Recognition of outstanding young women for exceptional scholarship and distinction in other fields is a primary objective of Wellesley College.

To extend that recognition beyond the College and to alert superior students to what a Wellesley education provides, the Alumnae Association offers and partially underwrites the Wellesley Book Award Program to clubs and individual donors as an annual project.
A Message from Jennifer Desjarlais, Dean of Admission

The Wellesley Book Award honors young women who have been top scholars in high school as well as talented performers in extracurricular areas. The Book Award Program recognizes young women who have excelled and gives them the opportunity to become better acquainted with Wellesley.

Young women should be chosen for their intelligence, determination, motivation, and achievement. They should be visible members of their schools and communities. Most importantly, however, they should be the academic leaders in their secondary schools. Wellesley’s history is rich with women who have demonstrated excellence in the classroom and in personal achievements. We hope to continue that legacy with the Book Award.

We also realize that some areas of the country are not as familiar with Wellesley as we would wish. The Book Award Program allows teachers, parents, and students to get to know Wellesley better. If those students decide to apply to Wellesley, we will be delighted, and our aim is to distinguish these young women who have been so outstanding in their academic and personal lives.

The Book Award program promotes Wellesley’s name in schools across the country and around the world. The program allows us to build bridges with many different schools and communities. The success of this program cannot be measured by applications alone. While over 11% of the recipients apply to Wellesley on average, many students choose to apply because of the name recognition the Book Award program brings to their high school. We view this program as invaluable visibility as well as deserved recognition for individual students.

As Dean of Admission, it has been exciting for me to see past Book Award recipients graduate from Wellesley and go on to become the Book Award Chair for their Wellesley Club. We are grateful to Wellesley alumnae interested in supporting the Book Award program. Thank you for helping to further Wellesley’s program in your community.

Book Awards

The Alumnae Association is pleased to offer The Norton Book of Women’s Lives, a collection of twenty century literature of women’s lives—autobiographies, journals, and memoirs—a celebration of life itself, as this year’s book selection. The Wellesley edition is a blue linen slip-cased publication with the Wellesley seal embossed in gold and a bookplate printed on a special tipped-in page. The cost is $22.00 per book for club and individual orders. Please direct questions to the Clubs Office, Wellesley College Alumnae Association, 106 Central Street, Wellesley, MA 02481-8203. Telephone: 781-283-2332 or e-mail: bookawards@alum.wellesley.edu.

You can also order your books online at www.wellesley.edu/Alum/Awards/Book

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