



WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

# WASCH CENTER FOR RETIRED FACULTY

Newsletter Vol.4, No. 1

Fall 2012



**Lifelong Learning**  
Page 4



**News & Notes**  
Page 6



**Oral History**  
Page 8



“The news like squirrels ran.”  
*Emily Dickinson*

# FRANKLIN REEVE: Man of Letters

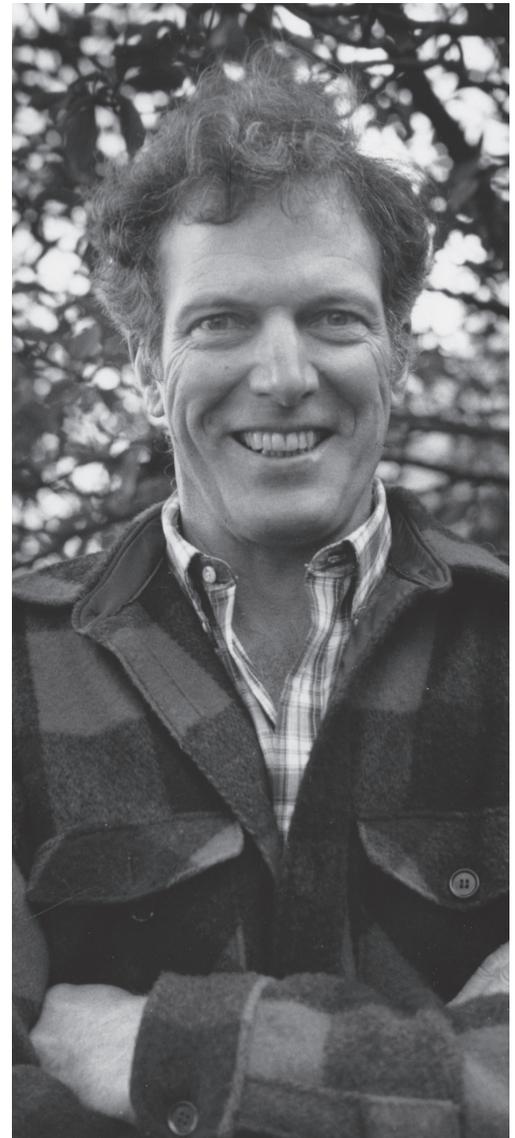
*by Paula Paige*

**O**n a beautiful hot day in July, Carver Blanchard and I drove up to Wilmington, Vermont, for an interview with Franklin Reeve, who lives there with his wife, Laura Stevenson. They both came out to give us a cordial welcome. Franklin, still an imposing figure in his early eighties, is a serious man with a quick laugh. Their early nineteenth-century rambling farmhouse overlooking the Green Mountains had belonged to Laura’s grandfather. It was considerably cooler than my house in the lower Connecticut River Valley. Laura, a novelist, has been coming here since she was five years old. She offered us a lovely lunch in the kitchen, during which we had an animated conversation ranging from Ezra Pound to politics.

The first few minutes revealed that Franklin had retained a mind of not only undiminished intellect but also of undiminished vitality. In every way this could have been a conversation of forty years ago, save that now he maintained a more mature perspective. Here “more mature” often means “reinforced.” He remains, as in the fifties, a committed Socialist. Franklin seemed particularly fascinated with a 1935 Socialist/Communist rag called “The Masses,” which had surfaced in my husband Douglass’ library. Though crumbling to the touch, he was evidently delighted to have it.

After lunch Franklin led Carver and me into the period living room, where a cool breeze blew

*Continued on page 2.*



## THE WASCH CENTER LECTURE PROGRAM

*All presentations are at the Wasch Center*

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 4:15 PM

Karl Scheibe  
"The Drama of Fear"

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 4:15PM

Naogan Ma  
"Life Before, During, and After Wesleyan – A Reflection"

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 4:15 PM

Sarah Ruden  
"Translating the Bible and Interpreting the U.S.  
Constitution: Unexpected Similarities"

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 4:15 PM

John Biddiscombe  
"Pioneer Women and Wesleyan Athletics Over Four  
Decades"

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 4:15 PM

Joe Morris  
"Guitarist Joe Morris and Friends – A Performance of  
Improvised Music"

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 4:15 PM

Doug Knight  
"The Beginnings of Indian Music at  
Wesleyan: Balasaraswati"

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 4:15 PM

Mary Connie Comfort & Sheila Murphy  
"How I Know I'm Old: Contemporary Poets on Aging"

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 5:00 PM

Holiday Party

## GREAT LECTURES TO SAVOR AT HOME

Missed a Wasch Center lecture? No worries. Listen and look at your leisure. Just go to our website <http://www.wesleyan.edu/waschcenter> and click



on Wasch Center Recordings in the left-hand column. You may have to wait about ten seconds for the sound and image to load, but they will emerge.

## Man of Letters

*continued from page 1*

in through the window. My first question to Franklin, whom I regard as an old-fashioned man of letters, was whether he considered himself primarily a poet, a novelist, an essayist, a translator or a critic (he has also written a play, *Electricity*). As I had foreseen, he replied that he considered himself a writer, which he compared to building a house. "Every time you write, you start over, just as a professor does in class. As you get older there is a tendency to cheat, to fall into the same pattern of thinking and writing." As an example of his striving not to write formulaic books, like those that he termed "hairdryer" novels, Franklin cited his several collections over the years of "Blue Cat" poems as reflective of his evolution. As he has said elsewhere, "the cats came back," during the George W. Bush years. Now the "cat poems" have become ever more political, reflecting his disillusionment with American society and its wars; they are now blended with music. His most recent collection, *The Blue Cat Occupies the Moon*, was accompanied by tenor and saxophone when it was performed in New London in

*"Every time you write, you start over, just as a professor does in class. As you get older there is a tendency to cheat, to fall into the same pattern of thinking and writing."*

July. There will be performances in Northern New England this fall, including one at the Brattleboro Literary Festival on October 14. The book, accompanied by a CD, will be available at Thanksgiving.

Next we got into the origins of his fascination with Russia. I spoke of his novel *Just over the Border* (1969) in which the Russian hero has been rehabilitated, and remarked that it reflected a considerable knowledge of the Russian society of the time. He said that he first went to the USSR in 1961 on a program sponsored jointly by the Russian Academy of Sciences and the American Council of Learned Societies. Franklin described how, under the aegis of Nikita Khrushchev, a "bubbling" was breaking through the frost of Stalinism. After Khrushchev became Party Secretary in 1956, he initiated the amnesty and rehabilitation of prisoners, the victims of Stalin's purges, followed by the democratization of the Communist Party in 1961. Despite losing face during the Missile Crisis of '62, Khrushchev visited the US, where he was photographed savoring Corn Flakes in Iowa. He resolved to make the Russian economy function by improving the food supply, making consumer goods available, and opening

up the cultural world. (Alexander Solzhenitsyn's controversial *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* was published in the same year).

Then came Franklin's discovery of Russian literature. He began by dismissing most of the English novelists of the nineteenth century (Dickens, Trollope, etc.), at which I must have winced, because he smiled and said he did like certain works of American authors, such as Melville's *The Confidence Man* and Twain's *Life on the Mississippi*. For him, however, the pinnacle of novels is *Anna Karenina*: he cited Tolstoy's depiction of the sensuality and violence of Anna's passion for Vronsky, and the economy of words exemplified in the scene in which Anna goes to see her little boy, whom she has had to leave behind with his father. As he said, "I was hooked!"

Now, he said, "I had to get a job!" At Princeton he met the renowned critic R.P. Blackmur, a kind, erudite man of little formal education, who changed his ideas of what he could do in life. Having been born into a prosperous business-minded family in Philadelphia, the idea of a life of the mind had not occurred to Franklin; he had been "kicked and pushed" into following a conventional career. What he needed was money to finance his graduate education. So he worked on the New York docks for several summers—that is, until he was involved in a strike by the International Longshoreman's Association and was "busted by the cops." He attended the Russian Institute at Columbia, learned Russian and got his M.A.

On his final M.A. exam, he wrote an extremely critical evaluation of the course. The professor, Ernest Simmons, called him in to address his complaints, and, surprisingly, at the end of their conversation offered Franklin a teaching position in the Slavic department. He taught at Columbia for ten years. Along the way he received a Ph.D. in 1958.

In 1962, the same year that he accompanied the elderly Robert Frost to Russia as a translator, he accepted a job in the Russian Department at Wesleyan. I was curious as to why he ultimately left Russian in order to join

the COL. He replied that he didn't like the administrative duties that were incumbent on him in a small department, so he resigned in 1966, the year in which he published *The Russian Novel*. Then he received an offer to join the College of Letters in the fall of '67.

Franklin spoke of his first years in the COL as "an interesting time." The swim team didn't come to class and got F's. Someone got a D in a course and threatened to kill him. This led us to a discussion of grade inflation, which he attributed to the increasing cost of college education. After all, he said, three months of summer work on the docks used to pay for a year in college! He moved to Vermont in the mid 70's

*"Having been born into a prosperous business-minded family in Philadelphia, the idea of a life of the mind had not occurred to Franklin..."*

and built his own house. For years he commuted to Middletown two or three times a week, setting out at 6 a.m. But he never complained. As he made clear throughout our talk, he has always thought that reading and talking about books was a superlative way to make a living. He retired in 2002.

He obviously enjoys small-town life, as is reflected in his latest novel, *Nathaniel Purple*, which came out this year. The protagonist is a librarian and historical writer in the mythical town of Mercerville, Vermont, who gets caught up in a feud between two local families. There are stunning descriptions of birds and of a burning barn, and lively conversations among the distinctive characters.

In 2010 he published *The Puzzle Master and Other Poems*. The central long, dramatic poem, "The Puzzle Master," is a verse text for jazz opera, and will be performed as such. His previous

*Continued on page 9*



## SEE YOU AT THE MOVIES

Joe Reed has again chosen a quartet of classic films for the fall semester. Popcorn is provided at absolutely no cost to you. All screenings are on Tuesdays at 3:15 at the Wasch Center.

### SEPTEMBER 4

**The Lady from Shanghai** (1947)

Rita Hayworth & Orson Welles

Directed by Orson Welles  
87 min.

### OCTOBER 2

**Ball of Fire** (1941)

Barbara Stanwyk & Gary Cooper

Directed by Howard Hawks  
111 min.

### NOVEMBER 6

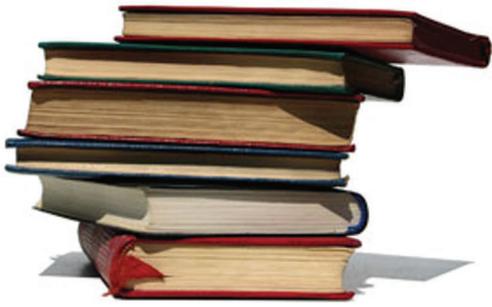
**The Little Foxes** (1941)

Bette Davis, Herbert Marshall, & Teresa Wright  
Directed by William Wyler  
116 min.

### DECEMBER 4

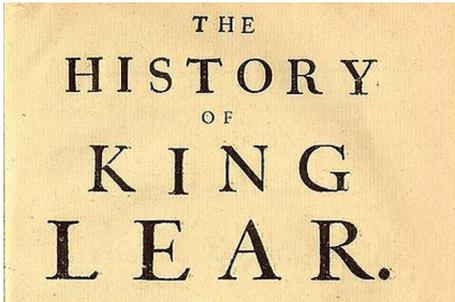
**Badlands**

Martin Sheen & Sissy Speck  
Directed by Terrence Malick  
95 min.



# LIFELONG LEARNING: Seven New Courses in Semester

Chartered in 2009 to provide educational opportunities to members of the community, the **Wesleyan Institute for Lifelong Learning** (WILL) is offering seven new courses during the fall semester. For detailed descriptions of the courses, cost, and enrollment information, please go to [www.wesleyan.edu/will](http://www.wesleyan.edu/will) or call the Wasch Center at 860/685-2273



## LEAR

*Gay Smith, Professor Emerita of Theater at Wesleyan. Three Thursdays: 7-9:30 p.m. Oct. 11, 18, 25*

How does Lear speak to us today? Do the play's scenes of war and torture parallel ours? Or is it the tale of a father who fatefully misjudges his children that haunts us? Or is it Lear's "madness" that we now see in others and fear for ourselves? A look into three performances on screen: Paul Schofield, Laurence Olivier, and Ian McKellan.



## MURDER UNDER THE MIDNIGHT SUN: A MYSTERY TOUR OF SCANDINAVIA

*Andrew de Rocco, former President, Denison University, former Dean of the Faculty, Trinity College. Five Thursdays: 7-8:30 p.m. September 6, 13, 20, 27, October 4*

Our first and final novel will introduce two of Lisbeth Salandar's Scandinavian counterparts, an earlier Smilla Jaspersen in Denmark and Gunnhildur in Iceland.

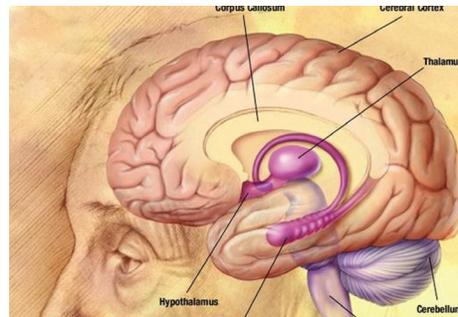
With these as bookends, we shall meet Harry Hole in Norway, Kurt Wallander in Sweden, and Kimmo Joenta in Finland, in all of whom remain the overtones of Scandinavian culture.



## ALL ABOUT FOOD: ENLIGHTENED EATING

*Brian Dagnall, Executive Chef at Wesleyan. Three Tuesdays: 4:30-6:30 p.m. November 6, 13, 30*

Explore the dynamics of shopping, cooking, and eating. Expand your understanding of ethical eating practices, gain knowledge of the "hidden" benefits of using local ingredients, and learn quick and healthy cooking techniques that enhance the flavors and nutritional value of food.



## POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

*Bill Arsenio, Professor of Psychology, Yeshiva University. Four Tuesdays: 5-6:30 p.m. October 9, 16, 23, 30*

We will examine current theory,

research, and practice in the field of positive psychology—the study of emotions, traits, and institutions that promote adaptive and healthy psychological functioning—especially in relation to aging. Then we'll explore some of the newest research on the psychological and physiological effects of positive emotions and on the success of attempts to modify and improve mood states. Finally, we will examine some of the specific, empirically supported techniques used to improve states and traits, such as meditation and guided writing and imagery exercises.



## TAIWAN: THE CRISIS OF IDENTITY AND OWNERSHIP

*Richard Kagan, Professor Emeritus of History, Hamlin University. Three Mondays: 6-7:30 p.m. October 15, 22, 29*

Taiwan has been a prize for many nations. Colonized by the Dutch, the Spanish, the Manchus, the Japanese, and the Chinese, the Island has developed its own social and religious organizations from its indigenous austronesian groups, its refugee immigration, and its international trading operations. Taiwan's history is the narrative of a decentralized and vibrant society. It has the characteristics of a Maritime nation. But the ownership is now contested. Beijing has now announced that Taiwan is a Chinese Island province and must be reunited with the Mainland. If not, China has the right to use military force to bring the Island into Chinese rule. The

majority of Taiwanese feel they are not Chinese, and they argue that they do not want to be united with China. The United States is still undecided on the ownership of Taiwan.

This course will present the history of Taiwan, explore its complex identity, and analyze its predicament in the international struggle for survival.



**PICTURING AMERICA: HIGHLIGHTS OF 20<sup>TH</sup>-CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHY**

Clare Rogan, Curator, Davison Art Center and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Art History at Wesleyan. Three Wednesdays:

6–7:30 p.m. October 3, 10, 17

Join the Wesleyan Institute for Lifelong Learning and the Friends of the Davison Art Center for this short course on highlights of 20th-century American photography. Sessions will discuss Alfred Stieglitz’s promotion of art photography from photo-secession to modernism, the f/64 group including Ansel Adams, and street photography of the 1960s and 1970s by Garry Winogrand and others. Taught by Curator Clare Rogan, the course will meet at the Davison Art Center to view selected photographs in the collection.

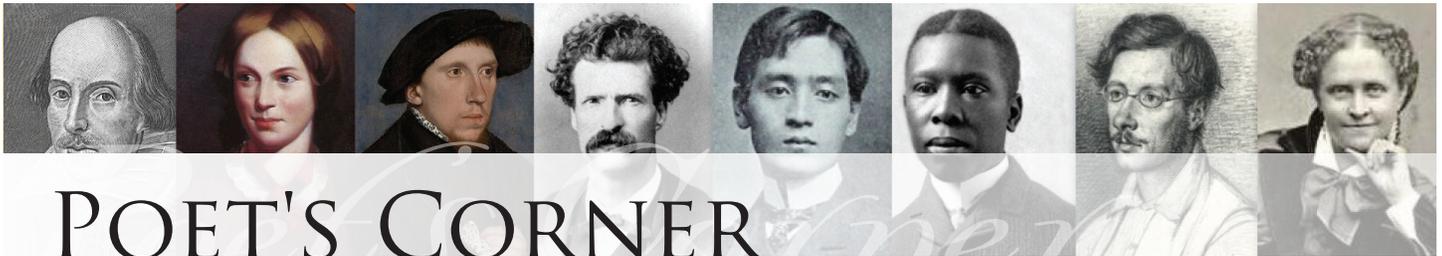
**THE PAINTINGS OF PAUL CEZANNE 1839-1906: CLASSICISM REJECTED AND RENEWED**

Rhea Padis Higgins, Adjunct Professor of Art History, University of Hartford. Three Mondays: 4:30–6 p.m. September 10, 17, 24

Paul Cezanne has been considered both the most conservative and the most radical of all the Post-Impressionists.



he stated in 1880, “I intend to make something solid and durable of Impressionism” and for the rest of his life, he worked constantly to make good his claim to do so. His paintings had been uniformly rejected by the conservative Academy and the majority of the art world. But by the end of his life, Cezanne’s art gradually came to be seen as the work of a most original genius who in the most important ways, announced the art of the future. Even Pablo Picasso called him, “the father of all of us.” We will examine the highlights of his oeuvre and evaluate just how conservative and simultaneously radical he really was.



**POET'S CORNER**

**MAD BULL**

Ignoring the horseplay of us college kids  
 playing for the summer at construction,  
 he dug his holes and bore his loads:  
 Silent old gaffer with blunt nose,  
 pale eyes,  
 And criss-cross creases on the back of his neck.

But whenever something stubborn needed moving,  
 a boulder or a rusty pipe cemented fast  
 or a wagon load of wet concrete, stuck  
 where we'd let it half tip off the ramp,  
 the boss'd clap him on the back and say,  
 "Get mad at it, Bull!"

Seized by a gift for fury  
 old bull would bristle his white stubble,  
 rev his belly up  
 and shake that thing until it gave.  
 We boys would cheer  
 and he'd unlip his broken teeth  
 grinning in his pride

that his great strength was recognized.  
 The boss would look at us and wink.

Now no doubt they make machines for shaking things  
 to make it easy on tame flesh.  
 But I wonder if sometimes his tombstone quakes.

*Stephen Crites*

**VIOLETS IN A PEWTER VASE**

*for Lockie*

As if they were a crowd of pilgrims  
 singing in the rain,  
 each drop complected like the globe  
 set in a silver frame,

their music rises from an earth  
 that will not stay in tune  
 so brittle are its longitudes  
 and so pale its moon.

*Franklin Reeve*

# News & Notes

from retired members of the faculty

---

We encourage retired faculty members to submit short descriptions (150 words or fewer—or more if relevant) of their research, scholarly writing, community service, and related activities. The deadline for the winter/spring 2013 issue is November 30, 2012.

## CHARLES LEMERT

Charles Lemert published *Uncertain Worlds: World-Systems Analysis in Changing Times* (with Immanuel Wallerstein and Carlos Rojas), Paradigm, 2012 and *Social Things: Introduction to the Sociological Life* (15th anniversary edition, Rowman & Littlefield, 2012). These followed *Why Niebuhr Matters*, Yale, 2011. He also published a number of articles, including “The Living, the Dead, and Those Yet to Come” in *Contexts* and “Sociology’s Third Problem” in *Contemporary Sociology*, both journals of the American Sociological Association (2012). He lectured, presented seminars, or read papers during the year at Flinders University in Adelaide, La Trobe University in Melbourne, University of Sydney, Yale University, the New York Pragmatist Forum, University of Pittsburgh, and Southern Connecticut State University. He presented a week-long master class in Adelaide on “The Rights to Rights and the Future of Global Life.” He is presently a senior fellow in sociology at Yale’s Center for Comparative Research.

## JOE REED

My critical essay about Kit Reed’s seven collections of short stories, “What She Thought She Was Doing,”

appears as an Afterword in her eighth collection, *WHAT WOLVES KNOW*. It is being published in both limited edition and trade paperback by the British company PS Publishing, both here and in the UK. I drew on critics’ assessments of her work in both countries as well as biographical material and a close reading of all the short stories to write this piece.

## RICH SLOTKIN

I will be delivering the Ernst Fraenkl Lecture at the J F Kennedy Institute of the Free University of Berlin on May 24, and doing a seminar the following day. The presentations is titled: “Platoon Movie: War Films and the Reconceptation of American National Myth.” The lecture deals with the period 1943-1960, and the transition from WW2 to Vietnam. The seminar will deal with the political and cinematic response to “Vietnam Syndrome,” and the work-up to the Iraq war (1975-2003). After that, Iris and I will be spending 10 days in and around Florence, Italy -- I specify Italy, since in my field I am as likely to find myself in Florence, Alabama. I also have a book coming out July 17: *Long Road to Antietam: How the Civil War Became a Revolution*. It deals with the military and political decisions that culminated in the Battle of Antietam and the Emancipation Proclamation, and focuses on the intense and dangerous personal and political conflict between Lincoln and his most powerful general, George McClellan. In November I will receive the Distinguished Achievement Award of the Western Literature Association.



## Al Turco

I have recently joined Eric Bentley, Jacques Barzun, and Stanley Kauffmann as a life member of the Honorary Advisory Committee of the International Shaw Society. The average age of the foregoing being 99, that makes me the new kid on the block. I continue to serve as a member of the editorial board of the SHAW ANNUAL, now in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of publication. In late March I attended the meetings of the Comparative Drama Conference in Baltimore, where I gave a talk entitled “Shaw, Helen Keller, and Fear of Feeling.”

## Jerry Wensinger

For some years I've been working on the correspondence of the Scottish writer Norman Douglas (1868-1952) and the volumes are being printed seriatim and beautifully (you'd hardly know that publishing books hardcover on fine paper was a dead art and hapless pursuit) by the Vorarlberger Landesbibliothek in Bregenz, Austria. We are now onto vol. 7, I think. Much of the work and nearly all the footwork is being done by collaborator Michael Allan of Cologne. (I am now a preposterous 86.)

If you want to know anything about Douglas, Google your heart away. He was “famous” in the 'twenties and 'thirties, wrote a lot, knew “everybody,” now elicits raised and questioning brows. And by the way, should you wonder, the efforts don't pay me one plug nickel. Every other year in Thuringen, Oesterreich, there is a jolly 3-day symposium (that, to be sure, mostly paid for by the Austrian government), serious stuff and fine social doings. Douglas's papers are at Beinecke/Yale, Ransom/UTAustin, Young/UCLA, Berg/NYPL, Princeton, Harvard, Dartmouth, Edinburgh, now Bregenz, and onandonandon. And you know nothing of him?

As to my “field,” . . . German lit.? Gave up most of, if not all of that years ago – But hold: Douglas was

the son of a German countess and rich Scots cotton manufacturers—the ancient line of the Douglasses of Tillquhillie and the Forbes, the premier of premier Scottish clans -- who needed Alpine water power and built manufacturies east of the Bodensee in the foothills of the grand Austrian Alps there. German was Norman's first language; he was soi-disant educated at English and Scottish schools from which he fled (he hated cold weather and “mediterraneanized” himself entirely), opted out of university as a dreary waste of time. His mind was a scientific one and his first publications, in geology, herpetology, botany, ornithology were written in German of course; then came essays, a few novels, (only one you may have heard of was *South Wind*, 1917, big seller back then). The correspondence is a large one. He was a traveler everywhere and climbed every mountain. His travel writings are unexcelled classics. He married a cousin who produced two sons for him (not so much for her); divorced her and found his predilections were more in the line of pederasty. No real problem then, at least not in those circles, and no one seems to have been hurt in the slightest.

He was a nearly universally loved man it turns out, except by the envious. And it turns out, he is a handful to deal with. Much of the correspondence is tedious and repetitious; he never wrote for posterity (quite unlike his spiteful, doubtless more “gifted” friend D.H.Laurence – [sic.], ND always misspelled his name on purpose, a balloon-pricker. Could have been a class thing.) That is why what we are working on is called “Selected Letters.” I hope it is going to continue after I have been, as G.Vidal put it, “gathered up,”-- as was he, Vidal, a real Douglas aficionado, just the other day. He had promised to write a preface to one of these volumes (15 years ago!). There we have it, another crumbled cookie. (August 3/12)





# A NEW PROJECT IN ORAL HISTORY

*By Karl Scheibe*

**W**esleyan has over 85 living retired faculty members. Besides their own recollections of their scholarly careers, most have memories of the inevitable and sometimes profound changes in Wesleyan over the past four decades. At a meeting last year of the Wasch Center Advisory Board, there was discussion about the value of implementing a program of oral history involving regular and organized interviews with retired faculty members about their Wesleyan careers and about the university community. To be sure, this *Newsletter* has been publishing short profiles of eminent emeriti since its beginnings in 2009, but the Board agreed that something more systematic would be a welcome enhancement and expansion of Wesleyan's historical record.

A meeting ensued attended by those who could lend expertise to such a project: Karl Scheibe, director of the Wasch Center, Sean McCann, director of the Center for Faculty Career Development, Anne Greene, director of Writing Programs, and Suzy Taraba, head of Special Collections and the uni-

versity archivist. All were enthusiastic about the project. Plans were made to begin interviewing retirees in the spring semester of 2012, with Karl Scheibe recruiting the retired faculty members who would be the subjects. Suzy Taraba offered to provide the students with initial training and a basic reading list about Wesleyan history. Sean Mc-



*Gertrude Hughes, one of those interviewed for the Oral History Project.*

Cann generously agreed to teach a group tutorial in which each student would acquire techniques of interviewing and recording with the goal of producing a transcription of an oral history interview by the end of the semester.

Sean McCann recruited the student interviewers in January. Interested students submitted applications and, during the drop/add period, the five most promising were invited to participate in the tutorial. The students met each week, studying techniques

of interviewing, reading about the history of Wesleyan, and learning how to prepare a write-up of the interviews. The group also worked with Bruce Stave, emeritus professor of history at the University of Connecticut and director of the UConn Center for Oral History. He has conducted a wide variety of oral history projects for many years. Suzy Taraba also worked with the students, meeting individually with each of them but one, directing them toward historical resources from the past four or five decades, and helping them understand the history of Wesleyan and its idiosyncrasies. She also sat in on the sessions with Bruce Stave. And finally, each student arranged, executed, and finalized an interview with a retired faculty member.

The faculty members interviewed in this first round are Bob Rosenbaum, Jerome Long, Gertrude Hughes, Jerry Wensinger, and Bill Firshein. It is expected that the oral history program will continue in the next academic year.

All interviews have been transcribed and will be available in the University Archives as well as online through the WESSCHOLAR website.

# Man of Letters

continued from page 3

long poems, *In the Moon and Other Failures* and *The Urban Stampede*, are based on classical myths, with a Greek chorus commenting on the action. They have been performed as chamber oratorios.

Carver and I left in the late afternoon, laden with novels by Franklin and Laura, and with Blue Cat CD's. They urged us to take the scenic route back to route 91, along the Mohawk Trail. A few days later I received an informative e-mail in response to my question about "Old Wesleyan," a subject we had neglected. This is his reply.



"Olde Wesleyan was very old: 900 very young males and a faculty consisting of the Apostles Club (full professors offering occasional cigar-&-brandy evenings to each other) and junior members. A legal finding in 1959 that *My Weekly Reader* was a proper part of WesU released escrowed millions: three undergrad colleges were formed: Letters, Quantitative Studies, and Social Studies. The Center for Advanced Studies was invented, and Wesleyan—still guided by that famous cat skinner and administrative whiz Vic Butterfield—began to move out and upward. With the admission of women in 1970, it became the little university it had long claimed to be . . . Butterfield held Wesleyan together through the Second World War and then in the fifties laid the foundation for Wesleyan today, opening up its social structure and bringing the intellectual level of its faculty into the contemporary world. It took money, which came from the *My Weekly Reader*/Xerox decision, and it took personnel, which came through and by the example of the Center for Advanced Studies, of which the star and power was Paul Horgan, who followed on Sig Neumann's death . . . (Horgan) was an eminently successful

novelist and member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, who enjoyed a huge circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the whole cultural caboodle. The Center started hopping. Yale and Harvard faculty were regular participants in the monthly meetings. Every semester a half-dozen to a dozen exceptionally distinguished scientists, mathematicians, painters, writers, critics, composers came for a half-year or year-long residency to do

their own work and to join in the life of the campus. I.A. Richards joined a faculty writing group; Willard Quine quit philosophizing to go out faculty sailing; Ernst Bacon played his music while a catbird sang its imitations in the faculty yard. Formally unstructured but filled with live wires, the Center

had even more going for it than the older and more academic one at Princeton, but Butterfield's and Horgan's retirements gave way to institutional complacency. The minds which tried to rebuild the university as a complex of simultaneous, multi-layered inquiries were outmaneuvered by departmental adherents, but among some of the old geezers, the Center's spirit carried on."

We thoroughly enjoyed our afternoon in that idyllic place, and returned home quite exhausted from keeping up with Franklin's intellectual pace. It is humbling to see someone in so-called "retirement" with not only an undiminished mind but with undiminished zeal for his ideals and passions. The French, who take a rather dim view of human nature, have a saying that goes "He who is not a Socialist at twenty has no heart. He who is still a Socialist at seventy has no brain." Happily, Franklin Reeve, who will vote for the Socialist Equality Party in November, disproves the wisdom of the French.

*With many thanks to Carver Blanchard and Franklin Reeve for their help.*

## FOUR NEW FACULTY MEMBERS EMERITI

Four members of the faculty retired during the past academic year. They will be honored at a May, 2013 reception at the Wasch Center as part of Reunion/Commencement weekend. Their names, positions at Wesleyan, and institutions of advanced degree are below.

### John Biddiscombe

Director of Athletics (1988-2012); Adjunct Associate Professor of Physical Education (1978-1985); Adjunct Assistant Professor (1974-1978); M.Ed., Slippery Rock University

### Joseph Bruno

Professor of Chemistry (1996-2012); Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost (2006-2010); Associate Professor of Chemistry (1991-1996); Assistant Professor of Chemistry (1984-1991); Ph.D. Northwestern University.

### Howard Needler

Professor of Letters (1981-2012); Associate Professor of Letters (1973-1981); Assistant Professor of Letters (1969-1973); Ph.D. Columbia University

### Wallace Pringle

Professor of Chemistry (1987-1011); Associate Professor of Chemistry (1975-1987); Assistant Professor of Chemistry (1968-1975); Ph.D. Massachusetts Institute of Technology

# Wasch Center Welcomes Gifts and Bequests



Over the eight years of our existence, over 200 gifts to the Wasch Center—some large, some small—have been received from retired faculty members, alumni, and others. We are building an endowment that might eventually allow the funding of professional travel and research expenses for retired faculty members, including the purchase and maintenance of computers. If you are considering either a bequest to Wesleyan or an annual gift, you might designate such gifts, in full or in part, to be credited to the Wasch Center. If you have questions about this, you might be in touch with Karl Scheibe at the Wasch Center or with Mark Davis, who is Director of Planned Giving for University Relations.



Wasch Center for Retired Faculty  
Wesleyan University  
51 Lawn Avenue  
Middletown CT 06459  
cwaterman@wesleyan.edu  
(860) 685-3005

## Editorial Board of the Wasch Center Newsletter

Peter Frenzel, Chair  
Gene Klaaren  
Jerry Long  
Paula Paige  
Karl Scheibe  
Al Turco  
Jerry Wensinger