



UPFRONT

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

BY MICHAEL S. ROTH '78



A current debate about higher education seems actually to be an old one: practical science training vs. general education in the liberal arts. The contrast persists in the public mind even though the sciences are part of the liberal arts, and even though the best science education usually includes the arts and humanities. Two heavyweights, Bill Gates and Steve Jobs, have recently been said to embody the contrast. The Microsoft founder has called for a targeted investment in the sciences and engineering, while the Apple CEO has talked about the importance of the arts, humanities, and design for the success of his company. So what is education, PC or Mac?

I would hope that our leaders in government, industry, and academia would realize that, although they may have to decide on an operating system, they don't have to make a choice between the sciences and the rest of the liberal arts. Indeed, the sciences are a vital part of the liberal arts. The key to our success in the future will be an integrative education that doesn't isolate the sciences from other parts of the curriculum, and that doesn't shield the so-called creative and interpretive fields from a vigorous understanding of the problems being addressed by scientists. For example, at liberal arts schools across the country there has been an increase in interest in the sciences from students who are also interested in history, political science, literature, and the arts. Here at Wesleyan, Neuroscience and Behavior is among our fastest growing majors, alongside of Science in Society, and programs linking the sciences, arts, and humanities have been areas of intense creative work. This semester we hosted a conference in the young field of Animal Studies, and throughout the year one can find productive collaborations among social scientists, artists and biologists, dancers and physicists, and

Education isn't just an object that you use to get started in a career; education is a catalytic resource that continues to energize and shape your life.

filmmakers and biochemists. These teams form not because the members are trying to be fashionably interdisciplinary. They come together to address specific problems or in pursuit of particular opportunities.

What can we learn from the recent contrast of two of our country's business-technology giants? Perhaps it's that education should be looked at not as a product that you use to increase your income in that all-important first job but as a platform from which you will generate some of the most important features of your life. If you believed that education was a product, then it might make sense to make it as narrowly instrumental as possible. It might make sense to call for a tapering of the range of skills taught (to STEM fields, for example) to maximize your return on investment. If education is a prod-

uct you are buying, why pay for things you really won't need?

But if education is a platform, then it should be thought of as an intermediary, a capacity builder that leads to many more things than at any one moment you could possibly know would be useful. When you see education as a platform, you see it as something that generates further curiosity, new needs, experiences to meet those needs, more curiosity, and so on. Education isn't just an object that you use to get started in a career; education is a catalytic resource that continues to energize and shape your life. Education enhances your ability to develop new skills and capacities for connectivity that allow you to solve problems and seize opportunities. Successful education is a platform of lifelong learning from which new possibilities are created, and that works for both PCs and Macs.

I hope that our leaders in government, industry, and academia will realize that innovation in technology companies, automobile design, medicine, or food production will not come only from isolated work in technical disciplines. I also trust that our humanists and social scientists will continue to educate students who are ready to work with scientists, engineers, and designers to more fully understand the history of the present and our prospects for the future. A pragmatic, broadly based education that encourages bold inquiry and regular self-reflection recognizes the increasingly porous borders among disciplines and departments. At Wesleyan the vitality of problems-oriented, multidisciplinary research and teaching invigorates our campus culture in ways that enable our graduates to have a positive impact on society "far out of proportion to our numbers." That impact depends on bold and rigorous interconnections among the sciences, humanities, arts, and social sciences. **UPFRONT**

**FROM THE VAULT:
HIGHLIGHT FROM THE
DAVISON ART CENTER
COLLECTION**
CLARE ROGAN, CURATOR

A recent acquisition at the Davison Art Center reveals an engaging intersection of early photography and science, undertaken by a little-known 19th-century Englishwoman. In 1843, only four years after the invention of photography, Anna Atkins started a monumental task, beginning a publication of botanical studies titled *British Algae: Cyanotype Impressions*. She was using the newly invented technique of cyanotype, best known today as blueprint. This publication was issued in parts from 1843 to 1853 and ultimately included more than 400 plates. It was the first book ever to be illustrated by a photographic technique, and pre-dates William Henry Fox Talbot's famous *Pencil of Nature* (1844–1846), in which he demonstrated all the uses of the calotype technique he had invented. After completing *British Algae*, Atkins continued with her work with cyanotype. The Davison Art Center was delighted to acquire one of the rare and beautiful plates from Atkins's later album, *Cyanotypes of British And Foreign Flowering Plants and Ferns*, 1854.

Atkins had first undertaken scientific illustration in 1823, when she meticulously drew more than 250 shells to illustrate a publication of Jean-Baptiste Lamarck's *Genera of Shells*, translated by her scientist father, George Children. She must have rapidly grasped the possibilities of the cyanotype process when she learned of it from her neighbor, Sir John Herschel, who invented it in 1842. We can imagine Atkins creating the cyanotypes individually. First she needed to brush paper with a combination of ferric salt and potassium ferricyanide and allow it to dry in a dark room. Her father's experience as a chemist would have given her ready access to the materials. Then she would place a dried botanical specimen directly on the paper, set a sheet of glass on top to weigh it down, and expose it to sunlight. After exposure, the sheet was washed in water to fix it, and the deep Prussian blue of the cyanotype would become visible. Because no camera or negative was involved, the works are pho-



Anna Atkins (British, 1799–1871), *Polypodium Dryopteris*, from the album *Cyanotypes of British and Foreign Flowering Plants and Ferns*, 1854, cyanotype. Friends of the Davison Art Center funds in memory of Ellen G. D'Oench, 2010.14.1 (photo: R. J. Phil)

tograms, created by direct contact with the object depicted.

The new acquisition was purchased with funds given in memory of Ellen G. D'Oench '73, known as "Puffin," who was curator of the Davison Art Center for 19 years, from 1979 to 1998. It will be on display through May 22 at the Davison Art Center in the exhibition, *Collecting Photographs: Ellen G. D'Oench and the Growth of a Collection*. **UPFRONT**

**GAMELAN ENSEMBLE
PERFORMS AT
INDONESIAN
EMBASSY**

Fresh from a performance at Crowell Concert Hall in March, Wesleyan's Indonesian gamelan ensemble took its gongs to the nation's capital for a pair of rare off-campus appearances.

Led by Adjunct Professor of Music Sumarsam and artist in residence I.M. Harjito, the group performed at the Indonesian Embassy in Washington, D.C., on March 4, and at George Washington University a day later—events that were part of a festival celebrating American composer

Lou Harrison (1917–2003). He is widely credited with merging gamelan music and Western concert traditions.

The festival, "Sublime Confluence: The Music of Lou Harrison," was produced by the Washington-based Post-Classical Ensemble, a group co-founded by Wesleyan Adjunct Professor of Music

Angel Gil-Ordóñez.

"Gamelan" refers to several varieties of Indonesian ensemble music performed mainly with metallophone and bronze gong-type instruments played with mallets. Wesleyan is a leading institution in the United States for the study and performance of World Music, including gamelan.

Wesleyan's ensemble had performed at the Indonesian Embassy at least once before, in the 1970s, according to Sumarsam, who delivered an address during the recent visit about the influence of Westerners on Indonesian music.

"Diplomacy is not necessarily limited to political and economic issues," says the gamelan master. "It can be cultural as well."

In all, more than 15 members of Wesleyan's ensemble went to Washington, including Pramudya Yudhiakto, a graduate student in physics who is currently the only Indonesian in Wesleyan's ensemble, other than Sumarsam himself.

Wesleyan owns two sets of gamelan instruments, one of which was acquired from the 1964 World's Fair. The ensemble traveled to Washington in a rented coach with the precious instruments carefully packed and stowed among pillows. **UPFRONT**

FIVE QUESTIONS

WILLIAM JOHNSTON, professor of history,
Science in Society, and East Asian Studies



OLIVIA DRAKE

Q: How did you become interested in the history of diseases, and more specifically, flu outbreaks?

A: While in graduate school I was drawn to the history of medicine in Japan because it was in that field that the Japanese first adopted European scientific ideas and methods. The ways in which societies interpret and respond to disease tell us a lot about their most basic values and fundamental structures. Sometimes people get very excited about relatively minor diseases while accepting major causes of illness and death as somehow "normal."

Q: What are the more notable outbreaks over the last 100 or so years?

A: The most important outbreak of flu in the past century was, of course, the one that occurred between 1917 and 1920. For that matter it was one of the deadliest pandemics of all time, killing about 2.5 percent of all infected, with a total mortality estimated between 20 and 50 million worldwide. Its exact origins remain obscure but it was a variant of the H1N1 strain. It caused pneumonia as the result of a cytokine storm—an over-reaction of the immune system, thus affecting younger people more than the elderly. People have been getting excited about the H5N1 and H1N1 strains that have been in circulation since 2009, but neither has become pandemic.

Q: What are some of the more intriguing facts about outbreaks?

A: They have resulted in major changes to public health administration and the monitoring of diseases. For example, the 1917–20 pandemic resulted in the imposition of stringent measures requiring isolation and the monitoring of cases, which helped stop what could have become a pandemic in 1937.

More recently, the military has developed a project called the "Joint Project Manager Transformational Medical Technologies." According to its website, the purpose is to

"better prepare and protect the warfighter and the nation from emerging, genetically engineered, and unknown biothreat agents." Though undertaken with terrorism in mind, this program also created a two-tiered response to future influenza pandemics—by developing new methods of creating a vaccination against the flu through genetic engineering of tobacco plants, and by developing anti-retrovirals aimed at stopping the replication of viral RNA through the use of what is called "antisense." By doing this kind of public health work through the Defense Department, it has become possible to develop new and effective technologies with which to respond to influenza pandemics without facing the threat of politicians cutting funding.

Q: Last year H1N1 ("Swine Flu") caused some significant problems worldwide, yet this year there has been no outbreak. Is there a reason for this, or did the human population just get lucky this flu season?

A: Just lucky. Pandemics will happen, no matter what. What counts is preparation, with everything from vaccinations to planned measures for how to react. Wesleyan, for example, has in place a set procedure regarding what to do in the event of an influenza pandemic hitting the community.

Q: Given the historical record of flu and other major outbreaks, what do you see looking forward into the next decade or so with regard to these types of events?

A: Hard to say. The budget-cutting trends worldwide could easily mean less preparedness for the next pandemic or epidemic of other kinds of disease. We should be teaching children in primary schools through high schools the basics of epidemic disease and public health. It would go a long way in providing support for the kinds of measures that will do the most good for the largest number of people. **UPFRONT**

MEMORIAL SKATING PARTY

The first annual Brian P. Gottlieb '88 Memorial Skating Party was held at Chelsea Piers Sky Rink in New York City on Jan. 23, and raised \$310,000 to support a Wesleyan scholarship.

Well over 300 alumni and friends came to skate, socialize, and celebrate the life of Brian Gottlieb '88 with his wife, Bethel '90, and their children David, Alexandra, Caroline, and Andrew. Wesleyan Men's Hockey coaches and players were on hand to instruct the novice skaters and connect with the hockey alumni.

Brian died in December of 2009. He was a stellar athlete, a leader in the community and a devoted friend to many at Wesleyan. Upon graduating from Wesleyan, Brian pursued a career in investment banking at Kidder Peabody, Salomon Smith Barney, JPMorgan Chase, and most recently was managing director and head of Healthcare Services at Credit Suisse in New York. A goalie for the Wesleyan Cardinals under coach Duke Snyder, he participated in the 1987 Little Three Championship.

The Brian P. Gottlieb '88 Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund will be granted to a Wesleyan student who best embodies the spirit and attributes of Brian and will afford this student the many opportunities that Brian had during his years at Wesleyan.

UPFRONT

SAY FROMAGE: WESLEYAN CHEESE CO-OP DEBUTS WITH 400 MEMBERS

At first blush, it's all about the cheese. But Zachary Malter '13 says the new Wesleyan Cheese Co-op can be more than a source of variations on Gouda, cheddar and provolone—it's a social and political experience in the making.

"Food is not just a source of nourishment," says Malter, chair of the Wesleyan

Student Association's dining committee and an organizer of the cheese co-op, which made its first distribution on Feb. 16. "It's also a source of community-building."

Malter envisions wine-and-cheese socials where Wesleyan's cheese lovers, other foodies, and friends-of-foodies mingle. The co-op has already established a blog for sharing recipes. Suggested by managers at Bon Appétit, which operates dining facilities at Wesleyan, the co-op was established by students and the company this fall. Wesleyan also has a Fruit and Veggie Co-op and a Raw Milk Co-op.

One cheese co-op share entitles the shareholder to two 8-ounce portions of fresh cheese from Cato Corner Farm in Colchester, Conn., six times per semester.

Cato Corner is a 40-cow family dairy farm. Elizabeth MacAlister and Mark Gillman, the mother and son who own and operate the farm, make a dozen cheese varieties from milk produced by their free-range Jersey

cows. They don't feed the animals hormones or subtherapeutic antibiotics.

The cheeses range from "mild and milky to runny and pungent to sharp and firm," according to Cato.

The cheese co-op found an eager clientele for its debut semester: 399 students signed up by the mid-January registration deadline.

Michele Le '11, a self-described "huge fan of cheese" who eats it with fruit or crackers, as well as cooked in paninis or pasta omelettes, for example, said the co-op gives her access to cheeses she's unlikely to find in the average grocery.

"I love just about every kind of cheese there is out there, so this opportunity to try new and unfamiliar cheeses was exciting for me," says the dual government-East Asian studies major from Hawaii.

Eventually the cheese co-op might add other suppliers.

Says Malter, "We want there to be as much variety as possible." UPFRONT



Bethel Gorin Gottlieb '90 is joined by her family and Wesleyan friends at a skating party in memory of her late husband, Brian Gottlieb '88, an avid hockey player. The event raised \$310,000 for the Brian P. Gottlieb '88 Memorial Endowed Scholarship.

SCHOLAR ATHLETE MEHERAZADE SUMARIWALLA '12

"Squash is a unique sport," says **Meherazade Sumariwalla '12**, captain of Wesleyan Women's Varsity Squash. "It's both a team and an individual competition—but we are always a team. We are there for each other and we put the team's interest above our own."

A biology and economics major, Sumariwalla's life moves at the speed of a squash ball. She has worked in Professor Stephen Devoto's zebrafish laboratory and served this semester as a WSA representative, a resident adviser, a Cardinal Key tour guide for the admission office, and an interviewer for staff and student positions in the office of residential life.

"I'm most productive when I'm busy," she explains, adding that this semester she has choreographed a piece for Precision, a student-run dance troupe. She also considers a course on the human brain one of her recent favorites and notes that grad school in the sciences is one post-Commencement plan she is considering.

UPFRONT





HISTORICAL ROW

A PASSION FOR POETRY

Did you know that Wesleyan owns one of the country's most complete collections of William Butler Yeats? Also in Special Collections & Archives in Olin Library, you'll find more than 30 different editions of Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*. Our poetry collections are both broad and deep: British poets of the World War I era, the Beat poets and their successors, and poetry journals issued in very limited runs are among the many highlights.

Our exemplary holdings are due, in large part, to one of the seven women in the Class of 1895. Caroline Clark Barney's passion was poetry. Robert Frost, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and William Butler Yeats numbered among her favorite poets. An English major, her studies with professors William E. Mead (Class of 1881) and Caleb T. Winchester (Class of 1869) shaped and nourished her love of literature, especially verse. After graduating from Wesleyan, Caroline Clark taught high school English in Willimantic, Conn., and Lynn, Mass., for nine years before her marriage to Edward Mitchell Barney, a banker. From 1911 to 1918, she served as the Massachusetts state supervisor of religious education.

Throughout her adult life, Caroline Clark Barney collected poetry books, building a collection of about 400 volumes. Late in life, she offered Wesleyan's librarians the opportunity to add any books from her collection that were not already held by the University. Her gift enhanced Olin Library's poetry holdings significantly. Perhaps her collecting included a nod to her mentors, both of whom were also book collectors and library supporters.

But the most impressive contribution Caroline Clark Barney made to Wesleyan was the fund she left for purchases of "printed books of poetry" for the library. At the time of her death in 1948, the Barney fund contained \$65,000. You could buy a lot of poetry books for that sum! In fact, the Barney gift was so generous that the University didn't quite know what to do with it at first. Our files include numerous memos debating how the money could be spent. One includes the memorable statement: "...the fund is al-



Caroline Clark Barney, Class of 1895

Her gift brought
to Wesleyan
amazing riches
of her beloved
poetry.

most too big for its purpose. One of the hard facts of the literary life is that the complete works of almost any living poet can be purchased for less than \$15, and the Barney fund provides several thousand dollars a year." Various ideas were floated, including the plan to hire a professor of poetry with the money. Cooler heads prevailed, and Wesleyan used the funds for its intended purpose. Using the Barney fund, literally thousands of poetry books were purchased for both the open stacks and Special Collections & Archives.

English professor Fred Millett and library director Wyman Parker took on the happy task of selecting books for purchase with the Barney fund initially, although any faculty member or librarian could suggest books for purchase. (In the early 1990s, the Barney fund was consolidated with other funds; today poetry books are purchased from a variety of library acquisitions funds.) While the greatest strengths are in 20th-century American and British poetry, the Barney gift also supported the purchase of Latin, Greek, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, and Indian poetry from all eras. Because of the fund's generous size, it was often used to buy editions with special provenance and other interesting features, and the publications of small, private presses are well represented.

Caroline Clark Barney would surely have loved the results. Her gift brought to Wesleyan amazing riches of her beloved poetry. To complement the substantial number of books by William Butler Yeats she owned, her fund was used to—nearly—complete Wesleyan's Yeats collection, including a full run of all the books printed by his sister, Elizabeth Corbet Yeats, at the Cuala, and later Dun Emer, press. In 1966, at the time of a major exhibition here, our Yeats collection was considered to be the most complete in the United States. Only the very rare *Mosada* is lacking.

This spring, two poetry exhibitions are on view in Olin Library. The first, *Building Wesleyan's Poetry Collections: Frank Kirkwood Hallock (1882) and Caroline Clark Barney (1895)*, was on view through April 17; the second, *Poetry at Wesleyan*, ran through Reunion/Commencement. **UPFRONT**

—SUZY TARABA '77, MALS '10,
University Archivist and
Head of Special Collections

Wesleyan's Special Collections & Archives welcomes alumni, faculty, students, and visiting scholars researching Caroline Clark Barney, our poetry collections, or any other aspect of Wesleyan history. We'd be happy to hear from you.

MARSHALL JOHNSON'S RESEARCH IS OUT OF THIS WORLD

For the past two years, astronomy major Marshall Johnson '11 used the Van Vleck Observatory's 24-inch Perkin Telescope to study the transits of "exoplanets," or planets outside our solar system that orbit another star.

His study, "First Results from the Wesleyan Transiting Exoplanet Program," explains a refined orbital period of a newly-discovered planet named WASP-33b (Wide Angle Search for Planets). Ultimately, Johnson may prove that he's discovered another planet, WASP-33c.

"Here in Connecticut, with clouds and haze, we don't have the best observing conditions, but I was still able to obtain high-quality data using our modest-sized telescope," Johnson says.

For his efforts, the American Astronomical

Society (AAS) awarded Johnson a Chambliss Astronomy Achievement Award, which "recognizes exemplary research by undergraduate and graduate students." Awardees are honored with a Chambliss medal and a certificate. He received the medal and certificate during the AAS's annual meeting and poster session Jan. 10–13 in Seattle, Wash.

Seth Redfield, assistant professor of astronomy, initiated the Wesleyan Transiting Exoplanet Program in 2008.

"We in the Astronomy Department are very proud of Marshall's accomplishment," Redfield says. "He is an expert observer, and made great progress improving the quality of the exoplanet light curves. He's also an excellent mentor to the younger students."

Johnson joined Redfield's research group in January 2009, focusing his studies on the data reduction of exoplanet transits. Transits occur when an exoplanet passes between its home star and Earth, blocking

about 1 percent of the starlight. Johnson uses observations of transits primarily to search for transit timing variations.

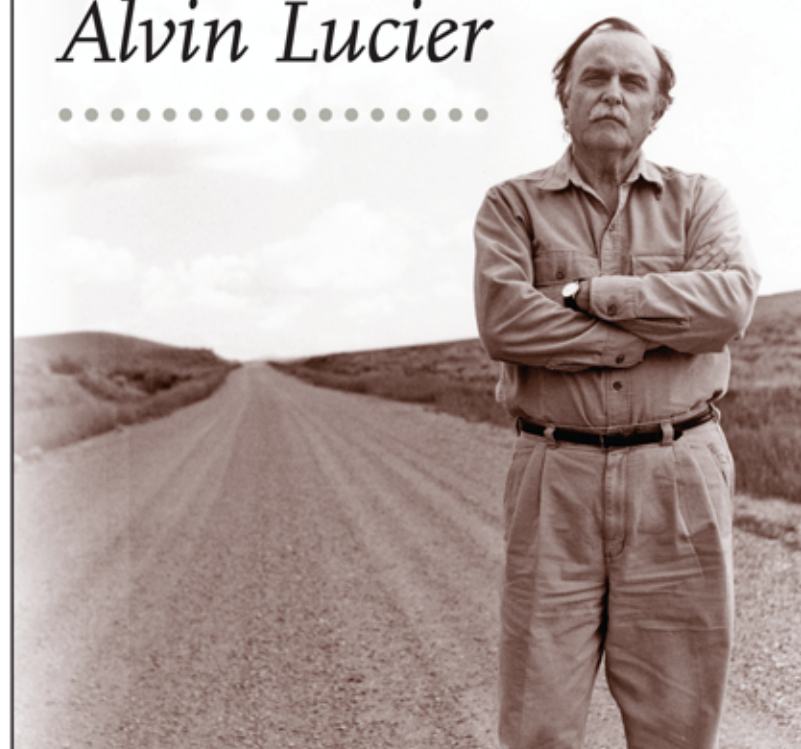
In 2010, Johnson applied for and received a \$4,500 NASA Connecticut Space Grant Award that he used as a stipend for summer research at Wesleyan. He worked with Redfield on the exoplanet transit observations that would ultimately become the foundation for his senior thesis work.

Johnson, who was one of seven undergraduate students in the country honored with the Chambliss Award, is currently collaborating with astronomers at several other institutions to obtain additional data on his transit timing research efforts.

"Several astronomers at the AAS meeting were impressed with the quality of observations we could get here at Wesleyan. I can see the infrastructure for an important exoplanet program developing here at Wesleyan, and Marshall has been an important part of the effort," Redfield says. **UPFRONT**

AMANDA LUCIER

A Celebration of Alvin Lucier



For 40 years, Alvin Lucier, the John Spencer Camp Professor of Music, has pioneered music composition and performance, including the notation of performers' physical gestures, the use of brain waves in live performance, the generation of visual imagery by sound in vibrating media, and the evocation of room acoustics for musical purposes.

His recent works include a series of sound installations and works for solo instruments, chamber ensembles, and orchestra in which, by means of close tunings with pure tones, sound waves are caused to spin through space.

On Nov. 4–6, the Music Department and Center for the Arts will celebrate Lucier's remarkable musical career and contributions. Lucier retires this June.

The celebration will be held during Homecoming/Family weekend. It will include a symposium, concerts, and Zilkha Gallery exhibition titled *Alvin Lucier and His Artist Friends*, curated by Andrea Miller-Keller.

Included in the exhibition, which runs through Dec. 11, will be a participatory installation called *Chambers*. Students, staff, faculty, and alumni are invited to contribute recordings to this project. Participants will need to record an indoor or outdoor environment and choose a small resonant object: vase, kettle, box, tin can, or other enclosed space, into which those sounds will be placed. Recordings will be routed to their respective objects through miniature loudspeakers.

To express your interest in participating and receive complete instructions, visit www.wesleyan.edu/cfa/lucier.html or send an e-mail by July 1 to chambers@wesleyan.edu.

BETWEEN THE LINES

A NEW CATEGORY OF HUMAN BEING

In her funny and insightful new book, *My Formerly Hot Life: Dispatches from Just the Other Side of Young* (Ballantine), **Stephanie Dolgoff '89** shares what life is like for a woman who has reached the transitional age of 40-something.

Oh, there were signs. Lots of them. As I sped through my life, with my two kids and crazy career, I simply didn't notice them whizzing by.

Once, I was rocking out to Blondie's "One Way or Another" for a good two choruses before I realized it was the soundtrack to a Swiffer commercial on the TV in the next room. Not only did I own a Swiffer, but I felt more fondly toward it than I ever knew I could toward a cleaning implement. Another time, a sexy, stubby guy leaned into me and asked me in a hushed voice for the time. I was married at the time, and so responded with a terse 8:40—I didn't want to lead him on. He said thanks and went back to his book. Turns out, he simply wanted to know the time, and not to have sex with me! Imagine. And then there was the morning one of my preschool-aged daughters poked my abdomen and asked me—with no trace of humor or judgment whatsoever—why it looked like I had a tushy on the front of my body.

With incidences like those coming at me fast and furious in my late 30s, it became unignorably clear that I was no longer the woman I once was. Something had changed, which prompted me to start my blog, *formerlyhot.com*, which soon grew into *My Formerly Hot Life*. I had to talk about this bizarre, unsettled feeling I couldn't name, most of which I attributed to the fact that my looks were fading a bit. As had happened to countless women before me and will continue to happen forevermore, I went from being "the hot chick" I'd been considered most of my life to a perfectly nice-looking working mother of two in her 40s doing the best she can, which is simply not the

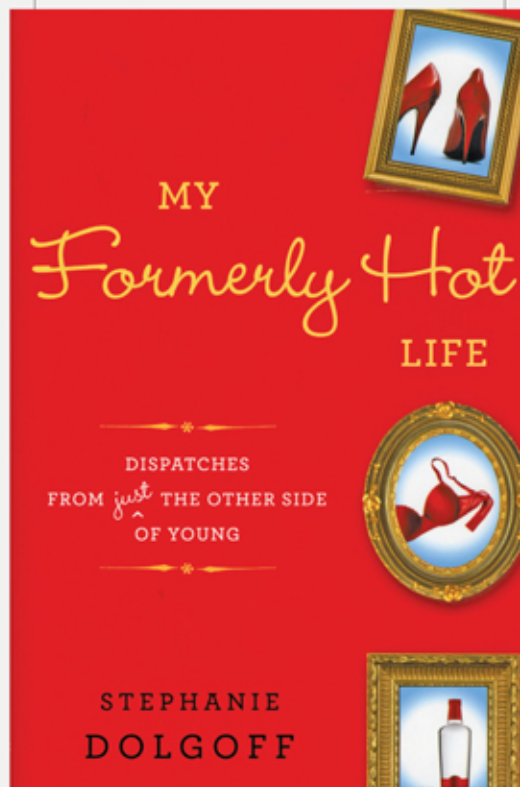
same thing. I wrote about my experiences as an outlet, to make fun of myself for caring as much as I did, which I knew was ridiculous. I've learned over the years that while I'm incapable of ignoring the pressures women face to "have it all," and be thinner and ever more cheerful while having it, mocking myself relentlessly for it takes most of the sting out. Thankfully there were thousands of women who were likewise relieved to find a way to

looked at us. We were not young anymore, but we weren't old, either, and we didn't feel like we thought middle-aged should feel, not like anyone does. We were in that strange limbo between young and old—adult "tweens," with all the awkwardness the term implies. We were Formerly Wild, Formerly Hot, Formerly Going to Be a Prodigy, and yes, Formerly Young.

People (men and women) share their "Formerly" stories with me all the time. Sometimes they tell of a pop cultural reference they make at work that hangs excruciatingly in the air before some much-younger colleague laughs politely or says she'd learned about that in college. Other times it's realizing that your daughters want an American Girl doll from the "historical" series—the one from the 1970s, when you were a child. But without fail, all the "Formerlies" I speak with share my conviction that while there is loss involved in getting older (who wouldn't want the appearance or the ability to pull an all-nighter of someone in his 20s?), they wouldn't trade the life satisfaction, compassion for other points of view, and confidence in their own opinions they've gained with the years for perkier body parts and a higher alcohol tolerance.

I remember looking around some Alpha Delt party at Wesleyan and wondering if I was the only one pretending like I was having a much better time than I actually was. Now I don't think I was. While being young was fantastic in many ways, I always felt a pressure to have The Time of My Life, because, well, that's what we're all supposed to be experiencing in our youth, and that there was something slightly wrong with me that I wasn't enjoying it more. Now I know better. The time is always now, and knowing yourself is a gift that only time can give. **UPFRONT**

Stephanie Dolgoff '89 lives in New York City with her twin daughters. She's at work on her second book and blogs at formerlyhot.com.



NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION HONORS MIDDLETOWN'S MAIN STREET AS "MOST ROMANTIC"

When the National Trust for Historic Preservation went hunting for the nation's "Most Romantic Main Streets," Middletown topped the list. Here is what the Trust said:

"Middletown's allure includes an artful Main Street brimming with elegant restaurants, an award-winning local chocolatier, and the romantic Inn at Middletown, offering the best of New England charm.

"Dream Date: With its views of Main Street's church steeples and the winding Connecticut River, the Inn at Middletown is the perfect base for a romantic New England weekend. Make a leisurely start with brunch at the classic O'Rourke's Diner, where the culinary talents of Brian O'Rourke have been celebrated by foodies from *Gourmet* magazine to The Food Network. Stroll along Main Street, and visit the vintage model train display at Amato's Toy & Hobby, then stock up on regional treats at the New England Emporium. Malloves Jewelers just might give your sweetie some good ideas! Venture past the historic houses on tree-lined College Street to the prestigious Wesleyan University. Take in an eclectic and interesting lecture, a hockey game, or go stargazing at the college observatory.

"Back on Main Street, your hardest chore will be choosing where to eat. With dozens of choices in just a few blocks, you'll be tempted by Mexican, Thai, Vietnamese, Japanese, and American restaurants, as well as the locavore, organic cuisine at It's Only Natural. But for romance, try Esca's extensive wine list and delicious Italian entrees—deemed 'worth getting a babysitter' for by local critics. After dinner, sample the artisanal confections at Tschudin Chocolates and a perfect espresso at Klekolo World Coffee. End your evening with a visit to Eli Cannon's Tap Room for the best variety of local beers and friendly atmosphere, or retreat to the Inn at Middletown for a martini in front of the fireplace at the Tavern at the Armory." **UPFRONT**

55th annual Wesleyan Writers Conference

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