In this issue we offer a selection from the writings of Richard Leighton Greene, Professor of English at Wesleyan from the 50s to the 70s. He came as a visiting professor in 1954, stayed on, and was named Wilbur Fisk Osborne Professor in the English department two years later. He was mentor and inspiration to many in and outside the classroom, all told for 43 years. A native of Rochester NY and alumnus of its university, he took his M.A. and Ph.D. at Princeton.

To fill out this necessarily brief thumbnail sketch, I quote parts of a piece written on the occasion of his retirement in the May 1972 issue of Wesleyan News: [After attaining his doctorate], “he returned to Rochester to teach for 17 years, served four years as President of Wells College and was a visiting professor at Purdue, Berkeley and Cal Tech. . . [Here at Wesleyan] he taught, among others, the Chaucer and Middle English courses, Shakespeare, Eighteenth Century, the historical survey, and for many years the beginning course In Narrative Writing [never, never “creative writing” in his lexicon]. . . Many students who never found their way to his classes became aware of him in their days at Wesleyan through his long association as advisor to Alpha Delta Phi or for his spirited involvement in many campus issues.”

The unsigned piece goes on, in anticipation of the loss Wesleyan must sustain upon his retirement: “When he leaves there is no replacement, since he is probably the most individual of the University’s critics . . .. He is a formidable foe in argument, although he has been often associated with losing causes. [A former president of a women’s college], he argued that co-education was a mistake for Wesleyan, although he has been personally [more] pleased.
with the women students who have been in his classes [than] he expected he would be.”

The article continues: “He has also taken issue with faculty colleagues, administrators and students on a number of points where he has felt standards are being compromised. Although he has generally lost the issues, he has not abandoned his arguments and will bow out with all his flags flying. However his arguments are evaluated, they are obviously born of a deep affection for the institution.”

More to our immediate point here, the author concludes: “Professor Greene also takes with him one of the small pleasures of Wesleyan, the ironic, polished verses, limericks, imitations, classic forms, all salted with timely and local references. He turns them out with amazing speed and regularity and accepts praises lightly. When The Wesleiad [see below] was so warmly received at Honors College, he cheerfully remarked, ‘I enjoyed the laughs more than the applause and I valued the student response more than the faculty’s.’”

In assessing student response to RLG we can do no better than quote a few paragraphs written in memoriam by Alpha Delt brother (and incidentally German major), Andy Gaus, Class of 1968, to the Wesleyan University Alumnus when he learned of Dick’s death at his Yale apartment in New Haven, a few days short of his eightieth birthday. Gaus recalls: “Other people I’ve known have been sincere, reliable and accurate, but only of R.L. Greene could I say that his word was negotiable at 100% face value from every standpoint. If he told you he’d meet you somewhere at 3 p.m., he’d be there by 2:59 at the very latest. If he expressed an opinion, he meant it. And if he told you a fact, it was true.

“No great respecter of persons, Professor Greene extended this same kingly courtesy to everyone; no freshman got less, no university president got more. The truth as he saw it was the same for all ears . . . His idle conversation was better researched, better organized and better composed than many people’s books.

“Truly, Richard Leighton Greene was a giant. And if he was specifically a giant dinosaur, as I think his most fervent supporters would concede, he was no ordinary dinosaur, he was at least Tyrannosaurus Rex.”

We all of us who knew him, some better, some less well, had our own Dick Greene. I recall a gentleman in full -- impeccably turned out in that northeastern campus way, a handsome, modestly snow-capped, observant, punctilious phenomenon, quietly alert, ready-at-arms.

Then there is Paul Horgan’s nugget quoted in the NYTimes obituary: “a man of grainy logic, splendid conversational rhetoric and lambasting wit . . . in the unremitting calling to account of presidents and other high administrators, not to mention students who proposed to glide toward graduation on lazy charm.” I also recall with pleasure a two-day drive decades ago to Rochester, just the two of us with R.L. Greene at the wheel, a stay over with martinis, wine, a fine dinner, and non-stop sprightly talk.

He epitomized the familiar adage describing one who does not suffer fools gladly. And he could sniff out a fool in a trice. And, ah, the wit – everyone agrees with that.

Al Turco will now serve up a few morsels of it.
FROM *Digressions and Indiscretions* (1968)

**Instructor’s Folk-Carol**
Promotion Day is coming in a little while: Please to drop a volume on the Chairman’s pile? If you haven’t got a volume, an article will do; If you haven’t got an article, God Help you!

**Apologia**
“I cannot be a Christian,” the hippie said to me — “Trust no one over thirty, and Christ was thirty-three.”

“1966 and all That, Or the New Norman Conquest (On N.O Brown)”
Said a nobby young student of Nietzsche: Have done with the pious and priesche! Repress your repressions; act out your aggressions; And then everything will be pietzsche.”

**Minor musical Biography**
The canon-composer John Dunstable Was detained by a Hereford Constable; Said the justice of peace As he ordered release, ‘He’s not bad, just emotionally unstable.’

**On Marshall, After Martial**
I’ve read McLuhan, not without some tedium: The style is middling and the message medium.

**As They (Apparently) Like It**
It was a lover and his lass, With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino, In garb identical they pass In the daytime or in the twilight gray time; Their flowing locks their shoulders cover — Which is the lass and which the lover? Hey ding a ding ding, hey ding a ding ding, I do not like this thing.

The Strassmann System of Academic Evaluation (For women’s and coeducational colleges)
[TRIGGER WARNING: May be offensive to those sharing Dr. Strassman’s views.— Ed.]
“The better the brain, the smaller the breasts, and vice versa; the bigger the breasts, the lower the IQ” – Dr. Edwin O. Strassmann, Houston obstetrician and gynecologist.

Never mind the means and norms —Grade ‘em by their Maidenforms; Why add all the records up? Use the letter on the cup. Marked upon this kind of curve, All will get what they deserve: ‘C’ for fair, and ‘B’ for better, ‘A’ for strictness to the letter; Those with answers always pat Get a Double ‘A’ – that’s flat. (P.S.) A ‘D’ who to Phi Bete aspires Must learn the knack of pulling wires.

**“They Judge with Fury, But They Act With Phlegm”** (Pope)
I find that critics are quite liable To heavy overuse of ‘viable’; And some would feel quite sadly dated Unless they wrote ‘encapsulated’; Others indeed will sense a mystic Delight when they can pen ‘simplistic,’ Sure, nothing short of a lobotomy Would drive them to eschew ‘dichotomy;’ And it would take a fever hectic To make them give up ‘dialectic;’ And this demure communication They’ll doubtless call a ‘confrontation.’

[What might a time-travelling RLG think of duh, horrific, closure, artisanal, awesome, impactful, diverse, lossless, indigeneity, alterity, othering, ableism, cisnormativity, gender dysphoria, extraordinary rendition, comfort zone, soccer mom, mofo, pfish, app, interface, digitize, #hashtag, webinar, feedback loop, go viral, no-brainer, multitask, migration, selfie, twittersphere, Moodle, MOOC, ADHD, PTSD, OMG, IMO, LOL, like…..like…..like…. TOTALLY! – Ed.]

AN R.L. GREENE CHRESTOMATHY
*Poems Selected by Al Turco*
[from a time when we emeriti were greenhorns]
Ralph Baierlein

You may remember that, in 2009, I surprised you by saying that I had become a CEO. After two years of my persistent work, Friends of Northern Arizona Forests was well-established, and the novelty had worn off. In vain did I look for a successor. This past year (2013) was different. Because of problems with three other organizations, the first seven months were especially stressful. One of our members, however, had just shed the presidency of the Arizona Wildlife Federation and was willing to take over. At our annual meeting in October, my colleagues staged a surprise party and gave me a handsome plaque. If you should ever want to know more about what Friends of Northern Arizona Forests does for the Forest Service, you can visit our website: www.FriendsofNAzForests.org.

Judith Brown

In March I participated in the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, where a panel discussed the Cambridge Companion to the Italian Renaissance, in which I have an essay on the economies of Renaissance Italy. The panel was well attended and my essay received high praise from the president of the Renaissance Society of America, who was its discussant on the panel. In addition, I have co-edited and contributed to a book, Medici Women: The Making of a Dynasty in Grand Ducal Tuscany, which has been accepted by the University of Toronto Press, a major publisher in the field of Renaissance Studies. My co-editor, Giovanna Benadusi, and I hope that the book will available for sale in 2015.

Bill Firshein

The time since the last newsletter has indeed been a busy and fruitful one for me. This burst of energy has come primarily from writing and publishing my new book “The Infectious Microbe,” a 176 page narrative for the public of “everything you ever wanted to know about microbes but were afraid to ask.” It was published by Oxford University Press in February, 2014 and has already sold over 600 copies. For me it was the thrill of a lifetime (albeit a little late) since it is the first book I have ever published. It is not however, that my name has never been in print before. As a Research Microbiologist throughout my professional career at Wesleyan, I published over 78 research articles in Molecular Microbiology appearing in many scientific Journals including Science, Nature, and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. “Publish or Perish” is still operative and I took that dogma to heart. What’s the point of engaging in good research if you can’t let your peers know about it? That was the beginning of a series of events that followed. First, however, I should point out that I probably never would have
written this book if I had not been happily settled at the Wasch Retirement Center (since 2010) coming to “work” every weekday morning fresh as a daisy and unencumbered by other academic concerns. For that I have to thank both Bill and Susan Wasch, who provided the funds to open the

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Center and to Karl Scheibe, its first director. It has been a congenial place to interact with “fellows” from the other non-science divisions at Wesleyan whom I never would have met if I had not been at the Center. But I did write the book, the first to “emerge” as a publication from the Center. No doubt there will be others books emerging from other fellows. I hope so.

After publication a number of events were scheduled to promote the publication, including a book signing on March 6. What a joyous occasion for everyone attending including my children and wife and about 60 additional people. The Neon Deli’s owners Fran and Cynthia Galle provided delicious snacks and wine. They are indeed good friends to me and the Center. All the copies brought for the signing were sold (although, of course, I did not see a dime of the earnings). I have to wait for a few months more (I don’t think it will equal the best seller Fifty Shades of Grey or one of Bill O’Reilly’s books, but I am not worried).

The last scheduled event in which I was the star was my talk at a Wasch Center Wednesday Lecture on April 2, entitled “How an Octogenarian wrote a Popular Book in the Field of Microbiology.” I was exited about it because it would provide me with an opportunity to review my entire life from the age of 10 and how I became a scientist after first

Continued on page 6.
wanting desperately to become an Artist. Again there was a good audience and again I gave my all in presenting my autobiography. However, it seems I gave too much of my “all”. At the end of the talk during which I stood for an entire hour, I started to walk to a chair to sit down, but as I took a few steps, my legs became wobbly and I collapsed on the floor. What a tumult and what a dramatic way to end my “presentation” (yeah sure!). Anyway Karl and others came over to me and helped me up. I sat for about 15 minutes and I recovered with no other problems. I guess an Octogenarian can’t keep giving his all, all the time, or as Karl suggested to me, give a little less “all,” advice which I will follow to the letter as I loll on the beach somewhere this summer.

Charles Lemert

I have been appointed Vice-Chancellor’s University Fellow at the University of South Australia, Adelaide. I will conduct a master class there this summer on “1914-2014: Fast Capitalism and Global Uncertainty” as well as give a public lecture on roughly the same subject. I will also key-note an international conference on “The New Individualism: A Decade Later.” I now serve with Kai Erikson as the coordinator of the Retired Social Scientists’ Seminar and Fellowship at Yale. I published, with Anthony Elliott, “Introduction to Contemporary Social Theory” (Routledge, 2014). The paperback edition of “Uncertain Worlds: World Systems Analysis in Changing Times,” with Immanuel Wallerstein and Carlos Aguirre Rojas, appeared late in 2013 with Paradigm Publishers). A new short book on “Globalization” is in press to appear early in 2015 (again, Paradigm). I have begun work on an Ethnography of the Dead. In addition I has been appointed to the Graduate Faculty at Southern Connecticut State University where I direct theses and teach from time to time on various themes in social theory. My daughter, Anna Julia, is finishing tenth grade at Hebron Academy. Geri has started with Writer’s House, a (for her) new literary agency in New York City and has had books by three of her authors named finalists for serious prizes, including a Pulitzer and the National Book Award.

John Paoletti

In December 2013 I gave the Robert Smith Memorial Lecture at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Leslie and I followed our time in London with a week in Paris just before Christmas. In March I gave a talk on Michelangelo’s David at Essex Meadows where Leslie and I had a chance to see many Wesleyan friends, including Biff and Jean Shaw, Wis and Mary Connie Comfort.

I will be the Belle Ribicoff Lecturer at Vassar College in the fall of 2014. In addition to a public lecture, the endowed lectureship involves teaching six undergraduate seminars for art history majors. During that time, and then again in the spring term, I will also be replacing a faculty member on sabbatical for the Renaissance lectures in Vassar’s introductory course in the history of art. In November and December I will be a visiting professor (for the second time) at the Prato Consortium for Medieval and Renaissance Studies of Monash University (Melbourne), in Prato, Italy. I will also be teaching a graduate seminar on Medici patronage at Rutgers University in the spring of 2015.

I continue to sit on the Acquisitions Committee of the Department of Prints and Drawings of the Museum of Modern Art, something I have done since 2007. My book on Michelangelo’s David is in production at
Cambridge University Press and I hope that it will be out at the very beginning of 2015.

The big news of the year was the birth on February 1 of our second grandchild - Mira Grace Kosuri - to our daughter Sarah Paoletti and her husband Praveen Kosuri. Our grandson, Milo, heads to middle school this fall and will be starting a new life in the New York public schools.

**Paul Schwaber**


**Jan Willis**

I’ve had a wonderful past few months teaching “Introduction to Buddhism” at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia for the spring semester (as the Dabney Adams Hart Visiting Professor of Humanities). Agnes Scott is a lovely, small liberal arts college for women. The town of Decatur boasts a great diversity of people from all around the world and a World Market where I can, at last, practice Hindi!

In addition to my class, I gave a number of public talks as well: On January 20, 2014, I was on a panel and did a reading in celebration of MLK Day which was sponsored by WNYC and held at the Apollo Theater in New York. On March 14th, I gave a lecture at Agnes Scott titled “The Essential Teachings of all the Buddhas.” On March 27th, I spoke at Emory University as part of its Tibet Week. On April 8th I gave a talk and had a book-signing at Charis Books—the oldest Feminist bookstore in the Southeast; and on April 29th, I gave a lecture titled “Learning True Love: the Bodhicaryavatara of Shantideva” at the Shambhala Buddhist Center of Atlanta, which just happens to be located in Decatur! All these lectures were well attended and well-received. I’ve also managed to review, and write endorsements for, three new books.

Lastly, in June I will head off to Italy to attend a small conference with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. All best to everyone there!

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**Wasch Center Endowment**

The Wasch Center continues to build its endowment that might eventually allow funding for professional and research expenses, including the purchase and maintenance of computers. If you are considering a gift to Wesleyan, you might designate it, in full or in part, to be credited to the Wasch Center. Please contact Karl Scheibe (x2273) or Mark Davis (x3660) in University Relations.
“Kilmer, Thou Shouldst be Living at this Hour”
I think that I shall never show ’em
A tree as silly as a poem.
Trees are found on farms and ranches,
Neatly framed with trunks and branches.
Poems spurt from Beats in attics,
Ancient drunks and young fanatics.
Lofty pines are ground into
The pulpy Evergreen Review.
Trees are grown from Rome to Nome,
But only fools can make a poem.

FROM The Wesleiad (1972)

In this epic John Wesley materializes and requests R.L. Greene to escort him on a walking tour of the Wesleyan campus. Though Dick anticipates a negative reaction, it turns out that this visitor from the 18th century is pleased to discover that his influence has extended beyond the mere lending of his name to a Church and many schools. Here follows an excerpt — from the sartorial section — of this 400+ line magnum opus, read by its author before the Connecticut Gamma of Phi Beta Kappa on 2 May of the year of his retirement.

Inevitably we met with several students;
To keep my guest from stopping seemed like prudence
For fear his antique dress might draw their stares,
Forgetting that the older clothes one wears
At Wesleyan, the closer one conforms
To 1972’s collegiate norms.
They gave John’s costume not a second glance
And he, in turn, forbore to look askance
At their fringed shirts and more-than-skintight pants.
Instead he smiled and spoke in accents bland:
“I see these youths are tillers of the land.
One of my hopes has surely come to pass:
More education for the laboring class.
I see great signs of spiritual strength:
These young men wear their hair at shoulder length;
That was my custom, not to wear a wig;
The men of fashion thought me quite a prig.
The barbers’ fees I saved to give the poor;
These students do the same, I’m very sure.
Their garments, too, show real religious care:
Their trousers speak of long and fervent prayer;
The patches on the knees are most revealing:
They show the wear of countless hours of kneeling.”
No word I answered to betray dubiety;
Instead, “You know,” said I, true marks of piety.
The women’s zeal the men’s devotion matches
Perhaps exceeds — if reckoned by the patches.”
“Who is,” he asked, “that most attractive amazon
Who looks as if she has pajamas on?”
“She proves,” I said, “that woman is a biped;
Those are called slacks – just now they wear them
stripéd.

* * * * *

For My Own Epitaph
(After the Greek Anthology)

Light as on the little Grecian slave,
Lie, softly sheltering earth, upon my grave;
I shall the sounder sleep as you the less weigh
Until they excavate for the expressway.
Necrology

Marilyn Buel
Marilyn Ellman Buel, wife of Dick Buel, emeritus Professor of History, died in Essex on August 3rd, 2014. Born in Brooklyn in 1942, she was graduated from Connecticut College in 1964 and subsequently had a corporate public relations career in New York City. She married Dick in 1992 and lived with him in Essex, Connecticut until her death. There will be a gathering to celebrate her life at 1 pm on Sunday, September 7th at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, 55 East Kings Highway in Chester, Connecticut.

John Frazer
John Frazer, emeritus Professor of Art, died on July 7th, 2014 at the age of 82. He was graduated from the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and subsequently awarded a Master of Fine Arts from Yale. Primarily a painter and teacher, John began his Wesleyan Career in 1959 where he remained until his retirement in 2001. His creative work found audiences across the country and abroad. As a filmmaker, he directed eight documentary films and was instrumental in founding the Film Studies Program. His wife Susan, an Adjunct Professor in the Romance Language Department, predeceased him in 1992. He is survived by his spouse, Wil Hall, his daughter, Katherine Frazer Thayer and her husband Scott Thayer. Memorial contributions in his name may be made to MARC: Community Resources, 124 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457. A memorial service is planned for the early fall.

Elizabeth Tishler
Betty Tischler, wife of the late Max Tishler, University Professor of Sciences, died February 14, 2014 in Middletown at the age of 104. She was a generous supporter of Wesleyan’s programs in the sciences, music and the arts. After Max’s death in 1989, she established a Research Chair in Medicinal Chemistry in his honor. She also funded prizes in music and the arts, most notably the Elizabeth Verveer Tishler Piano Competition. Moreover, she and members of her family and friends established the Tishler Teaching Award, given annually in her husband’s memory to the best graduate teaching assistant in Chemistry. Memorial contributions may be made to the Elizabeth Verveer Tishler Piano Competition at Wesleyan, Department of Music, 45 Wyllys Ave, Middletown, CT 06459.

Dzintra Infante
Dzintra Infante, wife of Tony Infante, emeritus Professor of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, died on July 26th at Yale-New Haven Hospital after a brief illness. She was 77. Born in Latvia, she came to the United States at the age of nine and earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Westhampton College in the University of Richmond. She later received a master’s degree from Wesleyan. She had a productive professional life in industry and academia as a biochemical research assistant. At Wesleyan she conducted research together with Tony in developmental cell biology. Donations may be made in Dzintra’s memory to the Greater Middletown Chorale, 190 Court St., P.O. Box 527, Middletown, CT 06457.
The Wesleyan Institute for Lifelong Learning Fall 2014

The Wesleyan Institute for Lifelong Learning is offering nine new courses during the fall semester. For detailed descriptions of the courses, costs, and information about enrollment, please go to www.wesleyan.edu/will or call 860/685-2273.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT: A MYSTERY TOUR
Andrew DeRocco
Five Thursdays, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; 7-8:30pm
Wasch Center Butterfield Room - $110

EXPLORING THE CHALLENGES OF PERSONAL FINANCE
Richard Miller
Three Mondays, October 6, 13, 20; 4:30-6pm
Allbritton 004 - $70

HENRI MATISSE: FROM FAUVE TO MODERNIST ART
Rhea Higgins
Three Tuesdays, October 14, 21, 28; 4:30-6pm
Wasch Center Butterfield Room - $70

“PAINTING FOR THE PEOPLE”: LITHOGRAPHY IN FRANCE IN THE 19TH CENTURY
Clare Rogan
Three Wednesdays, October 15, 22, 29; 6:00–7:30 pm
Davison Art Center Print Reference Library -$70

HYPHENATED AMERICANS: CONTEMPORARY STORIES OF LIVES LIVED BETWEEN TWO CULTURES
Hila Yanai
Four Mondays, October 27, November 3, 10, 17; 4-5:30pm
Wasch Center Butterfield Room - $90

ALL ABOUT FOOD: HEALTHY COOKING
Brian Dagnall
Four Tuesdays, November 4, 11, 18, 25; 4:30 - 6:30pm
Daniel Family Commons - $125

KEEPING YOUR NERVE: A FICTION-WRITING WORKSHOP
Sari Rosenblatt
Six Tuesdays, November 4, 11, 18, December 2, 9, 16; 5:30-7pm
Wasch Center Butterfield Room - $125

TRAVEL WITH A GEOLOGIST; PLUTO’S REALM, POSEIDON’S TRENCH, AND APOLLO’S TEMPLE
Jelle de Boer
Three Thursdays, November 6, 13, 20; 4:30-6pm
Wasch Center Butterfield Room - $70
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 3:00PM*
The Dawn Patrol (1938), British flying aces in World War I contend with the harsh realities of war, directed by Edmund Goulding and starring Errol Flynn, Basil Rathbone, David Niven.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH, 3:00PM*
On the Town (1949), three sailors on a day of shore leave in New York City look for fun and romance before their twenty-four hours are up, directed by Stanley Donen, Gene Kelly, written by Adolph Green and Betty Comden, and starring Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra, and Betty Garrett.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 3:00PM*
Hell in the Pacific (1968), during World War II, an American pilot and a marooned Japanese navy captain are deserted on a small uninhabited island in the Pacific Ocean. There, they must cease their hostility and cooperate if they want to survive, but will they? Directed by John Boorman, starring Lee Marvin and Toshirô Mifune.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND, 3:00PM*
MASH (1970), the staff of a Korean War field hospital use humor and hijinks to keep their sanity in the face of the horror of war, directed by Robert Altman and starring Donald Sutherland, Elliott Gould, Tom Skerritt.
TWO FACULTY MEMBERS ATTAIN EMERITUS STATUS

There were two retirements in the past academic year: Jonathan Best, Professor of Art History and Anthony Braxton, Professor of Music. They will be honored at a reception at the Wasch Center during next spring’s Commencement/Reunion weekend.