**The Susan B. and William K. Wasch Center for Retired Faculty**

**Wesleyan University**

**A Report for 2019-2020**

**Introduction**

The Wasch Center for Retired Faculty has completed its fifteenth year of operation in 2019-2020. We begin this report with the very sad news of the death of our dear colleague L. Kent Bendall, Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus, on May 15 at the age of 88. Kent was a regular presence at the Center who participated in many of our events. We will miss him.

Up until the “lockdown” necessitated by the Covid19 epidemic in March, we continued with our usual activities, including our Wednesday afternoon lecture series.

Under the directorship of Richard Friswell, our Wesleyan Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL) also continued to offer courses until the lockdown. Its short courses remain popular and appreciated by those who enroll in them.

**Wasch Center Directorship**

The end of this academic year also marks the completion of David Beveridge’s and Alex Dupuy’s three-year term as co-Directors of the Wasch Center. We welcome our colleague, Krishna R. Winston, Marcus L. Taft Professor of German Language and Literature, Emerita, as the new Director of the Wasch Center, effective July 1, 2020.

**Administrative Assistant**

At the end of June, 2019, Jessica Steele, our Administrative Assistant, left her position at the Center for one at Olin Library. We then formed a Search Committee comprised of David Beveridge, Andrew Szegedy-Masz, Duffield White, and Alex Dupuy. Working in conjunction with Joy Vodak at the Office of Academic Affairs, we conducted a search for a new Administrative Assistant. We offered the position to Alison Gallagher who accepted it effective September 9, 2019. She quickly mastered the requirements of the position, including hiring and supervising our work-study students, getting to know and responding to the needs of the Center’s resident faculty, scheduling its sponsored activities, and ensuring its smooth and effective operation and many contributions to the Wesleyan community.

**Advisory Board**

The Advisory Board met on a regular basis in the fall and spring semesters until March, 2020. It held its last meeting on May 14, 2020 via ZOOM. We were joined by our colleague Krishna Winston. The Board continues to be an invaluable source of new ideas and a resource for the existing programs at the Center. The current members of the Board are: Richard Adelstein, Herbert Arnold, Allan Berlind, David Beveridge (co-Director), Alex Dupuy (co-Director), Richard Friswell, Joyce Lowrie, Paula Paige, Rob Rosenthal, Karl Scheibe, Andrew Szegedy-Maszak, Bill Wasch, Arthur (Jerry) Wensinger, and Duffield (Duffy) White.

**Informational Meetings for Faculty Members Considering Retirement**

Due to the closing of the University in March, we did not hold our annual informational meeting and information session for faculty members considering retirement or had recently retired.

**Wednesday Lecture Series for the Fall and Spring Semesters**

**Fall Semester 2019**:

September 11

**By Joe Reed, “**Joe Reed’s Art and Some Stories About How He Created it”

(Joe Reed’s art will be exhibited at the Wasch Center through 9/17)

September 25

**Walter Mayo,**retired lawyer, lover of music of all genres

“Peter Frenzel Loved Opera And So Should We All“

October 2

**Meredith Hughes,**Assistant Professor of Astronomy and of Integrative Sciences
“Using Debris Disks to Weigh Planetary Systems”

October 16

**Joslyn Barnhart Trager,**Assistant Professor of Government
“The Pacifying International Effects of Granting Women the Vote”

October 30

**Mary Jane Rubenstein, Professor** of Religion, Science in Society, and Feminist,Gender, and Sexuality Studies

“The Matter with Pantheism:  Gods, Worlds, Monsters”

November 13

**Richard Vann,**Professor of History and Letters, Emeritus

“The History of Brexit”

December 4

**Briann Greenfield,**Executive Director of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center

“Why Harriet Beecher Stowe Matters Today”

**Spring Semester 2020**:

January 29

**Katja Kolcio**, Associate Professor of Dance

“The Force of Breath: War Relief and Social Change in Ukraine”

February 5

**Charles Barber**, Writer-in-Residence, College of Letters

“A reading and discussion of *Citizen Outlaw: One Man’s Journey from Gangleader to Peacekeeper”*

February 19

**Krishna Winston**, Marcus L. Taft Professor of German Language and    Literature, Emerita

“The Simple Life?: A First-Year Seminar Asks Some Fundamental Questions”

March 4

**Elizabeth Holder,**Chairperson, Middletown Conservation and Agricultural Commissionand**Jane Harris,**Chair of Middletown’s Urban Forestry Commission

"Tree Huggers and Trailblazers: Planning for an Increasingly Uncertain World"

March 25

**Andy Szegedy-Maszak**, Professor of Classical Studies

“The Pleasure of Ruins: Early Photographs of Ancient Sites”

Canceled – Covid 19

April 8

**Fred Cohan**, Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies

“Plagued by Our Success: How Human Domination of the Planet is Making Us Sick”

Canceled – Covid 19

April 22

**Duffy White,**Associate Professor of Russian Language and Literature, Emeritus

"Did Dostoevsky get Tolstoy Right?”

Canceled – Covid 19

May 6

Spring Concert by Mattabesset String Collective (Gil Skillman, Rebecca     McCallum, Kevin Wiliarty, Marc Eisner, and Barry Chernoff)

Canceled – Covid 19

**Wesleyan Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL)**

This year the WILL Program offered a total of twenty-two, eleven in the Fall and eleven scheduled for the spring semesters. The spring courses were cancelled due to the coronavirus.

**Fall Semester:**

Greg Altieri

Over A Barrel

Richard Voigt

Raising The Roof

Rick Friswell

Dark & Stormy Nights

Ken Elkins

Raptors Overhead

Ken Elkins

Duck

Richard Friswell

Code of Silence

Richard Friswell

Goodspeed's Billy Elliot

Howard Einsohn

Parables of Jesus

Al Turco

No Conflict, No Drama

Giulio Gallarotti

Read All About It

Bill Roberts

The Book of Job

**Spring Semester (**Canceled – Covid 19**):**

Elizabeth Bobrick

Masterminds and Martyrs: Women in Ancient Greek Drama

Steve Bank

Reality, Morality & Madness: Psychological Perspectives on Hamlet

Vera Grant

‘Once Upon a Time’: Timeless Fairy Tales Retold

Herb Arnold

A Hero’s Journey: Parzival or the Quest for the Grail

Rhea Higgins

Majestic Repose: Classical Antiquity and Renaissance Sculpture at Connecticut's Slater Memorial Museum

Richard Friswell

Up from the Smoke and Ash of War: Examining the Sequel to Global Conflict,

1944-1956

Peter Glass, Professional Photographer

Click! Digital Photography for Beginners

Howard Einsohn

Shakespeare’s Sonnets: Poems for Every Time Place and Season

Ken Elkins

The Great Migration: Seasonal Birds Arrive in New England

Giullio Galoratti

Read All about It! Literature that Changed the World (Part 2)

**Wasch Center Emeriti College Tutorials Offered by Wasch Center and other Retired Faculty**

**Fall 2019:**

Nancy Schwartz, Professor of Government, Emerita offered one Senior Thesis Tutorial

Robert S. Steele, Professor of Psychology, Emeritus, offered two Senior Thesis Tutorials, and one Graduate Advanced Research Seminar.

**Spring 2020:**

Richard P. Adelstein, Woodhouse/Sysco Professor of Economics, Emeritus, offered two Senior Thesis Tutorial and one Undergraduate Individual Tutorial.

Yoshiko Samuel, Professor of Asian Languages and Literatures, Emerita, offered one Undergraduate Individual Tutorial.

Nancy L. Schwartz, Professor of Government, Emerita offered one Senior Thesis Tutorial.

Robert S. Steele, Professor of Psychology, Emeritus, offered one Senior Thesis Tutorial and one Graduate Advanced Research Seminar.

**Oral History Project**

This year, our colleague Allan Berlind scheduled the following oral history interviews of our retired colleagues:

William Holder

Priscilla Meyer

Richard Miller

Peter Patton

Gay Smith