

**The Susan B. and William K. Wasch Center for Retired Faculty
Wesleyan University
A Report for 2017-2018
(David Beveridge, Co-Director; Alex Dupuy, Co-Director)**

Introduction

The Wasch Center has completed its thirteenth year of operation in 2017-2018. We begin this report with the very sad news of the death of our dear colleague and friend Peter Frenzel. Peter came to Wesleyan in 1966 and retired in 2003 as Professor of German. Afterwards he joined the Wasch Center for Retired Faculty where he served on its Advisory Board and was editor of the Center's Newsletter. We will miss him dearly.

The level of activities at the Center remains vigorous. We continue to hold our series of Wednesday afternoon programs in the fall and spring semesters where retired and active faculty members give a talk on a topic of their choice. We also continue with our "brown bag" lunch discussions, usually scheduled on Mondays, based on a topic suggested by a colleague at the Center or an invited colleague.

Under the co-directorship of Richard Friswell and Herbert Arnold, our Wesleyan Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL) has completed its ninth full year of operation under the auspices of the Wasch Center. Its shot-course offerings remain popular and appreciated by those who enroll in them. And the Program continues to turn in a surplus of income over expenses. Herb Arnold has decided to retire as co-Director at the end of this academic year, and we will look for a replacement for him in the new academic year.

Two newly retired colleagues, Rob Rosenthal and Nancy Schwartz will join the Center sometime next year.

Administrative Assistant

Jessica Steele, the Center's indispensable Administrative Assistant, was given the additional responsibility of handling logistics and accounting for the WesMass Program.

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board met on a regular basis throughout the academic year and continues to be an invaluable source of new ideas and a resource for the continuation of existing programs at the Center. The current members of the Board are: Richard Adelstein, Herbert Arnold, Allan Berling, David Beveridge (co-Director), Alex Dupuy (co-Director), Rick Elphick, Richard Friswell, Joyce Lowrie, Michael Lovell, Paula Paige, Andrew Szegedy-Maszak, Bill Wash, Arthur (Jerry) Wensinger, and Duffield White. Our late colleague Peter Frenzel was also on the Board, and Rick Elphick will resign from it as of June 30 of this year. Peter Pringle was also a member and resigned in the fall 2017.

Brown Bag Lunch Meetings/Discussions:

Our Brown Bag lunch meetings usually occur on alternate Mondays from 12:30 to 1:30+ in the Butterfield Room.

Fall semester 2017:

September 18: Paul Schwaber, on “Pleasures of the Mind: My Two Professions.”

October 2: Richard Vann, on “Making (and Unmaking?) a Historian”

October 16: David Beveridge, on “Molecules to Medicine”

October 30: David Beveridge, continuing discussion on comparing computer modeling of cells in molecular biology to the application of network theory in sociology.

November 13: General discussion of where we go from here in our brown bag meetings.

December 3: Duffy White, on “How Discourse of Pushkin’s narrator shapes the ‘story’ he tells in ‘Queen of Spades’.”

Spring Semester 2018

January 22: Mike Lovell, on “Deception in the Marketplace.”

February 5: Discussion of psychohistorical theory based on Phil Pomper’s book, *The Structure of the Mind in History*.

February 12: Continued discussion on psychohistorical theory, including Erik Erikson.

February 26: Discussion on conspiracy theories, beginning with the 9/11 destruction of the World Trade Center.

March 12: Paula Paige, a reading and discussion of her short story “Daddy.”

March 26: Mike Lovell on his encounter with Marxist thought among American economists.

April 9: Gill Skillman, on Marx’s original conception of the labor theory of value.

April 23: Alex Dupuy, on applying Marx’s theory of the fetishism of commodities to develop an understanding of racism.

May 5: David Beveridge, on “The American Research College;” how liberal arts colleges and small universities have supported scientific research in the past, and how they might do so in the future.

June 4: Duffy White, on “Tolstoy’s first steps as a writer.”

Informational Meetings for Faculty Members Considering Retirement

Given that most retirees have made their decision to retire before May (when the previous information meetings were held), we consulted with Amy Walsh from Human Resources and decided that it would make more sense to hold such a meeting sooner in the academic year. Consequently we did not host the meeting this year and will try to schedule it sooner in the academic year, perhaps in the middle or at the end of the fall semester.

Movies

We featured eight films this year, four each semester.

Fall Semester 2017

September 12: *The Chosen* (1981).

October 10: *The Third Man* (1949).

November 14: *Driving Miss Daisy* (1989).

December 12: *The Help* (2011).

Spring Semester 2018

February 6: *Rome, Open City* (1945).

March 6: *The Bicycle Thieves* (1948).

April 3: *Nights of Cabiria* (1957).

May 1: *Divorce Italian Style* (1961).

Newsletter

Under the chairmanship of Peter Frenzel, we issued two newsletters this year, one each semester.

Oral History Project

This year we completed five oral history interviews:

John Biddiscombe

Bob Kirkpatrick

Russell Murphy

Richard Vann
Ann Wightman

Wasch Center Emeritus College Tutorials Offered by the Wasch Center and other Retired Faculty

David Beveridge, Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus, is a regular participant in an on-going team-taught course, Chem 342: Molecules to Medicine.

Rick Elphick, Professor of History, Emeritus
Jisung Jung, History 404.

Albert Fry, Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus, offered three tutorials:
Ann-Dorie Webley, Chem 410-17: Senior Thesis tutorial.
Zachary Hillman, 550-04: Advanced Research Seminar, Graduate.
Giselle Reyes, Chem 550-04: Advanced Research Seminar, Graduate.

Yoshiko Samuel, Professor of Asian Languages and Literature, Emerita
Eden Jablon, Japanese 402.

Karl Scheibe, Professor of Psychology, Emeritus, offered two tutorials:
Najwa Anasse, Psychology 402: Psychology and Theater: The Drama of Everyday Life
Dominoe Jones, Psychology 402: Psychology and Theater: Deep Drama.

Wasch Center Reception for Retiring Faculty

Each year the Wasch Center holds a reception for retiring faculty members. This year we celebrated the retirement of the following colleagues:

Mary Ann Clawson, P'98, Professor of Sociology and Professor, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Started in 1980.

Susan Lourie, MALS '82, Adjunct Professor of Dance. Started in 1977.

Rob Rosenthal, John E. Andrus Professor of Sociology. Started in 1987.

Nancy Schwartz, Professor of Government. Started in 1977.

Priscilla Meyer, Professor of Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Started in 1968.

Clark Maines, Kenan Professor of the Humanities and Professor of Art History. Started in 1974.

Peter Mark, Professor of Art History. Started in 1986.

Wednesday Lecture Series for the Fall and Spring Semesters

Fall Semester 2017:

September 6: Phil Pomper, Professor of History Emeritus
“Putin’s Rearview Mirror.”

September 20: Susanne Fusso, Professor of Russian, East Europe, and Eurasian Studies
“Editing Turgenev, Dostoevsky, and Tolstoy: Mikhail Katkov and the Great Russian Novel.”

October 4: Paula Paige, Adjunct Professor of Romance Languages and Literature, Emerita
“An Older New Writer.”

October 19: Ernest Lowrie, Pennsylvania State University Professor of History and Religion, Emeritus
“Lord Chief Justice Mansfield: Dark Horse of the American Revolution.”

November 1: Rob Rosenthal, John E. Andrus Professor of Sociology,
“On the work of the Allbritton Center.”

November 15: Tony Infante, Professor of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Emeritus
“A Biologist’s Perspective on the Question: ‘What is Life?’

November 29: Alex Dupuy, John E. Andrus Professor of Sociology, Emeritus
“Haiti: A Critical Retrospective.”

Spring Semester 2018:

January 31: Betsy Morgan
“Middletown’s Oddfellows Playhouse: A Theater Lab for Kids.”

February 14: Karl Scheibe, Professor of Psychology, Emeritus
“Wisdom in Lin-Manuel Miranda’s Hamilton.”

February 28: Gary Yohe, Professor of Economics and Environmental Studies
“The Politics of Global Warming.”

March 28: James Maguire, Professor of Government
“Obstacles to Take-up: Ecuador’s Conditional Cash Transfer Program, the Bono de Desarrollo Humano.”

April 4: Priscilla Meyer, Professor of Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies
“Fresh Eyes: Teaching Literature in Prison.”

April 11: Laura Grabel, Professor of Biology
“Stem Cell Therapies: Where do we stand?”

May 9: Mattabasset String Collective Concert with Barry Chernoff, Marc Eisner,
Rebecca McCallum, Gil Skillman, and Keven Williarty.

WILL Program

Richard Friswell is seeking sources of funds from community sources to assist the Program in its efforts to develop programs in the future.

This year the WILL Program offered a total of sixteen courses, seven in the Fall and nine in the spring semesters, respectively.

Fall Semester 2017

Richard Voigt
Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, and Edsel Ford: Two Communists and a Titan of Capitalism
Confront the Realities of the Modern Industrial Workplace and Make Great Art.

Sean McCann
New York City in the 1940s.

Tanya Pohrt
American Material Culture.

Sami A. Aziz
Understanding Islam: Introduction to a Misunderstood Faith.

Keiji Shinohara
Exploring the Experience of Commoners through the Lens of Woodblock Prints in the
Edo Period of Japan.

Jim Beloff
Ukulele Workshop with Jumpin’ Jim Beloff.

Hon. David Gold
Inside the Criminal Justice System: LAW & ORDER and Your Constitutional Right.

Spring Semester 2018

Al Turco
A Shakespearean Romance: The Winter’s Tale.

Actor-led Classes
Be Amused by the Muse of Classical American Humor—Goodspeed Opera House.

Herbert Arnold
Geoffrey Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales.

Elizabeth Bobrick
Masterminds and Martyrs: Women in Ancient Greek Drama.

Sari Rosenblatt
Maybe it's My Imagination: Writing Memoir and Fiction.

Richard Friswell
Meet Me at Les Deux Magots: The lost Generation in 1920s Paris.

Howard Einsohn
Once Upon a Time: Short Stories in Pairs.

Rhea Higgins
Romantic Landscape of Constable and Turner: Common Goals, Contrasting Outcomes.

Jaroslav Strzemien
Russian Theater on the Eve of Revolution.