

The Wagnerian

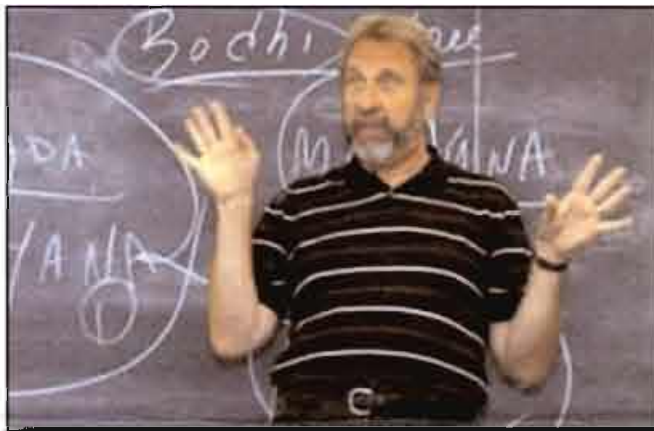
SPECIAL HOLIDAY ISSUE

Wagner College

Friday, December 9, 2005

Staten Island, NY

We're thankful for ...
our inspirational faculty and staff



The holidays are a time to appreciate those who touch us the most. So as you're busy studying for finals, writing last-minute papers, and packing up to go home, take a minute to look around at all the wonderful people who support you here at Wagner. It's not just your friends and your peers. From the professors to the administration to the staff, the Wagner community is full of dynamic and compelling individuals. Our Wagnerian writers each profiled one person who inspires them, with their leadership, their achievements, or just through their unique personality. Maybe these Wagner gems have touched your life in some way. No matter what, we hope that this holiday you will remember to thank those that affect your life most here at Wagner. Enjoy!

A lesson in 'being Worthy'

By **LAURA GARDNER**
Wagnerian
Entertainment Editor

In the depths of the Horrmann Library lies a grammar-nerd's sanctuary, a haven for those who just need a little (or perhaps a lot) of extra help with their papers. It is known to Wagner students as the Writing Center. Formal attire is not required; any level of writer with any type of paper is welcome. The philosophy is, "Help the writer, not the paper." How's that for being open minded?

It would make sense then, that the Director of the Writing Center, the woman who calls this magic room her home at Wagner, would be Dr. Kim Worthy, whose appearance, mannerisms, and classes resemble the atmosphere and mission of the Center. Ideally, this mission would be to make the world a more beautiful and peaceful place, but for now, she'll settle for making Wagner students better writers.

With her uniquely bohemian style, she'd rather be lounging in jeans than anything too formal or stuffy. The latter would not match her easy-going personality. On campus, she appears to be an earthy woman who would rather test her footing by climbing up the side of the hill than take the brick stairs carved out for her. Bangles and beads travel elegantly down her neck, a knit bag heavily weighs down the left side of her body. Fitting her mother-nature like appearance, Dr. Worthy is a vegetarian.

But don't be completely fooled by her laid back appearance. While she remains open-minded and compassionate, she will not hesitate to streak your papers with pencil marks and rip apart your sentences. Don't worry too much—Dr. Worthy always encourages rewrites, and at the completion of one of her courses, you'll find yourself a much better writer.

Dr. Worthy credits her parents for raising her with an open mind. Born in Atlanta, Georgia around the time of the Civil Rights Movement, she bore witness to the prejudices and sheer disgraces that southern blacks were being subjugated to. "Seeing the way black people were treated...taught me to question authority."

Out of adversity grew triumph, and at an early age, Dr. Worthy was "inspired by the great leaders of the movement." She admits that one of her greatest philosophies and inspirations in life is to observe "close minded people, because I know I do not want to be like them."

This attitude is reflected in the courses Dr. Worthy teaches. In spring 2006, Dr. Worthy will be offering a class on Asian film and teaching an ILC on the Vietnam War through literature and cinema alongside a history course. She is certainly well-qualified to teach it, having been to the Vietnam twice, spending



Photo by Laura Gardner

Dr. Worthy teaches courses in media studies.

Kim Worthy ... at a glance

Years at Wagner: 13

Hometown: Atlanta, Ga.

Hobbies/Interests: Spending time with her 16-year-old daughter, Kat, being a "cinematic," and writing her book on Vietnamese film

Astrological sign: Scorpio

Her inspiration: "Close-minded people inspire me, because I know I don't want to be like them."

Words of wisdom: "Read Kurt Vonnegut; Go to the Writing Center."

Favorite food: Vegetarian cuisine and good hearty meals, like "a good vegetable soup, bread, and cheese."

Last movie she saw: Recently re-watched "The Crucible."

a total of 8 weeks there. She is currently writing a book on Vietnam War cinema from 1975 on.

"I see it as a unique genre of cinema—and no one's ever written a book about it," Dr. Worthy says of her interest in the topic. "I've seen over 60 films, and took over 600 pages of notes." According to Dr. Worthy, now is especially an important time for this type of cinema, as she says that more recently, "Capitalism is corrupting the films."

It is also an interesting time for students to be learning about the ghosts of the pasts. "I see strong similarities between the Iraq War and Vietnam—a sense of rising dissatisfaction." Dr. Worthy notes that the current political situation is urging more and more students to question authority and engage in protests, as reflected by the recent peace rally in Washington, D.C. She feels as though students today are being denied any in depth criticism or study of what happened during Vietnam, and that the current American political agenda follows the belief that, "We can do no wrong," and that, "This is a classic tragic error."

Despite her political and humanitarian beliefs, Dr. Worthy insists that "I don't think anyone could be more patriotic than I am. I have the utmost support for our soldiers."

In addition to grading finals and concluding a fall semester where "the students have been fantastic," Dr. Worthy will be wrapping up the

last month of 2005 by making three trips to Washington, D.C., to introduce four Vietnamese films during the month of December.

Despite the appreciation of film that Dr. Worthy displays, she admires literature and is fascinated by the beauty of the written word. While she was able to successfully bring feminist novelist Joyce Carol Oates to Wagner two years ago, Dr. Worthy names Vonnegut, Chekhov, Woolf, and Tolstoy amongst her favorite. She even expressed a desire to bring the infamous Vonnegut to Wagner's campus to speak; whether it is in Wagner's budget is another question.

But Dr. Worthy is one who sets her sights and standards high, both for her students and for herself. She realizes that the act of writing "makes you naked to the world." This vulnerability makes the average college student nervous, yet Dr. Worthy encourages all students to make good use of the Writing Center where, "We want to promote good writing as central to active learning."

Whether it is challenging the Writing Intensive Tutors (WITs) to a round of "Grammar Jeopardy," or sharing anecdotes about her beloved daughter, Kat, Dr. Worthy always has a unique and interesting perspective to offer. A missionary for the English language, Dr. Worthy will continue to fight bad grammar and sentence fragments with the swipe of her pen.

"The students here are very serious and very smart; it makes my job a lot easier. This school has a great atmosphere!"

-- Dr. Natalie Edwards



Photo by Heather Sohara

Dr. Edwards is the newest addition to the language faculty.

New French prof helps create club, major

By **HEATHER SOHARA**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Dr. Natalie Edwards is a new face at Wagner this semester, but she has already made some significant beneficial changes and become a success among Wagner students.

Dr. Edwards is the new teacher in the French department, and already she has started to transform the department.

She has helped to create, for the first time at Wagner, a French Studies major and taken the idea of a French club from the talking stage to a legitimate club with interesting activities and availability to anyone who is interested, even those who don't speak French.

Her influence has opened up great possibilities for those students who are interested in studying and experiencing French culture at higher than an intermediate level.

In class, Dr. Edwards makes the difficult process of learning a language easier as well as interesting. She manages to explain the reasons behind certain concepts and constructions that are sometimes complicated to understand.

She is patient with her students' varying levels of French education in high school and tries to give students who have not studied certain things enough practice while not allowing class to become too redundant for those who have.

She also tries to make classes fun, from games in class to practice vocabulary to the scary short story her intermediate class wrote at Halloween.

Outside her role as a French professor, Dr. Edwards is a very interesting person. She is from Wales and speaks four languages fluently—English, French, Italian, and Welsh. She is a kind person and easy to talk

Natalie
Edwards

... at a glance

Years at Wagner: one

Hometown: Cardiff, Wales

Hobbies/Interests: Going to the movies, cooking, and traveling.

Astrological sign: Cancer

Her inspiration: "A series of teachers who have each affected me in different ways."

Words of wisdom: "As I saw on a T-shirt in Quebec once: 'Manger, boire, et parler francais.'" ("Eat, drink, and speak French.")

Favorite food: Moules frites (mussels and fries), with a glass of white wine on a Parisian cafe terrace.

Last movie she saw: "Chocolat," for her French film class.

to, and she shows a genuine interest in her students' lives.

Although very new at Wagner, Dr. Edwards says, "I really like it. The students here are very serious and very smart; it makes my job a lot easier. This school has a great atmosphere."

Hopefully she'll be here for a while!

Accounting professor is always ready to help students

By MOLLY JUDGE
Wagnerian Staff Writer

"I live in the business office," says John Carrescia, as an assistant controller of financial reporting by day, and an adjunct accounting professor by night. Walking into the business office you will most likely see a line of students waiting outside professor Carrescia's office, some to ask a question about homework and others just to say hello. His desk is stacked a foot high with piles of important papers with glaring deadlines, gigantic accounting books and records, various reminders on post-it notes stuck everywhere, and oh yeah, how could I forget, a candy bowl. Regardless of how hectic the day may be, professor Carrescia always wears a smile even if he feels like ripping his hair out.

The average day for Professor Carrescia is often chaotic with not enough hours in the day to accomplish all his work. But despite this chaos, professor Carrescia reminds his students every class to come visit him if they are struggling or have questions on the homework. "Stop by anytime; in fact, bring a friend and I'll explain it to both of you," he often says routinely.

Carrescia is known for his down-to-earth personality, one-of-a kind sense of humor, and most importantly, his patience. Accounting does not come easily to most students. Some may get it right away with little effort, while other students might bust their humps doing all the suggested work, and asking dozens of questions and still not fully comprehend.

No matter what type of student walks into his classroom, Carrescia tries to accommodate them in any way he can.

In fact, Carrescia is so well-liked that students asked him to teach an auditing course this semester because they wanted him as their teacher.

"He gives students a real world view of accounting beyond the textbook," says Amy Jensen, an Economics major who has taken two classes with Carrescia.

Carrescia is giving far beyond his duties as an adjunct professor. Often times he will stay after work to help a student with a resume or converse with a student that is unsure about what he/she might want to do in life.

"Carrescia is a good guy," says accounting student Antonio Bender, "He has a fun personality and is easy to talk to."

As if Carrescia's life is not busy enough, he always manages to find time for his students regardless of whether these students are currently taking his classes or have taken a class with him semesters ago and still maintain a friendship to this day.

I took accounting last year with Carrescia and still to this day I poke my head in to say hello and exchange a few jokes.

Over the years I have learned that a professor who truly loves what he or she does often finds a way to



Photo by Molly Judge

Professor Carrescia is an adjunct professor of business.

John Carrescia ... at a glance

Years at Wagner: Attended for four, has worked here for two
Hometown: Staten Island
Hobbies/Interests: hang out with family and friends; play in a men's competitive softball league
Astrological sign: Pisces
His inspiration: "My father ... If I am half the man my father was, I would consider that an accomplishment."
Words of wisdom: "Your thoughts will shape your personality, but your actions will shape and define your life."
Favorite food: "I am a steak man."
Last movie he saw: "North Country"

engage students, and it is that positive aura a professor possesses that makes the students want to learn.

Carrescia has the ability to do just that—it is an awesome quality that I as a student have only seen a few times in my 15 years of education.

Carrescia is a genuinely caring, giving, and personable individual with a contagious personality.

Although accounting was never my strong suit, I am ever thankful that I took the dreaded course because I was able to meet a truly great professor whose passion inspires many students to work harder not only in his classes, but in the real world as well.

"I just look at all the good things I have in life and it just keeps me cheerful. There's always a good thing for the day."

-- Maddy Sliger, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the College

With a smile for every student, she goes above and beyond

By LARISSA RANDALL
Wagnerian Photo Editor

Her desk is covered in paperwork, the phone rings every five minutes, and students are constantly coming in to ask questions- this is a typical day for Madeline Sliger, better known on campus as Maddy.

As the administrative assistant to the dean of the college, Maddy is always busy. A day at work for Maddy is never quite the same because she does a little bit of everything. She helps the many student visitors she receives in any way she can and tries to solve problems the three deans of the college present to her. Her job title implies that she only works for Anne Love, the dean of the college, but she actually helps out the assistant dean for campus life, Sofia Pertuz, and Ruta Shah-Gordon, the associate dean for student development as well.

"I try to keep the deans on their toes with all their different meetings," said Maddy.

Maddy also supervises student workers who are employed in the dean's office.

Although she is overloaded with work, Maddy is one of the nicest and most cheerful staff members Wagner College employs.

When asked how she keeps a happy disposition every day of the week, Maddy replied, "Oh, I don't know, I just look at all the good things I have in life and it keeps me cheerful. There's always a good

Maddy Sliger ... at a glance

Years at Wagner: 10
Hometown: Staten Island
Hobbies/Interests: Spending time with family, especially her new grandkids
Astrological sign: Aries
Her inspiration: Her 87-year-old next door neighbor, Rose. "She's such a nice person and balances everything in life with ease. Besides being a great-grandmother, she never stops thinking of how she can help others. She walks to church every morning, and she is always a perfect lady and I've never heard her raise her voice."
Words of wisdom: "Work hard, and make sure you call your mother at home."
Favorite food: Chocolate
Last movie she saw: "Fever Pitch"

thing for the day."

Maddy is very talkative and very amiable, and she's always willing to help someone in any way she can.

"She's really great," said Shah-Gordon. "We're very excited to have her because she knows so many people on campus. She's so friendly and is a real team player. She makes our jobs easier."

Before Maddy began working at the dean's office, she was in charge of alumni records in Reynolds House for nine years. During that time, she also supervised student workers, which was her favorite part of the job.

"I love working with students. Interacting with young people keeps me young too," she says.

When asked what job she would choose if she could have any one in the world, Maddy replied that she wouldn't want to be anywhere except Wagner.

"I'm so content in my life. I'm very happy where I am," she said.

When not hard at work, Maddy loves to spend time with her husband and four children- one girl and three boys. She also adores visiting with her two grandchildren. Her second grandchild, a baby girl, was born less than a month ago, on Nov. 13.

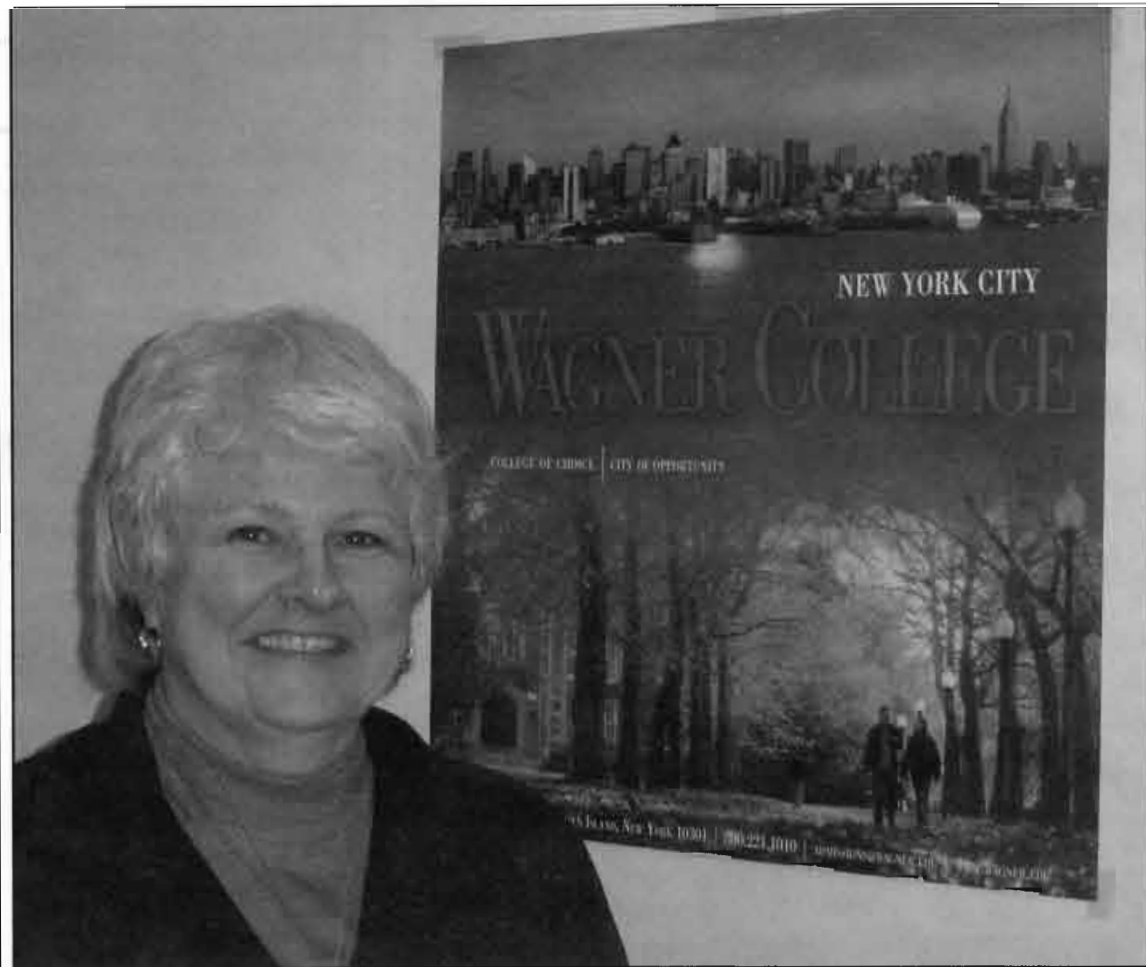


Photo by Larissa Randall

Maddy, who is like a Mom to many students, is a proud Wagner employee.



Everybody knows his name -- and his smile

By DIANE
GANTENHAMMER
Wagnerian Staff Writer

When most students hear the name Christopher Johnson, nothing may come to mind. But when they hear, "Chris the tray collector" everyone knows who is being mentioned. Chris has been working in the Wagner cafeteria for many years now; so many years that when asked how long he has worked here, he replied, "I lost count. I really did." He was born in Charlotte, S.C., but eventually moved to Staten Island. Prior to Wagner College, he worked at Gator Waste Papers but was attracted to Wagner because of the students and their lifestyle.

His good-natured, friendly personality is known by most students who spend their time in the cafeteria. His bright smile can be spotted from across the cafeteria as he swiftly rolls the tray rack around collecting finished plates.

Dressed in his black staff attire, covered with a soiled apron, he leisurely goes about his job, creating small talk with students as they come and go from the cafeteria.

Johnson comes across as good-natured and friendly, but there is much more to him than that. Johnson is an extremely hard worker. He works five days a week, for eight hours a day.

"I do my job. I am not lazy like some people," he states. "I do what I gotta do."

His job entails mopping the floor, checking the soda machines to make sure the ice and soda are full, and cleaning the deli. During the day when Johnson is not spotted walking around the dining hall collecting trays, he can be found "inside scraping dirty food off the trays, sorting

Chris Johnson ... at a glance

Years at Wagner: "I lost count. I really did."

Hometown: Charlotte, S.C.

Hobbies/Interests:

Movies, hanging out with friends, playing basketball

Astrological sign: Cancer

His inspiration: "My mom because she's a hard-working woman that never stops. My sister because everyone asks her for advice."

Words of wisdom: "Stop taking food out of the dining hall."

Favorite food: Italian food (lasagna, spaghetti, and pizza)

Last movie he saw:

the dishes, bringing the dishes out and doing it all over again so that students have clean dishes to eat from." He enjoys keeping busy and looks forward to seeing different students throughout the day.

Referring to his fellow cafeteria workers, he states, "I see my friends all day long, but the students are what I look forward to."

Christopher Johnson's work at Wagner is often taken for granted since most of his work is done when no one is watching, behind the cafeteria walls or when the cafeteria doors are closed. He is an integral part of the Wagner community, contributing a lot to the college.

"The Wagner faculty is fantastic. ... I enjoy every minute of my time here."

-- Andy Needle

Much more than a professor, he's a friend and a mentor

By ANDREW
PALLADINO
Wagnerian Staff Writer

"What do I love about graphic design? First of all, it's art. Secondly, you get to figure out solutions to make the design work," says Professor Andy Needle.

But the art department professor isn't just figuring out design solutions; he's also teaching his students how to master Web design and integrate it into their future careers.

No matter how much experience his students have with working with computers, they all leave his courses with a better understanding of the power of communication.

Professor Andy Needle briefly lived as a "starving artist," painting landscapes, and started learning graphic design in the '80s, when the first Macs were being mass-produced.

"Working on MacWrite and MacPaint was fascinating. You'd never done something like that before," he says.

For years, Needle was an adjunct professor and taught courses in graphic design.

When he arrived at Wagner in 2001 to conduct classes in drawing and graphic design, he was very impressed with the atmosphere of the campus student body.

"I was amazed at the congeniality here at Wagner," he says. "Students come to Wagner and stay here because of the faculty. There's a lot of good research being done at Wagner. I enjoy every minute of my time here."

He has been working with Dr. Kim Worthy in the first-year learning community called "Media and Persuasion," and is proud of his work integrating graphic design into the liberal arts curriculum.

He also spearheaded the creation of the Spotlight Gallery in the Library where the Wagner community can display their achievements.

Needle is a prominent member of several major campus committees, including the Academic and Cultural Enrichment (ACE) committee, the technology committee, and the learning assessment committee. He also edits and advises Nimbus, along with Prof. Claire Regan.

"Painters don't have hobbies," Needle says, and he is no exception.

Needle spends every moment that he can outside with a paintbrush and a canvas.

"I stay out just until I start to fear getting frost bite," he says.

"I have painted all over Wagner campus, on the Oval, looking at the Verrazzano Bridge, all over!" He is now more into painting metropolitan scenes than pastoral ones, he says.

Needle is currently working with fellow Professor Bill Murphy of the art department on an upcoming



Photo by Alexandra Jacobs

Prof. Needle in the Mac Lab, his home away from home.

Andy Needle ... at a glance

Years at Wagner: five

Hometown: Eastchester, N.Y.

Interests: Landscape painting. "If the weather is above 25 degrees, I go paint."

Astrological sign: Libra

His inspiration: "Many older bohemian painters. It takes courage to live outside the mainstream in America."

Words of wisdom: "Seek out the faculty, and get to know them. They can help you think about your future."

Favorite food: "That layered whipped cream and crepe cake the Dining Hall used to have and took away. We all miss it!"

Last movie he saw: "Return of the Secaucus Seven."

exhibit about the history of Wagner College. written memoirs, will be featured.

Treasures from the college archives, such as photographs and

-- Additional reporting by
Co-Editor Alexandra Jacobs

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TURN LEFT Coming Out Of The Ferry

'Making music is my calling'

By ALEXANDRA JACOBS
Wagnerian Co-Editor

"I look back on my life so far, and I think, it's almost as if a hand has been guiding this whole thing," says Dr. Roger Wesby, director of choral activities. "I feel like making music is my calling. I'm where I'm supposed to be."

Suffice it to say, Roger Wesby doesn't just listen to music—he *lives* music.

Dr. Wesby has had a long path to where he is today. It began when he was a child listening to classical music and Louis Armstrong on his parents' record player, and from there he followed his love of music to college, and later, to Costa Rica.

Growing up in Worcester, Mass., Wesby begged for music lessons and nurtured an interest in jazz and European art music. He finally began trumpet lessons in the fifth grade. By the time he was in eighth grade, Dr. Wesby had formed his own swing band and began to explore more forms of music, from be-bop to Bartok. In high school, he played in the orchestra and band and became interested in writing music.

Though his mother loved the arts and could "pull an alto part out of thin air," Dr. Wesby says his parents wanted him to be a doctor or lawyer or join the family bookkeeping business.

Instead, he attended the Eastman School of Music as a composition major, where he was president of his class and of the student government association. There he met his future wife Barbara, and they married between their junior and senior years of college.

A year after graduating, the couple joined the Peace Corps and headed to El Salvador to teach music. It was here that Dr. Wesby first tried his hand at conducting.

"There wasn't enough time for someone to learn to conduct one of

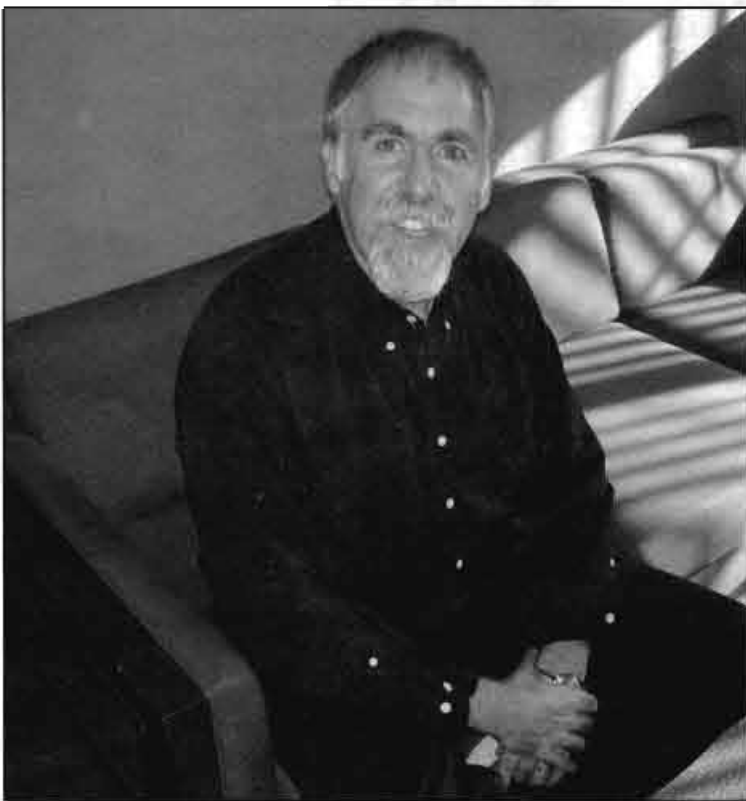


Photo by Alexandra Jacobs

Dr. Wesby not only conducts music, he also composes.

the pieces I'd written, so finally I just did it myself. After the concert, people came up to me and told me I should continue conducting," he says.

After two and a half years in El Salvador, the Wesbys decided to move on to Costa Rica. Dr. Wesby began directing the national symphony orchestra's chamber music series and also conducted the national symphonic chorus. A few years later he was directing at the national university.

"Little by little, I was drawn into choral work," he says.

In 1985, after spending 12 years in Costa Rica and having two children, Carla and Andrew, the Wesbys decided to move back to the U.S.

"We wanted our kids to have the opportunities that we had," Dr. Wesby says.

He decided to specialize in choral music and earned his master's degree from Westminster Choir

College. He had just completed his first year in the doctoral program at Indiana University when he became the director of choral studies at the University of Kentucky, where he conducted for five years, and got his PhD from Indiana in the meantime.

Dr. Wesby then moved on to Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., where he directed the choir for three years before coming to Wagner in 1996.

"The choir had diminished before I came here," Wesby says. "I wanted to bring stability, and bring the choir to the highest visibility and highest artistic excellence possible."

That he has done, and more. Under Dr. Wesby's direction, the college choir regularly performs advanced pieces and goes on tour during Spring Break every year, singing in churches across the East Coast. They have been invited to perform at Carnegie Hall several times and have sung with the Staten

Roger Wesby ... at a glance

Years at Wagner: 10

Hometown: Worcester, Mass.

Hobbies/Interests:

Film, walking, swimming, October baseball, learning other languages. "I love linguistics and syntax."

Astrological sign: Aries

His inspiration: "My faith as a Christian is central. I'm also deeply inspired by the struggle of peoples, especially African-Americans."

Words of wisdom: "As of this moment, I'll say: Be profoundly aware of yourself and conscious of people around you. And don't drop out of politics."

Favorite food: "I could eat rice and beans every day, but my favorite food is lamb korma (Indian)."

Last movie he saw: "Repulsion," a Polanski film. "We've got Netflix!" he says.

challenging.

Dr. Wesby has also arranged many works, from jazz tunes to art songs to choral music.

"I like arranging, recasting things in a new light," he says. "You take material and you develop it as a composer. It's an interesting mix of craft and invention."

He enjoys working with his wife Barbara, who accompanies the choirs on the piano and teaches composition and music theory.

"It's wonderful to share in this. We're partners in advancing music," he says.

Dr. Wesby is the type of director that isn't afraid to challenge his musicians. He knows what his singers are capable of, and he will guide them the whole way until they achieve it.

When Dr. Wesby talks about music, his eyes light up. This man can relate a musical piece to kabbalah, baseball, history, anything you can think of—just give him a chance.

This is because for Dr. Wesby, music is his language. It's his way of understanding life and tying things together. It brings clarity. Music is everything: it's joy, it's sadness, it's love, it's loss, it's the beginning, it's the end.

For him, it's almost a form of worship unto itself. Then it's not surprising that Dr. Wesby says faith is central to his life. He attends Trinity Lutheran Church and advises the new Lutheran Student Movement.

"As academically unsound as it may make me look, yes, I have faith," he says. "On the best days you hope that you're living that out."

Dr. Wesby's advice to students is simply that—to live their ideals to the fullest.

"You think you have all the time in the world, but there's a whole lot more to life. Hold on to life, because soon you will find that it has passed through your fingers like water," he says.

Island Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Wesby has also transformed the Treble Choir from what used to be "a ragtag band of 12 or so girls" to a 60-member women's choir tackling difficult pieces.

He also directs the Chamber Choir and Stretto, a vocal jazz group.

And that's not all. Dr. Wesby also loves teaching music. For music majors, his course on jazz and blues is legendary as both interesting and

As an alumnus, he adds a special touch to his job

By ANDREW MINUCCI
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Seniors, if you have not yet met Andrew Babitts, you surely will in the near future.

As Wagner College's assistant director of alumni relations, Babitts largely corresponds with young alumni and keeps them up to date on the happenings on campus. From his office on the first floor of Reynolds House, he diligently works on parts of the Wagner's new Web site.

He also meets with many alumni to address concerns and other matters pertaining to the past, present, and future of Wagner College.

Babitts graduated from Wagner College in 2003, and is currently enrolled as a graduate student. He plans to finish his graduate work in



Photo by Larissa Randall

Babitts poses by the Reynolds House fireplace.

marketing in May of 2006.

As a graduate of Wagner, Babitts

Drew Babitts ... at a glance

Years at Wagner: Graduated in 2003, worked here for two years

Hobbies/Interests:

Traveling, following New-England sports teams

Words of wisdom: "Enjoy your four years at Wagner College. It's an experience you will never forget."

Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite movie: "A Few Good Men."

has many special memories of his alma mater. He vividly recalls his first weekend at Wagner as though it were yesterday.

A Massachusetts native, he had never been to New York City before coming to Wagner, so on his first weekend as a freshman he ventured

to the city and got extremely lost.

Although the experience seemed hopeless, he traveled all over New York and made the best of the situation. The journey now stands as one of the defining moments of his college experience, he says.

While attending Wagner as an

undergraduate student, Babitts became very involved on campus, most memorably with his involvement in the Kappa Sigma Alpha fraternity.

Outside of Wagner, he fills his free time with many enjoyable activities.

He avidly follows his favorite sports teams the Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots.

He enjoys traveling and his favorite place to venture is the Caribbean because of its fun and relaxing atmosphere.

On campus, Babitts continues to show the same dedication that he exhibited from his first day at Wagner.

Although he will earn a master's degree in May, he plans to stay at Wagner to continue to fulfill the duties of his position.

Campus legend is also a Regular Joe

By E. FEEHLEY
Wagnerian Opinions
Editor

Tucked away on the third floor of Parker Hall is a pink room with a red ceiling, decorated with statues of Indian elephants and Oriental paintings. There are bookshelves filled almost to the point of bursting, and a vase of dried eucalyptus on a small coffee table. This room reflects the man who works there almost perfectly. It is comfortable, organized. Everything has its place and the passerby is fascinated by it, drawn in.

This is Dr. Walter Kaelber's office.

A good number of Wagner students have had Dr. Kaelber in class, and if they haven't, they probably know him by reputation.

Whether it's the thundering voice from behind the closed classroom door, the nervous freshmen talking about "The Spiritual Quest in Literature" in the Hawk's Nest, or the distinct click of his cowboy boots coming down the hallway of Main Hall, after 34 years of teaching at Wagner, it is next to impossible not to have heard a story or two about one of our school's most celebrated professors.

"I don't think I'm as scary as people think I am," Dr. Kaelber says, sitting in his computer chair, looking just as comfortable and distinguished as ever, "I'm really a pretty nice guy." To some of his students, Kaelber is that intimidating religion teacher who they are scared to take a class with. But to others, he is downright inspirational.

Anyone who has taken a class with him knows that Dr. Kaelber is tough. You don't leave the classroom until all of the day's questions are answered, and you don't dare try to B.S. an answer on one of those famous quizzes that open almost

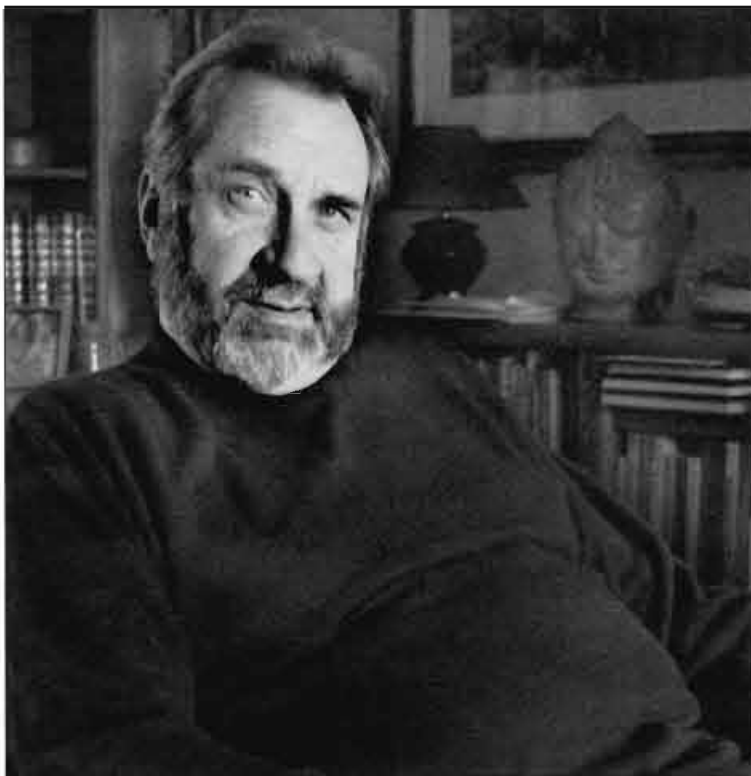


Photo courtesy of Staten Island Advance

Dr. Kaelber has inspired thousands of students.

every class. If you're wrong, he will tell you, and if you are correct he will make you question how you came to your conclusion. The only guarantee inside a Kaelber class is that students will think differently about things once they have completed it.

There are few things in the world that Dr. Kaelber enjoys more than talking about religion. A New Jersey native, he attended public school and claims to have been the funny kid in class. The only child in a Protestant family, Dr. Kaelber sang in his church choir when he was young, "Which is interesting," he comments, "because I can't sing."

After high school, he attended Bucknell University for his undergraduate degree and the University of Chicago for six years. "That's where I got smart," he jests.

When asked why he became a professor, Dr. Kaelber sits pensively for a moment, then says, "It was a natural progression ... Every time I

had a professor who I thought was pretty good, I thought to myself 'I can do that better.'"

When he was a freshman in college, Dr. Kaelber developed an interest that would seriously alter the course of his life: India.

He tells the story of how he and his roommate decided to hitchhike to Washington D.C. and found themselves in a "typical college hang-out in Georgetown," complete with "red checkered tablecloths and a guy playing guitar."

They were just sitting there, having a typical conversation when Dr. Kaelber's roommate suggested that he read "Siddhartha" by Hermann Hesse. Just then a waiter walked by who just happened to be carrying a copy of "Siddhartha" in his pocket. The roommates asked to borrow the book for a while, and sat there and read passages from it. So began Dr. Kaelber's fascination with India, and Eastern religions. He has now been

Walter Kaelber
... at a glance

Years at Wagner: 34

Hometown: Irvington, N.J. (formerly Camptown)

Hobbies/Interests:

Landscaping gardening, and "palling around with (Peter) Sharpe."

Astrological sign: Cancer

His inspiration: He says nobody at first, then later thinks of John Bellushi, saying "his style looks intimidating, but it's not."
Words of wisdom: "Get enough sleep and eat right."

Favorite food: Chicken Tiki Marsala (Indian), sushi, and pizza, "think and crispy."

Last movie she saw: "The Skeleton Key." (He liked it.)

to India three times, and enjoys recounting stories of his adventures there.

When asked what he believes, Dr. Kaelber has a hard time classifying it. Perhaps it is because he has studied so many religions that he has trouble choosing one which defines his beliefs; perhaps there is no set religion that does this effectively.

He says that Buddhism is the most believable religion for him (if it can be considered a real religion) while Christianity is the most complex.

"Most people are clueless as to what their own religion is about," Dr. Kaelber observes.

The title of one of his classes is "Is

Religion Man-Made?" and when asked to give a response to this question, Dr. Kaelber says assuredly, "To a very large degree, of course ... But that is by no means a sacrilegious statement."

If a student asked him to recommend one book to read, he would say something by Hesse. "I'm definitely not going to say the Bible," he says. That would be a far-too-typical answer from a man who is anything but that.

As far as movies go, Dr. Kaelber suggests the James Bond flicks, "but only with Sean Connery," he specifies.

He will offer one serious piece of advice to his students however. With regard to the fast pace of the world today and the pressures that face college students he says simply: "You should pursue what you love to do, and not be too concerned about money. If you're doing what you love, the success and money will follow."

Wise words from a wise man.

Dr. Kaelber has that certain kind of wisdom that could never be captured in a newspaper article, perhaps not even in the classroom. There is a certain quality about this man that shines through in everything he does. A quality that denies all the facades of society, something that reaches back to the "Why?" of learning.

You can see it in the way he talks to his students like he is on the same level with them, or the fact that he wears cowboy boots because he thinks "shoes are boring."

Dr. Kaelber does not simply fill his students' minds with facts; he opens their minds to important questions.

He doesn't just make his students regurgitate passages from books onto paper; he makes them apply those passages to real life. In short, Dr. Kaelber doesn't just teach, he inspires.

Psychology prof has an easy-going style

By MICHELLE
PONTERIO
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Dr. Amy Eshleman has come a long way from Michigan to teach at Wagner College.

Upon stepping foot on this campus and getting acquainted with the students and other professors, Dr. Eshleman thought, "OK, this is a good match," and has since been at Wagner College teaching psychology.

Psychology caught Dr. Eshleman's interest during a class that explored questions and found answers through the scientific method. Dr. Eshleman found the process of breaking down human behavior by using science a fun and exciting experience. She became interested in teaching and discovered it to be a profession that could "restore someone's energy."

Dr. Eshleman describes her teaching style as one that is conscious of feminist theory, hence the reason she urges students and colleagues to call her "Amy." She does this to break down hierarchy, a prominent issue in feminist theory.

During class, Dr. Eshleman creates an open environment, very inviting to her students.

She constantly invites individuals to share their opinions and ideas relating to the subject matter she is teaching and is always up for discussing any idea one might have to offer.

Dr. Eshleman teaches Intro to Psychology, Psych Statistics and Methodology. The Psychology of Prejudice, The Psychology of Gender, and Social Psychology.

Out of the classroom, one could also find this inspirational professor with the Psychology Club discussing new and old psychological theories.



Dr. Eshleman has revitalized the Psychology Dept.

Amy
Eshleman
... at a glance

Years at Wagner: five

Hometown: Waterford, Michigan

Hobbies/Interests: Yoga and watching classic movies.

Astrological sign: Aquarius

Inspiration: Jane Dickie, undergraduate adviser. "She was so passionate about what she did."

Words of wisdom: "Find something you feel passionate about and prioritize."

Favorite food: Ethiopian

Last movie she saw: "North by Northwest."

Great gifts from NYC



For your girlfriend:
 Rock and Republic jeans from Canal Street for \$30 (instead of \$230)
 They're hot, they're new, she's sure to look great in them, and she'll think you're spoiling her.



For your best friend (girls):



A fabulously expensive purse, just like all the stars are wearing...or at least one that looks just like the real thing. Buy a knockoff. (Also found along Canal Street)

FOR YOUR DAD:
 Yankees, Mets, Giants, etc. sports wear, a Wagner sweatshirt or sweater



For your grandma:



Satin Chinese slippers
 Perfect attire for cookie baking, present wrapping, and spoiling grandchildren. (try Chinatown)

For someone special:

Tickets to a Broadway or off-Broadway show for those with a little more to spend, or free tickets to a screening of a TV show for a more frugal friend.



The Wagnerian's Naughty and Nice



- ❄️ **The loud leaf blowers**
- ❄️ **Dining Hall food (i.e. on weekends and at late lunch)**
- ❄️ **Main Hall basement classrooms**
- ❄️ **Trautmann Square Webcam**
- ❄️ **Bookstore prices**
- ❄️ **Library resources**
- ❄️ **The network**
- ❄️ **Laundry Machines**
- ❄️ **Only Coca-Cola machines; no juice**
- ❄️ **No late night food (past midnight)**
- ❄️ **Screaming Greeks after induction**
- ❄️ **Non-working toilets**
- ❄️ **The Unit[]system**
- ❄️ **Internship help**
- ❄️ **The elevators**
- ❄️ *The new Wagner Web site*
- ❄️ *Dining Hall food (stations and theme nights)*
- ❄️ *Rides on golf carts*
- ❄️ *Expanded shuttle service*
- ❄️ *The friendly Hawk's Nest staff*
- ❄️ *Library facilities (to study, sleep, or socialize)*
- ❄️ *Information Technology staff*
- ❄️ *Study abroad program*
- ❄️ *New Earth floor*
- ❄️ *Recycling bin outside Towers*
- ❄️ *Coffeehouse food and entertainment*
- ❄️ *The view!*
- ❄️ *A new dorm finally on the way*
- ❄️ *Special topics courses*

Ten things to do over Winter Break



Build a snowman (or a sand castle, for you California/Florida-dwellers).



Make real hot chocolate! (For the Laura Bush's recipe, check out www.whitehouse.gov/holiday/recipe.html)



Celebrate a different holiday: For Hanukkah, try your hand at making some potato latkes (find the classic recipe at www.zuzu.org/rec2.html) and spin a dreidel.



For Kwanzaa, light red, black, and green candles, and donate to a charity working in Africa (find a reputable one at www.africaguide.com/charity.html XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Go skiing, snowboarding, or just sledding!



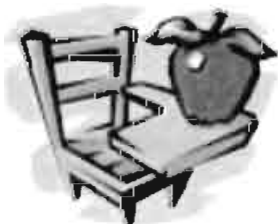
Run through your town's streets, screaming, "Merry Christmas, movie house! Merry Christmas, Emporium! Merry Christmas, you wonderful old Building and Loan!", ala "It's a Wonderful Life."



Kiss Santa Claus— Why should Mommy have all the fun?

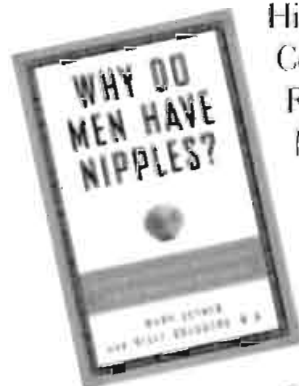


Answer the phone, "I llo, Buddy the elf. What's your favorite color?"



Go back to your old elementary, middle, or high school, and visit your favorite teachers.

Read a good book. We suggest "The World is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century," by Thomas L. Friedman, or "Why Do Men Have Nipples?: Hundreds of Questions You'd Only Ask Your Doctor After Your Third Martini," by Mark Leyner and Billy Goldberg. Insert random trivia in holiday party conversations accordingly.



Top last year's New Year's Eve.

'Twas the ----- before Christmas

Just like the mad libs you played as a child, ask a friend for the types of words underlined. Fill in the blanks, and read your very own holiday poem.

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the (NOUN)
Not a creature was (VERB), not even a (NOUN RHYMING WITH NOUN 1)
The (PLURAL NOUN) were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that (PROFESSOR'S NAME) soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their (PLURAL NOUN),
While visions of (CHARTWELLS FOOD) danced in their heads;
And (ADMINISTRATOR) in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,
When out on the (CAMPUS LOCATION) there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the (NOUN) I flew like a flash,
Tore open the (PLURAL NOUN) and threw up the sash.
The (NOUN) on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the luster of mid-day to (PLURAL NOUN) below,
When, what to my wondering (BODY PART) should appear,
But a miniature (TYPE OF CAR), and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so (ADJECTIVE) and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than (PLURAL ANIMAL) his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and (PAST TENSE VERB), and called them by name;
"Now, (NAME OF FRIEND) now, (SECOND FRIEND)! now, (THIRD FRIEND) and Vixen!
On, (PROFESSOR)! on (SECOND PROFESSOR)! on, (THIRD PROFESSOR) and Blitzen!
To the top of the (NOUN)! to the top of the wall!
Now (PRESENT VERB) away! (SAME VERB) away! (SAME VERB) away
all!"
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the house-top the (PLURAL GROUP OF PEOPLE) they flew,
With the sleigh full of (PLURAL NOUN), and St. Nicholas too.
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my (NOUN), and was turning around,
Down the chimney (PROFESSOR) came with a bound.
He was dressed all in (MATERIAL), from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with (PLURAL NOUN) and soot;
A bundle of (PLURAL NOUN) he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a (PROFESSION) just opening his pack.
His (BODY PART)—how they twinkled! his (BODY PART) how merry!
His cheeks were like (TYPE OF FLOWER), his nose like a cherry!
His (ADJECTIVE) little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his (BODY PART) was as white as the snow;
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a (ADJECTIVE) face and a (ADJECTIVE) round belly,
That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly
He was (ADJECTIVE) and (ADJECTIVE), a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A (VERB) of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the (PLURAL NOUN); then turned with a jerk,
And laying his (BODY PART) aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;
He sprang to his (TYPE OF CAR), to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy (HOLIDAY) to all, and to all a (ADJECTIVE)-night."