I am pleased to present this summary of Wellesley College’s involvement with the town of Wellesley and surrounding communities. For more than 130 years, we have been committed to active participation and collaboration with our neighbors.

The College places a high priority on being a good neighbor — through direct partnership with community organizations; financial relationships with local businesses; improvements to the environment and our beautiful campus, which we open to the public; and through the hundreds of intellectual and cultural events we host each year, the great majority of which are free and open to the public.

Our students, faculty, and employees are active contributors to Wellesley and other neighboring communities — as residents, homeowners, patrons of local businesses, members of community organizations, and volunteers in schools, service organizations, and houses of worship.

In my 12 years as president, I have had the pleasure of meeting hundreds of the College’s neighbors in concerts and lecture halls, in classrooms and museum galleries, on the path around Lake Waban, and enjoying the campus with family and friends.

We look forward to many more years of partnership and mutual support.

Diana Chapman Walsh
President

**FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Each year, Wellesley College makes direct and indirect contributions to the town of Wellesley, ranging from payment of property taxes to purchases at local businesses made by students and employees.

Since 1928, when the town of Wellesley and the College entered into an agreement related to the tax status of property owned by the College, Wellesley has paid property taxes on a portion of its holdings.

In 2004, Wellesley College paid $538,000 in property taxes, making it the town’s fourth largest taxpayer. The College also paid more than $13,000 in fees for various permits, inspections, and licenses from the town.

The College works in close partnership with many municipal departments, most notably on the issue of public safety. In the past decade, the College has contributed $267,500 to the Wellesley Fire Department toward the purchase of new vehicles, a new radio system, and the renovation of the Weston Road fire station.

Wellesley College spends approximately $10 million annually on products and services from a wide variety of Wellesley businesses.

Two hundred fifty-four Wellesley College employees, whose salaries total $17.2 million, live in Wellesley. The College’s other 933 full- and part-time employees and nearly 2,300 students contribute to the town’s revenues by patronizing local businesses.
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Wellesley College and Babson College provide support for the Wellesley Community Children's Center (WCCC), a private non-profit organization located on land provided rent-free by the College. The WCCC serves 92 children, 56 of whom are Wellesley residents. Thirty-three children have a parent employed by Wellesley College.

The Wellesley College Child Study Center, a preschool that also serves as a laboratory for students in the College's Psychology Department, provides daycare and educational opportunities for 28 children from the town of Wellesley.

The College makes available more than 50 community garden plots on Weston Road. The gardens, commonly known as the “Victory Gardens” from their origins during World War II, are available for lease for a nominal fee.

Wellesley College makes available and maintains the building that is the ABC House, a residential home for 10 young women from urban areas throughout the Northeast who, through a partnership with the Town of Wellesley, attend Wellesley High School.

Wellesley College is one of the founding partners and ongoing sponsors of World of Wellesley, a local community organization dedicated to raising awareness of issues of diversity and multiculturalism.

Since 1990 the College has participated in the Wellesley Bee, the Wellesley Education Foundation's annual fundraiser. In addition to sending a team of faculty, staff, and students to participate in the spelling bee, the College also contributes more than $4,000 annually to the foundation.

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Wellesley College hosts more than 250 cultural and educational events each year, the vast majority of which are free and open to the public. Recent public lectures have included poet Edward Hirsch, journalist Bill Moyers, and feminist author Gloria Steinem.

Wellesley's Music Department sponsors 60-70 concerts and performances each year, including the Wellesley College Choir's very popular Christmas Vespers concert in Houghton Memorial Chapel.

The Davis Museum & Cultural Center, with an array of special exhibits, an extensive permanent collection, and numerous gallery talks and special lectures, is free and open to the public throughout the year. Adjacent to the Davis Museum, the Collins Café serves light lunches and snacks to those visiting the museum or the campus.

Theater performances abound at Wellesley, which has two stage venues in Alumnae Hall: the Barstow Stage and the more intimate Ruth Nagel Jones Theatre. Productions are performed throughout the year by student organizations, the Theatre Department, the Wellesley College Choir's very popular Christmas Vespers concert in Houghton Memorial Chapel.

and the award-winning Wellesley Summer Theatre, a professional theatre company. All performances are open to the public.

Town residents are welcome to use the Margaret Clapp Library, a repository of public records with a collection of more than 625,000 books and periodicals. While the library is open to residents for use during the day, borrowing privileges are reserved for those auditing courses at the College.
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Each year, Wellesley College provides the equivalent of 10 full-tuition scholarships to Wellesley residents who are admitted to the College and have a demonstrated financial need. Applications for the scholarships, which vary in size depending on the student’s financial need, are available at the offices of the Board of Selectmen.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND RECREATIONAL ASSETS

The Wellesley College campus is used as a recreational resource by thousands of area residents and visitors each year. Every day, and particularly on weekends, hundreds of individuals walk, run, and bike throughout the campus, including along the path around Lake Waban.

Several years ago, the College completed an environmental clean-up, at a cost of $30 million, of more than 30 acres of land that had been contaminated by its previous owner, Henry Wood’s Sons Company, and which had been inaccessible for decades. Wellesley College also cleaned up a portion of the site that is owned by the Town of Wellesley, resulting in a savings of more than $200,000 to the town.

In addition to removing an environmental hazard, the College also created wetlands, restored woodlands, and constructed several athletic fields. The area, which now includes a boardwalk over several acres of reconstructed wetlands, is a haven for individuals seeking to enjoy the beauty of the natural setting.

Wellesley’s Margaret C. Ferguson Greenhouses, combined with the 22 acres of the Hunnewell Arboretum and Alexandra Botanic Gardens, are a horticultural resource visited by thousands each year. With their diverse and extensive collection of plants, the 15 greenhouses are open to the public, without charge, nearly every day of the year.

The botanical gardens and arboretum contain more than 500 species of woody plants, trees, and shrubs. In addition to being used as natural laboratories for the College’s academic program, they are enjoyed by thousands of visitors annually.

The approximately 470 Wellesley residents who are members of the Nehoiden Golf Club at Wellesley College enjoy playing on the nation’s oldest nine-hole golf course.
Wellesley College’s commitment to service and civic engagement is tied to the core mission of the institution. The College’s motto, Non Ministrari sed Ministrare (Not to be Served, but to Serve), is well known — and embodied — by students, faculty, and staff alike.

At the start of the fall semester each year, approximately 350 students, faculty, staff, and area alumnae fan out across Greater Boston to spend the day working for more than a dozen community service organizations. Among the many services provided during the annual “A Day to Make A Difference” are sorting donations at a local food bank, home repair at a nearby domestic violence shelter, and trash pickup along area roads and parks.

Established in 1997, Wellesley Words on Wheels (WWOW) helps kindergartners in the Framingham Public Schools whose early literacy skills are below grade level. The program helps to “level the playing field,” so the children are ready to learn to read in the first grade. More than 70 student volunteers visit their kindergarten “reading buddies” each week for one-on-one reading sessions and other activities to develop literacy skills. WWOW meets virtually all of Framingham’s teacher requests for tutors, with volunteers working in seven of the nine elementary schools in the district.

While several student organizations, such as the Wellesley chapter of Boston Area Students Involved in the Community (BASIC), are devoted to community service, other student groups and residence halls include volunteer service in their regular activities. Below is a small sampling of the many service projects undertaken by Wellesley College students during the past year:

- Members of the Wellesley College Pre-Dental Society visited a kindergarten classroom at the Hemenway School in Framingham to perform skits and read a book about oral hygiene.
- First-year students held a children’s fair and carnival on campus in May, dubbed “A Day of Sunshine,” to raise $5,000 for orphanage programs in India, China, Guatemala, Ethiopia, and the Ukraine.
- Members of the student organization Ethos served as individual mentors and tutors to more than two dozen Wellesley High School students who are part of the METCO program. Mentors met monthly with students and also provided support and encouragement through regular telephone and e-mail contact.
- The Asian Student Union worked with the local organization, Metrowest Families with Children from China, to create a “little sister, big sister” program, mei mei jie jie in Chinese, pairing 15 Wellesley students with 15 Chinese adoptees between the ages of 3 and 10 years.

Some of the other area organizations served by Wellesley students during the past year include Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary, Framingham High School, Newton-Wellesley Hospital, and the Walker Home and School for Children.

In addition to these group activities, hundreds of students, faculty, and employees volunteer time on an individual basis in their communities.

Through the College’s annual charitable giving campaign, Wellesley faculty and employees make regular donations to four community service organizations: Community Works, Oxfam America, Rosie’s Place, and the United Way. In 2004, these contributions totaled more than $80,000.