Welcome Carol, Thank You Ana

As the recently appointed president of the Wellesley Club UK, I wanted to say how much I look forward to meeting more of the alumnae here in the UK and getting more alumnae involved in our events and meetings. We already have an active schedule planned for the fall, but do welcome input on future club events and activities. Please email me with your suggestions!

On a personal note, I have been living and working here in London for the past 8 years with my husband and have two children with a new one on the way.

On a final note, I wanted to extend a thank you to Ana Ericksen, our previous club president for all her fine work and leadership over the past two years.

Best regards,
Carol Gardey (Blumenschein) ‘88

KEEP WELLESLEY UP-TO-DATE

The Club would like to remind all alumnae that we use the College’s alumna database as the basis for our mailing lists. As such, it is very important that you keep the College informed of your move to the UK or changes in your contact information. Please contact the College directly. You can update your information online when you visit the Alumnae Association website at www.wellesley.edu/Alum/. You can also contact the Alumnae Office directly by phone at 1-781-283-2331.

GET CONNECTED

Sign and be part of the online dialogue between Wellesley Club UK alumns. To join, simply send an email from your preferred email address to: wellesley_uk_club-subscribe@yahooogroups.co.uk.

An Afternoon with Prof. Ferguson

On June 12, 2005, Wellesley Club UK hosted Professors Peter Ferguson and Lillian Armstrong at the home of Club President Carol Gardy. Professor Ferguson gave a delightful and detailed lecture on the planning involved in Wellesley’s magnificent grounds. He showed slides of the current campus and also spoke about the plans the college has to further develop the grounds in line with the new construction that is currently underway. For those of us who have not been on campus for quite some time, it was a perfect opportunity to reminisce for a moment about our experiences while marveling at the college’s progress.
Want to get more involved with the Club?

* We are looking for 2-3 volunteers to help us with our annual evening hosted for Wellesley Juniors in the UK. This year the event will be held on Nov. 4, 2005 (Friday) from 19:30-22:30.

Interested? Send an email to silverman.nicole@gmail.com

* We have a couple of open positions on the Club’s Board:
  - Club Secretary
  - Events Coordinator

Interested? Send an email to Carol at cgardey1@yahoo.com

SEVEN COLLEGES UPCOMING EVENTS

Seven Colleges Book Group
This is the start of our 12th year! Below you will find the ‘first semester’ reading list and schedule of the 7s Book Club. The books chosen continue to be wide ranging and will provide great scope for our discussions. Sue Rees continues to lead the group. There is a fee of £4 for participation in each meeting. Please ring the host for directions. Join us!

28 September 12 noon - 2pm (bring your lunch)
The Master - Colm Toibin
Margaret Jarvie’s home
tel: 020 8340 6741

26 October 12 noon - 2pm (bring your lunch)
Embers - Sandor Marai
Laura Naughton’s home
tel: 020 7823 9496

23 November 12 noon - 2pm (bring your lunch)
The World that was Ours - Hilda Bernstein
Persephone Books tel: 020 7242 9292
Anne Parson’s home
tel: 020 7937 8272

14 December 12 noon - 2pm (bring your lunch)
So Long, See You Tomorrow - William Maxwell
Lisa Beslity’s home
tel: 020 7584 7138

25 January 12 noon - 2pm (bring your lunch)
Saturday - Ian McEwan
Julia Kellerman’s home
tel: 020 8458 6113

For up to date listings of other US university and college alumni events, check out http://www.fornogoodreason.com

ADMISSIONS UPDATE

Wellesley Book Award
The Wellesley Book Award was given to three high school seniors: Kate Ross, Cheltenham Ladies College, entering Upper Sixth Form (senior); Lauren Connell, ACS Cobham International School; and Alyson Cockerill, TASIS England, senior.

7CC BOOK PURCHASE AWARD

Two students heading to Wellesley for their first year have won 7 College Conference book purchase awards. These prizes take the form of Amazon gift certificates. Wenjin Huang, who is entering Wellesley from Atlantic College in Wales, won $500, and Kate Thompson, a student from The American School in London, won $300. Two other awards were made to students going to Smith and Mount Holyoke.
European Adventure

by Alexandra Lee

Over four months ago I travelled alone to Ghent, Belgium thanks to a generous grant from the Wellesley College Club UK. I should begin by telling you that I spent my junior year abroad at the London School of Economics studying Government and International History. The decision to do so was, without trying to sound too fantastic, the second best choice I have made for myself, the first being choosing Wellesley.

In my proposal to the Wellesley College Club I spoke of my passion to expand a project I was working on at the time, which has since been completed and dismantled. The project was a collage loosely resembling a wall-size calendar that documented how I spent my time: visiting museums, attending film festivals, photographing my walks around London, days and nights spent out at myriad cultural spaces (as well as some not so cultural spaces) throughout Europe, etc. It was effectively a tangible representation of my growth as a human being through the many outlets provided by Europe.

My trip to Ghent was one small but important aspect of the project. In travelling to Belgium I planned to visit S.M.A.K., the modern art museum housed in a renovated casino on the outskirts of town near the train station, and if I could manage, meet some interesting people. Upon my return to London, I would take whatever I had collected, photographed, written, and drawn, and expand the wall. I did not have unrealistic dreams of “finding myself” in the waterways that run through Ghent, or of learning something new about myself - I wanted to travel, experience something new, and visit a museum which sounded incredible. I realize that these are not awe-inspiring aspirations but they are most certainly the truth.

Ghent was spectacular. I stayed in the only hostel in town staffed by multilingual undergraduates (as Ghent is a college city). I kept mostly to myself, exchanging short conversations with only a few people in shops and squares throughout the city. My days were spent wandering along the extensive canal system (much like Venice but on a much smaller scale), and slipping in and out of stores and galleries. I used my high-school level French to navigate my way through menus at restaurants but was able to speak English when necessary as all students in Belgium study English from an early age.

I spent one lazy afternoon talking with a shop attendant. She was interested in America and I was interested in Ghent. I told her as much as I could about New York and Los Angeles culture - she was a huge American hip-hop fan and when I mentioned that I listened to a lot of neo-soul music, she switched the store playlist on an iPod to play Angie Stone, Musiq, and Dwele - all American artists she loved. American culture is everywhere. She was interested that I had won a grant to visit Ghent; her exact words were “Why would you want to come here?” I simply responded, “It sounded interesting and I had the opportunity.” We continued to share stories for a few hours, nothing earth shattering or revolutionary, more or less I realized that we were living the same life in different environments.

My second day was devoted to S.M.A.K. The highlight of my tripped as planned was to see the permanent collection, unfortunately it was closed for renovation and many pieces had actually been loaned to the Tate Modern for one of their special exhibitions. Instead I was allowed access to the special exhibitions at the museum which all turned out to be incredible. One that particularly struck a chord with me was the work of artist Orla Barry who had a large portion of her current works on display at S.M.A.K. It ranged from engaging video, beautiful photography which took on an almost Technicolor appearance because of how saturated and rich the colors were, to myriad art pieces which she created daily over the course of years (similar to my own work back in London). Thanks to the grant I was able to purchase the exhibition catalogue so that I will always have access to the art.

In working towards sharing my appreciation and also experience in Ghent, I spent much of my trip thinking how I could convey the level of pleasure that I derived from my few days there. I came to the conclusion that I would share with you what I did with my time in the same manner that I would share it will my family - not sharing everything, but sharing the things that struck me. There is so much more that I could tell you all about my time in Ghent - the amazing waffles, the bicycle culture, the lack of American tourists, the completely unpredictable weather, but what I really walked away with was an impression of America’s impact on the world thanks to a conversation with my contemporary at a store and a love of Orla Barry’s work.

Thank you so much for awarding me the travel grant this past year, I am really so appreciative and thankful to the Club. Please do get in contact if you would like to hear more about my trip or see more pictures of both the trip and my wall project. (alexandra.lee@gmail.com)

View images from Alexandra’s European Adventure at http://www.flickr.com/photos/alexandralee/sets/211676/
The Seven College Conference of London
cordially invites you to
The Autumn Drinks Party

Wednesday, 16th November 2005
from 6.30 to 8.30 PM

Ben Elwes Fine Art, 45 Maddox Street, London W1

Join us for refreshments and a private view of this exciting new gallery, opened earlier this year by Ben Elwes, the respected dealer and fine art agent in Old Master and British Paintings, and his wife Rachel, a Mount Holyoke graduate and museum professional and lecturer. The couple will be on hand to show us round the gallery and describe the background to some of the pictures on display.

Ben has worked in the international fine art market for over 17 years, with Christie’s in London, the Shepherd Gallery in New York, and Elwes and Hanham in London. His clients include some of the world’s major museums, and he has sold works to Princeton, Cornell and the University of Michigan. He and Rachel exhibited at The International Fine Art Fair in New York in May. Those of you who attended our 2001 event at The Gilbert Collection may remember that Rachel Elwes, who had been the curator of the Collection, made the opening remarks on that special occasion.

The charge of £15 for this evening will cover refreshments and a contribution to the Seven College Conference annual book purchase award, which this year presented $1800 to four students from schools in the UK headed for three of our colleges. Please reserve your place by sending in the form below with your cheque, made out to The Seven College Conference of London. Guests are welcome; please give your email address if you would like a confirmation as tickets will not be sent. Please consider making a donation if you cannot attend.

Send by 14th November to: Kathy Coombs, 21 Dewhurst Road, London W14 OET. Tel. 0207 603 2303.
kc@kcoombs.demon.co.uk

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Name_____________________________________   Guests’ names___________________________________
College____________________________________   Amount enclosed £______________________________
Phone number______________________________    Email address for confirmation_____________________

Barnard              Bryn Mawr            Harvard           Mount Holyoke         Smith           Vassar         Wellesley
The Wellesley Club UK cordially invites you to our

THANKSGIVING DRINKS PARTY

11 November 2005
6:30-8:30 pm
At the home of Barbara and Peter Ilias
5 Rutland House, Marloes Road, London W8 5LE
(Nearest tube Kensington High Street)

Join us for a Thanksgiving get together. We look forward to seeing many of you, particularly the junior year abroad students.
Please RSVP by 4th November 2005 to:
farida.el-gammal@jpmorgan.com or phone: 0207 325 7383.
(Please include your name and contact details in your email or message)

The event is free of charge, however, a donation of £5 on the evening would be much appreciated to cover our expenses. Juniors excluded!

Directions: Take the Circle Line to High Street Kensington. Turn left on the High Street and left on Wright’s Lane. Follow Wright’s Lane to the end, turn right at the Kensington Close Hotel and immediately left again, arriving at Marloes Road. On the left will be five Edwardian Blocks, in the middle of which will be Rutland House. Press number 5 and walk up one flight of stairs.