

EDWARD F. VANDER BUSH, M.D., 81, an anesthesiologist, died Dec. 11, 2001.

#### 1942

JAMES GIANACOPOLOS, who was an accountant and auditor, died Nov. 11, 2002. He was 84.

IRVING SOSENSKY, a professor of philosophy, died Feb. 25, 2003. He was 83.

#### 1943

RICHARD E. HICKEY JR., president of Monarch Capital Corporation, died Mar. 16, 2003. He was 83.

#### 1944

CHARLES F. NICKENIG, who was associated with *Newsweek* magazine for 30 years, died Apr. 9, 2003 at age 82.

#### 1945

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS MAFFUCCI, an attorney who specialized in zoning and land use issues, died Apr. 3, 2002, at age 78.

SHERBURNE B. ROCKWELL JR., a financial administrator, manager, and trustee of the R.C. Taylor Trust, died Feb. 17, 2003.

#### 1946

THOMAS K. BEGG, the founder and president of Begg Company, Inc., and of Kirk Products Company, Inc., manufacturers of fire and safety products, died Jan. 26, 2003, at age 78.

#### 1950

HOWARD MARSTON, who taught mathematics at The Principia School in St. Louis for 46 years, died Jan. 10, 2002. He was 75.

#### 1951

ROBERT W. JEFFREY, an attorney for AT&T, died Jun. 24, 2002. He was 72.

#### 1952

EDWARD B. FISCHER, a manager of information systems, who was associated with the General Electric Corporation in Schenectady, N.Y., for 35 years, died Mar. 19, 2003 at age 72.

ROBERT B. PORTER, 72, died Feb. 23, 2002. A member of Eclectic and the brother of the late Alexander B. Porter '49, he attended Dartmouth College and Wesleyan before receiving a bachelor's degree from Columbia University.

#### 1964

WILLIAM D.S. DICKSON, a teacher at the Haverford (Pa.) School, died of cancer Apr. 2, 2003. He was 61.

THEODORE G. HANSEN, owner of several transportation and storage companies, died Jan. 14, 2003, at age 60.

#### 1977

LOIS E. EGASTI, a human resources executive who founded and was president of the Hurricane Voices of Breast Cancer Foundation, died of breast cancer Apr. 15, 2003. She was 47. Survivors include her husband, Jeffrey L. Shames '77, a daughter, two sisters, and a brother.

#### 1980

MARIDZA ACABA MARTINEZ died of cervical cancer Mar. 9, 2003 at age 45. She is survived by her son, Angel Martinez, and her long-time companion, Albert Robinson.

#### 1984

JOHANN R. CLARY, D.D.S., a periodontist, died Nov. 25, 2002. He was 41. He is survived by a son, his parents, a brother, a sister, and his former wife, Avril Patch Clary '84.

#### GRADUATE

PAMELA JEAN LOCKLIN (CRUZ-URIBE), who received an MALS in 1979, died of complications from multiple sclerosis Feb. 20, 2003. She was 52. Survivors include her husband, Tony Cruz-Urube, Ph.D. '79, a son, and a daughter.

ERIC FYRBERG, a biologist who received his Ph.D. in 1978, died Aug. 29, 2002 at age 51.

SONIA K. GERBER, a teacher who received an MALS in 1983, died Jan. 11, 2003. She was 73.

CAROLYN KITAHATA, a teacher who received an MALS in 1982, died Jan. 10, 2003 at age 73.

#### FACULTY

HENRY C. HERGE SR., HON. '45, commanding officer of the Navy College Training Program (V-12) at Wesleyan from 1943–1945 and former dean of the Rutgers University Graduate School of Education, died Mar. 8, 2003. He was 97.

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## WESLEYAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS

### How to Get Wes-Connected

Almost everyone has heard of it. Even the newest members of the Wesleyan community—next year's frosh and their families—will drop the term “Wesleyan connection” in conversations when talking about their new affiliation. But if you really want to know what is it, how it works, and where you can get one, the story of Aaron Presnall '94 illustrates the Wesleyan connection at its very best.

A director at the East-West Institute, an economic and political think-tank, Aaron recently assisted Heather Alderfer '02 and Justin Kagin '02 when they sought jobs in Eastern Europe. Aaron didn't know Heather or Justin before he helped them, but they went to Wesleyan, and that was enough to open the door in important ways for two young members of the Wesleyan community.

Heather first contacted Aaron during her senior year, when he was working at the institute in Prague and the two corresponded by e-mail about various ways she might work in the city. By the time she arrived, however, he was a director of the institute, working out of Belgrade. Nevertheless, he managed to find time to meet her, discuss her interests, and introduce her to the director of human resources at East-West. Heather was hired for an internship.

Justin met Aaron during his summer internship at the East-West Institute after his freshman year, when he was about to transfer to Wesleyan. “Aaron always had time to answer my many questions on everything from Eastern European politics and economics, what Wesleyan would be like, the workings of non-profit organizations, and about life in general,” he says. “He would frequently invite me out to share a conversation over a *pivo* (beer in Czech). After my internship we stayed in touch, and later he helped me to get a job proofreading papers for a Serbian economic institute.”

But there's more to this story: When I contacted Aaron to ask about the details, he told me that he wasn't the first link in this chain. He named Alberto Ibargüen '66 as his own “Wesleyan connection.”

Alberto, now publisher of the *Miami Herald*, served on Wesleyan's Board of Trustees from 1992–95, while Aaron was a student representative to the board. Alberto recalls Aaron as “smart, thoughtful, and hard-working. He was principled. He was earnest, but not gullible. He listened well and so was an excellent debater.” When Alberto learned that Aaron wanted to start his career in Eastern



Europe in economic policy research, he encouraged him and gave him a list of people to contact when overseas.

Aaron recalls: “Through Alberto, I was immediately blessed with a tremendous network of Czech activists and doers—truly remarkable individuals in the young democratic leadership. But that only captures a small measure of his support. Alberto also sent me off with monographs and pep-talks: a full court press that continued with e-mails and faxes checking in and offering advice as my job search proceeded. He was not ready to see me fail and I was not going to let him down.

“I like to think that Alberto's investment in me is still paying off. This is a part of what goes through my head as I help Wes students and grads looking for new opportunities.”

When I contacted Alberto, he told me that the Wesleyan connection stretched back even further. “Willie Kerr was instrumental in my understanding of what Wesleyan community meant and what one's natural obligation was/is.” Alberto and Willie, a beloved member of the Wesleyan faculty, provost, and, at the time of his death in 1999, secretary emeritus of the university, shared a close bond that reflected the best in the student-teacher relationship. “I helped Aaron out of belief in an individual and out of my sense of the Wesleyan community. You have no idea how touched I was to learn that he, in turn, has done the same thing to help other alumni.”

For a young alumna or alumnus starting out in the world, this link can be a giant step forward on a journey that often lasts a lifetime. When a small gesture changes the life or career of a young person, the ripples reverberate far beyond what anyone could expect. At its best, the Wesleyan connection reminds us what liberal education is all about.

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