

UPFRONT

NICK LACY

“Wesleyan alumni have shown an eagerness to work on issues of public import so that through education we can, as President Fisk said, serve the good of the world.”

—PRESIDENT MICHAEL S. ROTH '78

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Dar Williams '89 performed during R&C 2009 in a benefit concert in memory of Johanna Justin-Jinich '10.

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Logistics of Filmmaking Spur New Business

Anna Quindlen P'07 Speaks at Commencement

Service in Africa Inspires Humility

A Fresh Look at Hoover and FDR

ATHLETICS

Lacrosse Captures First NESCAC Title

The 2009 Wesleyan men's lacrosse team did something that eluded each of the last eight Cardinals lacrosse squads: winning a NESCAC tournament title and earning an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III tournament.

Reaching the NESCAC playoff semi-finals for the seventh year in a row and the championship game for the fifth time in team history, Wesleyan finally realized its goal of a conference title on May 3 when the Cardinals downed the Tufts Jumbos, 14-10, for the NESCAC crown. Head Coach John Raba, who stands a remarkable 155-67 over his 13 seasons, was named New England Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (NEILA) Division III Coach of the Year for the fifth time. Raba called winning the NESCAC title “one of our best weekends ever.”

Wesleyan had qualified at-large for the NAAs in 2005, 2006, and 2007, reaching the

national semi-finals in the latter two seasons.

Part of Wesleyan's first big accolade in 2009 came in February as All-American defender Spike Malangone '09 received *Inside Lacrosse* magazine's preseason Defensive Player of the Year honors. Malangone is a two-time United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) Division III second-team All-American.

Wesleyan's reward for capturing a NESCAC crown was a pair of home games in the NCAA Division III tournament. Wesleyan disposed of Eastern Connecticut State University, 8-4, in its tournament opener. Each of the four times Wesleyan has appeared in the NAAs, it has won its initial contest. But when Wesleyan met Middlebury for the third time this season in a national quarter-final, the Panthers outscored their hosts 7-1 in the second half to secure a 13-5 triumph. While the loss ended the team's 10th consecutive winning season with a 15-4 record, the memory of a NESCAC crown will serve as inspiration for the 2010 campaign.

The USILA announced its 2009 Division III All-Americans on May 19. Spike Malangone '09 was a first-team defender and Russ Follansbee '09 was a third-team attackman. UPFRONT



ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME



ALLEGRA M. BURTON '87

Allegra Burton has the distinction of becoming the first Wesleyan woman to earn NCAA All-America honors in two sports during the same year. In 1986-87, Burton placed eighth in the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championship and third in the 5,000-meter event at the NCAA Division III Track and Field Championships. It was her first time as an All-American on the track but her third time in cross country. Her third-place finish during the 1985 NCAA Cross Country Championship stands as the highest finish ever by a Wesleyan woman at the event.

During her cross-country career, Burton placed first in all 18 dual races she entered and took as high as second in New England Division III. She also led the team to its highest ever finish at the regional affair, a second-place showing among 23 teams in 1984. She

competed in the NCAA Division III Track and Field Championship three times in addition to her four appearances at the cross-country meet. Receiving CoSIDA Academic All-America second-team honors in the at-large category in 1986, she was Wesleyan's Maynard Award winner in 1987 as the top senior scholar-athlete.

Continuing to run in road races after graduation, she claimed a number of top-three finishes in 5K and 10K events between 1988 and 1993. In 1990, she ran alongside four-time Boston and New York City Marathon winner and Wesleyan Athletics Hall of Famer Bill Rodgers '70 for the inaugural lap on Wesleyan's Bacon Field House track to commemorate the opening of the facility.

A member of the American Dietetic Association, she has become an accomplished registered dietician and educator, committed to helping people lead healthier lives through nutrition education and awareness.

Future issues of *Wesleyan* magazine will profile other inductees into the university's Athletics Hall of Fame in Freeman Athletic Center.

Do you have an opinion about our UPFRONT section? Please write us at letters@wesleyan.edu.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Michael S. Roth '78



The 2008–09 year began with triumph and fanfare as we celebrated a Tony Award-winning production on Broadway. As the year ended, we were shaken by the tragedy of the murder of Johanna Justin-Jinich '10. In these instances and throughout the rest of the year, I was inspired by the depth and energy of the extended Wesleyan community. In joy and in sadness, the Wes family members were there for one another. But ours is a community that is not only inward looking. We take the energy from our Wesleyan connection and put it to work in the public sphere.

I am confident that through the depth and energy of our community we will continue to build on the work that Johanna had already begun in her short life. In remembrance of Johanna, and with visions of the future, I'd like to point to three of the areas of public concern that her life and her death have brought to mind.

The first is health care, an area in which Johanna worked to improve prenatal services for poor women. There is a great battle brewing in Washington concerning how we will pay for and distribute health care in the future. *The status quo is unacceptable.* Too many of our neighbors are deprived of reasonable health services because of their inability to pay. Our current path promises excellent care for a shrinking percentage of the population, and no care at all for larger and larger numbers of people. We must change, and we will need ideas and energy to ensure that this is change for the better.

The second area where we need the help of an active alumni body is gun control. I know many regard this as a lost cause because of the passionate effectiveness of the NRA, but Johanna's murder should remind us all of the idiocy of our handgun regulations. *The status quo is unacceptable.* With more than 30,000 people dying annually from gun violence in this country, and with more than 12,000 murders committed with guns, we need you to help us enter the world of nations governed by laws, not violence. Debates about the Second Amendment and about the glories of hunting need not stifle reasonable law aimed at reducing violent deaths.

The third area of public import brought to mind by Johanna's life and death concerns violence against women. When I was an undergrad at Wesleyan 30 some-odd years ago, sexual harassment of students and of young women on the faculty was as common as beer parties. But women fought against these practices, and, sometimes aligned with men and transgendered people, made enormous strides toward greater equality. Around the country, however, violence against women remains a sad and frightening fact of life. *The status quo is unacceptable.* Too often rape goes unpunished; too often stalking is belittled until it explodes as it did here weeks ago. These are crimes of violence, and we need you to help us find ways of giving women the protection of law still too often used to preserve male privilege.

The status quo is unacceptable—that sentence would generate enthusiastic assent from generations of Wesleyan graduates. And the enthusiasm doesn't have to be connected to any particular political party. We Wes alumni have used our education to change the course of culture because otherwise, people for whom creativity and change, freedom and equality, diversity and tolerance are much too threatening might shape the future. Liberal or conservative, Democrat or Republican, Wesleyan alumni have shown an eagerness to work on issues of public import so that through education we can, as President Fisk said, serve the good of the world. UPFRONT

FILM

Documentary By Hutton '09 Gaining Acclaim

Next to the Sundance Film Festival, the annual South By Southwest (a.k.a. SXSW) festival in Austin, Texas, may be the most prestigious forum for new independent films in the United States. So when Noah Hutton '09 had his film *Crude Independence* accepted by SXSW in the documentary category, he couldn't help feeling excited.

"It was a huge honor," he says. "The festival has evolved so quickly in the past few years to be one of the top U.S. film festivals with an international spotlight, and it was a perfect place to show our work. The exposure you receive there is invaluable."

Though it wasn't his first film, it was the first feature-length documentary Hutton had directed on his own. He had previously

worked as a codirector on a documentary about Uganda in the summer of 2007. After that project was finished, Hutton began looking for a new subject. Soon after he read an article in the *New York Times* about the recent oil boom in North Dakota.

"I had a gut feeling that there was a film to be made, and I boarded a plane two days later to spend my winter break scouting out the area and shooting some preliminary footage," Hutton says.

He settled on the area in and around Stanley, N.D., a formerly sleepy town that found itself on top of potentially the largest oil field in North America. The landscape of the town and its surroundings, and the investment of oil speculators, had created overnight millionaires next door to people who weren't so fortunate.

Hutton returned to the East Coast in search of funding. He soon found three individual investors, including one whose name carried a significant amount of cachet

in the film world: Jonathan Demme.

"Jonathan Demme is involved in the Jacob Burns Film Center in New York City, which is the same one I'm associated with," Hutton says. "He came to the screening of my documentary on Uganda and introduced himself afterward, saying he would be interested in seeing what I did next. Soon after, I sent him the proposal for *Crude Independence* and he came onboard."

With a budget of about \$6,000 in hand, Hutton headed up to North Dakota in the summer of 2008 for six weeks to film in and around the town of Stanley. He spent the rest of the summer editing his raw footage with Alex Footman '09 and scoring the film. They finished in between classes and homework in September.

As he began to show the film and enter it in smaller festivals, the audience response was increasingly positive.

"I think people are surprised by the approach we've taken and the way the story develops on screen," Hutton says. "We tried to make a documentary that feels somewhat like a narrative fiction film in its construction but still provides a complete, real-life sense of this moment in our nation's history."

What's next for Hutton? He's been studying neuroscience for the last two years and hopes to continue doing research in that area. He's mused about medical school but he's not ready to commit to that just yet. He's also the president of Wesleyan's student radio station, WESU, and may want to pursue opportunities in that medium.

"I'll see this project out through distribution and I have a couple of freelance documentary projects lined up for the summer," Hutton

says. "After that, my real decision is whether I want to get a full-time job or do something part-time while I develop my next project, which I hope will be a narrative feature. I have a lot I'd like to do." UPFRONT

ENTREPRENEURS

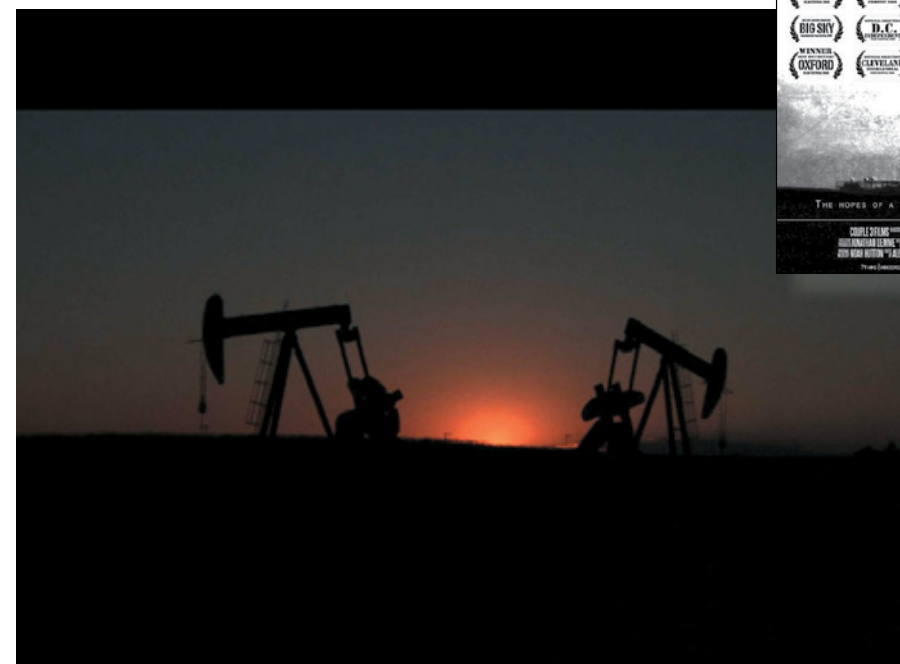
Dachs '98 Creates Pix System for Entertainment Industry

Eric Dachs '98 admits he doesn't have a long attention span. In particular, he did not have much patience for all the paperwork that seems to smother the creative process in filmmaking. His frustration bubbled over when he was wading through e-mail and faxes as he worked on *Panic Room*, released in 2002. Fed up, he created a company to solve the problem.

Building a viable company was, of course, not that simple, but his motivation and the concept were straightforward. Develop an online-based application, he reasoned, to aggregate every piece of print and video collateral that goes into the making of a film.

That's a mammoth organizational task. On campus recently for talks with students, Dachs took time out of his schedule on a warm Sunday afternoon to set up his Mac and show how it all works.

His company, based in the San Francisco Bay Area, is PIX System, which spent three years working on the Academy Award-winning film, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, directed by David Fincher, and starring Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett. From the outset, the film's staff acquired materials at a furious pace: script revisions and annotations, location photos, hair and makeup stills, casting tests, and the like. Once production began, the dailies came in, which editors reviewed and marked up. Then it



Crude Independence, directed by Noah Hutton '09, tells what happens when oil wealth comes to town.

was on to post-production, where digitally edited dailies, sound, background sound, music, and special effects all come together.

Benjamin Button generated about a half million individual items shared among 350 individuals worldwide, more than a dozen vendors, and two major studios, Paramount and Warner Brothers. It was symphonic in its complexity, and PIX System mediated every note.

The beauty of the Web is that a film editor in New York who needs to see yesterday's shooting in LA does not have to wait for the FedEx delivery or find a screening room. The dailies are digitized and immediately uploaded to the PIX site. The editor in New York—or Kuala Lumpur, for that matter—needs only a laptop and Web connection. The software provides means for annotation and marking up individual frames, as well as many other features that fit right into the work style of busy editors.

And that's the key. Dachs doesn't like to read instruction manuals and, according to him, people in the film industry are likewise averse to spending time learning a new software system. Dachs capitalized on his familiarity with the industry, gained through several years of work as a sound editor, to design a product that would mesh seamlessly with the work styles of over-worked filmmakers.

The company's strategy since its launch five years ago has been to connect with individuals whom the industry watches and to keep developing the system. Client projects include *Jarhead*, *Roadtrip Nation*, *Lord of the Rings*, *Indiana Jones at the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, the Nike "Fate" commercial, and many more. Network news programs and commercial producers have used the system. Recently, PIX added several top technical professionals from Silicon Valley to its staff of 21 individuals as their work continues to expand into different Hollywood studios.

"The real secret sauce is having a comprehensive system," says Dachs. That's the element competitors so far have lacked.

The company is still young enough that it doesn't have an overly formal structure, though Dachs says it's not a "garage business" and will undoubtedly have to acquire more of the trappings of business organization as it continues growing. He manages to keep engaged in everything from sales and financial oversight to coding of prototypes.

"It's an incredibly thrilling time in my life," he adds. Before closing his Mac, he offers his thanks to Wesleyan's theater department, in which he majored. It was great training for business, he insists. He and his fellow students were given a budget and set free to create. "At the end," he says, "you had to have a show." UPFRONT

WASHINGTON

Waldman '86, Miranda '02 Perform at White House

Two Wesleyan alumni performed May 12 for President Obama, his family, and others at the White House at an event titled "An Evening of Poetry, Music and the Spoken Word." Ayelet Waldman '86 and her husband, Michael Chabon, both writers, were among the speakers. An NPR story about the event included Waldman discussing the power of the written word: "To harness the power of language you have to be able to put yourself in the position of the person you are speaking to—to imagine

what they are thinking, what they're feeling. That's hard."

Also at the White House was Lin-Manuel Miranda '02, creator of the award-winning Broadway show *In The Heights*. In her blog, Waldman says he won over the audience "with a hip hop song about Alexander Hamilton, as sung by Aaron Burr." She credited Miranda with being "one of those performers who comes along every once in a rare while who's just got magic about him." UPFRONT

A New Life By Accident

By Karen Guzman

India was not the place Jon Sigworth '10 expected to find a new life. He'd gone there in 2006, fresh out of high school, as part of an academic abroad program to study history and theology. But a cycling accident one afternoon on a narrow road in the northern part of the country changed everything.

Pedaling along, Sigworth lost control of his bike and plunged over a 70-foot cliff. In the nearby hospital, where a doctor told him it was uncertain whether he would ever walk again, Sigworth suddenly faced a changed reality. His purpose, however, remained the same.

"I could wiggle my big toe, but that was it," he says. "I told the doctor that it would be great if I could walk again, but that it was okay if I never did, that my only purpose in life was to glorify God, and I could do that just as easily in a wheelchair as I could walking."

Sigworth's injuries rendered him a quadriplegic, a type of paralysis that affects all four of a patient's limbs to some degree. He is paralyzed beneath the arms and partially in both his hands. But his injury has given Sigworth something else, too: a new calling and a way to reach out to others like him in a part of the world where rehabilitation efforts for the disabled are

sorely lacking. In June, his latest effort to improve the lives of spinal cord-injured persons in India will appear on-line. *Our Beautiful Letdown*, a short, independent documentary film directed and edited by Sigworth, was scheduled to debut on www.escip.org, the site of Sigworth's Empowering Spinal Cord Injured Persons advocacy organization. For a preview, viewers can go to the Web site now.

Sigworth spent the '08-'09 academic year traveling in India while making the film. Production began in Delhi and ended in Pune at a paraplegic rehabilitation center. Along the way, he met a rich cross-sample of India's faith and disabled communities, as well as workers in India's famed Bollywood film capital.

The film, made in partnership with The International Humanitarian Foundation, focuses on Sigworth's efforts to introduce wheelchair rugby, a sport unheard of in India until now, to the country's quadriplegic population. Other wheelchair sports, such as tennis and basketball, aren't appropriate for quadriplegics, who have some degree of hand or arm impairment. Through the film, Sigworth wants to share the skills and vision that have enabled him to live nearly independently. He explains:

"I want the film to be a resource for spinal cord-injured patients in India, so they can see the possibilities despite a life with paralysis—and more importantly see their disability as an opportunity to reach out to others. I want people, and not just patients, to realize suffering is just another opportunity to give, perhaps the greatest opportunity we've ever had."

After his accident, Sigworth spent five weeks in an Indian hospital and another two and a half months at a facility back in Connecticut, near his parents' home in Hamden. Less than one year later, in December 2006, he was back in India, volunteering as a peer mentor at the Indian Spinal Cord Injury Center in Delhi.

It was the best place to begin his outreach. Most Indian hospitals lack active rehabilitation programs that prepare patients to go home

and continue progressing, Sigworth says. The country has few disability accommodations, and patients are generally dependent on their families or caretakers. Sigworth's film follows him as he demonstrates the benefits of active rehabilitation—which he received in the United States—and shares his own story of recovery.

A rehabilitation program that aims to return the patient to as active and independent a life as possible can make all the difference, says Donna Lowich, an information specialist at the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, a paralysis resource center and advocacy organization based in Short Hills, N.J.

"It is important for the individual to get back into the community and into life's activities," says Lowich, who suffered a spinal cord injury herself more than 20 years ago. "Over time you learn and come to understand that you are more than your injury. You are still the same person you were before the injury."

Accredited U.S. rehabilitation programs can be found on the www.carf.org Web site.

Sigworth hopes his work will eventually lead to better and more widespread rehabilitation programs and accommodations for the disabled. To this end, he is transferring to Dartmouth College, where he will follow an individualized program of study focusing on the Middle East, world religions, and advocacy work abroad for the disabled. He has already met several like-minded Dartmouth students interested in partnering with him.

Along the way, Sigworth plans to rely on the faith that has led him this far along an unintended path. "Our only responsibility," he says, "is to continue loving our neighbor the same way God loves us, despite the circumstances—whether you're in the hospital, prison, or have just won the lottery." UPFRONT

Jon Sigworth '10 turned a disastrous accident into an opportunity to help rehabilitation programs in India, specifically through his new favorite sport—wheelchair rugby. Hartford Courant photographer Ross Taylor traveled with Sigworth in India.



Lin-Manuel Miranda '02.

Heavy rain let up in time for Wesleyan's 177th Commencement to proceed May 24 as usual on Andrus Field, where graduates and their families heard from the Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and novelist Anna Quindlen P'07.

The ceremony, which concluded Reunion and Commencement weekend, evoked the normal rituals of academic life after a period that tragically had been anything but normal, with the slaying of Johanna Justin-Jinich '10 off campus in the bookstore. Her death and its aftermath stunned the community and brought campus life to a virtual standstill until the alleged perpetrator turned himself in.

President Michael S. Roth '78 spoke about the tragedy in his Commencement remarks, urging graduates not to accept the status quo on issues that concerned Justin-Jinich, such as health care and prenatal services for women, gun control, and violence against women. [See President Roth's column on page 6 for more.]

Quindlen, who recently wrote her final "Last Word" column for *Newsweek*, told graduates that although they may not inherit the SUV and the McMansion as tangible signs of doing better than their parents, they might want to consider what "doing better" really means:

"If you become the first generation of Americans who genuinely see race and ethnicity as attributes, not stereotypes, will you not have done better than we did?"

"If you become the first generation of Americans with the clear understanding that gay men and lesbians are entitled to be full citizens of this nation, will you not have done better than we did?"

"If you become the first generation of Americans who accord women full equality instead of grudging acceptance, will you not have done better than we did?"

"And on a more personal level, if you become the generation that ditches the 80-hour

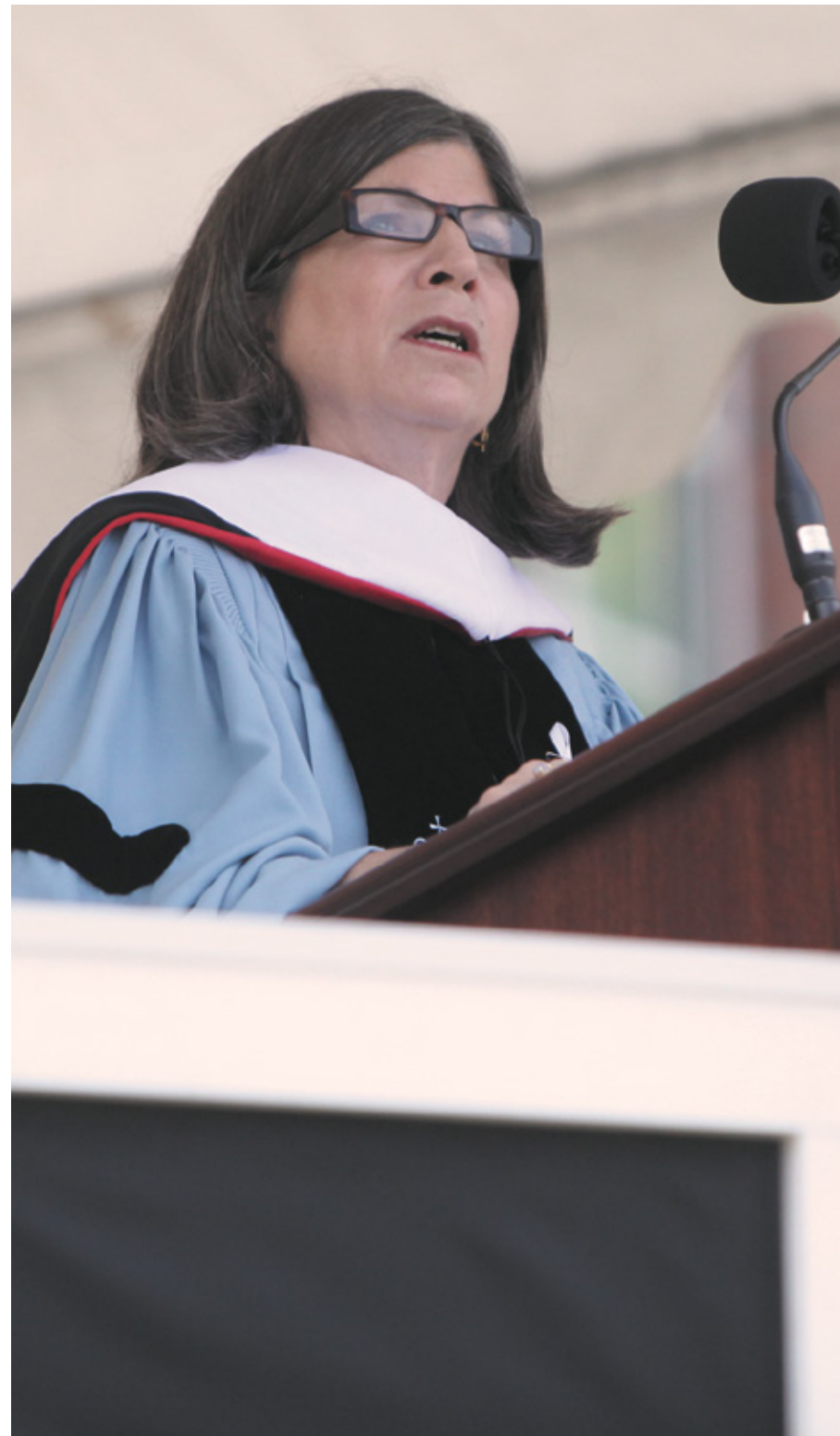
work week and returns to a sane investment in your professional lives, if you become the first generation in which young women no longer agonize over how to balance work and family and young men stop thinking they will balance work and family by getting married, won't you have done better than we did?"

"Believe me when I say that we have made a grave error in thinking doing better is merely mathematical, a matter of the number at the bottom of your tax returns. At the end of their lives, people assess them not in terms of their income but in terms of their spirit, and I beg you to do the same from the beginning, even if we who came before often failed to do so."

Wesleyan awarded honorary degrees to Quindlen; to Azim Premji P'99, who as chairman of Wipro Limited, one of India's leading technology companies, was named by *Time* as one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World; and to Jennifer Alexander '88 and Mark Masselli, who have made numerous contributions to Middletown through the KidCity Children's Museum, the Community Health Center, and other organizations that have helped to bring aid to the disadvantaged and vitality to the central business area.

For the first time in memory, Wesleyan awarded honorary B.A. degrees to two individuals, both of whom left Wesleyan for medical school without finishing their degrees. Laurence Kedes '59 became the founding director of the University of Southern California Institute for Genetic Medicine and the William M. Keck Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at USC's Keck School of Medicine. David Sencer '46 is a former director of the Center for Disease Control and former commissioner of health in New York City. **UPFRONT**

Anna Quindlen P'07 delivered the Commencement address, urging graduates to consider what "doing better" really means.



BILL BURKHART



BEN ROWLAND '08



BILL BURKHART



BEN ROWLAND '08



BILL BURKHART



BEN ROWLAND '08

RETIRING FACULTY MEMBERS

ANTHONY A. INFANTE
Professor of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

PETER KILBY
Professor of Economics

R. LINCOLN KEISER
Professor of Anthropology

ÁKOS ÖSTÖR
Professor of Anthropology and Film Studies

JOHN T. PAOLETTI
William R. Kenan Professor in the Humanities, Professor of Art History

ROBERT J. ROLLEFSON
Professor of Physics

GAY SMITH
Professor of Theater

ALFRED TURCO
Professor of English

(Far Left) Recipients of this year's Binswanger Prize for Excellence in Teaching are Irina Russu, professor of chemistry; Douglas Foyle, the Douglas J. and Midge Bowen Bennet Associate Professor of Government; and John Seamon, professor of psychology, and neuroscience and behavior.



Spring Ritual

Generations of Wesleyan students have admired the beauty of this Weeping Cherry tree on Foss Hill. The tree is more than 100 years old, and the students at its base were gathered for a Japanese celebration of cherry blossom viewing.