Here to Help—The Career Resource Center

As senior year comes to an end, “What now?” is a major concern for both students and parents. It’s time for seniors to move on to new challenges, which for many is a job search. Neophyte job hunters may feel alone in the process, not realizing they have an ally in the Wesleyan Career Resource Center.

Alumni have a free, lifetime membership to the CRC and access to counselors, resources, and materials. Many students leave Wesleyan without a job; others will switch jobs within the first two years of leaving school. Many will one day attend graduate school (80 percent of Wesleyan graduates matriculate in a graduate school). Whatever the situation, the CRC has a variety of resources and tools available.

If a student is starting the job hunt, our online database, MonsterTrak, is available through our Web site at www.wesleyan.edu/crc. Go to “Opportunities” on the main toolbar, click on “jobs,” then select MonsterTrak from the list of links. Other job search tools are also listed.

If a student is not certain where to begin, but has an idea of what he or she would like to do, WesCAN, the Wesleyan Career Advisor Network, is also available on our Web site. This list of 20,000 alumni and parents is a useful resource for conducting informational interviews. You may search for alumni with specific Wesleyan majors or in certain industries and geographical locations, and then obtain business contact information that may be helpful in starting a networking circle. Go to “Quick Links” on our main page, select “WesCAN,” and access the database using your good-for-a-lifetime Wesleyan e-mail username and password.

Students frequently feel confused or frustrated. Our counselors are available for both in-person and phone appointments with alumni. For long-distance alumni, we have a dedicated alumni career consultant, Rozanne Bernstein, who offers afternoon and evening telephone appointments. A counseling appointment can be an opportunity to evaluate past experiences and accomplishments, and see how they fit into the work world. Assessment tools used by CRC counselors include the Strong Interest Inventory and the MBTI, which assess and evaluate personal goals and interests, and help apply them to relevant career paths.

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The Colors of Wesleyan

by Antoinette Green Wright, M.A. ’80 and parent ’02

Wesleyan offers students of color many wonderful opportunities to grow and develop in its liberal arts environment. Wesleyan offers an excellent academic program with a wide range of subjects from which to choose a major, as well as other courses of interest to students. Students of color also have the opportunity to participate in a number of student organizations and diverse cultural activities and experiences throughout the year.

Numerous organizations serve the needs of students of color should they decide to participate in those groups. Ujamaa is an African American student organization. Wesleyan also offers an Asian/Pacific American Alliance and a Latino Student Organization, Ajua Campos. All women of color can participate in the Women of Color Collective, a group that schedules discussions and plans various activities on campus. Students may also join in the Black Women’s Collective and the Black and Latino Brotherhood.

Many students participate in the African Student Association, the Chinese Student Association, the Multiracial Student Organization, the Japan Society, the Korean Student Organization, (Muay Thai?), Nosotras, an organization of Latina women, and the West Indian Student Association. The main purpose of all of these organizations is to provide opportunities for discussion among students of color and to offer emotional and social support for its participants.

The Multiracial Student Association and the Student of Color Council work with the administration on behalf of all students of color. Students have the opportunity for written expression in Avatar, Wesleyan’s magazine of Asian/Asian American expression and El Foco Latino. The Student of Color Web page is also available for students to receive information on organizations, activities and events, as well as for students to submit articles to share with the Wesleyan community.

Students frequently feel confused or frustrated. Our counselors are available for both in-person and phone appointments with alumni. For long-distance alumni, we have a dedicated alumni career consultant, Rozanne Bernstein, who offers afternoon and evening telephone appointments. A counseling appointment can be an opportunity to evaluate past experiences and accomplishments, and see how they fit into the work world. Assessment tools used by CRC counselors include the Strong Interest Inventory and the MBTI, which assess and evaluate personal goals and interests, and help apply them to relevant career paths.

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UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES
Where the Most Important Student Body is Yours

Travel is a high priority on most students’ agendas, whether it is travel with family or friends, or perhaps travel to study abroad. Becoming ill while traveling can ruin an otherwise wonderful adventure. Health conditions vary widely outside the United States and can change rapidly. Anyone traveling internationally can benefit from professional advice. Students need look no further than Wesleyan’s Davison Health Center, where clinicians who are experienced in travel medicine are available for “travel consultations” by appointment. There is no charge for this service.

During this visit, a student will provide an itinerary of his/her trip. The clinician will then review the student’s personal health history and past immunization history. Particular health hazards specific to the region will be discussed using country by country handouts from Travel Medicine Advisor, Centers for Disease Control reference material, and anything else pertinent. Disease prevention will be discussed and appropriate immunizations recommended. Particular issues such as traveler’s diarrhea, sunscreen, jet lag, and malaria prophylaxis (if indicated) will be discussed. Tuberculosis testing on return from travel will be considered depending upon the length of the stay and the region visited.

Most travel vaccines are available by appointment at the Health Center. They are:

- Hepatitis A $40
- Hepatitis B $30
- Typhoid $40
- Injectable Polio $20
- Meningitis $85

These should be scheduled in advance as most require at least two weeks before adequate protection is achieved. Other vaccines such as rabies preexposure, yellow fever, and Japanese encephalitis are available at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown per our clinicians’ referral.

Information on travel health is available at www.wesleyan.edu/healthservices/healthlinks.html. Click “Travel Health.” The section includes “Centers for Disease Control Travel Information,” “Travel Warnings and Consular Information,” and “Travel Smart.” These sites provide excellent information specific to the region of travel. They include reference materials, outbreaks of concern to international travelers, specific diseases that can affect travelers, vaccine recommendations, safe food and water guidelines, and cruise ship and air travel specifics. Information is also available for travelers with special needs.

We are happy to assist our students with travel planning, and we hope that our students will take advantage of the travel consultations available at the Davison Health Center. Our goal is for each student to have a safe and positive travel experience. Happy Traveling!

Jill Sweindal R.N., C.
Nursing Coordinator

The Web site is a companion to library resources and materials. From self-assessment to job-search tools, the Web site offers easily accessible and comprehensive information. Career Information pages offer valuable links for specific careers, from accounting to zoology. The Guides section offers tips on writing a résumé or cover letter, networking with alumni, and applying to graduate school.

Recent economic circumstances may make students nervous—or downright intimidated—as they begin the job search. The CRC is here to help. Encourage your son or daughter to use our resources.

THANKS TO COCHAIRS DARA AND KEN GORDON

As parents, Dara and Ken Gordon have been deeply involved in Wesleyan activities since 1994. Their son Michael graduated in the class of 1998 and daughter Laura graduated in the class of 2001. The Gordons helped establish the Parents Council and, as members of the executive committee, were instrumental in the council’s first enhancements to Parents Weekend in 1995. Their commitment to a more comprehensive and collaborative program resulted in a combined event, renamed Homecoming/Family Weekend. This community model for the weekend continues to enjoy great success with parents, alumni/ae, faculty, and students.

Throughout their children’s Wesleyan years, the Gordon’s efforts with special events expanded to include Reunion & Commencement Weekend. They served on the Reunion & Commencement committee for three years, and also served on the WESeminar Committee.

Their work with both major campus events always has focused on the engagement of faculty, parents, and students as expert facilitators to provide an extensive educational component for these community weekends.

As members of the Parents Council Executive Committee, the Gordons have served as a bridge between parents and the University administration, fostering a positive and productive relationship. During last year’s volunteer weekend for alumni and parent volunteers, Dara served as cofacilitator for a roundtable discussion on volunteer recruitment and retention. Both Ken and Dara have taken the lead on a broad range of topics from getting ATMs on campus to course access to quality of campus dining, and believe that the advice and counsel of parents on these, and other, topics are of great value for the university community.

In their final year as Wesleyan parents, the Gordons assumed the top parent leadership role as cochairs of the Parents Council, providing a structure to the executive committee and bringing new parents into volunteer service. Their willingness to continue as cochairs for an additional year after Laura’s graduation reflects their commitment to the value of the parent perspective for Wesleyan.

The Parents Council has grown and flourished in the past eight years, and we are proud to acknowledge the immense contributions of Dara and Ken Gordon, to whom we bid farewell as cochairs this May.
It’s a spring Saturday in Middletown. You’re looking for something to do. Here are a few choices:

Max Neuhaus: Sound Installations
Yasunao Tone: John Cage and Record Sound Installation: WeMix
Senior Recital: Greg Rogove
The Loveliest and Saddest Landscape

Top price for any event is $15; some are only $5, and some are free.

“The arts permeate Wesleyan,” says dance major Emily Watts, ’03. “Some weekends there are ten shows. The accessibility to the arts with $5 performances that would cost $50–$60 in New York helps people see the importance of the arts.”

Helping to make these resources available to the Wesleyan community is Pamela Tatge ’84, director of the Center for the Arts. Pam actively participated in theater at Wesleyan and in New York productions after graduation. Her Wesleyan education prepared her to support herself as a proposal writer, which led to a position in development at Long Wharf Theater in New Haven. Pam returned to Wesleyan several years ago and has seen the use of arts resources increase. “Last year, student attendance at events increased by 30 percent, and community attendance by 60 percent. We want the Center for the Arts to be a meeting ground for the community,” she commented recently.

The Center for the Arts houses academic departments in the arts. It supports student productions and works with a number of student groups to mount talent shows. “Artists are rarely booked without having interactive moments with students, such as a master class or a post-show discussion,” Tatge explains. “The international nature of the work is key to assisting students in global competence.”

Emily, who “danced for 15 years before entering Wesleyan,” says her most life-changing experience was meeting dancer Ralph Limon when he was in residence. He performed and taught classes in technique and composition. Before his arrival, he e-mailed students explaining what he would teach so they could be prepared. “He was so open,” Emily recalled. “He was at a point of questioning his own work and talked about that with students.” Most classes given by artists-in-residence are available to any student on a sign-up basis, often with priority given to majors.

One of the most important things about the arts at Wesleyan, says Tatge, is that “often student artists gain the most inspiration by participating in the activities of disciplines different from their own. The dynamic of a dancer being moved by a visual arts exhibit or a music student experimenting with dance choreography is extraordinary. Wesleyan offers these kinds of opportunities to all students, not just those majoring in the arts.”

That has been the case for Emily, who created a dance based on the books Moby Dick and Ahab’s Wife. “I distilled it into something danceable by comparing the themes of waiting portrayed in the two books, one actively, one passively. The best part was telling people I was doing a dance on Moby Dick and seeing their surprised reaction. Many who had never read the book said they now would.”

The 11-building Arts Center was designed by Kevin Roche in 1973 and conceived as a village for the arts. One stipulation was that no trees on its land be destroyed. Tatge appreciates the opportunity for intimacy in the buildings: none holds more than 400 seats and have very accommodating backgrounds. The concert hall, for example, “has floor to ceiling glass where one can watch a sunset and listen to music.”

The arts at Wesleyan provide inspiration, entertainment, and a window to the cultures of the world. For more information, go to www.wesleyan.edu/CFA or call the box office at (860) 685-3355.
Albizu Campos, the Asian/Asian American House, and the Intercultural House. Living in these houses gives students the opportunity to interact and live with students with similar ethnic backgrounds, which helps students feel a sense of community with people who are like themselves. Students have the opportunity to share cultural experiences such as art, food, and music which might not be as readily available to them in other campus settings.

Students of color may participate in various cultural events and activities throughout the school year. For instance, groups invite keynote speakers during months in which specific heritages are celebrated, such as Latino/a Awareness Month in November, Black History Month (now called African Heritage Month) in February, and Asian Awareness Month (now called Asian/Asian American Awareness Month) in April. Groups sponsor cultural shows such as Jubilee and Expresiónés de Latinos in which students participate in performances common to their cultures. There are also opportunities to see multicultural dance and music groups from outside of the University. For example, in February of 2001, Beverly Daniel Tatum, PhD, Jamaica Kincaid, and Dick Gregory spoke on campus. Cherrie Moraga spoke on the campus in November 2001.

My daughter has enjoyed her experience at Wesleyan. As a student of color she has found Wesleyan to be a very receptive environment where she has had the opportunity to grow and learn. She has had the opportunity to live in Malcolm X House, as well as to live in other dorms on the campus, and she has had the opportunity to take on a leadership role in Ujamaa. Most of her friends are other students of color, although she has had some associations with other students as well. In that regard, Wesleyan is perhaps a microcosm of the country at large where people are still separated by race and ethnic background, especially socially. In order for students to fully benefit from the diversity that Wesleyan offers, they need to reach out and participate in the diverse activities that are offered on the campus.

Although many opportunities are available for Wesleyan students, it is always a challenge for people of color to endure and achieve their full potential in a predominantly white environment. Students sometimes feel that the administration is less than supportive of their needs and efforts, and some students feel that a dean of multicultural affairs might enhance their experience at Wesleyan. While there is a Director of Student Activities and Leadership Development who supervises all student events, some students feel that the needs of students of color might be more fully met by an administrator whose specific purpose is to support the endeavors of their particular organizations. While in a perfect world such a position might not be necessary, in our less than ideal world someone in this capacity might enable students of color to have an even more enriching experience during their years at Wesleyan.

Antoinette Green-Wright is a Wesleyan graduate (MA in psychology, 1980). Daughter Challa will graduate in May with the class of 2002.

REUNION & COMMENCEMENT 2002
Need information about R&C 2002 weekend? Check the Web site at http://www.wesleyan.edu/event2002. The preliminary brochure is on its way to you with detailed information about all the great events for this exciting celebratory weekend! Can’t find what you need? Call or e-mail the office of Parent Programs with your questions: (860) 685-3756 or parents@wesleyan.edu. This year’s registration site, where you will be able to pick up your copy of the final brochure, will be the Office of Alumni Relations at 330 High Street.

Come celebrate with us! Plan to attend the informal Champagne Reception honoring all graduating seniors and their families on Friday, May 24, from 4:00–6:00 p.m. on the lawn of Russell House.

Academic Open Houses are wonderful opportunities to meet the professors who have played crucial roles in the education of your son or daughter. Check your preliminary brochure or the R&C 2002 Web site for information on these events during R&C 2002.

VOLUNTEER WEEKEND
Mark your calendar and plan to attend Volunteer Weekend September 13–15, 2002! More details will follow later in the year.

SONS & DAUGHTERS PROGRAM
If your son or daughter will be ready to begin the college admission process next year, plan to join us in the fall for Sons & Daughters 2002, a program for high school juniors and their parents. Admission, counseling, and financial aid professionals will work with the group on developing a comprehensive plan for applying to and choosing a college, and funding an education. To be put on the mailing list to receive a brochure next autumn, just click on the registration button at http://www.wesleyan.edu/sonsanddaughters/. Dates for the weekend will be announced.

A NEW LOOK FOR WESLEYAN ON THE WEB!
Check out our new look at www.wesleyan.edu, then click on the “Comments or Suggestions” button, if you have feedback!

NEED A GIFT FOR YOUR STUDENT?
The Wesleyan Student Assembly is sponsoring a gift service for finals and beyond.

Simply log in to www.wesleyan.edu/wsa and click on “Care Packages,” or call (860) 685-2410.

STUDENT HOUSING
The General Room Selection process for housing takes place from April 21 to May 1. For more information about this process, go to http://www.wesleyan.edu/reslife and choose “Room Selection” at the bottom of the page.

Housing closes at noon on Saturday, May 18, for all students not graduating.
Innocent First Years

We were visiting our son Michael for our first Parents Weekend. It was a dreary, rainy Saturday with little to do. After Michael’s having all he could take of parental chat, we diligently retreated to the Cromwell Radisson. And our daughter Laura, then a sophomore in high school, made it very clear that she “…sure wasn’t applying to Wesleyan.” The next day, there was a meeting for those people interested in establishing a Wesleyan Parents Council. Since our (and most) Wes students were still asleep, we decided to attend. I gave Dara a kick under the table. “Come on, it’s gotta’ be about money!” Wrong! Before the end of the meeting, Dara kicked me under the table. “You just volunteered us to cochair special events?”

Eight to Graduate?

George Strait (now a member of the Board of Trustees) along with his wife Lisa, really had things rolling. The Council started working with Admissions and Career Resources. The ParentLine newsletter provided an ongoing dialogue with parents. The University supported our initiatives by establishing the Office of Parent Programs. Family Weekend exploded with seminars and joint events with students, parents, faculty, and staff. The Parents Fund was proving its success in generating financial support for Wesleyan.

Michael could still take only so much of parental chatter. And Laura? She applied early decision . . . to Wesleyan!

Every year, with the support of so many dedicated parents and increased support from the University and the Alumni Association, the Parents Council has carved out an integral place for parents as members of the Wesleyan community. For eight years we have seen all areas of Council activity grow stronger. Hundreds of calls go out to prospective students and their parents. Calls of welcome go out to all newly admitted students. There are extraordinary numbers of parent volunteers providing mentoring, internships, and employment to Wes students. We enjoy outstanding back-to-back programming at Homecoming/Family Weekend. Reunion & Commencement weekend couldn’t be better as a send-off for graduating seniors and provider of memorable moments for parents and alumni. Parent participation in and contribution to The Parents Fund have exceeded expectations.

There is simply no question that the contributions of the Parents Council will be stronger than ever under the superb leadership of Jim and Carol Blann, parents of Emily ’04; the dedicated members of the Executive Committee; the extraordinary commitment of the Office of Parent Programs; the continued support of President Doug Bennet; every contingent of the Wesleyan community; and every parent who recognizes the immeasurable gifts that Wesleyan provides our students.

Thanks to all for an unforgettable eight years at Wesleyan. See you at Reunion & Commencement.

Ken and Dara Gordon, P ’98, P ’01

DEAR PARENTS,

Congratulations and thanks are due to all of you who have contributed to this year’s Parents Fund. We are well ahead of this time last year in dollars, having already raised over $350,000 in gifts and pledges ($232,000 in gifts and $118,000 in pledges).

Your generosity is eloquent testimony to your approbation of the education your child is receiving at Wesleyan and your willingness to ensure its continuation and strengthening. We are very grateful for, and heartened by, your support.

We hope with your help to reach $400,000 by the end of the fiscal year through our spring mailing, phonathons, and visits by staff and volunteers.

With thanks and warmest wishes,

Richard E. Crockford
Chair, Parents Fund

PARENTS COUNCIL 2002–2003

The Parents Council continues its work on behalf of Wesleyan with the announcement of new leadership for the coming year. We are pleased to present the Parents Council Executive Committee for 2002–2003:

Continuing Leadership Positions:
Joan Cohen (Roger ’03)
Jamie Schwarzfeld (Matthew ’03)
Admissions Committee
Richard Crockford (Seth ’04)
Parents Fund Chair
Christine Ridout (Timothy ’04)
ParentLine Editor
Susan and Lynn Rotando (Andrew ’03)
Career Resources Committee
Ellen and Arthur Sinkman (Laura ’05)
Special Events

New Leadership Positions:
Carol & Jim Blann (Emily ’04)
Parents Council Cochairs
Merrill and Andy ’68 Stone (Adam ’05 and Todd ’05)
Special Events Committee
Kathy and Jim Walsh (Christopher ’03 and Michael ’06)
Career Resources Committee

To these, and many other, parent volunteers who have played a role in enhancing and broadening the Wesleyan community in countless ways—THANKYOU.
THE PARENTS COUNCIL
The Parents Council was instituted in 1994 to help parents communicate with the University and among themselves, and to assist Wesleyan in providing the best education and experiences for its students. All parents are automatically members of the Parents Council. The council receives administrative support from the director of parent programs, Office of University Relations.

PARENTS COUNCIL, COCHAIRS:
Dara and Ken Gordon (Parents '98, '01),
Larchmont, NY; 914-834-1345
E-mail: dgordon@cloud9.net

PARENTLINE, EDITOR:
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E-mail: cridout@mediaone.net

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE, COCHAIRS:
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E-mail: jim.blann@aexp.com

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE, COCHAIRS:
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E-mail: joan@imp.net

ADMISSION COMMITTEE, COCHAIR:
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E-mail: schwarfeld@aol.com

CAREER RESOURCES COMMITTEE, COCHAIRS:
Susan and Lynn Rotando (Parents '03)
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PARENTS FUND, CHAIR:
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PARENTLINE, EDITOR:
Christine Ridout, P’04, Editor
Meg Zocco, Director, Parent Programs
Frantz Williams, Associate Director of Parent Programs
Camille Dolansky, Assistant to the Director of Parent Programs

Questions, comments, or suggestions should be sent to:
PARENTLINE, Wesleyan University, 318 High Street,
Middletown, CT 06459 • 860-685-3756 • parents@wesleyan.edu
For more information visit: www.wesleyan.edu/parents

IMPORTANT DATES

SPRING 2002

APRIL
5 Fri Senior theses due in Registrar’s Office by 4 p.m.

MAY
7 Tues Classes end
8–12 W–Sun Reading Period
13 Mon Undergraduate final exams begin
17 Fri Undergraduate final exams end at 5 p.m.
18 Sat University housing closes at Noon
23–26 Th–Sun Reunion & Commencement 2002
26 Sun 170th Commencement

FALL 2002

AUGUST
19 Mon International students arrive
26 Mon Class of 2006, new transfer, visiting and exchange students arrive
27 Tues Students returning from leaves and study abroad and readmitted students arrive
28 Wed Course registration for students returning from leaves, study abroad, new transfer and exchange students, and readmitted students
29 Thurs Course registration for Class of 2006
30 Fri On-campus enrollment period for undergraduates begins, 8:30 a.m.
31 Sat University housing opens for all undergraduates, 9 a.m.

SEPTEMBER
3 Tues Classes begin
Drop/add period begins
On-campus enrollment period for undergraduates ends, 5 p.m.

OCTOBER
12 Thurs Drop/add period ends, 5 p.m.

WESLEYAN
318 High Street
Middletown, CT 06459
Spring 2002
PARENTLINE