TO: The Office of Academic Affairs

FROM: Krishna Winston, Director

RE: Annual Report, 2020–2021

DATE: June 29, 2021

To paraphrase Garrison Keillor, it has been a quiet year in the Wasch Center for Retired Faculty—at least in the physical structure, which, like the rest of the Wesleyan campus, was shuttered in mid-March of 2020, when it became clear that the SARS CoV-2 pandemic was no passing phenomenon. It was not until almost exactly a year later, on March 18, 2021, that Associate Provost Sheryl Culotta passed along the good news that the Pandemic Planning Committee had accepted my second proposal for allowing those assigned office spaces at the Center to resume using them, provided they could comply with the provisions I had outlined (see Appendicies 1 and 2 for the proposal and the form all occupants were required to submit). It happened that my submission of the proposal coincided to the day with the CDC’s advisory that fully vaccinated persons could gather safely. As of this writing, several office occupants have resumed spending time there regularly. With the mask mandate no longer in effect, the new occupants equipped with keys and networked computers, and in-person activities resuming, I expect the Center to become lively once more by fall. Should variants of the virus pose new threats in Connecticut, we have trained ourselves to live with previously unfamiliar precautions and, recognizing that as older individuals we are at heightened risk, will accept any renewed restrictions that become necessary.

Although the building was quiet, the Center was able to maintain its regular functions, transitioning, like much of the developed world, to Zoom. As director of WILL, Wesleyan’s Institute for Lifelong Learning, Rick Friswell mounted [full curricula](https://www.wesleyan.edu/will/courses/past-courses.html) in the fall of 2020 and the spring of 2021. Duffy White recruited speakers for the fall and spring lecture series. Richie Adelstein oversaw tutorials offered by retirees under the auspices of the Emeritus College. Allan Berlind continued to organize interviews of retired faculty members for the Oral History Project. Taking over from Alex Dupuy, I edited fall and spring editions of the Wasch Center [newsletter,](https://www.wesleyan.edu/waschcenter/newsletters/wasch-fall2020-newsletter.pdf#https://cascade1.wesleyan.edu/entity/open.act?id=231d844881850649022ca7d535b73ce7&type=file; https://www.wesleyan.edu/waschcenter/newsletters/wasch-spring2021-newsletter.pdf) sending them electronically and thereby saving the cost of printing. I also expanded outreach to retired colleagues near and far by using the retiree listserv, for instance to let them know when a memorial minute would be delivered at an upcoming faculty meeting, or to inform them of developments on campus or at the Center of which they might not be aware.

Because the mission and operations of the Wasch Center do not fall into the categories traditional for academic departments, I will provide details under appropriate headings on the year’s programming and activities, on staffing, on retirees’ accomplishments, and on ideas for the future and concerns.

**THE WILL PROGRAM**

Recognizing that the 2020–2021 format and experience would differ from those to which participants were accustomed, Rick Friswell discussed with Alison Gallagher, our then administrative assistant, and me his idea of offering a discount on the cost per course. We settled on a uniform price of $95, regardless of the number of class hours. Offering the courses on Zoom enabled us to attract the largest enrollment in the history of WILL—over 130. The Communications Office undertook outreach to alumni/ae based on the overlap between their majors and the subject categories of our courses. Some of the instructors also recruited aquaintances and former students. As a result, we had a number of participants join in from locations far from the Middletown area. While we know many of our regular participants look forward to regaining the in-person experience, Rick and I are keeping in mind for future semesters the possibility of having some courses that will be offered remotely. In addition to allowing us to reach people who live away from the immediate area or are housebound, this option makes it possible to hire instructors from other locations. I have had an initial discussion with Mark Davis and Meg Zocco in Advancement about expanding our outreach to parents of Wesleyan students, past, present, and pending, as well as to alumni/ae. Another idea for outreach that we plan to explore involves retirement communities, but only those that have active cultural programs and residents who would be enthusiastic and engaged participants in interactive courses.

The delivery of our courses on Zoom would not have been possible without the extraordinarily able and generous assistance of Bonnie Solivan in ITS. The kindness and understanding she showed toward instructors unsure of their ability to work with an unfamiliar technology was truly outstanding and greatly appreciated. The ITS students assigned to the Wasch Center, Nour-Saïda Harzallah ’21, head manager of the Help Desk, and Samela Parnas ’22, faithfully stood by during the course sessions in case the instructors or participants encountered any problems. Ashley Tuen ’23 helped out in the spring.

The first problem I had to solve upon becoming director involved Rick Friswell’s Wesleyan e-mail account. E-mails sent to him @wesleyan.edu were disappearing into the void. After considerable investigation and trial and error, Steve Machuga of ITS was able to figure out what was going wrong, and there has been no trouble since. Rick was grateful that I took a strong interest in WILL, offering not only my experience as an editor but also a sympathetic sounding board as he designed the program of fall and spring courses. Since being put in charge of WILL, Rick had been working in isolation and found having a collaborator encouraging. I in turn developed great admiration for the energy, inventiveness, and entrepreneurial spirit Rick brings to the program, as well as his remarkable work ethic, and I am very grateful to Academic Affairs for recognizing his contributions this year with a two-year contract, a modest addition to his honorarium, and an adjustment to his title that more accurately describes his role.

The contributions of the Communications staff play a major part in our ability to mount the WILL program successfully. Jen Carlstrom, Imee Curiel, Jess Tyler, and Sam O’Neill deserve our heartfelt thanks, and the superb design skills and intelligence of Anne Marcotty bring the courses to life on the Web and on the large postcards that have now taken the place of the printed brochures I had admired for many years.

For the spring, Rick Friswell adopted the theme “Embracing the Great Outdoors,” and, banking on Connecticut’s relative success in curbing spread of the virus, made a specific effort to include a few courses that could meet partially or entirely in person, observing COVID safeguards. Because visitors were not allowed onto the campus, venues had to be found elsewhere. By the time spring weather arrived, Connecticut’s record in delivering vaccinations was making possible relaxation of some public-health measures, and even the Wesleyan masks we had ordered as gifts for participants did not always find takers. The outdoor venues included historic Guilford, with a guided tour that began at the Henry Whitfield House, opened specially for our group, proceeded to the town green for an introduction to the many architectural styles and histories represented there, and finished on the lawn of the Thomas Griswold House, where the curator introduced the museum and Dennis Culliton, founder of the Witness Stones project, discussed his initiative for researching and raising awareness of slavery in Connecticut. The most highly-enrolled course of the semester featured the Connecticut River. After being conducted for several weeks on Zoom, the course concluded with a cruise on the RiverQuest, during which the instructor and the captain and his wife provided lively commentary and pointed out features ranging from glacial rocks to William Gillette’s small-scale railway to nesting ospreys and eagles. The course on regenerative agriculture featured a field trip to Forest City Farms in Middletown. Sari Rosenblatt’s writing course took place entirely on Bill Wasch’s patio. The only indoor venue was the parish hall of First Church, which we rented for a day-long (free) program on the aftermath of World War II.

Even with the reduced tuition, the income from the WILL courses covered the program expenses—except for the fringe benefits for Wesleyan faculty members who served as instructors. To avoid having to subsidize WILL from the Wasch Center operating budget, we plan to raise tuition gradually toward its pre-pandemic levels; rely more on instructors from outside of Wesleyan; and introduce a charge that covers the expenses of the traditional day-long course. If we do offer a few courses each semester on Zoom, the tuition will continue to be discounted.

One project that went beyond the traditional WILL offerings developed out of Steve Banks’s decision in the fall not to offer his popular course on *Hamlet* as a perennially fascinating exploration of family dynamics in all their psychological complexity. At the time we were new to Zoom, and as a psychotherapist Steve felt the technology would get in the way of the nuanced and multidirectional relationships involving the text, the instructor, the students, and their own families that he saw as indispensable to the course.

 Shortly before the onset of the pandemic, Steve had directed a one-time performance in 001 PAC of his *Hamlet, the Sequel*. Now he proposed transforming his teaching of Hamlet into a video that would be available to the Wasch Center and WILL. I found the project appealing, and approved the reasonable budget he presented. To read some of Hamlet’s speeches, Steve enlisted the local actor Marcella Trowbridge, who has performed the role of Hamlet herself. Steve wrote a script and worked with a local professional production company. The resulting video has the immediacy and spontaneity Steve feared would be lost if he taught *Hamlet* on Zoom. At the same time the video captures, in a polished yet informal presentation, the ideas about the play and its central figure that Steve has honed over many decades.

**LECTURE PROGRAM**

Duffy White, continuing in his role as lecture coordinator, mounted a smaller than usual series of lectures for the fall and a more ambitious one for the spring. The schedules were announced in the newsletter, and invitations to the individual lectures and reminders were disseminated by way of the Community Forum, the Wasch Center local mailing list, and the retiree listserv. The best-attended lectures were those by Fred Cohan on epidemics; Andy Szegedy-Maszak on early photographs of Rome and Athens; Elizabeth Bobrick on teaching at Cheshire Correctional Institution under the auspices of the Center for Prison Education; Rob Rosenthal on the unprecedented decision-making process he participated in as acting provost in the spring of 2020; and Brian Stewart on his observations of insects in his yard, illustrated with his spectacular photographs. The last few lectures in the spring, by Ellen Thomas, Joop Varekamp, and Jennifer Raymor, all on environmental topics, did not draw large audiences, but the discussions between the presenters and those in attendance were lively. Unfortunately, recording of some of the lectures failed as a result of communication snafus, so the [record of the lectures](https://www.wesleyan.edu/waschcenter/recordings.html) on the Wasch Center Web site remains incomplete.

In addition to its intellectual content, a major attraction of the lecture program is without doubt the opportunity it affords members of the Wesleyan and local community for socializing over refreshments before and after the lectures. We are proceeding on the assumption that come fall it will be safe to hold the lectures in person. If conditions force us to return to Zoom, sufficient tech support will be essential. For the coming year, I plan to be a better colleague to Duffy, who, like Rick Friswell, deserves to have someone with whom to discuss his plans.

**ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM**

Allan Berlind continued to line up interview subjects and interviewers, and periodically checked with the University Archivist as to when the transcripts, revised and approved by the subjects, would be posted on the Special Collections and Archives Web site. With the library staff working from home and no student workers to handle routine tasks, this process experienced delays. At the end of May we were delighted to hear that the interviews of Henry Abelove, John Driscoll, John Finn, Bill Holder, Michael Roberts, Gay Smith, and Carol Wood have now been posted. Sadly, Ann Wightman died before she could edit and approve the transcript of her interview.

[These interviews](https://digitalcollections.wesleyan.edu/object/wessca-ohp) constitute an important contribution to the informal history of Wesleyan. This year’s budget cut, which I understand will remain in effect for the foreseeable future, did not allow me to authorize as many interviews as I would have liked. Finding additional funding to support this program will be an agenda item for the next Advisory Board meeting.

**EMERITUS COLLEGE**

Richie Adelstein, emeritus as of January 2021, continued to oversee this program, which allows retired faculty members to continue to offer tutorials and thesis supervision, with the permission of their departments, and receive a very modest honorarium. The College currently has [17 members](https://www.wesleyan.edu/waschcenter/whoswhoemeritus.html) listed, some of whom have become inactive. In 2020–2021 the following offered regular or thesis tutorials: Susan Lourie (fall and spring), Karl Scheibe (spring), Nancy Schwartz (fall and spring), and Krishna Winston (fall and spring). In the spring Bruce Masters taught Levantine Colloquial Arabic without compensation. This fall I will work with Richie to ascertain whether other retirees wish to join the College and check with those listed as to whether they wish to continue.

As I learned just recently, last year and this year the honoraria for this instruction were charged to the Wasch Center budget. Although the honoraria come to only $400 per tutorial, I do not entirely understand why Academic Affairs should not bear the financial responsibility for this instruction, which enhances the ability of departments to provide tutorials and supervise theses. If more than a few members of the Emeritus College offered tutorials, it would seriously affect the Wasch Center’s resources.

**STAFFING**

Over the years, the part-time nature of the Wasch Center’s administrative-assistant position has resulted in considerable turnover in support staff. The pattern seems to be that highly competent AAs look to move to full-time positions in single departments as their life circumstances change. In recent memory, Amy Bello moved to African-American Studies; Jessie Steele returned to Olin Library; and in the fall of 2020 Alison Gallagher was offered a full-time position, initially with the new College of Education Studies and then with Anthropology. Elizabeth Moemeka, whose assignment to the Wasch Center began in October, has been splitting her .75 FTE temporary position between Neuroscience & Behavior and the Wasch Center, with only ten hours per week allotted to us, although the actual hours have often exceeded that number. Alison’s generosity in sharing her knowledge and Elizabeth’s intelligence, technical skills, understanding of Wesleyan procedures, and constructive attitude have made the transition as smooth and agreeable as it could be with both working remotely. As the Center becomes repopulated, it will be important to have the front desk staffed on a reliable basis. Joy Vodak is working with the current chair of NS&B, Barbara Juhasz, and me to create a full-time position for Elizabeth that will serve all parties well. It may not be superfluous to point out that for the older colleagues with offices at the Wasch Center discontinuity in or absence of administrative support can be particularly unsettling. During this in-between period, with very limited staffing, I have tried to provide continuity myself, but I will welcome delegating to Elizabeth most interactions with Public Safety, ITS, and Physical Plant, and letting her continue her excellent work with Communications on behalf of WILL, and with Finance.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RETIRED FACULTY MEMBERS**

Using the retiree listserv, I invited colleagues to send me updates on their professional activity in 2020–2021. The invitation yielded a considerable number of submissions, evidence of the continued productivity and intellectual engagement of retired faculty members. While I am sure this information is far from exhaustive, those who responded clearly appreciated having been offered a chance to share their accomplishments. The following submissions have been edited for readability and brevity.

**Richie Adelstein** was elected President of the Middlesex County Historical Society,

published articles in the *Cambridge Journal of Economics* and the *Independent Review*, and is working on confederations in American history.

**Judith Brown**’s book *Immodest Act: The Life of a Lesbian Nun in Renaissance Italy* has been adapted into a film, titled *Benedetta*, that has been accepted in competition for the Palme d’Or prize at the 2021 Cannes Film.

**Ron Ebrecht**’s signal accomplishment was publication, in August 2020, of his exhaustive study, *Durufle's Music Considered*.

**Rick Friswell**’s *Merchants of Deceit*, a work of historical fiction on Samuel Russell and his times will appear this summer. Rick is in his fifth year as a regular contributor to the Lyman Allyn Museum's educational outreach, offering 5-week classes on topics in the history of art and culture; he also offers classes at local Masonicare independent-living facilities, and contributes to other adult-education programs through UConn's ALP program, MILE (Middlesex Community College), and the Guilford Community Center. He has been able to maintain these commitments on Zoom. He continues as managing editor of *Artes Magazine*, an online design and art journal. In the spring he taught a course on the Dark Ages for WILL.

**Charles Lemert** recently published the 7th edition of his textbook *Social Theory,* and is currently completing two other books (with collaborators): the 2nd Edition of *Introduction to Contemporary Social Theory*and *Capitalism's Uncertain Future.* He continues to work on his magnum opus, *Americans Thinking America*, and has recently published “Emile Durkheim's

Future, A Century After His Death: France, Germany, and Turkey” in an original and a revised version. Other projects include *Ethnographies*(with a colleague at the University of Pittsburgh) and the soon-to-be-published work “Henry David Thoreau and Today’s Political Crisis” in the journal *Fast Capitalism*.

**Leo Lensing** published two reviews in the *Times Literary Supplement*this year: an essay that treats the *New York Review Books* reissue of *The Kindness of Strangers,* the memoirs of the Austrian-American actor and screenwriter Salka Viertel, and a biography of Viertel; and an essay that examines *Billy Wilder on Assignment,* ed. Noah Isenberg*,* an anthology of Wilder’s early journalism from Vienna and Berlin.

**Clark Maines** writes that he has “had an exceptionally productive year,” but has not provided any details.

**Bruce Masters** published “The Ottoman Citizen between *Millet* and Nation” in *The Routledge Handbook of Citizenship in the Middle East and North Africa*. He was selected to serve as one of 14 advisors and the only US-based scholar on the Scientific Board for a project of the Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome: “The Split in the Greek Patriarchate of Antioch Three Centuries Later (1724–2024).” The project will culminate in a major international symposium in Rome in October 2024, with publications. In the spring Bruce taught Levantine Colloquial Arabic.

**Priscilla Meyer** reports that the Russian translation of her book, *Vladimir Nabokov and Indeterminacy: The Case of “The Real Life of Sebastian Knight*”was published by Academic Studies Press last fall. She will participate in a Zoom session on this work at the “Nabokov Readings,” which take place annually in Petersburg in July. She will deliver the keynote address at the “Hidden Nabokov” conference at Wellesley next summer.

**Dick Miller** is working on revisions (for resubmission) of two articles, one on ignored use of capital budgeting techniques in Ricardo, the other on uncertainty in capital budgeting.

**Laurie Nussdorfer** presented a paper via Zoom at a conference on Medieval and Early Modern Masculinities sponsored by the Centre for Renaissance and Reformation Studies at the University of Toronto. She provided a manuscript review for Princeton University Press

and reviewed grants applications for the Institute of Advanced Studies. She continues work on a book manuscript.

**Akos Östör** was honored by the Smithsonian with an online retrospective of six of his documentaries, created with his longtime collaborator and wife, Lina Fruzzetti. They spoke at Brown on their work.

**George Petersson** continues his research with Temple University undergraduates. Two recent publications include one with his son, a professor of chemistry at Penn. George is first author of “Three Body Dispersion Corrections to the Spherical Atom Model: the PFD-3B Density Functional,” and second author of “Synthesis and characterization of fluorescent amino acid dimethylaminoacridonylalanine (PJ-11498VP), with his son, E. James Petersson, the third author.

**Khachig Tölölyan,** retired as of January 2021,reports that he has been asked to contribute two articles, one to a book, one to a journal. He is currently evaluating a book manuscript for Cornell UP, and also evaluated an article for a journal. He served as reader for a COL thesis, and is preparing to review of a new novel in Armenian. Kach is helping the editor of

a forthcoming anthology that will include 200 pages of his own articles in Armenian.

**Karl Scheibe** taught two tutorials in the Emeritus College this spring. He continues to maintain a modest practice in clinical psychology on Zoom and holds some sessions in a sublet office on William Street. A conference paper on “Psychological Doubleness” was delivered via Zoom on June 6.

**Nancy Schwartz** co-authored the article “A Mix of Motives,” on Georgia’s challenge to the l968 delegation to the Democratic National Convention, about which she wrote in the spring [newsletter](https://www.wesleyan.edu/waschcenter/newsletters/wasch-spring2021-newsletter.pdf). She also advised a CSS senior thesis that received honors.

**Ruth Weissman** has two articles in press, the co-authored “Resolving key barriers to advancing mental health equity in rural communities using digital mental health interventions,” and the single-authored “Shining a light on ideas worth researching in the field of eating disorders.” Other co-authored papers are “Social and economic cost of eating disorders in the United States: Evidence to inform policy action,” “Risk factors for anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa in Japan and compared to a US sample,” “Family-based treatment for anorexia nervosa symptoms in high-risk youth: A partially-randomized preference-design study, ”Behavioral symptoms of eating disorders among adopted adolescents and young adults in the United States: Findings from the Add Health survey,” and “Twelve-month follow-up to a fully automated internet-based cognitive behavior therapy intervention for community-dwelling adults with depression symptoms.” She also co-authored and chaired a live-streamed webinar on “Becoming an Effective Reviewer of Scientific Journal Manuscripts” and co-chaired a webinar on “Eating Disorders Research in Asia: Introducing a Special Issue of The International Journal of Eating Disorders.” She served as ad-hoc grant reviewer on an NIH special-emphasis panel on research focused on anorexia nervosa.

**Jerry Wensinger** continued working with his co-editor, Michael Allen, on the 12thth volume of the selected correspondence of Norman Douglas. The pandemic necessitated the cancelation of the 2020 Douglas Symposium in Bregenz, Vorarlberg, Austria; but a number of those who would have participated published papers on Douglas topics for the 2020 proceedings. Jerry’s 2-page paper on Douglas’s *ALONE* appeared several months ago.

**Krishna Winston:** I supplied my updated CV and list of activities to Iris Bork-Goldfield for inclusion in the German Studies annual report.

 **REFLECTIONS ON THE CURRENT YEAR AND THE FUTURE**

When Bill Wasch celebrated his 90th birthday on May 15 of this year, his guests were veritably giddy at being able to dress up and gather under a tent at his house on Coleman Road, reveling in the CDC’s very recent dispensation from wearing masks. Some guests were even spotted giving each other hugs. Reflecting on Bill’s professional career, I detected a pervasive theme that has entailed a commitment to continuity and engagement, with Wesleyan the particular beneficiary of his vision. As head of Wesleyan’s Alumni Office, Bill, together with his wife, Susan, cultivated lasting relationships between alumni and the University that encouraged the alumni to grow past nostalgic reliving of their undergraduate years and forge meaningful adult connections with the institution. After leaving Wesleyan, Bill became an expert in enabling older people to adapt their homes or build new onesin such a way as to make possible continued independence and a vigorous old age despite physical impairments. In founding the Wasch Center, in collaboration with Karl Scheibe, Bill and Susan went far beyond providing office space and administrative support to a relatively small number of retired faculty members. They created a vital hub for the brain power and historical perspective embodied in professors whose intellectual contributions and love of teaching do not end with official retirement. Whether assigned office space or not, retired faculty members can participate in the Wasch Center’s formal and informal programs, meeting old friends and making new ones. The Center’s site, across from the science complex, one street over from Olin Library, uphill from the Butterfield residence halls, and surrounded by graduate and undergraduate houses, emphasizes the Center’s inclusion in campus life.

It was gratitude to the Wasches for their generosity and kindness and appreciation for what their vision has made possible that motivated me to accept the director’s position. As I wrote in the [fall newsletter](https://www.wesleyan.edu/waschcenter/newsletters/wasch-fall2020-newsletter.pdf#https://cascade1.wesleyan.edu/entity/open.act?id=231d844881850649022ca7d535b73ce7&type=file), I did not expect, when I received my appointment letter in early February 2020, to find myself on July 1 presiding over a locked, deserted building. Fortunately I had used the month and a half between my appointment and the lockdown to educate myself as best I could, taking notes on the day-to-day operations, policies, and traditions of the Center. Alex Dupuy and Dave Beveridge, the outgoing directors, generously shared their insights, and Karl Scheibe gave me the benefit of lessons from his extensive experience as the founding and long-time director. I met and developed admiration for the administrative assistant, Alison Gallagher.

The Advisory Committee met a few times during the pandemic, but it was clear we were in a holding pattern until we had permission to return to the Center. This summer the Advisory Committee will play a crucial role in reviewing policies and practices and in planning for the coming year. In addition to the formal lecture series, we might reinstitute brown-bag lunches at which members of the Center and other local retirees talk about their current work or changes they have witnessed in their fields during their careers. Book and film discussions, monthly teas, story-telling sessions, programs on health in old age, hosting faculty happy hours (if Academic Affairs revives them): the possibilities are numerous. We will have to consider a tactful and equitable yet flexible process for freeing up office space (see Appendix 3). Information sessions on retirement for faculty members contemplating that eventuality should be revived, and in the spring of 2022 the traditional reception held during Reunion/Commencement weekend to mark faculty retirements will have three years’ worth of retirees to honor.

Since becoming director I have benefited greatly from my monthly Zoom meetings with Associate Provost Culotta, whose supportive attitude and sensible advice have buoyed my spirits in difficult times. It is gratifying that we have been able to maintain the Wasch Center’s signature programs. Even more gratifying has been Bill Wasch’s participation in almost every one of this year’s WILL courses, whether offered on Zoom or taking place on the RiverQuest, on the streets of Guilford, or on his own patio. With the indomitable Ken Ahnell at his side, Bill has modeled the ageless curiosity and openness to new ideas for which the Center he established stands. Assuring the continued vitality of this institution and enhancing its resources will be my major concerns during the next few years.

Respectfully submitted:



Krishna Winston

Director, Susan B. and William K. Wasch Center for Retired Faculty

Marcus L. Taft Professor of German Language and Literature, emerita

Professor in the College of the Environment, emerita

**Appendix I: Reopening Proposal No. 2**

**TO:** The Office of Academic Affairs

**FROM:** Krishna Winston, Director, Wasch Center for Retired Faculty

**RE:** RevisedProposal forRepopulating the Wasch Center

**DATE:** 8 March 2021

**Mission:** The creation of the Center for Retired Faculty was made possible by a generous gift from William Wasch ’52 and his wife Susan. They were looking for a meaningful way to honor the contributions longtime faculty members make to Wesleyan by teaching and mentoring generations of undergraduates and graduate students and by engaging in original research and creative endeavors. After serving as Wesleyan’s director of alumni relations, Bill became an expert in adaptions to living quarters that would allow people to stay in their homes as they aged. He and Susan recognized maintaining intellectual activity and social interaction as essential components of successful aging. The Wasch family has steadfastly supported the Center. Bill Wasch signs up for multiple WILL courses every term and since the advent of the pandemic has made the transition to Zoom.

The Center thus exists to support the continued intellectual vitality of retired faculty members and to give them opportunities for stimulating spontaneous collegial interchange. In addition, through the programs it sponsors— the biweekly lectures that draw multigenerational audiences; the Lifelong Learning Program (WILL); the Emeritus College; and the collection of oral histories—the Wasch Center plays a significant role in Wesleyan’s intellectual life and self-awareness, and shares the joy of learning with the wider community.

Most colleges and universities unceremoniously oust retiring faculty members from their offices and leave them to manage on their own, without logistical support or the regular company of colleagues, at a time in their lives when freedom from the daily obligations they had while on active duty would allow them to enter a new phase of scholarly productivity and community engagement. The Wasch Center should be considered a precious resource, providing evidence of Wesleyan’s continuing respect for and loyalty to those who have given so much to the institution. As technology evolves, having access to a desktop support specialist, ITS student staff, and an administrative assistant with up-to-date skills allows the retired faculty members to take advantage of new tools and processes.

 **Current circumstances**:

**COVID-19 status**: The Wasch Center occupants are without doubt Wesleyan’s safest population. To date not one of them has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Acutely aware of the health risks to those in their age group, they have conscientiously followed the best public-health advice. Attached to this proposal is a chart that shows that the majority of those with offices at the Center are already fully vaccinated, and on March 30 the last pending vaccination will take place.

**Building capacity:** With offices spread over two upper floors, and a full-sized kitchenette, two parlors, a conference room, and a generous lobby on the ground floor, the building’s square footage is more than ample, even if all those with offices were to occupy them at the same time (which never happens). The shared office area on the second floor has more than adequate room for social distancing.

**State guidelines:** As of March 19, offices will be allowed to open and capacity restrictions will be reduced (<https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/03-2021/Governor-Lamont-Announces-Plans-To-Ease-Some-COVID-19-Restrictions-in-Connecticut>). Connecticut’s positivity rate, hospitalizations, and deaths continue to show favorable trends.

**CDC guidance:** Fully vaccinated persons may now have small indoor gatherings (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html> ).

**I. Proposed Requirements** that any individual must meet before being authorized to use an assigned office space*:*

1) Proof of documentation that the individual has received a full course of an FDA-approved vaccine and observed a two-week waiting period after completing vaccination. Should a booster become necessary to counter virus mutations, that requirement will be added.

2) A signed commitment to observe the following public-health measures while at the Wasch Center:

a) Wearing a mask that covers the nose and mouth at all times in the public areas, and in the office if it is shared.

b) Maintaining a physical distance of at least 6 feet from others.

c) Washing hands thoroughly after touching any surface that may have been touched by others.

3) A signed commitment to inform the director of the Wasch Center of any known exposure to an individual diagnosed with COVID-19, and to observe the quarantine period being recommended by the CDC at the time of the exposure.

4) A signed commitment to inform the director if, in spite of having been vaccinated, the individual contracts COVID-19. In case of infection, the individual must observe the mandatory quarantine period and test negative before returning to the Wasch Center.

**II. Understandings:**

1) Individuals who meet the above requirements will not have to undergo in-person testing unless they experience symptoms of infection. The University may require the use of self-administered tests (kits) at reasonable intervals (e.g., 3 weeks). *Rationale*: going to the test site on campus potentially exposes the retirees to students, active-duty faculty members, staff, and contract employees; limiting their presence on campus to the Wasch Center is safer.

2) For purposes of contact-tracing, retirees will sign in and out whenever they come to the Center.

3) The Center’s administrative assistant will continue to work remotely until the University allows fully vaccinated support staff to return to their offices.

4) With the exception of service-providers—the custodian, Physical Plant staff, and ITS staff—no one from the campus or outside the campus will be allowed into the Center, and the outside doors must be kept locked at all times. Anyone providing services must observe the public-health measures listed under I.2, which will be posted on the outside doors.

5) There will be no limits on the hours during which the offices and facilities may be used.

(*provisions* *to remain in effect until pandemic restrictions are lifted)*

**Appendix 2: Reopening Agreement**

**Agreement for Access**

**The Susan B. and William K. Wasch Center for Retired Faculty**

*Please print this agreement, fill it out by hand, checking the boxes, and leave it on the AA’s desk. For easy reference, keep the electronic copy.*

As of March 18, 2021, occupants of office space at the Wasch Center have full access to the building, provided they have met the vaccination criteria and have agreed to the conditions outlined below. The Wesleyan Pandemic Planning Committee grants this access on the basis of the following **understandings**:

• the occupants will not need to undergo the regular on-campus testing for COVID-19 required of active-duty faculty, staff, students, and contract employees;

• to avoid any form of exposure, the occupants will stay away from other buildings on campus;

• no guests, other than fully vaccinated permanent members of occupants’ households or “pods,” may be admitted to the Wasch Center;

• the building will be kept locked at all times.

For more information, see the Wesleyan Community Agreement at <https://www.wesleyan.edu/keep-wes-safe/safety-guidelines/community-agreement.html>. The latest updates on protocols on campus can be found at <http://coronavirus.blogs.wesleyan.edu/>. If you have questions, please contact the Health Services team at 860-685-2470.

 **As of** (date) I am fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 and have observed the subsequent two-week waiting period. I can document my vaccination status if asked to do so. If booster shots become necessary, I will arrange to have this additional vaccination and will observe any necessary waiting period.

 **Upon entering and leaving** the Wasch Center, I will legibly sign in and out, using the contract-tracing form at the reception desk on the first floor or scanning the QR code at the front or rear entrance.

 **I will make sure** that the outer doors are locked at all times.

While in the building **I commit to do the following**:

 Wear a well-fitted mask that covers my nose and mouth, except when I am in a single-occupancy office with the door closed. Before opening my office door from the inside I will put on my mask;

 Eat or drink only in an unoccupied space, unless I am outdoors;

 Observe a 6-foot distance from others;

 Wash my hands thoroughly after touching any surface that others may have touched.

If I learn that I have been **exposed** to someone diagnosed with active COVID-19 or a variant, or if I develop symptoms or **test positive**, I will

 Inform the Wasch Center Director or Wesleyan’s medical director, Dr. Thomas McLarney (tmclarney@wesleyan.edu), as soon as possible;

 Observe the quarantine protocol recommended by the CDC at the time or any Wesleyan requirements that differ from that protocol.

*These understandings and commitments, which may be modified from time to time, will remain in effect until Wesleyan determines that they are no longer necessary.*

Signature:

Date:

KRW 3/21/21

**Appendix 3: Current Wasch-Center Office-Occupants (as of June 29, 2021)**

**Key: Green = First Floor; Turquoise = Second Floor; Gray = Third Floor; Yellow = New Occupants**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Staff & Faculty** | **Phone #** | **Room #** |
|  |  |  |
| Administr. Asst. | 3005 | Lobby |
| Samuel, Yoshiko | 3539 | 204 |
| Schwartz, Nancy | N/A | 204 |
| Beveridge, David | 2575 | 208 |
| Winston, Krishna | 3378 | 208 |
|  Friswell, Richard | TBD | 208 |
| Rosenthal, Rob | 2943 | 210 |
| Wensinger, Arthur | 2257 | 210 |
| Masters, Bruce  | TBD | 210 |
| Arnold, Herb | 3630 | 211 |
| Paige, Paula | 2956 | 211 |
| White, Duffy | 3126 | 211 |
| Murphy, Russell  | 2482 | 211 |
| Miller, Richard  | 2354 | 211 |
| Lowrie, Joyce | 3099 | 301 |
| Berlind, Allan | 3483 | 306 |
| Infante, Tony  | 2424 | 306 |
| Dupuy, Alex  | 2952 | 307 |
| Long, Jerome | 3694 | 308 |
| Scheibe, Karl | 2273 | 309 |

Pending: Philip Scowcroft will be invited to share space with A. S. Wensinger.