

August 7, 2007

Office of University Relations, Office of Academic Affairs

From: Karl Scheibe, Director, Wasch Center

Once again, Elizabeth Attebery of the Office of University Relations has requested a report of the programs and activities of the Wasch Center for Retired Faculty. I have the honor of submitting that report for this past academic year. This report will also serve as an annual report to the Office of Academic Affairs.

### **Introduction**

The Wasch Center completed its second year of operation in 2006-07. It was our first *full* year of operation, since the building was not finished and offices were not available for most of the first term of 2005-06. As this report will show, there were several changes in people associated with the Center. But, for the most part, the past year can be characterized as a progressive development of the programs and activities established in our first year.

### **Advisory Board**

Two members of the original Advisory Board stepped down from active service. Both Bill Barber and George Creeger completed three full years of service on the Board. Both were mightily important for initial planning of the facility as well as for the implementation of programs once we had begun. Both, as it happens, have spaces in the building named in their honor. Both will continue to be actively involved in Wasch Center programs and activities in the future. Bill Barber and George Creeger deserve the lasting gratitude of all who participate in the Wasch Center, present and future.

We were fortunate in being able to appoint three new members of Board in this past year. Peter Frenzel, Professor Emeritus of German, joined the Board at mid-year to fill a vacancy. This vacancy was a consequence of the number of retired faculty members stipulated in our newly adopted by-laws (*vide infra*). As replacements for Barber and Creeger, Herbert Arnold, Professor Emeritus of German and College of Letters, and Andrew Szegedy-Maszak, Professor of Classics, have both agreed to join the Board effective this coming semester, for three-year terms. All three new members have received letters of appointment from Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Joe Bruno.

## **Administrative Assistant and Student Help**

In the fall term, Kathleen Norris resigned as Administrative Assistant in order to assume a full-time position in Admissions. Millie Hunter filled in as an Interim Administrative Assistant for a month. We had the good fortune of finding Ann Gertz, who has an ongoing part-time appointment in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literature, to become our new Administrative Assistant. Ann is admirably suited for this position. We are delighted to have her as an important part of the Wasch Center.

Ann recruited and supervised a group of five work-study students, who served at the reception desk at times she was not present. They performed countless errands and tasks for residents of the building and others during the course of the academic year.

## **Association for Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE)**

In October, 2006, Bill Wasch and Karl Scheibe attended the biennial conference of AROHE in Tempe, Arizona. This meeting included representatives from more than 75 educational institutions, nationwide. It provided an opportunity to learn of the programs, growth, and development of retirement organizations elsewhere, and thus to bring home a wealth of ideas for our own operation.

At the conclusion of the meeting in Arizona, Karl Scheibe was elected to the Board of Directors of AROHE and has been participating in that capacity throughout the remainder of the year. This has led, in turn, to selection of Wesleyan University as the host institution for the meeting of the association to be held in 2010. The 2008 meeting will be held at the University of Southern California, where we expect to participate in the program.

## **By-laws**

We learned at the AROHE meeting that many organizations have developed and adopted by-laws to govern their facilities and their programs. Accordingly, we set about the drafting of by-laws in the fall term of the year—largely the result of the good efforts of Bill Barber. After several revisions and careful review, and with the approval of the Office of Academic Affairs, the by-laws of the Wasch Center were formally adopted on January 31, 2007. (Ann—check date.) A copy of that document is appended to this report. The by-laws will have the effect of regularizing the terms of service and the duties of the Director and of the Advisory Board.

## **Use of Offices**

Five individual offices on the third floor were available in this year, and all were assigned. At the end of the year, one of the occupants of this suite of offices elected to give up space, so that one office is currently available.

Three double offices on the second floor were available, accommodating six people. Four of the spaces were assigned at the beginning of the year. One of the occupants chose to withdraw at the end of the year, making three spaces available. Two new applicants have been given space in these offices. This leaves one shared office space still available.

In sum, we will start the next year with nine residents plus the Director claiming space in the building. We have two spaces available for assignment to new applicants.

The list of residents for this coming year is as follows:  
(Ann: Please list the residents here, including Firshein and Paige.)

### **Program Series**

The program of speakers we inaugurated last year has proved to be popular and successful. In the last academic year, we scheduled and presented seven such programs in the fall semester and eight in the spring. The presenters and titles are given below:

(Ann: Please list the fifteen presenters and titles here.)

It is fair to say that this program has become a central attractive feature of the Wasch Center for the community of retired faculty members and others. All of the presentations had capacity audiences in the Butterfield Room, and several were overflow affairs, leading some to consider possible ways of expanding the space of the Butterfield Room in order to accommodate larger audiences.

It is worth noting that the large majority of the presenters were retired faculty members, some of them traveling considerable distances in order to be here. The positive and generous responses of these people offer encouragement and support for the proposition that retired faculty members still have something to say and welcome the opportunity to say it.

### **Movie Series**

A new feature of our program this past year was a movie series, designed and presented by Joe Reed, Professor Emeritus of English. We presented eight movies on seven Tuesday afternoons (one per month, with one double feature) throughout the year. This program proved to be increasingly popular as the series progressed. While the expense associated with gaining exhibition permission for such a series is nontrivial, the Advisory Board decided to continue the program for the next year, given the evidence of growing enthusiasm and participation. Joe Reed proved to be an excellent host for these occasions.

The following movies were shown during the year:

(Ann—please enter the list).

## **Reception Honoring Retiring Faculty Members**

For the second year, the Wasch Center collaborated with the Office of University Relations to sponsor a ceremony and reception on the Saturday of commencement weekend to honor faculty members who are currently retiring. Linda Secord of University Relations did most of the planning for this event, including the invitation of speakers for retiring faculty members and the provision of refreshments for the occasion. Once again, this event was well attended and proved to be a gratifying success.

Joe Bruno, as the new Vice-President for University Relations, made introductory remarks and offered commendations to retiring faculty members.

Carol Wood spoke of Wistar Comfort of the Mathematics Department.

Don Moon Spoke of Martha Crenshaw of the Government Department.

Pedro Alejandro spoke of Helen Mensah of the Dance Department.

Bill Johnson spoke of Ellen Widmar of the Department of East Asian Languages and Literature.

Stuart Gillmore of the History Department and Anthony Hager of the Mathematics Department were also retiring, but could not be present for this occasion.

A new feature of the program this year was the awarding of a captain's chair, with the Wesleyan University seal, to each retired faculty member—through the generosity of the President's Office, the Office of University Relations, and the Office of Academic Affairs.

This event was also the occasion for the dedication of a bench in the backyard of the Center named in honor of Teresa and Juan Roura-Parella, in whose name a contribution has been made for an endowment fund. A plaque containing the name of Roura-Parella and other retired faculty members in whose name donations to this fund are made will be placed in the entry way to our building.

## **Other Activities and Uses of the Center**

The Wasch Center was used for many other occasions during the course of the year. The Physics Department used the building for its regular Thursday luncheon meetings. The Quaker Meeting used the building every Sunday morning. (The Quaker Group has made a contribution to the Wasch Center in consideration of its use privilege.) In addition, the Wasch Center was the site of five (Ann—please check the number) Friday cocktail hours sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs and planned by an ad hoc committee of the faculty.

Additional uses of the building included the following: (Ann—please add items as appropriate)

One activity of the Center deserves special mention. In our planning for the Center, going back to 2004, we visited the newly established Koerner Center at Yale University. Our Yale hosts, including Bernard Lytton, Director of the Koerner Center, and his Executive Director, Patricia Dallai, proved to be particularly gracious and generous in their provision of information and advice. To acknowledge their generosity, the Advisory Board sponsored a luncheon to which they were invited as our guests, including the wife of Dr. Lytton, (Ann, can you get her name—perhaps from Puffin?). The luncheon was catered in the Butterfield Room and was acclaimed by all present as a fine success.

### **Fund-raising and Financial Condition**

In conjunction with the Office of University Relations, and with the particular cooperation of Mark Davis of that Office, the Director of the Center issued an appeal to all tenured faculty members to consider making gifts or deferred giving bequests to the Wasch Center so that we might build an independent endowment of \$1 million, which was adopted by our Advisory Board as a goal. We have had a measure of success from this initial solicitation, and it is our hope and goal to continue to remind appropriate potential sources of this opportunity for beneficence.

We have been assured by the Office of Academic Affairs that we will be given a regular operating budget in future years which is not to be dependent on continued external giving. Even so, it would be desirable to use the Wasch Center as an attractive object of support from our various constituencies, so that we might have a degree of financial independence and not draw upon resources that might be used to support regular academic programs at Wesleyan.

To aid in our fund-raising efforts as well as to provide visitors and others with general information about the Wasch Center, we have published this year an attractive brochure describing our program and our facilities. Jennifer Fields of the Office of University Relations was of particular help in the design and production of the brochure.

### **Summary**

It has been an active and eventful year for the Wasch Center. Our programs of speakers has proved to be just the kind of attraction we hoped for in the design of the Center—bringing together many of the older members of our community to share interests and experiences and to stimulate ideas and plans for future activities.

While our participation in AROHE has provided evidence that the establishment of retirement centers at colleges and universities throughout the country is a growing movement, we are also secure in our judgment that the Wasch Center at Wesleyan has accomplished an enormous amount in the short time of its existence—something that

would not have been possible without the unstinting support of Susan and Bill Wasch, as well as the enthusiastic and positive support of the Wesleyan administration and faculty. In the cohort of schools with which Wesleyan is usually compared in the northeast of the United States, we are unique in our support for retired faculty members. We hope to serve as a model for the development of similar programs throughout our region.