

**The Susan B. and William K Wasch Center for Retired Faculty
Wesleyan University
A Report for 2013-2014**

Introduction

The Wasch Center has completed its ninth year of operation in 2013-14.

Our residency at the Center continues to be at capacity. We have 12 residents with offices in the house, not including the Director. A recent retiree has requested office space and a new workstation has been created in room 210. He has just moved in. One resident will be moving out in June creating the availability of a very small private office on the third floor. Several requests for extensions to current stays have been received and accepted. 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. Our series of Wednesday programs remain popular—the centerpiece of our community activity. We hosted seven programs in the fall semester. We also hosted a catered holiday party, complete with carol singing. In the spring term, we hosted seven regular programs, including a musical hour. 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.

This year we did not hold a reception in collaboration with University Relations for newly retiring faculty members because there was not a sufficient number to warrant the event. We anticipate hosting the event next year and including those who retired this year.

The Wesleyan Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL) has completed its fourth full year of operation under the auspices of the Wasch Center. We presented seven successful short courses and a full-day program in the fall entitled “Film Studies at Wesleyan: Definition and Demonstration.” In the spring we offered five short courses and a full-day program. The Saturday Institute was entitled “Exploring the Natural History of the Lower Connecticut River”. Our Saturday enrollment numbers were 48 and 42 respectively. Enrollments continue to increase from last year and the program is prospering. A separate report has been prepared to describe the details of WILL. We are pleased to see that WILL continues to have a surplus of income over expenses.

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board has met monthly throughout the academic year and has been an invaluable source of new ideas and a resource for the development of existing programs. The current members of the Advisory Board are: Andrew Szegedy-Maszak, Jason Wolfe, Paula Paige, Peter Frenzel, Herbert Arnold, Gene Klaaren, Pat Tully (newly appointed in April, 2014) and *ex officio* members, Susan Wasch, William Wasch, Bill Barber, Wis Comfort, and George Creeger, and Karl Scheibe.

Administrative Assistant and Student Help

Amy Bello serves as our Administrative Assistant. 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 has 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 is responsible for maintaining our websites. She serves as scribe and liaison with the Advisory Board. She has also taken on the responsibility of helping to organize and coordinate the courses offered in the WILL program, including the updating of its website and the operation of our online payment service.

Amy supervises a group of work-study students as well as the summer student, 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 as well as performing routine office duties.

We were fortunate to have an ITS student available mornings twice a week at the Wasch Center to assist residents with computer related issues. We look forward to continuing this service in the fall.

Informational Meetings

We continued our custom of providing information for faculty members considering retirement. The centerpiece of this effort was 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. In addition, the Director has conferred often with senior members of the faculty who are considering retirement or who have recently retired.

Movie Series

This was the eighth year for our movie series, designed and presented by Joe Reed, Professor Emeritus of English. We presented movies once a month on Tuesday afternoons throughout both the fall and spring semesters. Joe Reed is an excellent host for these occasions.

Mentoring Program

The mentoring program for new junior faculty members resumed this year after a short hiatus. Several assigned pairings of retired faculty members and junior faculty have met for luncheons at the Daniel Family Commons during the year.

Newsletter

In order to enrich the availability of information about members of Wesleyan's community of retired faculty members, we established a newsletter in 2009-2010. Issues have been published each semester for the past four years. The same schedule of publication is planned for the coming year.

The newsletter is edited by Peter Frenzel, who has the support of an Editorial Board consisting of Gene Klaaren, Paula Paige, Jerome Long, Jerry Wensinger, Al Turco and Karl Scheibe. Both issues of our newsletter for this past year were popular and well received. We expect to continue and even expand this publication.

Oral History Project

Wesleyan has over 85 living, retired faculty members. The idea emerged at one of the discussions of the Wasch Center Advisory Board in 2010 to begin a program of systematic interviews of individuals in this body about their Wesleyan careers. With the collaboration of Anne Greene, Suzy Taraba, and Sean McCann, we established a program in which five students conducted extensive interviews with five retired faculty members in the 2011-2012 year. These interviews were recorded and transcribed, and will be a permanent part of the Wesleyan Archives, as well as being available online through WesScholar. Interviews were not conducted during the 2012-2013 year due to time limitations of the above-mentioned leaders of this effort. We were fortunate to employ Nancy Smith, former editor of the Wesleyan alumni magazine, to continue with the interviews and transcriptions. Nancy has completed five interviews during the spring semester. Funding was made possible by a donation from the Library, the Friends of the Library, and a surplus in the WILL budget. We anticipate moving forward with additional interviews in the fall.

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 Butterfield Room 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.) Every other Saturday morning the Butterfield Room houses an ESL class.

In addition, the Wasch Center was the site of a Friday cocktail hour sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs and planned by an ad hoc committee of the faculty. The

building had over 200 bookings for activities outside of our programs or the WILL program during the past academic year

Fund Raising

We have continued to encourage retired faculty members, alumni and others to make contributions to the endowment fund of the Wasch Center. Income realized from our endowment fund can be used to support research and travel for retired faculty members, and also to provide support for computer acquisition and repair. A number of such gifts have been received in the past academic year. A notice in the Newsletter reminds people of this gifting opportunity.

We continue to make available to retired faculty members small supplemental grants for their professional activities. The Advisory Board authorized the distribution of ten grants of \$250 each to retired faculty members who apply for them. The funds for these grants are drawn from interest derived from the Lemert portion of our endowment fund.

A result of conversations held with the Office of Academic Affairs in the past year resulted this year in a signed Memorandum of Understanding regarding future funding of the Wasch Center and the use of funds from past and present gifts. A copy of that document is appended to this report. The most salient points are that the University expects to continue to provide support for operating expenses and for the Administrative Assistant, and that the Wasch Center has the opportunity to continue to seek additional contributions, in collaboration with University Relations, and to use a portion of its donations and yield from its funds to support programs and the professional activities of retired faculty members. This agreement is to be reviewed by November, 2015.

In this past year, we used a portion of gift funds to pay for the replacement of two gas-fed fireplaces and to upgrade our AV system, as well as to provide supplementary GISOS grants to faculty members.

Support Issues

Over the past several years, the amount of support for retired faculty members for research and travel to learned society meetings has been reduced. The Vice-President for Academic Affairs is highly aware of this problem. An additional issue has to do with the availability of funds to support computer acquisition and maintenance for retired faculty members, since they are no longer on departmental lists for such eligibility.

Also, the Advisory Board recommended to the Academic Affairs that in future retired faculty members be offered some modest compensation for offering tutorials and supervising honors theses for undergraduates. While Academic Affairs did not accept the terms of this proposal at this time, it was agreed that it might be considered in the future.

The Director and the Question of Succession

The Director of the Wasch Center has been reappointed for a three-year term beginning on July 1, 2013. He has announced his intention that this be his last term of service in this office. Accordingly, we have initiated conversations within the Advisory Board and with the Office of Academic Affairs about finding a new person for this role. The Director expresses the hope that a modest level of compensation, on the order of \$25,000 per year, might be found—perhaps from our endowment income, as incentive for the new Director.

Summary

The Wasch Center continues to increase the range and scope of its activities each year. The major achievements of the past year include the further development and success of the WILL program. 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.

An ongoing concern is that our Administrative Assistant has a growing list of responsibilities—a list that has grown substantially over the past eight years, even as the position has not enjoyed any increase at all in terms of supported time. 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 continued to be indefatigable and indispensable for the success of our Center. Both Susan and Bill have faithfully attended our monthly Board meetings and have participated fully in our programs. Their vision for service to the community of people who retire at Wesleyan continues to unfold into reality. For this the entire body of retired Wesleyan faculty members must be grateful.

Respectfully submitted,
Karl E. Scheibe
Director

Appendix A

Wasch Center Memorandum of Understanding

Effective Date: July 1, 2013
(signed, by Ruth Weissman, November 2013)

1. Any new gifts designated for the endowment by the donor will go to the Wasch Center Endowment to be used by the Wasch Center to enhance programming.
2. The Wasch Center may use all of the first \$15,000 raised in current gifts in a year to augment GISOS or other operating expenses needed by the Wasch Center (smartkey = 6011178100) or allocate to the Wasch Center Endowment; above that one half of what is raised will go toward paying off its centrally funded ongoing operating expenses and half will remain with the Wasch Center to be used by the Wasch Center to enhance programming or allocated to the Wasch Center Endowment.
3. The Lemert Endowment will continue to be used by the Center for enhanced programming.
4. The Wasch Center can continue to solicit funds with approval of and in collaboration with University Relations.
5. Outstanding pledges/bequests to pay for the renovation of the building will continue to be applied to the deficit in the building renovation smartkey. The current deficit is \$511,565 (smartkey = 7201211131).
6. The University expects to continue to provide support for the operating budget and Administrative Assistant.
7. This agreement will be reviewed in two years with a preliminary assessment in May 2014.