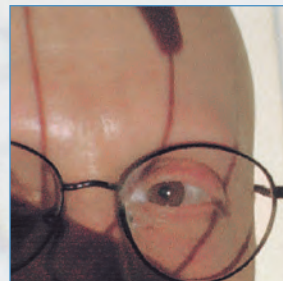
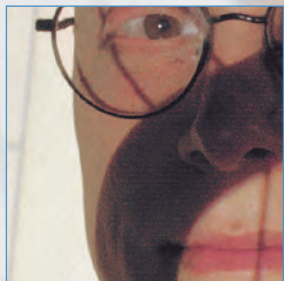
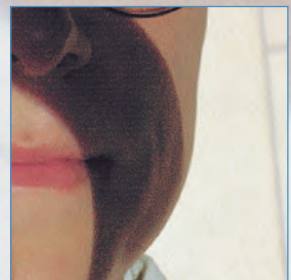
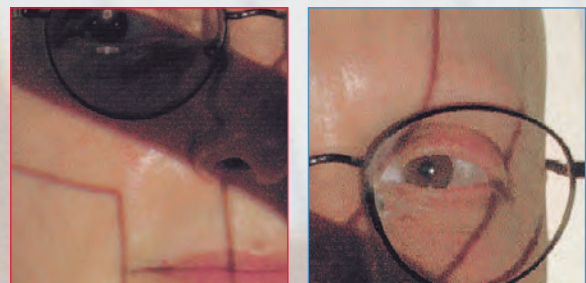




- Web site becomes international resource
- Alumni-elected trustees
- Portraits of class scholars
- A mathematician's pastime
- Translating Günter Grass
- On the trail of Big Tobacco



Scott Plous, professor of psychology and creator of Social Psychology Network (www.socialpsychology.org).

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

HOT SITE, COOL SCIENCE

An idea blossoms to span the world of social psychology, with the help of Scott Plous, professor of psychology, and his Web initiative.

It's become a familiar story: An earnest individual sees a way to create a new Web site that fills a perceived void. Countless hours of work lead to a launch, then the site steadily attracts a large and devoted following. One day a big-name backer appears, generous check in hand.

The birth of the latest dot-com millionaire? Dot-org, actually; and the outside support was \$582,000. The venture capitalist is very recognizable: the U.S.

government. And the site is not geared toward shopping or downloadable music—it's an educational center devoted to social psychology.

"I never expected this kind of response," says Scott Plous, professor of psychology and creator of Social Psychology Network (www.socialpsychology.org). "My goal was to create a resource for students here at Wesleyan, something that could grow in response to their needs. Next thing I knew, people all over the country were visiting the site. The traffic got pretty heavy."

Heavy is an understatement. At times, the Web site garnered more than 25 percent of Wesleyan's Web traffic.

"During registration we actually had asked Scott to scale back some of the site's components so the traffic wouldn't be clogging the University's servers," says Ganesan Ravishanker, Wesleyan's director of technology support services. "If we didn't, the traffic to his site alone would have significantly slowed down our online registration process."

The popularity of Plous's site is a tes-

tament to its enthusiastically acknowledged value among academics, students, and psychology professionals. To date, the site includes reference resources, interactive discussion forums—including an online mentorship program—and educational tools for instructors and students at a variety of levels, thousands of relevant research and educational links, and professional profiles of nearly 800 psychology faculty in 21 countries.

What makes all of this even more interesting is that before Plous decided to create the Web site, he had no professional expertise in computers or the Net.

That was in 1995. Plous's father, a fan of new technology and computers, wondered whether Scott had any interest in helping him build a home page. "At that time home pages were fairly rare, and my father thought it would be fun to have one," Plous says. "I had no idea how to create a Web page, but I decided to give it a try."

He went to a computer store and bought HTML Assistant Pro Lite, a sin-

gle disk software program for creating Web pages. It cost \$27. In retrospect, it may be the best \$27 he ever spent.

"It took less than an afternoon to build my father's home page. When we were done, I was amazed at how easy it was. I started thinking about ways to use the Web for teaching."

His first Web site contained little more than the syllabus for his Social Psychology course. This one posting immediately saved reams of paper since the class routinely draws more than 250 students. Before long he saw how to create a portal to a wealth of resources and interactive learning. Now his network hosts Web sites for two of social psychology's largest professional organizations: the Society for Personality and Social Psychology and the Society of Experimental Social Psychology.

A challenge arose when Plous wanted to establish a unique domain name.

"It was important for Social Psychology Network to have a psychology-related domain name that was not an extension of Wesleyan's Web address,"

BILL BURKHART

SUMMER '01

“The Web offers a great way to share social psychology with others, precisely because the Web is a social medium,” says Scott Plous, creator of Social Psychology Network.



says Plous. “I also wanted to ensure the integrity of the site as a piece of intellectual property, so that I would have the same ownership rights as an author who publishes a book.”

This presented a potentially sticky policy issue. “This was in 1997, and no firm standards had been set by Wesleyan regarding domain names,” says Ravishanker. “Compounding the issue, we were hosting Scott’s site on our server.”

Plous’s request forced ITS and the Wesleyan administration to look at the issues of hosting and domain names. Ultimately a policy was developed, and Plous was able to register socialpsychology.org. The administration also affirmed Plous’s ownership of the site. But even as these issues were resolved, everyone had to face another challenge: the site’s traffic was increasing to the

point where it was becoming a burden to the University’s own system.

“Social Psychology Network was getting thousands of page views each day, and I had begun thinking that I should move the site to its own Web server, but that would cost money,” Plous says. “Fortunately, it was at this point that the National Science Foundation expressed interest in funding the project.”

Breckler, the program director for social psychology at the NSF, had become a fan of the site. He was amazed at the range of resources it offered and the site’s dynamic, ongoing expansion.

“Part of my job is keeping up with some of the outstanding people in our field,” Breckler says. “Because Scott’s site has links to virtually all of them, I was using his site as sort of a portal to all these other researchers. It was just an outstanding resource, and I wanted to make sure it didn’t disappear like so many other Web sites.”

The NSF funding enabled him to acquire a dedicated Web server and to hire Vasilios Hoffman ’02, a physics and computer science double major, as the system administrator.

As for the future of Social Psychology Network, Plous hopes to create online communities with common research interests in the coming year. Recent additions include the interactive, educational Joe Chemo site (joechemo.org), which uses social psychological principles to help children and their parents learn about the dangers of smoking, and the Jigsaw Classroom (jigsaw.org), which describes a cooperative learning technique intended to reduce racial prejudice and school violence.

“The Web offers a great way to share social psychology with others, precisely because the Web is a social medium,” Plous says. “Social Psychology Network will continue growing as long as people find it useful.” —*David Pesci*

“SPACEY” STUDENTS Study At NASA

Experiencing zero-gravity at NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston on March 16, physics major Ian Garrick-Bethell ’02 led a five-person team from Wesleyan (Jeff Berko ’03, Lex Kravitz ’01, Laura Raducha-Grace ’03, and Catharine Wu ’03) in an experiment they devised to test the fire extinguishers that NASA stocked in the International Space Station.

“Each fire extinguisher cost several million dollars—yet they’d never tested them to see if they worked in space,” explains Garrick-Bethell. “We went in to test the recoil force and found that if you shot the fire extinguisher when you weren’t holding on to a bar to stabilize you, the stream was hard to control. We experimented with different anchoring holds—one hand, two hands, or feet—and made a video for the engineers to study.

“We were the youngest team there, yet everyone treated us so professionally. I’m now thinking about a career in aerospace medicine—or maybe joining NASA.”



Team leader Ian Garrick-Bethell ’02 enjoys weightlessness.

ANNUAL ALUMNI VOTE Trustees Elected

Three alumni-elected trustees will join the Board of Trustees July 1: Thomas Broker ’66, Megan Norris ’83, and Isaac Shongwe ’87.

Broker is professor of biochemistry and co-leader of the Virology Program in the Cancer and AIDS Research Centers at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. He and his wife, Louise Chow, have numerous scientific achievements to their credit, including a sensitive method for detecting human papillomaviruses. Broker is the son of Thomas Broker ’36, brother of Steve ’69, and brother-in-law of Linda, MAT ’71.

Norris is a senior principal in the Detroit office of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, where she practices in the area of employment law and trains employers and other lawyers in the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In 2002 she will become president of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association. She has served Wesleyan as an admission interviewer, fundraiser, and as a former chair of the nominating committee for alumni-elected trustees. She is the recipient of a Wesleyan University Service Award.

Shongwe is managing director and founding partner of Letsema Holdings, a consulting and investment group in South Africa founded to bridge the gap between black and white businesses in the economy of the “new” South Africa. He is currently advising the government on how to attract investments and is the chairman of Rural Housing Finance, a non-governmental organization that finances low-cost housing in rural areas of South Africa. He also chairs the Maths Centre for Primary Teachers, which focuses on upgrading teacher skills. Shongwe is a Rhodes Scholar and is married to Molebatsi Poole ’94.

JOHN GRUMM, BARRY KIEFER Deaths of Two Former Faculty Members

Two former faculty members died in early March: John G. Grumm, professor of government emeritus, at age 78, and Barry Kiefer, former professor of biology, at age 67.

Grumm was a member of the Wesleyan faculty from 1969 until his retirement in 1991 (subsequently residing in Niantic, Conn.). Before coming to Wesleyan, he taught at the University of California, Berkeley, where he received his Ph.D. in political science, and at the University of Kansas.

He gained early prominence among political scientists with the publication of his 1958 “Theories of Electoral Systems.” This widely cited article challenged conventional views about the impact of electoral practices on political

parties, political instability and the decline of public confidence in popular rule in Western Europe before World War II.

His subsequent work focused principally on state legislatures and how these could be made more responsive to ordinary citizens. Playing an active role in the state legislative reform movement of the 1960s and 1970s, he served as Research Director of the Citizens Conference on State Legislatures (CCSL) and sat on the American Political Science Association’s Committee on State Legislatures.

In 1971, he devised “Grumm’s Index of Legislative Professionalism,” an index still used by scholars to account for many of the differences in what state governments do and how they go about doing it.

Memorial contributions in his name may be sent to: Doctors Without Borders, USA, Inc., P.O. Box 2247, New York, NY 10116-2247.

Kiefer, who came to Wesleyan in 1965, was instrumental in bolstering the science program through his efforts to attract research scientists, to attain provisions for research funds and lab space, and to recruit graduate students. He worked to increase the number of science classes undergraduates were required to take and played a key role in creating the Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Department.

He served as the Director of Science Development for seven years and as Dean of Sciences during his last two years at Wesleyan. He resigned, moving to Nevada, in 1988.

Particularly interested in the developmental biology of *Drosophila*, Kiefer received several grants from the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Public Health Service. In his spare time, he wrote science fiction.

Before coming to Wesleyan, Kiefer spent two years as a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and two years in the army. He received his B.S. from the University of Denver and his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. He is survived by his wife, Ellen Baker, and four children.

WESONLINE

New Admission E-Mail Solicitation Scores Well With Students

Prospective students are embracing a new e-mail inquiry tool developed by the Admission Office. Sent to more than 18,000 high school sophomores and juniors, the personalized e-mail included a hot link to Web pages enabling them to correct their data, express academic and other interests, and receive a personalized page of links based on their interests. In less than two months this spring, this first-time solicitation produced more than 1,700 responses (9.4 percent)—impressive given that a 3 percent response is considered a success in direct mail, but even more impressive given that the e-mail solicitation efforts of other universities, with similar volume, so far have drawn fewer than 500 responses.



where she lived with a host family. She then reapplied to Wesleyan through early decision—successfully. The *Times* also mentioned the high percentage of students from Wesleyan who study abroad in “La Dolce Semester,” in the Education Life special section.

THREE STUDENTS CLAIM WATSON FELLOWSHIPS

Wesleyan students claimed three of the 60 Watson fellowships given this year—receiving \$22,000 each for travel and study abroad. The winners, all seniors, and their topics are: Lindsey Fransen—Conservation with a Human Face: Reconciling Agriculture with Nature; Ruth Goldstein—Implementing the Cairo Programme of Action for Women’s Reproductive Rights; Adam Goss—Scornful Mother: The Active Volcano as Cultural Nurturer and Destroyer.

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT PROFILED IN CAREERS AND COLLEGES MAGAZINE
The March/April issue of *Colleges and Careers* magazine, a national publication for high school students, profiled Gina Zorzi ’04 with extensive photography to illustrate her first year at Wesleyan. Her comments about dorm life, academics, and extracurricular activities included the observation that maintaining self-discipline in setting a study schedule was one of the most difficult challenges.

BASINGER DISCUSSES ELIZABETH TAYLOR FOR BBC AND PBS
Professor of Film Studies Jeanine Basinger was featured prominently on the PBS airing of “England’s Other Elizabeth,” a BBC-produced documentary on Elizabeth Taylor in which Taylor discusses her life and work. This episode was a part of the PBS *Great Performances* series and included only four other commentators beyond Taylor herself.

HOW TO GET INTO WESLEYAN—AFTER BEING REJECTED
The *Sunday New York Times Magazine* (4/08) focused on Wesleyan in a one-page article titled “How to Get Into College After Being Rejected.” The article, which discussed the ever-increasing difficulty of getting into top-tier schools, highlighted Catesby Holmes, who was rejected last year at Ivies and Wesleyan despite an 800 verbal SAT, but then studied Spanish in Mexico,

WESONLINE

BONIN DISCUSSES BANKING AND WORLD TRADE WITH CHINESE

Professor of Economics John Bonin met with Chinese economists during a recent trip to Beijing and presented a paper at Peking University on “Foreign Entry into Chinese Banking: Does WTO Membership Threaten Domestic Banks?” He also participated in a conference on China and the WTO in Hong Kong.

POLOUS LAUNCHES NEW ANTI-SMOKING WEB SITE

“Joe Chemo: a camel who wishes he’d never smoked,” is the title of a new educational, interactive anti-smoking Web site aimed primarily at school-aged children. Professor of Psychology Scott Plous created the character a few years ago when his father nearly died from smoking related disease. Joe Chemo has been profiled on network television and in national newspapers. You can find him on the Web at www.joechemo.org.

SEAN MCCANN AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP

Associate Professor of English Sean McCann has been awarded a Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship for Recently Tenured Scholars. Sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies, with support from the Andrew W. Mellon and Rockefeller foundations, the fellowship supports ambitious and long-term work by scholars expected “to be among the future leaders in their fields.” McCann will work on his second book, *The Anti-Liberal Imagination: 20th-Century American Literature and the Problem of Government*.

WEITZER TAKES ON NEW ROLE WITH CONTINUING STUDIES

While continuing his role as associate provost, Billy Weitzer has assumed the post of dean of continuing studies, a new role intended to strengthen the Graduate Liberal Studies program and other similar programs. In making the announcement, Vice President for Academic Affairs Judith Brown noted that Weitzer will review opportunities such as different calendar options, a mix of residential-based and distance learning, and various post-B.A. credit and not-for-credit offerings.

CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPORTS INDEPENDENT STATUS OF WESLEYAN PRESS

The March 2 *Chronicle of Higher Education* took note of the departure of Wesleyan University Press from the University Press of New England consortium after 10 years of membership. Director Tom Radko told the *Chronicle* he believes the identity of the Press and the University will be clearer in the marketplace and that authors will be aided by having acquisitions and marketing handled by one organization.

RUTLAND ANALYZES RUSSIA'S INTERVENTION IN KOSOVO

Professor of Government Peter Rutland recently presented a paper on “Russia, the Balkans and the West,” at a conference on the “Future of the U.S. Presence in the Balkans,” sponsored by the U.S. Army War College. The paper, co-authored with a Columbia University professor, analyzed Russia’s interventions in the Kosovo crisis and its role in ongoing efforts to bring peace to the region. He also spoke at Hebrew University in Jerusalem at a conference marking the 10th anniversary of the fall of communism in Europe.

HOLMES RECEIVES NSF CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Assistant Professor of MB&B Scott Holmes has received a \$610,000, five-year Early Career Development Award from NSF to support both research and teaching. He is particularly interested in gene silencing, a phenomenon that occurs naturally during development to establish different patterns of gene expression in distinct types of cells. Inappropriate gene silencing can lead to abnormal cell development, including cancers.

STUDENT IS TOP KENDO COMPETITOR

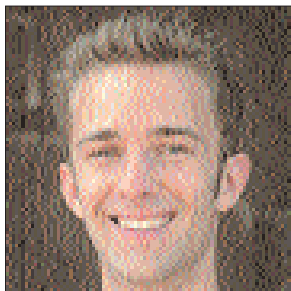
Miyuki Koga '01 took first place this spring in the individual competition of a national collegiate Kendo competition—Japanese stick fighting (or fencing). Koga reported that 16 colleges and universities sent teams to Harvard for the event. Wesleyan’s team, just one semester old, took 8th place.



Introducing 2000–’01 Class Scholars



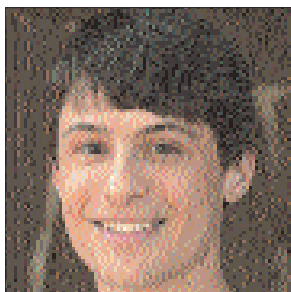
Stephanie Weber '01



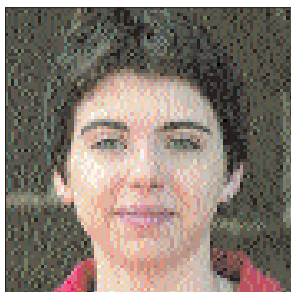
Brandon Dotson '01



Amy Margalit '01



Matthew Nettleton '03



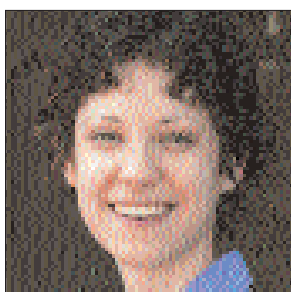
Helen Findley '03



Tajan Braithwaite '04



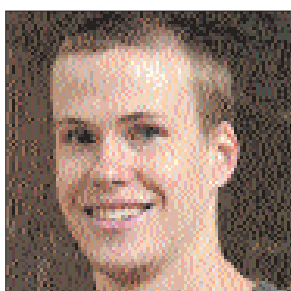
Meghan Kelly '03



Chelsie Anttila '01



Naa-Adoley Pappoe '03



Iain Becker '01



Ramya Garba '03



Kara Bucy '04

Attention, members of the classes of: '31, '36, '37, '38, '41, '49, '50, '64, '65, '74, '75, '89, and '90! Your Class Scholarships helped support financial aid for these (and other) Wesleyan undergrads. Their academic pursuits and extracurricular activities run the gamut of University offerings; their academic achievement is consistently high. Check the Class Notes Web site for more information: <http://magazine.wesleyan.edu>.

BILL BURKHART

SPORTS / FOOTBALL

Tackle That Ambassador!

A Wesleyan football star finds a season of play after graduation in a seemingly unlikely place.

The spring air was crisp and the crowd was beginning to gather at the field, and Tom Themistocles '99, pro football player and Number Seven for the Copenhagen Towers, was psyched. Football? Spring? Copenhagen? What’s wrong with this picture? Not a thing, says the former Cardinal running back. Themistocles was a job-hunting senior when he first heard of the European Federation of American Football (EFAF), which offered American college gridiron stand-outs the chance to continue their sport professionally—in Europe. It was, for him, the perfect opportunity to “keep the football dream alive,” he recalls. It was the dream he’d had since he began playing football at age nine.

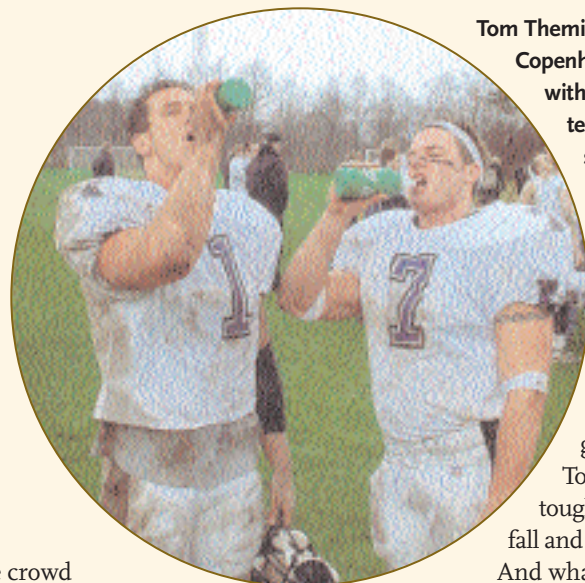
His football career had been a factor in his decision to enter Wesleyan. As a senior in high school, Themistocles had debated how to continue both his academic and athletic career. Although he had applied to several Division III colleges (including Wesleyan, though he’d never seen the campus), by spring he had decided on another path: a year as a prep-school post-grad followed by applications to Division I schools. All this changed, however, when an acceptance letter arrived from Middletown.

“I can still see my high school guidance counselor holding his hand to his forehead and shaking his head in disbelief, saying, ‘Wesleyan! You can’t turn down Wesleyan without going to see it!’” After getting that response to his news, Themistocles reconsidered: Academics had always been important to him and his family, so he took the trip to Middletown, and knew he’d found the right place. “I loved the people,” he says. “They were so interesting. I wanted to be around them, and I fit right in.”

Four years later, with an outstanding athletic record (single-season rushing yardage leader and second all-time leading rusher) and his bachelor’s degree, Themistocles again made a decision for both his sport and his education. Through Andrew Whitely, the assistant lacrosse coach at Wesleyan, he heard about the European Federation of American Football, which has teams in 11 European countries. The teams are composed mostly of native players, with a few Americans on each.

“We love Division III players, because they understand that the experience is also an education,” says Whitely. “They know it’s about more than playing a sport: they know that they are also ambassadors.”

Themistocles knew he’d found the team he wanted to join when the coach from the Copenhagen Towers called. Also an American (who had played college football in Utah), the coach had spent several years as an



Tom Themistocles '99, Number Seven for the Copenhagen Towers, downs post-game Gatorades with his European Federation of American Football teammates. The drink company, which sponsored the team, used such shots for poster ads on the Danish city buses.

EFAF player before joining the staff, and he put Themistocles in touch with the other two Americans on the team.

“The three of us agreed, what could be better? Copenhagen is the hub of Scandinavia; you can’t go wrong there,” says Themistocles, who joined the Towers for their spring season. (“The weather is so tough there, they play a split season: six games in the fall and eight regular season games in the spring.”) And what is football to the Danes?

Some aspects made him feel right at home. All his teammates (most were from Denmark; one was from Greenland) spoke English. The coach was supportive. The team provided its players with apartments and transportation. Gatorade sponsored them, and all the Towers quenched their post-game thirst with the beverage. The stadiums were similar to Wesleyan’s own bleachers.

“But it’s a secondary sport there,” he says. “Soccer is for them what football is for us. They’re just learning about football. One time when I was coming out of the locker room onto the field, a father with his two young sons stopped me to ask me about the game, how you score in it. I did a lot of educating; that was part of the experience.”

Yet, it wasn’t the same as playing for the Cards: “Football is a special sport,” he says. “And it’s the camaraderie... I remember my final game at Wesleyan, a home game against Trinity. All my best friends were with me, and after we won, we lay down on the field; nobody wanted to leave. We were so happy we won—yet sad because we knew we’d never play together again as a team. I liked the coach in Denmark; he was a friend. Coach Hauser has a certain presence; he gave us discipline.”

An injury kept Themistocles out of his last game with the Copenhagen Towers. He’s hung up his shoulder pads and helmet for now and is an equity stock trader in New York. His heart, however, is never very far from the game: last fall he attended every Cardinal game, watching younger brother Todd '02 tear up the field.

At the Wesleyan-Bowdoin game on Oct. 30, the Cards defeated the Polar Bears, 33–7, and the elder brother was there to celebrate the victory and reflect. “I’m thankful for the great experience we had at Wesleyan,” Tom Themistocles says. “Playing football here allowed me to go to another country, to meet new people, experience another culture. But I didn’t succeed alone; I was surrounded by great guys, great coaches.”

I remember my final game at Wesleyan, a home game against Trinity. All my best friends were with me, and after we won, we lay down on the field; nobody wanted to leave. We were so happy...[but] we'd never play together again.

GAMES

mathematicians

PLAY



Carol Wood indulges her fondness for Gameboy on long car rides.

Fondness for playing Game Boy puts a mathematics faculty member and her daughter on top of a national trend, says New York Times

Though Carol Wood knew she kicked butt at “Bust a Move Millennium,” she never thought she’d catch the attention of the national media. But there she was in a story in the Dec. 22, *New York Times*. “It was during the holidays and I told them I was on the road,” Wood, a professor of mathematics, says. “So they sent a photographer to the Miami airport. They got us both playing. I think it was a nice picture.”

“Both” being Wood and her 26-year-old daughter, Emily Coven, who were playing on their Game Boys.

For the uninitiated, a Game Boy is roughly the size of a small pocket camera. Interchangeable cartridges supply the games, while batteries provide the power. The user manipulates finger-tip buttons to control the action.

While Wood likes puzzle-oriented games such as “Bust a Move Millennium,” her daughter prefers golf games, “Rayman” or the Game Boy incarnation of “Super

Mario.” Though both women are able players, the *Times* wasn’t reporting on their skills but rather that they represent a growing trend: women and girls who play Game Boys.

The article grew out of Coven’s conversation with an acquaintance, Julian Barnes, the *Times* reporter who wrote the story. Barnes was talking about some of the topics he had been assigned to write about in the next few weeks and mentioned the phenomenon that increasing numbers of women are playing with Game Boys. Coven excitedly told Barnes that she and her mother were avid players and had in fact just bought new color models.

They aren’t alone. According to Barnes’s article, which featured Wood, Coven, and several other women, of the 110 million Game Boys sold by Nintendo in the United States since 1989, 36 percent are used by women and girls, and adult women are the toy’s fastest growing new market. Wood found this interesting:

“It is simply a diversion for me, something I’ll do, mostly when I’m traveling, and I’m too tired to read or do work. For example, several years ago, Emily and I rode in the back seat from Connecticut to Virginia. That’s about an eight-hour drive. We played Game Boy almost the whole way. Emily and I got new color ones this November for the drive from D.C. to Virginia.”

The driver on these long trips to visit family, Wood’s husband Ethan Coven,

professor of mathematics, never plays Game Boy. Wood adds that the Game Boy is convenient. The bright purple unit fits nicely in her purse without taking up much space.

She comes from a family that has a long-standing love of games, especially cards and traditional board games. One year a former student gave her daughters, then still very young, a Nintendo game with a “Super Mario” game cartridge. Wood started playing, too, and enjoyed it.

“I remember waking the girls up all excited in the middle of the night because I figured out how to get down the cactus pipes,” she says, laughing.

When asked if there is a connection between her lifelong love of mathematics and what she gets out of her Game Boy, Wood shrugs.

“Well, there is certainly the satisfaction of solving something with both, but I think that’s about it,” she says. “With math you learn something, with the Game Boy you’re entertained. I know some people get obsessed with these games, but it’s not an obsession thing for me. In fact, I probably won’t pick up my Game Boy again until the next time I have to take a long trip.”

This doesn’t mean playing Game Boy is without its advantages, however.

“My other daughter, Martha, laughs that she’s the only person she knows in her generation who has a mother and an aunt who have saved the Mushroom Princess.” —David Pesci

“It is simply a diversion for me, something I’ll do, mostly when I’m traveling and I’m too tired to read or do work...Emily and I rode in the back seat from Connecticut to Virginia...about an eight-hour drive. We played Game Boy almost the whole way.”

BILL BURKHART

CAMPAIGN NEWS BRIEFS

TOWARD A NEW CENTER FOR FILM STUDIES:

With ever-growing student interest in the Film Studies Program, creating the Center for Film Studies is a crucial goal of the campaign. To date, more than 100 donors have contributed nearly \$2.5 million toward the \$5 million goal, with gifts ranging from \$5 to \$1 million. One third of these donors have made their first gift to Wesleyan. Many are giving in honor of Jeanine Basinger, whose teaching and leadership in Film Studies have had an enormous impact on their lives and careers. The project has stirred the enthusiasm of alumni who have stretched to give generously—at whatever level their circumstances allow. For example, Toni Ross ’79 has contributed \$250,000; Josh Schaer ’96, \$1,000; and David Alexander ’74 made a significant pledge. Details on the plan for a new Center for Film Studies can be found on the campaign Web site, www.wesleyan.edu/campaign/film.

HELP FROM MOM AND DAD:

Current and former parents have contributed more than \$7 million to the campaign. Many gifts are given through the Parents Fund, which, like WAF, provides unrestricted support to Wesleyan. Organized and led by a hard working group of parent volunteers, giving to the Parents Fund is definitely on the rise—with twice as many parents participating so far this year as last year!

CLASS OF ’51 BREAKS REUNION GIVING RECORD

The members of the Class of ’51 are commemorating their 50th reunion with a remarkable display of generosity. Thus far, 78 alumni have made commitments of more than \$8.8 million, and the class is still striving to reach \$9 million. These gifts will support campaign priorities including the Wesleyan Annual Fund and student financial aid. Congratulations and thank you, Class of ’51, for this noteworthy and generous achievement.

THE
WESLEYAN
CAMPAIGN



Rendering the Infinite Subtleties of Language

At 7 a.m. on the morning of Sept. 30, 1999, Professor of German Studies Krishna Winston learned that Günter Grass had won the Nobel Prize for Literature. She had gone to bed only two hours earlier, having stayed up all night to put the finishing touches on her translation of Grass's 658-page novel, Too Far Afield.

Winston has been translating professionally for more than 30 years. While growing up she puzzled over problems in translation at the dinner table with her parents, Richard and Clara Winston, also professional translators, whose work includes Jung's *Memories, Dreams and Reflections*. As a graduate student, Winston translated her first full-length work from German into English for the University of Chicago Press, a study of Thomas Mann's *Doctor Faustus*. Since then, she has translated fiction, biographies, essay collections, and volumes of literary criticism, psychology, and history. Her translation of *Too Far Afield*, published in fall 2000, took two and a half years to complete. The Goethe Institute of Chicago recently awarded her the 2001 Helen and Kurt Wolff Translation Prize for this work. Winston is now working on her 23rd book, a study of Johann Sebastian Bach.

Q: How were you approached to translate *Too Far Afield*?

KW: Before Grass finished the novel in 1995, his longtime translator into English, Ralph Manheim, had died.

Together with my colleague Arthur S. Wensinger [professor of German emeritus], I had translated *Two States One Nation*, a book of Grass's essays and speeches published to mark Germany's unification on Oct. 3, 1990. So Grass's editor at Harcourt put my name forward. It took a long time for Grass and his advisers to choose a new translator. He was nervous about placing his text in someone else's hands after working with Manheim for almost 25 years.

Q: In 1995, you attended a translators' meeting with Grass in Göttingen, Germany. What was that like?

KW: Grass is one of a very few writers whose novels are immediately translated into 15 or more languages as soon as they appear in German. The meeting was attended by 10 of his translators, along with Grass's editors and other staff members from his publishing house. We spent five days working our way through the novel, almost page by page, with Grass as our guide. Members of the international press (*Le Figaro*, BBC, etc.) also joined us: the translators' conference was news, the more so because Grass was rumored to

be on the list of possible Nobel Prize winners.

We would start in the morning and work until about 1 p.m., then break for lunch and resume around 3 p.m. By 7 p.m. we would knock off for the day and all go to dinner with Grass, unless he had a reading engagement, in which case he would join us later. Grass's energy proved astonishing; he could talk (and drink) most of his translators under the table. Equally astonishing were his patience and generosity when it came to explaining the literary, historical, and private allusions, the unusual

expressions, the puns, and the real and fake literary quotations—all the things his translators might need help with.

The translators received a wealth of materials prepared by Daniela Hermes, a young Grass scholar. These materials included lists of all the real persons mentioned in the novel; maps of Berlin and other pertinent locations; a section-by-section synopsis of the book; a chronology of historical events referred to in the novel; photographs of buildings and statues; and more.

Q: What challenges and difficulties did you encounter as you were translat-

ing *Too Far Afield*?

KW: The novel posed numerous challenges, starting with the German title, *Ein weites Feld*, a quotation from a character in Theodor Fontane's novel *Effi Briest* (1894). This man avoids unpleasant topics by remarking that they lead too far afield. It was important to keep the topographical reference in the title, since Grass was writing about the two Germanys and their political and social cultures. The idiomatic quality of the phrase also had to be captured, the notion of avoidance, because Grass wanted to confront his fellow West Germans with the implications of simply taking over East Germany without regard for the way it had developed in the course of 45 years of separation.

The agency created to conduct the privatization of publicly owned property in the former East Germany, the Treuhand, occupies a central position in the novel. The term literally suggests a trusty hand, and Grass puns mercilessly on the greedy hands snatching not only for East Germany's public holdings but also for its people's very soul. I eventually came up with the name "Handover Trust" for this agency, the first part of the name inspired by one of William Safire's "On Language" columns, in which he discussed the range of terms being used for Britain's conveyance of Hong Kong to China.

More general difficulties had to do with the use of dialect by several characters—dialect is notorious for being untranslatable: the elaborate puns; the repetitions of and variations on certain terms and phrases that ran through the book (the computer helped me keep track); and the frequent changes in tone and register.

Q: Wasn't it particularly hard to

translate such a long book on your own?

KW: I received invaluable help from a brilliant former student, Christian Thorne-Miano '95, who knows Grass's work inside out. Christian read my rough drafts from start to finish, provided unfailingly accurate and appropriate criticism, and suggested alternatives, many of which I ended up adopting. Without his assistance, the translation would not have turned out nearly as well as it did.

Q: Could you say a little more about the novel?

KW: The main character is a man who goes by the nickname Fonty, because he was born 100 years to the day after the 19th-century novelist, Theodor Fontane, in the writer's hometown, no less, and has stylized his life as a continuation of Fontane's, down to the name of the woman he married and the names of his children. This conceit allows Grass to create a parallel between Fontane's era, which saw the first unification of Germany under Prussia, and our own time. At the beginning of the novel, the Berlin Wall has just fallen, and the story continues until shortly after unification.

The Fontane references introduce a pervasive subtext in the novel: the often ambiguous role the writer plays in society. I suspect Grass was using the book for exploring the question of whether his own creative work has helped or hindered the causes he has espoused.

Q: Why was *Too Far Afield* attacked by critics in the German media?

KW: Grass's publisher had rolled out the book with tremendous fanfare. No sooner had it appeared than Germany's "literary pope," the influential (and cantankerous) critic Marcel Reich-Ranicki, denounced it on his television show and in the pages of *Der*

Spiegel, the leading news magazine. I have a poster in my office showing the cover *Spiegel* ran, with a composite photo of Reich-Ranicki literally tearing Grass's book apart. Hundreds of reviews and commentaries followed, many of them quite savage in their attacks on Grass's perceived political stance, but also on the literary quality of the book.

I think the crux of the matter was that Grass had little good to say about the way unification had been implemented, and some pretty harsh words for Helmut Kohl and the West Germans, with their presumption that they were superior in all respects to the "brothers and sisters" in the East and were doing them an immense favor by putting East Germany out of its misery. Readers in the former East Germany liked the book much better, and time has borne out some of Grass's predictions about how difficult it would be to bring the two countries together in an equitable fashion. As the writer Peter Schneider has put it, many Germans today still have "the Wall in their heads."

Q: Do you agree with the negative comments from critics about the book's literary quality?

KW: Perhaps Grass has never matched his achievement with *The Tin Drum*, published in Germany in 1959. Certainly he does not make it easy for the reader of *Too Far Afield*; the book is immensely complex in its structure, its ideas, its intertextual and historical allusions. But it is also a wonderful book, one that reveals its treasures—and its humor—only upon slow and careful reading and rereading.

Q: How would you define a good translator?

KW: Obviously a literary translator needs to know the source language

and culture very, very well and have native command of the target language. Probably the most important characteristic of a translator is a feel for language, for the way it works—intellectually, emotionally, viscerally. Fine translation is an art, and as such entails a good measure of intuition. There are hundreds of books and articles on the theory of translation, but not one of them offers a workable prescription for doing a brilliant translation; at most they can enhance one's awareness of the factors involved.

Q: What are some examples of your favorite translations?

KW: Probably my favorite translation is the King James Version of the *Bible*. More recent, supposedly more accurate, versions fail to capture the poetic qualities of the original texts. I still find Richmond Lattimore's translation of the *Iliad* unequalled. Marc Blitzstein did a superb translation/adaptation of Brecht and Weill's *Threepenny Opera*. Those are just a few.

Q: What do you emphasize in teaching translation at Wesleyan?

KW: My teaching of translation has all been done in tutorials, mostly with seniors working on translations for honors. I emphasize understanding the original text; for students who may not have started learning German until they came to Wesleyan, that isn't always easy. Knowing how to identify idioms is crucial. Next, I stress the importance of recognizing the stylistic features of the text—sound, rhythm, levels of diction. Finally, I insist that the finished translation reads well in English. What I hope the students will take away from the process is the rudiments of a skill they can use later, and an appreciation for the infinite subtleties of language.

—David Low '76



Winston poses with a photomontage poster by Klaus Staack, depicting a cover of *Der Spiegel* with a critic tearing apart *Too Far Afield*—for its dim view of reunification.

BILL BURKHART

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