From the Class President

Welcome to the second installment of our newsletter. Many thanks to all of our new Lifetime Members (please see the list in Tricia's report)! These memberships will make such a difference for our class for years to come.

In this issue, we are introducing a new element to our newsletters. Whenever space allows, we will include a brief profile of a member of our class as a way for us to transcend the class notes. This quarter, the profile is of Sophia (Shaw) Siskel.

Sophia has just been named President and CEO of the Chicago Botanic Garden. In her new role, she will direct the operation of the 385-acre garden with its 23 display gardens and $27.3 million budget. Sophia has been Vice President of Visitor Operations at the Botanic Garden since 2006. She oversaw all public programming, including fairs, exhibitions, and interpretations. As VP of Visitor Operations, she also dealt with parking and security – no small task! Prior to joining the Botanic Garden, Sophia was Vice President of Exhibitions and Education for The Field Museum and Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art. She also coordinated the 1995 Claude Monet retrospective at the Art Institute and she directed exhibitions at Leslie Hindman Auctioneers.

Sophia graduated from Wellesley with a double major in Art History and Economics. Sophia says that her time at Wellesley helped prepare her for her current position, as well as the challenge of balancing a family and a career she loves. “I remember fondly, sketching flowers in the Wellesley greenhouse for my studio art classes. The ability to combine my two interests – art and business – was possible at Wellesley and those Rhododendrons blooming at graduation … who couldn’t be inspired by those!” Sophia has a Masters in Art History from the University of Chicago and a Masters of Business Administration in Accounting and Finance from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

We extend our hearty congratulations to Sophia on this amazing accomplishment. We also encourage all of you to visit the Chicago Botanic Garden the next time you are visiting the area. You won’t be disappointed!

Please email me your submissions or nominations for members to be included in future profiles. Profiles need not be limited to professional accomplishments. I hope everyone has a spectacular summer!

Pia

Class Officers

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pia.thompson@alum.wellesley.edu

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Stephanie MacDonald Ceruolo
Planned Giving Chair
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Wendy Brauner
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Spring Greetings from your Vice President

As of this writing, I have received a 1991 request from the West Coast for alumnae contact information that the College was able to provide within a day or two. Hopefully, this will enable a fabulous mini-reunion – keep us posted! I have also heard murmurs about smaller events, such as the one organized around an initial group of first-year friends who kept in touch even after they spread to various dorms around the campus.

On a personal note, a bunch of us in the Boston area are getting together for a dinner to celebrate a good friend returning from Australia for a graduate school reunion. In fact, I’m thinking of hosting a baby shower for myself (even though this is baby number three) just as an excuse to get my Wellesley friends together. Seriously. Okay, and I also need a new stroller.

As your class officers, we have been having our own mini-reunions every month via conference call and I always hang up feeling energized and optimistic. These gals can get things accomplished – and they are funny too.

I realized recently that the largest mini-reunion I had anything to do with was my own wedding in 1993 (yes, that’s 13 ½ years ago, we are old!). The magazine never ran the picture for some reason (I thought the omission was wine glass related but now I see there are no offending beverages), so … I’m sharing it now!! Recognize anyone? To my friends who want to kill me – relax, we’re 24, you look great!

For those of you who think it is strange to submit a 13 year old picture that I had to chisel out of a dusty wedding album – I agree. We need more recent get-togethers and updates (and photos!) so email me for ideas and assistance at kaingraham@yahoo.com.

Have a great Spring!!!

All the best,
Katherine

Class of 1991 sets 15th Reunion Record!

Dear Classmates,

We set a College record for the number of Durant Scholars in our class at the 15th Reunion with our total of 7. This is impressive, considering that the base level for the Durant Society changed from $1,000 to $2,500 in 2005-2006. The Class of 1967 holds the 15th Reunion Total Gift record at $2,912,263 (!) and the Class of 1949 holds the 15th Reunion Participation record of 69%.

As the 2006 15th Reunion Class, we contributed $281,338.00 to the College, besting what we gave at our 10th and 5th reunions. This figure is a total of all the funds contributed since our 10th Reunion. We set our Class participation record the year of our 10th Reunion when 43% of ’91ers contributed to the College. This past Reunion year saw our 5-year high of 39.6% participation.

I’d like to thank Karyn Brooks and Jean Hynes, Annual Giving Representatives, and Special Gifts Chair Moni Puris-Schlotter for leading us to record-breaking status as we celebrated our 15th Reunion. If you would like to help me with College fundraising among our class for the next few years, please send an e-mail to Stephanie.Ceruolo@gmail.com. There is already one down – only four more years to go!

Thank you, Class of 1991, for your candor in the record-book, your warmth at Reunion, and your many, many facets as a community of smart, passionate women. Thank you, too, for your generosity to Wellesley.

Stephanie
Treasurer’s Report

Hello, all!

Well, we have had a lot of activity since our last newsletter! And you thought the Treasurer’s note would be boring.

We’ve added a bunch of classmates to the Lifetime Member List.

Keiko Aikawa-Rho
Tanya Andrysiack
Anne Crary Berger
Debby Schramm Everin
Suzanne Miller Ewing
Lisa Fuellemann
Jacqueline Hennessey
Eileen Reardon Hickey
Nicoë Maestas
Laura Gammill Maharens
Wendy Norris
Rossana Palomino
Allison Reedy
Jana Riess
Sidney Strickland

Thanks for becoming members! If you’re not a Lifetime Member, please consider becoming one – the money from the Lifetime Memberships is invested in shares of the College’s endowment and generates interest income for our class. The Lifetime Membership fee is $191.

If you’re unsure about whether or not you’re a member, please feel free to contact me at patricialennon@yahoo.com.

If you find yourself drinking out of an unfashionable or dated (gasp!) coffee mug – I have just the solution (what luck!) – Wellesley College travel coffee mugs! Glamorous, yet subtle; utilitarian, yet stylish; trendy, yet timeless. The mugs are $12. Buy one, buy many!

To make our financial lives a little easier, we have set up a PayPal account. If you are interested in buying a mug or becoming a Lifetime Member of the Class, go to www.paypal.com, set up (or access) your account, and send to Classof1991_wellesley@yahoo.com (there’s an underscore between classof1991 and Wellesley – Classof1991_Wellesley.) Since we are charged a fee for this service, please add $3 to your payment amount if you pay through PayPal. Of course, checks are still welcome. Please make any checks out to “Wellesley College Class of 1991” and mail them to me at the address below.

Patricia Lennon
8943 Royal Astor Way
Fairfax, VA 22031

Yours truly,
Tricia

Your College Donations At Work

Dear Members of the Class of 1991:

I am writing with renewed gratitude to you for your steadfast and generous support of Wellesley College’s financial aid program. Through the Class of 1991 Jonathan Daniels Scholarship Fund, you are helping our students not only in their search for, and acquisition of, knowledge, but in their development as critical thinkers and passionate citizens who will contribute in meaningful ways to their home communities and to our ever-changing global community. Thank you for your commitment to Wellesley students and to the future they will help to create.

As competition among colleges for the world’s best students intensifies and the challenges of financing higher education continue to grow, Wellesley remains committed to retaining the financial strength and flexibility necessary to bring the most talented women into our community. During the 2005-2006 academic year, 57% of the student body received some form of financial assistance, with the average aid package totaling $27,140. Total financial aid distributed was $35.9 million, and just over $31 million of that amount was distributed in grant aid. Our students’ need for additional financial aid support continues to increase each year, and we rely on the generosity of members of the Wellesley community like you to help make a Wellesley education a reality for the majority of our students. In a note of appreciation to her donor last spring, a student expressed herself in this way: "I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of your financial assistance. I cannot even find the words to express my gratitude." Another student wrote similarly: "I cannot begin to fully express my gratitude to you for supporting financial aid at Wellesley. Your gift has truly changed my life." Through your extraordinary commitment to financial aid at Wellesley, you are indeed changing lives in ways that will never be subject to measure. Thank you, on behalf of all of your beneficiaries now and in the generations to come.

Yours truly,
Kathryn A. Osmond
Director, Student Financial Services
Class Dues Form

Lifetime membership: $191
Annual dues: $50

Current last name: ________________________________
College last name: ________________________________
First name: ________________________________

Please make checks out to Wellesley College Class of 1991 and mail along with this form to:
Patricia Lennon
8943 Royal Astor Way
Fairfax, VA 22031

Another reminder to please take a moment to subscribe to the Class of ‘91 email group (aka listserv). This will allow us to email all subscribers about pertinent class business.
2. Where it says “Discussion Communities”, click on Classes
3. Then click on Class of 1991
4. Subscribe to the group.

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