

**The Susan B. and William K Wasch Center for Retired Faculty
Wesleyan University
A Report for 2010-2011**

Introduction

The Wasch Center has completed its sixth year of service in 2010-2011.

This was the first year of the operation of the Wesleyan Institute for Lifelong Learning, under the auspices of the Wasch Center. Suffice it to say that our programs in both the fall and the spring semesters were successful and that the future of the WILL program is promising. A separate report is to be prepared to describe the details of WILL in its first year of operation.

Our residency at the Center continues to be at capacity. We continue to have 12 residents with offices in the house, not including the Director. One resident has left and a new resident has entered to take that space. There are currently no active applications for new space, but several faculty members who are about to retire have inquired about openings. The Director and Advisory Board are closely attentive to questions of fairness and equity in the awarding of space at the Center.

The level of activity at the Center continues to be vigorous. We hosted six programs in the fall semester, including a musical performance. We also hosted a pot-luck holiday party, complete with carol singing. In the spring term, we hosted eight regular programs. In addition, we held a reception on commencement weekend to honor faculty members who are newly retiring. All of our programs were well attended—usually at the capacity of the Butterfield Room—which holds about 35 people. About 2/3 of our afternoon programs consisted of presentations by retired faculty members. The remaining 1/3 were programs given by others in the community or by currently active faculty members at Wesleyan.

The level of use of our building at 51 Lawn Avenue continues to increase--by retired faculty members, by departments and programs within Wesleyan, and by outside groups as well.

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board has met faithfully for monthly meetings throughout the academic year and has been an invaluable source of new ideas and a resource for the development of existing programs. Gary Shaw has joined the Board as an *ex-officio* member, having been so appointed by Rob Rosenthal, Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

The current members of the Advisory Board are: Andrew Szegedy-Maszak, Jason Wolfe, Paula Paige, Peter Frenzel, Herbert Arnold, Susan Berry, and *ex officio* members, Susan Wasch, William Wasch, Sean McCann, Gary Shaw and Karl Scheibe.

Administrative Assistant and Student Help

Ann Gertz has completed her fourth full year of service as our Administrative Assistant, having joined us in the middle of the 2006-2007 academic year. She works half-time during the academic year and one day per week during the summers. She has performed her job with constant good will and high competence. She has been a constant and friendly support for all of our residents. She continues with the responsibility of administering all of the small research funds and travel grants awarded to retired faculty members by the Office of Academic Affairs. She has also taken on the additional responsibility of helping to organize and coordinate the courses offered in the WILL program.

Ann has recruited and supervised a group of 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)

Wesleyan hosted the 2010 biennial meeting of AROHE, October 14-17. Everyone is agreed that the meetings were a signal success. Over 100 delegates were present, representing 72 institutions. The Usdan Center proved to be a most suitable venue for these meetings, with our larger plenary sessions taking place in Beckham Hall. The University Events and Scheduling Office was thoroughly competent in managing the flow of people and the use of space. A highlight of the conference was a reception at the Koerner Emeritus Center at Yale University. A busload of delegates attended this reception, graciously hosted by Dr. Bernard Lytton, Director of the Koerner Center.

For the conference, Gloria Gdovin served as a part-time administrative assistant, paid by the AROHE organization. She worked for many months in the planning of our programs and activities and was on hand full-time during the period of the conference itself. The Office of Academic Affairs was also strongly supportive of our efforts in hosting.

The conference was a success both in terms of substantive content of the programs and the financial return to AROHE. AROHE officers were generous in their praise of Wesleyan and the Wasch Center staff for hosting this event.

Informational Meetings

We continued our custom of providing information for faculty members considering retirement, with a meeting in the spring semester with representatives of the Office of Human Resources, TIAA-CREF and the Office of Academic Affairs to present information and answer questions about financial benefits, insurance programs, and ongoing support for research and professional activities for retired faculty members. We also presented a panel discussion in the spring semester conducted by Karl Scheibe, Dick Miller, and Herb Arnold for the benefit of senior faculty members who are considering retirement.

Movie Series

This was the fifth year for our movie series, designed and presented by Joe Reed, Professor Emeritus of English. We presented movies on several Tuesday afternoons 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.

Mentoring Program

In collaboration with Sean McCann and the Center for Faculty Career Development, we conducted the fourth year of our mentoring program. Late in the summer, new faculty members who indicated an interest in participating in the program were matched with retired faculty members. With the support of the Office of Academic Affairs, lunches were sponsored at the Usdan Center with members of pairs formed in this way. The testimony from all sides is that this program is valuable. We will continue it in the next year.

Newsletter

In order to enrich the information about members of Wesleyan's community of retired faculty members, we established a newsletter in 2009-2010. Two issues were published in the 2010-2011 year--one at the beginning of each semester. The same schedule of publication is planned for the coming year.

The newsletter has been edited by Peter Frenzel, who has the support of an Editorial Board consisting of Gene Klaaren, Paula Paige, Jerome Long, Jerry Wensinger, and Karl Scheibe.

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 several Friday cocktail hours sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs and planned by an ad hoc committee of the faculty. The building had a total of 280 bookings for activities outside of our programs or the WILL program during the past academic year.

Fund Raising

With the support of the Office of University Relations and the President's Office, a letter of solicitation was distributed in the spring to all retired faculty members. This letter asked people to consider making annual gifts to Wesleyan and naming the Wasch Center as a beneficiary for all or part of such gifts. In addition, retired faculty members were invited to consider making planned gifts or bequests to Wesleyan, with the purpose of helping to build a separate endowment for the Wasch Center. Such an endowment would make it possible for the Center to be directly supportive of the ongoing professional and scholarly activities of retired faculty members without depending on Wesleyan's central resources. In response to our appeal, some new gifts have been received, with promise of more to come.

Summary

The Wasch Center continues to increase the range and scope of its activities each year. The major achievement of the past year is the integration of the new WILL program with the ongoing activities of the Wasch Center. It is clear that WILL fits in well with the overall mission of the retirement center. Most of the instructors for the WILL program are drawn from the ranks of retired faculty members. Also, retired faculty members are conspicuous among the students enrolling in WILL courses. WILL also succeeds in drawing many people from the surrounding community to Wesleyan and has become a conspicuous means of cementing good relations between Wesleyan and the wider community.

One concern is that our support staff, particularly Ann Gertz, is being stretched to the limit in order to keep up with the demands of our programs and activities. If the WILL program continues to grow at the levels we envisage, it will certainly be necessary to make arrangements for additional staff support for this operation.

Susan and Bill Wasch have once again been indispensable for the success of our Center. Bill served as co-host for the AROHE conference in October. Both Susan and Bill have continued to attend our monthly Board meetings and to participate fully in our programs. Their vision for service to the community of people who retire at Wesleyan continues to unfold into reality. For this we must all be grateful.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl E. Scheibe
Director

August 8, 2011