursions, over meals, and while relaxing aboard ship.

Adding to the appeal of this journey is the ship itself. Built in Finland this year, *Vega* is a state-of-the-art, new-generation expedition cruise ship that accommodates just 152 guests in superb surroundings that include spacious staterooms and suites, most with private balconies, elegant lounges and other amenities. *Vega* is also equipped with environmentally friendly technological and mechanical innovations.

It is not often that such a comprehensive voyage of the entire Atlantic coastline is made available. And October, the month that displays the brilliant colors of fall foliage, is perhaps the best time of the year to undertake such a journey. We invite you to join Lee Cuba and Wellesley alumnae to discover and rediscover America's Historic Cities of the Sea.

Warm regards,

*Kathryn Mackintosh*

Kathryn Mackintosh '03  
Executive Director  
Wellesley College Alumnae Association

Cover photo: Charleston, South Carolina

## GUEST LECTURER

### Professor Emeritus Lee Cuba



**Lee Cuba** is professor of sociology emeritus at Wellesley College, where he taught from 1981 to 2022. Professor Cuba's research is concerned with the acquisition and meaning of place identities, with a particular focus on how migrants come to feel at home in new places and

the role of geographic relocation in the transition to new statuses. He pursued these interests through fieldwork in Anchorage, Alaska, and Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and more recently has explored how college students acquire a sense of "at-homeness" on their campuses. From 2004 to 2014, Professor Cuba served as the principal director of the New England Consortium on Assessment and Student Learning (NECASL), a collaboration involving seven selective liberal arts colleges funded by the Teagle, Spencer and Andrew W. Mellon Foundations. This longitudinal study, involving more than 250 students, informed his co-authored book *Practice for Life: Making Decisions in College* (Harvard, 2016).

In addition to faculty appointments in the sociology department, Professor Cuba has held a variety of administrative positions at the College: chair of the sociology department, associate director of the Writing Program, associate dean of the College, and dean of the College. During his time in the dean's office, Cuba played a role in a number of efforts that shape the educational experiences of Wellesley students, including a revision of the curriculum, an expansion of the College's internship programs, and the creation of the Ruhlman and Tanner Conferences. Away from Wellesley, he has served as a consultant to the United Religions Initiative and several liberal arts colleges. In 2020, he was Visiting Wong Ngit Liang Professor and special advisor to the vice president for academic affairs at Yale - National University of Singapore College, one of the first liberal arts colleges in Asia.

A member of Phi Beta Kappa, Professor Cuba received a B.S. degree, summa cum laude, from Southern Methodist University in 1976 and a Ph.D. from Yale University in 1981. He served as the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor at Wellesley from 2004-2008. His research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health and the Spencer Foundation. Professor Cuba is the recipient of the Pinanski Prize for Excellence in Teaching, the Apgar Prize for Teaching Excellence, and the Alumnae Association Faculty Service Award.