

Wesleyan University

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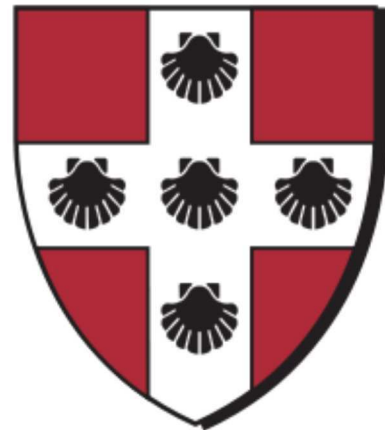
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This article is about Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, USA. For a list of other colleges and universities with names including Wesleyan, 'see Wesleyan University (disambiguation).

Wesleyan University is a private liberal arts college founded in 1831 and located in Middletown, Connecticut. It is one of the nation's most highly ranked colleges,^[4] and occupies a position in American higher education between the large research universities and the smaller liberal arts institutions.

Founded under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church and with the support of prominent residents of Middletown, the now secular university was the first institution of higher education to be named after John Wesley, the Protestant theologian who was the founder of Methodism. About twenty unrelated colleges and universities were subsequently named after Wesley. The University emphasizes undergraduate instruction, but also supports and funds graduate research in many academic disciplines. Wesleyan, along with Amherst and Williams Colleges, is a member of the historic Little Three colleges and has long been known as one of the Little Ivies.

Wesleyan University



Established	1831
Type	Private
Endowment	\$523 million (January 2010) ^[1]
President	Michael S. Roth
Faculty	350
Undergraduates	2,766 ^[2]
Postgraduates	180 ^[2]
Location	Middletown, CT, USA
Campus	Small city, 360 acres (1.5 km ²)
Sports	29 varsity teams ^[3] , 11 club teams
Colors	Cardinal and Black □ □
Nickname	Cardinals
Athletics	NCAA Division III
Affiliations	NESCAC
Website	www.wesleyan.edu (http://www.wesleyan.edu/)

WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

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History

Main article: Wesleyan University history



College Row. From left to right: North College, South College, Memorial Chapel, Patricelli '92 Theater (Not pictured: Judd Hall)

Wesleyan was founded as an all-male Methodist college in 1831.^[5]

Two histories of Wesleyan have been published, *Wesleyan's First Century* by Carl F. Price in 1932^[6] and another in 1999, *Wesleyan University, 1831-1910: Collegiate Enterprise in New England*, by David B. Potts.^[7]

Wesleyan was first started as an independent institution under the auspices of the Methodist conference, led by Willbur Fisk, its first President. Despite its name, Wesleyan was never a denominational seminary. It remained a leader in educational progress throughout its history, and erected the first building dedicated to the sciences on any American college campus, Judd Hall. It also has always maintained a much larger library collection than institutions comparable in size.

Wesleyan was a very small institution for the first 140 years of its existence, having a student body ranging from 400 to 800 students throughout the period. Although Wesleyan developed into a peer of Amherst and Williams, Wesleyan was always decidedly the smallest of the Little Three institutions until the 1970s, when it grew significantly to become larger than the other two.

In 1872, the University became one of the first U.S. colleges to attempt coeducation by allowing a small number of female students to attend, a venture then known as the "Wesleyan Experiment". Because of the preponderance of female students preparing for college in that period, some of Wesleyan's alumni believed that opening the door to coeducation would eventually result in the student body becoming entirely female. Given that concern, Wesleyan ceased to admit women, and from 1912 to 1970 Wesleyan operated again as an all-male college.

Wesleyan severed its final ties with the Methodist Church in 1937, a final formal recognition of many decades of practice. The administration ceased to define the curriculum as Christian in the 1960s, and also eliminated compulsory chapel at the same time.

During WWII, as college-aged men volunteered or were drafted to fight overseas, Wesleyan's enrollment was supplemented by the Navy V-12 officer training program, which allowed the campus to remain open.

Beginning in the mid 1950s, Wesleyan, under the presidency of Victor Lloyd Butterfield, began an ambitious program to reorganize itself into a small college with many of the trappings of a modern university, including doctoral programs in mathematics, world music and the natural sciences; a university press; and a Center for Advanced Studies (later re-named The Center for the Humanities.) Perhaps the most emblematic endeavor of the

period was the "College Plan", a system originally consisting of three residential complexes built to the south of the prior campus, each with its own dormitory, its own faculty (often on loan from other departments) and students who had to compete as freshmen to be admitted in their sophomore year. Although they are no longer located in the "Butterfield Colleges"—the combined dormitory and classroom buildings named for the ex-president in 1971—two of the colleges still remain as academic programs: the College of Letters (COL) and the College of Social Studies (CSS) (*see program descriptions below*) are considered exceptionally intensive study programs and excellent preparation for later graduate work.

Butterfield's successors, Edwin Deacon Etherington (Class of 1948), and Colin Goetze Campbell, completed many of the innovations begun during his administration including, the return of women in numbers equal to men; a quadrupling in the total square footage of building space devoted to laboratory, studio and performing arts instruction; and, a dramatic rise in the racial, ethnic and religious diversity of the student body.

Wesleyan's current ten year plan, which started in 2000, included the expansion of undergraduate housing, the renovation of classrooms and buildings, and a large investment in technology used for research and teaching. The Wesleyan Board of Trustees has also approved a \$160 million project to build a new science building to replace Hall-Atwater Laboratory.

The University and several of its admissions deans were featured in Jacques Steinberg's 2002 book *The Gatekeepers: Inside The Admissions Process of a Premier College*.^[4]

In the Fall 2007 semester, Michael S. Roth, a 1978 graduate of Wesleyan and former president of the California College of the Arts, was inaugurated as Wesleyan's 16th president.

On May 25, 2008, then U.S. Illinois senator and current U.S. President and Nobel Laureate Barack Obama, filling in for the ill senator Ted Kennedy, addressed the graduating Class of 2008, and urged Wesleyan graduates to enter into public service. Senator Obama also was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Laws from Wesleyan University at the 2008 Commencement.^{[8][9]}

Campus



The view from Foss Hill. From left to right: Judd Hall, Harriman Hall (which houses the Public Affairs Center and the College of Social Studies), and Olin memorial library.

Wesleyan occupies a 360-acre (1.5 km²) campus, with over 340 buildings, including: the five building College Row; Olin Memorial Library (*see below*); Harriman Hall (which houses the John E. Andrus Public Affairs center and the College of Social Studies); the Exley Science Center; Shanklin and Hall-Atwater Laboratories; the Van



Clark Hall, a freshman dormitory built in 1916 and renovated in 2002.

Vleck Observatory; Fayerweather (housing theatrical and dance rehearsal spaces and Beckham Hall—for large lectures), the Foss Hill dormitories; the Butterfield dormitories; the Fauver Field dormitories; and 11-building Center for the Arts complex. The campus also has the William Street apartment complex.

The original core buildings of the campus were North College and South College. North College was a Nassau

Hall-type building seen in most early American college campuses, it was replaced after a fire in 1909 with the current North College. South College is the sole building from the beginning of the college. The recently renovated Memorial Chapel was planned in commemoration of the bicentennial of Methodism. Judd Hall may be the first building dedicated to the sciences on any American college campus. Olin Library, Harriman Hall, Shanklin Hall, and the former Hall Chemistry Building were designed by the architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White as a set (with Clark Hall and a never built sixth building) to form a quadrangle.

The northern end of High Street contains several large buildings which were former private residences a few of which were exceptional architectural examples. These include Russell House, a National Historic Landmark, two Alsop family houses, (one is currently the African-American Studies center with student housing, the other is the Davison Art Center), the Davison infirmary, a second Russell family house that contains the University Development Office, and Downey House, (remembered fondly by alumni as the onetime main campus dining facility and pub, now classrooms and academic offices). There are other departmental offices in the neighborhood. High Street, which is the old center of campus, was once described by Charles Dickens as "the handsomest street in America."^[10]

Recent building initiatives include the Freeman Athletic Center (which includes a 50-meter swimming pool, the Spurrier-Snyder Rink for hockey, the 1,200-seat Silloway Gymnasium, the 7,500-square-foot (700 m²) Andersen Fitness Center, and the Rosenbaum Squash Center with eight courts), the Center for Film Studies, and a multi-building renovation project creating a 'Humanities District' on the east side of High Street between Fisk Hall and Russell House, which includes facilities for the departments of English, Romance Languages, the College of Letters, Classical Studies, Philosophy, Art & Art History, and Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. The Allbritton Center (previously the Davenport Student Center) opened in the fall of 2009 and houses the Allbritton Center for the Study of Public Life, the Shapiro Creative Writing Center, the Quantitative Analysis Center (QAC), and the Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program.^[11]

The Usdan University Center, opened in September 2007 at the center of the campus, has consolidated dining facilities for students and for faculty. It also houses seminar and meeting spaces, the Wesleyan Student Assembly, Student Activities and Leadership Development offices, the post office, and retail space. The Davenport Student Center and the buffet-style dining hall, McConaughy Hall (colloquially, MoCon) ceased service with the opening of the Usdan University Center.

Undergraduate program

Wesleyan's 40 academic departments offer over 900 courses each semester and more than 900 individual tutorials.^[12] Wesleyan also offers thirteen interdisciplinary programs, five certificate programs, and nine Academic Centers, including the Service Learning Center.^{[13][14]} Undergraduates receive the Bachelor of Arts in one (or more) of 47 major concentrations.^[15] No minors are offered, but double majors are popular (approximately 30% of students select a double major).^[16] A small number of students triple major. Students can also pursue a custom-designed major, known as a University Major. According to the Columbia Encyclopedia, "Wesleyan is noted for its undergraduate programs of tutorial instruction and independent study."^[17] Wesleyan offers 3-2 programs in engineering with the California Institute of Technology and Columbia University's School of Engineering. These programs allow undergraduates to receive degrees in five years from both Wesleyan (B.A.) and Caltech or Columbia (B.Sc., Engineering).^[18] Additionally, Wesleyan offers a BA/MA Program in the sciences leading to a Bachelor's degree in the fourth year and a Master's degree in the fifth year. Tuition for the fifth year of the Master's degree is waived.^[19] Undergraduates can pursue studies in pre-medicine, pre-law, and pre-business through any major.^[20] Most classes at Wesleyan are small; the predominant class size for undergraduates is 10-19 students, and the student to faculty ratio is 9 to 1.^[16]

Wesleyan's approach to education is individualistic and academically rigorous.^[21] The University does not require undergraduates to take prescribed courses. Students develop their own programs of study that reflect each student's interests and are created with the help of Wesleyan faculty. The University has described a set of general principles that define its approach to education in the liberal arts and sciences. These principles are summed up in the ten capabilities that the faculty believe every student should possess when he or she graduates from Wesleyan.^[22] Freshmen are offered First Year Initiative seminars, which are designed to prepare them for upper level courses by emphasizing writing, analysis, discussion, and critical thinking. Though not required, undergraduates are encouraged in the first two years of study to take a minimum of two courses in each of three areas: natural sciences and mathematics, humanities and the arts, and social and behavioral sciences. In the second two years, undergraduates are expected to take one course in each of these three areas. University Honors, Honors or High Honors in General Scholarship, Phi Beta Kappa, and Honors or High Honors in certain departments, programs, and Colleges require completion of the general education expectations.^{[23][24]} The oversubscription provisions are designed to prevent students from building and participating in programs of study that are too narrow.^[25] Writing is emphasized throughout the curricula.^[26]

Wesleyan has been noted as one of the most productive colleges or universities in the United States in the undergraduate origins of PhDs in all fields of study, with exceptional productivity in undergraduates pursuing doctorates in the natural sciences.^{[27][28][29]} According to a study for the years 1999-2003, among all liberal arts colleges in the nation, Wesleyan undergraduates were second in receiving PhDs.^[30] For example, the University produces more history doctorates per undergraduate history major than any other college or university in the United States.^{[31][32]} Within five years after graduation, eighty percent of Wesleyan graduates attend graduate school, including top programs in the country and the world.^[33] The University also sends an unusually large number of female undergraduates to graduate programs in the sciences and PhDs generally.^[34] Wesleyan graduates are awarded external fellowships, including Fulbright, Goldwater, Rhodes, and Watson. For the years 2004 through 2009, Wesleyan was named a "Top Producer of Fulbright Awards for American Students" by the Institute for International Education.^{[35][36][37][38][39]} For the years 2007, 2008, and 2009, a total of 27 Wesleyan students and alumni received scholarships under the Fulbright program.^{[40][41][42]} The University is reputed to have produced more Watson Fellows than any other liberal arts college in the country. (See *StateUniversity.com-University Directory*)

Several of the University's undergraduate programs "have an unusually strong national representation,"^[43] including American Studies, Astronomy/Astrophysics, Classical Studies, The College of Letters, The College of Social Studies, East Asian Studies, Economics (appraised as the "best small department of economics in the country"),^[44] English/Creative Writing, Film Studies, History, Music, and the Natural Sciences^[29] (including, but not limited to, Mathematics, Computer Science, and Psychology,^[45] ranked 5th nationally in research productivity and 3rd for the impact of journal citations).^{[31][46][47][48]} Current notable faculty include, among others, Richard Adelstein (Economics); William J. Barber (Economics); Richard S. Grossman (Economics-Department Chair); Richard A. Miller (Economics); Gary Yohe (Economics); Richard W. Boyd (Government); Martha Crenshaw (Government); Elvin Lim (Government); Judith C. Brown (History); Ethan Kleinberg (History and Letters); Nathan Brody (Psychology); Scott Plous (Psychology);^[49] Charles Lemert (Sociology); Annie Dillard (English - Pulitzer Prize-winning author); Dani Shapiro (Creative Writing); Anselm Berrigan (English - poet); Kit Reed (English); Deb Olin Unferth (English); Elizabeth Willis (English); Jeanine Basinger (Film Studies); Anthony Braxton (Music - awarded MacArthur Fellows Program "genius grant"); Neely Bruce (Music and American Studies); Angel Gil-Ordonez (Music); Alvin Lucier (Experimental Music); Mark Slobin (Music and American Studies); Eiko Otake (Dance - awarded MacArthur Fellows Program "genius grant"); Eugene Marion Klaaren (Religion); Jan Willis (Religion); Vera Schwarcz (East Asian Studies); Joseph Siry (History of Architecture); Reinhold Blumel (Physics); David Bodznick (Biology, Neuroscience & Behavior); David L. Beveridge (Chemistry); Carol Wood (Mathematics); Mark Hovey (Mathematics); Karen L. Collins (Computer Science); William Herbst (Astronomy, Director of the Van Vleck Observatory); Richard Slotkin (American Studies and English).

Wesleyan's program in World Music employs leading teaching musicians and ethnomusicologists, representing a variety of musical traditions.^[50] Indonesian (including Javanese Gamelan)^[51], South Indian Classical^[52], East Asian, West African, African-American, European (including Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionistic, Neo-Classical, 20th Century, and Opera), as well as Experimental musics have been permanent components of the Music Department since the 1960s.^[53] The Experimental music work at Wesleyan dates to the residency of John Cage at the University, and subsequently to Alvin Lucier, Ron Kuivila, and Jon Barlow. Masters degrees in ethnomusicology, musicology, composition, and performance, and a Ph.D. degree in ethnomusicology are offered.^[54] "Among universities, Wesleyan has one of the the largest and most diverse collections of [world] musical instruments,"^[55] which are depicted in the University's "Virtual Instrument Museum."^[56]

The University's Film Studies department is led by film historian Jeanine Basinger.^[57] In 2008, Vanity Fair noted: "This tiny Connecticut University, with a total enrollment of 2,700, has turned out a shockingly disproportionate number of Hollywood movers and shakers."^[58] Similarly, in 2008, Variety magazine noted Basinger's contribution to the film industry through her work in the Wesleyan Film Studies program, and the large number of alumni of the program now working in Hollywood.^{[59][60]} University students, biographers, media experts, and scholars from around the world have full access to The Wesleyan Cinema Archives, which document the film industry during the 20th Century and contain the personal papers and film related materials of Ingrid Bergman, Frank Capra, Clint Eastwood, Federico Fellini, Elia Kazan, Frank Perry, Roberto Rossellini, Robert Saudek, Martin Scorsese, Gene Tierney, Raoul Walsh, John Waters, and others.^{[57][61]}

Wesleyan's theater program is highly regarded.^[62] The University is home to Second Stage, which may be the country's first solely student-run volunteer theater organization.^{[63][64]} Second Stage produces at least one performance per weekend during the school year, either in the fully equipped black-box Patricelli '92 Theater or alternate spaces around campus. Second Stage produces dance as well as theater performances. The Patricelli '92 Theater became available for student run productions when the Center for the Arts opened in 1974, providing the Theater Department with a state-of-the-art facility.

According to National Science Foundation (NSF) research and data, the University ranks first nationally among liberal arts colleges in federal funding for research in the sciences and mathematics. Wesleyan is also the number one ranked liberal arts institution in publications by science and mathematics faculty as determined by a measure of research publication rate and impact of publication that factors in both the number of research papers and the number of times those papers are cited in the literature. The University's undergraduates co-author (with Wesleyan faculty) and publish more scientific papers than do students at any other liberal arts school. Additionally, the University is the only liberal arts college in the nation to receive research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to support a Molecular Biophysics Predoctoral Research Training Program. Wesleyan is the sole undergraduate liberal arts college to receive this support among research universities such as Stanford, University of California at Berkeley, Johns Hopkins, Harvard University Medical School, Duke, Cornell, and the University of Pennsylvania. The University also may be the only liberal arts college to offer an undergraduate concentration in Molecular Biophysics. Medical school acceptances historically have averaged above 90% and in some years Wesleyan has recorded an acceptance rate of 100%. Many pre-med graduates are admitted to the most prestigious programs in the country.^{[29][65][66][67]}



The Samuel Wadsworth Russell House, home to the Philosophy department. The building was designated a national Historic Landmark in 2001 and is considered one of the finest examples of domestic Greek Revival architecture.

Wesleyan was one of the first colleges to establish a separate Molecular Biology & Biochemistry department, and

has extensive laboratory facilities. The University is reputed to have the most square footage of lab space per student of any college in the country. (See *StateUniversity.com*, Wesleyan University, Facilities.) All of the science departments, mathematics & computer science, psychology, and anthropology support original post-graduate research programs. An additional laboratory building is in the planning stages.^{[46][68][69][70]}

The University's Foreign Language Department offers American Sign Language, Arabic, Catalan, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Swahili. All language classes are held in Fisk Hall, which contains two Language Labs for student use.

The Astronomy department graduates more astronomy and astrophysics majors than any other liberal arts college in the country.^[65] The program is based at Van Vleck Observatory, built in 1914, which is on Foss Hill near the center of the Wesleyan campus. The telescopes are used for research-based observing programs and sky watching events open to Wesleyan students and the general public.^[71] The University owns three telescopes. A 16-inch (410 mm) and a 20-inch (510 mm) are both used for weekly public observing nights, open to the Wesleyan community and the general public. The third telescope, the 24-inch (610 mm) Perkins telescope, is used primarily for research, including for senior and graduate student thesis projects, as well as for departmental research programs (which include Supernovae, Variable Stars—known as T Tauri stars, the KNPO International Spectroscopic Survey, dwarf galaxies, Observational Cosmology, X-ray Binary Populations, and Planetary Science).^[72] The Perkins scope is one of the largest telescopes in New England. Wesleyan also participates in a consortium of universities that operate the WIYN .9-meter telescope at the Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona. Students (undergraduate and graduate) and faculty have the opportunity to spend time in Arizona doing research with the telescope. Astronomers at the University have made a number of discoveries, including KH15D,^[73] a "winking star" (a unique astronomical object) that promises to inform astronomers much about protoplanetary disks.^{[74][75]} Wesleyan also is a member of the Keck Northeast Astronomy Consortium (KNAC).^[76]

Butterfield Colleges

College of Social Studies

The College of Social Studies (CSS) was founded in 1959, combining the fields of history, economics, government, and philosophy. It emphasizes intellectual independence and collaborative and social ties between faculty and students. Students take 7 of the program's 12 (thesis-writing students take 13) required credits during their sophomore year. Sophomore year focuses on the development of modern Western society from historical, economic, social and political perspectives, and culminates with comprehensive final exams. Junior year has a more global focus, while Seniors are required to write an Honors thesis (full year) or a Senior Essay. The program is known for its collegial spirit and academic rigor.^[77] In fact, "[t]he CSS major is often regarded as one of the more difficult majors at the University."^[78]

College of Letters

The College of Letters (COL) combines the study of history, literature, philosophy, and a foreign language of the student's choice. The program has a primary focus on the Western canon. Undertaking a chronological study that progresses from antiquities to modernity, COL students take one colloquium together each semester and study abroad for the second semester of their sophomore year; they are expected to be at an intermediate level of study in their language of choice at the time they enter the program as sophomores. During their junior year students prepare for intensive comprehensive examinations on the three colloquia taken up to this point. During their senior year students must write a thesis (full year paper) or an essay (half year paper).^[79]

Science in Society Program

Wesleyan's Science in Society Program is an interdisciplinary major that encourages integrated study of the sciences and medicine as practices, institutions, and intellectual achievements, among other areas of study. The program has three components: science courses, SISP courses, and an area of concentration (which may include a major in one of the sciences). The program is well suited for students interested in a variety of professional and academic pursuits, since it encourages students to integrate technical scientific understanding with a grasp of the multiple contexts in which scientific knowledge is applied, and the issues at stake in its application.^[80]

Certificate programs

Wesleyan's certificate programs are designed to bring coherence to programs of study that include courses from many departments and programs. They are:

- Certificate in Environmental Studies^[81]
- Certificate in Informatics and Modeling^[82]
- Certificate in International Relations^[83]
- Certificate in Jewish and Israel Studies^[84]
- Certificate in Molecular Biophysics^{[66][85]}

Study abroad

Wesleyan sponsors international programs in France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, and Spain; has special relationships with programs in Japan and China; and has 140 other approved programs. Nearly 50% of students study abroad for one academic year.^[86]

Twelve College Exchange

Many students participate in the Twelve College Exchange program, which allows for study for a semester or a year at another of the twelve college campuses. Typically, Wesleyan receives a larger number of Twelve College students, especially from Smith, Mount Holyoke, Wheaton and Vassar. The program also includes Amherst, Bowdoin, Connecticut, Dartmouth, Trinity, Wellesley, and Williams.

Graduate programs

Graduate departmental programs

Wesleyan features 11 graduate departmental programs in the sciences, mathematics, psychology, and music.^[87] Graduates receive the Master of Arts, Master of Science, and/or Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Generally, Wesleyan's graduate programs retain a small college atmosphere similar to the undergraduate program. For example, departments feature small administrative staffs, close student-faculty interaction, and open laboratory facilities. Administrators limit graduate course enrollment to 18 students or less.

Graduate Liberal Studies Program

In 1953, Wesleyan was one of three universities to begin a program leading to a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree, called the Graduate Liberal Studies Program.^[88] To date, hundreds of educational institutions have followed suit with similar programs. The academically rigorous program provides for interdisciplinary graduate study independent of the undergraduate academic departments. This replaced the Master of Arts in Teaching program previously offered, and expanded it so that students can pursue graduate study for any purpose.

A large proportion of G.L.S.P. students are public and private school teachers from the region, and the others are in different professions, or are otherwise augmenting their graduate studies.

The Graduate Liberal Studies Program offers both the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (M.A.) and the Certificate of Advanced Studies (C.A.S.). The former requires 36 credit hours of study and may culminate in a capstone project or thesis. The latter requires 30 credit hours of academic study and a thesis.

Rankings and admission

Admission to Wesleyan is among the most selective in the nation. For the class of 2013, 22% of applicants were admitted. The middle 50 percent of accepted students' SAT scores were 670-770 on the Critical Reading section, 670-760 on the Math section, and 670-770 on the Writing section. Additionally, the middle 50 percent of students scored between 30 and 34 (composite) on the ACT. The median SAT score was 2170, and the median ACT score was 32.^[89]

Historically, Wesleyan holds the Washington Monthly survey's #1 average liberal arts college ranking in the nation. Most recently, the University was ranked #4^[27] in this survey, and has previously been ranked as high as #2.^[90] In the current U.S. News and World Report rankings, Wesleyan is the #13 liberal arts college overall in the United States and is tied for #5 in academic reputation with Middlebury College and Pomona College. In previous U.S. News rankings, the University has been ranked as high as #6 overall. In the Forbes Magazine ranking of American colleges, which combines liberal arts colleges and national research universities together in one list, the University is ranked #21. Among liberal arts colleges only, Wesleyan ranks #11 in the survey.^[91] On *StateUniversity.com - U.S. University Directory*, which takes a statistical approach to rankings, Wesleyan is ranked #14 among both liberal arts colleges and national research universities, tied (with a score of 98.6 out of 100) with Swarthmore College, Middlebury, Carleton College, and the University of Notre Dame, and is tied for #4 among liberal arts colleges alone. According to a study entitled "Revealed Preference Ranking" published by the National Bureau of Economic Research, which combines national research universities and liberal arts colleges, Wesleyan ranks #22, and #5 among liberal arts colleges alone.^[92]

In its 2009 edition, the Princeton Review gave the University both a selectivity rating and an academic rating of 97 out of 99, tied with Bowdoin College and Pomona in the latter category. Newsweek magazine has described Wesleyan as one of a small group of historically, academically "elite" colleges and universities in the nation.^[93] The University is classified as a most selective institution by the Carnegie Foundation.

Wesleyan is ranked very highly in the Washington Monthly's key academic output categories, currently holding second place in the proportion of undergraduates in liberal arts colleges obtaining PhDs and fourth in fostering scientific and humanistic research.^[27] According to the Wall Street Journal, Wesleyan is one of the top "feeder schools" to elite graduate medical, law, and business schools.

The University is notable for the success of its female and minority populations. Wesleyan is one of only nine universities with a black graduation rate above 90 percent, along with three members of the Ivy League and fellow members of the Little Three, as well as Wellesley College, Northwestern University, and Washington University in St. Louis.^[94] In this regard, *Black Enterprise* has ranked Wesleyan #14 overall among the magazine's top 50 universities and colleges for African Americans, and #5 among liberal arts colleges alone.^[95] Also noteworthy is the success of female students at the University: According to a recent summary, 55.3% of Wesleyan's doctorates were earned by women.^[96]

On the 2010 College Sustainability Report Card of the Sustainable Endowments Institute, Wesleyan received an overall grade of "A-", the highest overall score awarded. Only 26 colleges and universities in the nation earned this grade. Additionally, the University was cited for being an "Overall College Sustainability Leader," a "Campus

Sustainability Leader," and an "Endowment Sustainability Leader" (one of only twelve colleges and universities in the nation), among other awards. The University was one of only six colleges and universities to receive all three leadership awards. Wesleyan also earned grades of A- for "Community garden or farm" and "Renewable energy on campus."^{[97][98][99][100][101]}

Olin Memorial Library and other library holdings



The front facade of Wesleyan University Olin memorial library.

Wesleyan University has an extensive library collection, most of which is housed in Olin Memorial Library, which has more than 1.3 million volumes.^[102] Wesleyan's first library was Rich Hall (now '92 Theater), which was built just after the Civil War. In the early years of the University, there was a general collection housed on campus, and two society libraries, which were in the Observatory Hall dormitory. These three collections were combined to make up the basis of the Rich Hall collection, and the library was supervised by William North Rice, '65, the first University Librarian. Olin Library was designed by the firm of McKim, Mead, and White and built in 1925. Olin originally was much smaller and also contained classroom space. It has since been enlarged twice, the last time in 1992. Olin also contains Special Collections & Archives,^{[103][104]} an extensive periodicals collection, microforms, scores and recordings,^[105] the World Music Archives,^[106] and is a U.S. Government Document Depository.^[107]

The second largest library on campus is the Science Library, which houses over two hundred fifty thousand volumes of science abstracts, books, journals, monographs, papers, periodicals, and surveys.^[108] The Science Library also has a large collection called the Cutter Collection, which is an older private collection of mostly nineteenth century English language books of European literature, art, and culture. The third library in size is the Davidson Art Library.^[109] There is also a Music library and several department libraries.^[110]

In addition to being used for its book collection, Olin is also used for its extensive arrangement of study carrels, study rooms, three large reading rooms, and student senior thesis carrels.^[111] There is also a large and widely used separate reserve readings section with books set aside for various classes. On any given weeknight of the academic year, Olin is the most populated building on the campus.

The Davison Art Center

Wesleyan University's Davison Art Center is housed in Alsop House, which also houses the Davison Art Library and is designated a U.S. National Historic Landmark. The Art Center has a large collection consisting primarily of works on paper, including 18,000 prints, 6,000 photographs, several hundred drawings, a small number of paintings, and three-dimensional objects (including artists' books, sculptures, and other objects).^{[112][113]} The print collection is considered to be one of the most important at an American University, with works by Durer, Goya, Rembrandt, Manet, and others.^[114] Parts of the collection are regularly exhibited to the public. Some objects have been made available for loan to selected museums in the United States and abroad.^[115] Students at Wesleyan in many departments make use of the DAC collection for class assignments, viewings, and individual research projects under the guidance of faculty.^{[116][117]} Wesleyan does not have a museum studies major, but assisting in curating and exhibiting the collection allows students some professional experience in the field.

The Art Center's publications program produces catalogs concerning DAC collections and gallery exhibitions. In general, one catalog is published annually. This program affords students the opportunity to take part in carefully mentored student authorship. Additionally, it is a critical component of the museum's educational program, which

also includes student museum internships and solely student-curated exhibitions.^{[118][119]}

The Center for the Humanities

One of the University's seven academic centers, the Center for Humanities is one of the oldest humanities institutes in the nation. It developed from the Center for Advanced Studies, established at Wesleyan in 1959 as a place where visiting scholars, particularly in the humanities, could pursue research and writing projects. The Center assumed its present name in 1969, when it was reorganized and opened to the Wesleyan community. With the expansion of the community of Center Fellows to include Wesleyan faculty members and students, the Center added the promotion of innovative, interdisciplinary teaching to its initial goal of supporting research. The Center is also a place for ongoing communication between the humanities and the social sciences. Its program each semester is organized around a central theme, which in turn shapes a weekly series of public lectures and smaller seminars. As a meeting place for the humanities and social sciences, for Wesleyan faculty and visiting scholars, and for faculty and students, the Center is an important site of intellectual life at the University.^{[120][121][122]}

Past Fellows at the Center have included Hannah Arendt, John Cage, Baron C.P. Snow, Pamela Hansford Johnson (Lady Snow), Nobel laureate V.S. Naipaul, Clarence Irving Lewis, Sir Leslie Munro, Willard Van Orman Quine, Edmund Wilson, William Manchester, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Richard N. Goodwin, U.S. Poet Laureate Richard Wilbur, George Boas, Lasker Award recipient Rene Dubos, C.H. Waddington and E. San Juan, among others.^[123]

The Center for Community Partnerships

The focus of community service at Wesleyan, the Center for Community Partnerships centralizes the offices of the Service Learning Center (SLC), the Office of Community Service and Volunteerism (OCS), and the Green Street Arts Center (GSAC). The SLC supports service-learning courses that use service to the community as an integral part of their course content. As of Spring 2007, 19 service-learning courses existed in nine different departments or programs. The OCS encourages community building within the University and with the City of Middletown and Middlesex County by offering opportunities for volunteer work and work-study placements in the community, and supporting student-sponsored social action initiatives. Volunteer opportunities include, among others, the Community Health Center, elderly services, housing and hunger issues, Middletown tutoring programs, and WesReads and WesMath (elementary school programs). Green Street uses the arts in an attempt to transform lives. It serves as a cultural and educational resource for community residents of all ages, and works to develop their talents and abilities. Green Street offers classes in literary and media arts, music, visual arts, dance, theater, and tutoring in math and science. Under the leadership of the University, the GSAC is a collaboration among Wesleyan, the City of Middletown, and the North End Action Team. Students and faculty volunteer at Green Street in many capacities, including as homework helpers, teaching assistants, and leaders of workshops.^[124]

Wesleyan University Press

The Wesleyan University Press is an important educational asset to the school. When Wesleyan sold the school division, the University retained the scholarly division.^[125] During the early 1960s, T. S. Eliot served as an editorial consultant to the Press.^[126] All editing occurs at the editorial office building of the Press on the Wesleyan campus. Publishing (printing) now occurs through a consortium of New England college academic presses. The Press is well regarded for its books of poetry and books on music, dance and performance, American studies, and film. The Wesleyan University Press has released more than 250 titles in its poetry series and has garnered, in that series alone, among many other awards, four Pulitzer Prizes, a Bollingen, three National Book Awards, a National Book Critics Circle Award, and an American Book Award.^{[127][128]} The Press also has garnered Pulitzer Prizes, American Book Awards, and other awards in its other series.^[129]

The Press serves Wesleyan students through its work programs during the academic year and its summer publishing internships. The Press also connects the campus to the larger intellectual and cultural world through the presence of its authors on campus, whether they are faculty, visiting scholars, guest lecturers, or participants in Wesleyan's Distinguished Writers Series or Writers Conference.^[130] Wesleyan is the smallest college or university to have its own press. Approximately 25 books are released each year.^[131]

Religious life



Memorial Chapel, a multi-denominational space built in 1871.

Wesleyan has four religious chaplains: A Protestant minister, a Roman Catholic priest, a Jewish rabbi, and a Muslim chaplain.^[132] In addition to student groups and services associated with these four religions, there are groups associated with Buddhism and Unitarian Universalism, and even a group which holds services that are simply "spiritual" and separate from any organized religion.^{[133][134]} Services are also available for Quakers, Christian Scientists, Hindus, and Baha'is, and there are many local religious groups in Middletown.

Because Wesleyan's student body is 25-30% Jewish, one of the largest student religious efforts is that of Jewish students: Current programs and groups include a Havurah, a student house called the Bayit with a kosher kitchen, a Hebrew conversation group, and a student-created adult B'nai Mitzvah program for fellow students, among other things. In the past, a Klezmer band and a Jewish cappella group have also existed.

From time to time, Wesleyan Jewish and Muslim students take a joint, interfaith Spring

Break trip to Turkey and Israel.^{[135][136][137][138]}

Other religious groups are active as well: The Muslim Student Association and the Muslim student house, Turath, sponsor interfaith programming and Middle Eastern cultural events, while Christians at Wesleyan have founded the Wesleyan Christian Fellowship and share a student house called Light House. Also, students of many faiths live in the Interfaith House at Wesleyan.^{[139][140][141]}

Athletics

Wesleyan is a member of the Division III New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC), fields intercollegiate varsity teams in 29 sports, and competes against traditional Little Three rivals Amherst and Williams. Approximately 700 students participate in intercollegiate sports each year.

Facilities

The University's Freeman Athletic Center features the 60,000 sq ft (5,600 m²) Bacon Fieldhouse, Spurrier-Snyder Rink, Rosenbaum Squash Center, a 1,200 seat gymnasium, a 7,500 sq ft (700 m²) fitness center, and a beautiful pool. Football and baseball games are played on Andrus Field in the middle of campus, while tennis matches are held at the John Woods Memorial Courts. Wesleyan also recently dedicated Jackson Field, the site of soccer contests, and Smith Field, a newly constructed synthetic turf field and the site of lacrosse and field hockey games. The Wesleyan Crew rows out of Macomber Boathouse on the nearby Connecticut River.

Baseball

The Wesleyan baseball team of 1994 is currently the only varsity Wesleyan squad to play in an NCAA Division III national championship game. The team won the NCAA Division III New England regional tournament to earn a spot in the Division III World Series in Battle Creek, Mich. A prominent alumni of Wesleyan baseball is MLB



Athletics logo

general manager Jed Hoyer

Cross Country

In 1984, Wesleyan won the school's first NESCAC championship in women's cross country. The Men's Cross-Country team lays claim to a number of prominent American distance runners, including Ambrose Burfoot, Bill Rodgers, and Jeff Galloway. Further, Sebastian Junger holds the Men's Indoor 1500m record for the team.

Football

Situated in the heart of the campus is Wesleyan's Andrus Field, the oldest continuously used football field in the United States.^[142] In the fall of 2006, Wesleyan celebrated the 125th anniversary of its first football game which was played against the Amherst Aggies (now UMass Minutemen) on October 31, 1881. During the brief period when Woodrow Wilson was a Professor of Political Economy at Wesleyan, he was an unofficial assistant coach and served as co-director of the Foot-Ball Association.^[143] Currently, Wesleyan has won the Little Three championship outright 12 times (compared to 30 for Amherst and 46 for Williams) with 8 three-way ties; the Cardinals have not outright won the championship since 1970.^[144] Two of the most prominent alumni of Wesleyan football are NFL coaches Bill Belichick and Eric Mangini.



A Wesleyan defender returning an interception for a touchdown against Bates College

Golf

Wesleyan won the NESCAC Championship in 1987.

Men's Lacrosse

Among the most successful Wesleyan sports in recent years, men's lacrosse made the NCAA Division III Final Four in both 2006 and 2007. Wesleyan won the school's first-ever men's lacrosse NESCAC Championship in 2009.

Softball

Wesleyan won its first Little Three softball title in 2008.

Men's Soccer

Wesleyan won the NESCAC Championship in 1991 and 2005. Amos Magee is Wesleyan's all time scoring leader for both goals and points.^[145]

Men's Water Polo

In the past decade, the Wesleyan Men's Water Polo Club captured two titles in the Division III Championships, placed second in the Division four times, and appeared in six Division III National Collegiate Club Championships. For the team's efforts, the Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA) named the team the "Collegiate Club Division III Team of the Decade" for 2000-09.^[146] The New England division includes, among other institutions, Yale, Williams, Dartmouth, Boston College, Boston University and Middlebury.

Crew

The Wesleyan Varsity crew has a long tradition as well, going back to the early days of the sport in New England. Most recently, Wesleyan won the NESCAC championship in 2004, facing stiff competition from Trinity and Williams, who continue to challenge the division. A century ago, there were additional crews by college class year and fraternity, and the shells and equipment were passed down through the class years. Today the Head of the Connecticut Regatta is held in September, officially hosted by an independent organization. However, Wesleyan University and the City of Middletown are informally considered joint hosts, and the side by side Wesleyan and City boathouse facilities are used as the home of the regatta.

Non-varsity athletics

The University also has 9 intramural leagues and 11 club sports teams in a wide range of sports, and sponsors the annual Wesleyan Dorm Cup between the various dormitories and fraternities on campus.

The Wesleyan Fight Song

So then its fight for old Wesleyan, Never give in, Fight till the end when might and right shall win, So keep on fighting till victory, Crowns everyone, So then it's fight, fight, fight, fight, For Wesleyan, Go Wes

Student groups and organizations

There are more than two hundred student organizations, clubs, and departmental groups including a cappella groups, literary magazines, theater and dance troupes, political organizations, a vegetable farm, and groups devoted to outdoor activities, academic interests, ethnic interests, community tutoring and service, and the arts. In response to student interests, new groups are continually formed and registered with the Wesleyan Student Assembly, which represents the student body and appropriates funding for student groups.^[12] With around 260 current student groups and 2800 undergraduates (a student group to undergraduate ratio of about 1 to 11), extracurricular opportunities abound at Wesleyan.^[147] One of the goals of The Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development is to enhance out-of-classroom experiences so as to promote personal development and leadership training.^[148]

Debate

The Debate Society was founded in 1903 and later named in honor of Woodrow Wilson, former Professor and Chair of History and Political Economy at Wesleyan from 1888-1890.^[149] It captured first place in past years at the annual Brown, Columbia, Georgetown, Harvard, Princeton, Tufts and Williams tournaments, among others, and has reached the semi-finals of all other major tournaments. The Debate Society also has competed internationally, and in 1990 the Society won the National Championships and ninth place in the World Student Debating Championships.^[150]

Environmental

A prominent student group of recent years has been the Environmental Organizers' Network (EON), which has helped to bring discussions about climate change and environmental sustainability to the forefront of campus dialogue.^[151] Wesleyan also owns a tract of land that is used as Long Lane Farm, an organic vegetable farm run mostly by students.^[152]

Publications

Some of the oldest and most visible student groups are campus publications, including a bi-weekly newspaper, *The Wesleyan Argus*, one of the oldest college newspapers in the country, and a periodical, *Hermes*. The student body also publishes the *Olla Podrida*, which was originally a quarterly newspaper in the late 1850s, but which has been the college yearbook since the Civil War and the permanent establishment of the *Argus* as the campus newspaper. Another long-running poetry and fiction publication was *The Wesleyan Cardinal*. The *Argus* has now been partially supplanted by *Wesleying*, a popular student-run weblog that documents undergraduate life at Wesleyan.^[153] Overall, at least seventeen student publications are published each semester or annually, including magazines of fiction, humor, activism, academic interests, women's issues, and poetry.^[154]

In addition to publications, the student body in conjunction with the administration has been responsible for the radio station WESU, 88.1 FM, which has broadcast locally since 1939, making it one of the oldest non-commercial radio stations in the country.^[155] Broadcast facilities are on top of the Science Center.

Singing groups

Singing groups have been "active at Wesleyan from the time of its founding."^[156] The Wesleyan Glee Club was organized by students in 1846, and was considered the best collegiate glee club in the late 1800s.^{[157][158]} It traveled widely giving concerts, including being received twice at the White House (in 1901 by President McKinley^[157] and again in 1928 by President Coolidge^[157]) and being recorded onto a phonograph record by Thomas Edison.^[157] The Glee Club twice won the National Intercollegiate Glee Club Competition at Carnegie Hall, leading Wesleyan to be known as the "Singing College of New England".^{[159][160]}

This tradition continues today in several a cappella groups on campus, including, among others, the Cardinal Sinners (all-female), Onomatopoeia (all-female), the Wesleyan Spirits (all-male), Quasimodal (co-ed), the New Group (co-ed), Slavei (co-ed; Eastern European-themed), and Waiting In Line (a co-ed comedy a cappella group). Additionally, a student-run ensemble called The Mixolydians sings contemporary choral works.

Several alumni have gone on to music careers, including Allie Wrubel (class of 1926), composer and songwriter, whose *Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah* won an Academy Award for Best Song in 1947.

While not a student group, ten female faculty members have formed a much-loved a cappella group called The Roadside Girls which often performs Wesleyan-themed parodies of existing songs.^[161]

Bands and performers

Beginning with the success of The Highwaymen in 1961, Wesleyan students have maintained a very active musical life outside the concert halls of the Center for the Arts. There have been some successful bands, and many individuals have gone on from their Wesleyan University bands to careers in the music industry.^[162] Bands such as the Nowhere Mountain Band (bluegrass) and Mood Swing (rock) have had some success; Dar Williams went on to a solo career from her start in Wesleyan college bands. MGMT and the Mobius Band have begun successful careers after Wesleyan, as have Boy Crisis, Francis and the Lights, Santigold, Amazing Baby, and The Solids. Similarly, Mary Halvorson, Taylor Ho Bynam, Jay Hoggard, and Tierney Sutton have emerged as jazz artists after their graduation from the University.^[163]

One of the greatest music successes was the musical *In the Heights*, written by Lin-Manuel Miranda (class of 2002) during his Sophomore year, and which, nine years later, was nominated for 13 Tony awards for the Broadway production.^[164] The musical won four Tonys for Best Musical, Best Original Score (Music and Lyrics by Miranda), Best Choreography, and Best Orchestrations, among other awards. In 2009, *In the Heights* won a Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album and Miranda was one of three finalists for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.^[165] (Universal Pictures announced in November 2008 that it plans to adapt the musical as a feature film for release in 2010.)^[166]

Secret societies and fraternities

Secret societies on campus include two Mystical Sevens, Skull & Serpent, Bell & Scroll, and Theta Nu Epsilon.^[167] Skull & Serpent has a small building, called The Tomb, for meetings. The Mystical Seven senior society had a building from 1912 to 1997. The building burned in 1997 and was razed in 2007. Plans are currently being formulated to rebuild the structure.

Wesleyan is home to several fraternities. There are three fraternities that have houses on campus: Psi Upsilon (1843), Delta Kappa Epsilon (1868), and Beta Theta Pi (1890). However, Beta Theta Pi is considered to be off campus by the Office of Residential Life. In addition, there are two co-ed societies: the Alpha Delta Phi Society (1856) (formerly a fraternity) and the Eclectic Society (1838). Black fraternities include six of the NPHC or Divine Nine on campus. Wesleyan is included in the Nu Psi chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi and the home for chapters of Phi

Beta Sigma, and Alpha Phi Alpha. Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, and Zeta Phi Beta are Wesleyan's National Pan-Hellenic Council sororities. Latino fraternal life is represented by the Sigma Chapter of La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc. These latter groups all came to Wesleyan after the late 1980s.

Some of the older fraternities possess fine, very large houses adjacent to the campus while the newer ones do not own buildings. In the first half of the 20th century, when Wesleyan was a much smaller all-male college, up to 80% of the student body belonged to fraternities almost all of which were residential. For the past few decades the membership has been about 12% of the student body, with only 3% living in actual houses.

Student activism

Need-blind admissions

Wesleyan adheres to a need-blind admission policy. Financial circumstances are not considered when deciding whether to admit, wait list, or turn down an applicant. In 1982, trustees announced that, following federal cuts to student aid, Wesleyan would begin to consider financial circumstances when admitting wait-listed students. Students protested the decision,^[168] and though trustees did not back down from their recommendations, Wesleyan raised enough money for financial aid to avoid putting the new policy into effect.^[169] In 1992, the administration again considered a moratorium on need-blind admissions. A student group, Students for Financially Accessible Education (SFAE), organized a series of actions, including rallies, a silent vigil encircling a trustee meeting, a sit-in in an administration building, and a camp-out on its lawn. Wesleyan's need-blind admissions policy was preserved and remains today. For several years, SFAE continued to raise awareness about financial accessibility, offering interest-free loans to students with financial emergencies, and raising money for financial aid through energy conservation campaigns. The group appears to be dormant at this time.^[170]

On November 1, on the eve of his inauguration as Wesleyan's 16th president, Michael S. Roth announced that beginning with the class of 2012, all financial aid applicants whose family incomes was \$40,000 or less would not have to take out loans. They would be given grants. For all other financial aid recipients, there would be a general reduction in loans by about 35 percent.

Staff labor unions

In 2001, students of the United Student Labor Action Coalition occupied the admissions building during the month of April to protest the University's use of sub-contracted janitors who were not being paid a living wage. As part of the nationwide Justice for Janitors campaign, USLAC demanded that the University amend its contract with the service contractor to provide for a living wage and to let the janitors form a union if so desired. As April is the peak of college admissions season for prospective students, USLAC had a considerable amount of leverage as the University found itself with a severe public relations problem. After about two days the University conceded to the student demands.

In December 2004, over 250 students occupied South College and trapped President Bennet in his office for several hours to protest the lack of student voices in administrative decision making. The building occupation was followed by a forum the next day, in which President Bennet promised to respond to student demands in January 2005.^[171] The motivations behind the occupation, in addition to its efficacy in transforming administrative policy, remain open questions.

WESU & National Public Radio

Another controversy in the same period was the status of the campus radio station, WESU, founded in 1939 as the second college radio station in the United States. WESU broadcasts 24 hours a day. Until 2004, WESU's format had been entirely free-form, with DJs and student staff having complete freedom to program what they will. The University had, at that time, announced its intent to seek an affiliation with National Public Radio, and to drastically change the station's format.^{[172][173]} Douglas Bennett, then President of the University, was a former president of

NPR. The station now broadcasts an NPR feed from WSHU, the college station of Sacred Heart University, for several hours a day. For the remainder of the broadcast day, WESU continues to operate as a free-form station. [174][175]

Chalking

Activism around the issue of free speech, especially as it relates to chalking on university property, bubbles up from time to time in response to the chalking moratorium issued by President Bennet in 2003, although this temporary ban was eventually made permanent. Heated discussion around these topics emerged and the administration hosted a forum to field questions. Students contended that they "chalked as a way of expressing dissent, of raising awareness on topics of sexuality, race, class, and gender, of bringing humor and fun into people's daily life, and of inviting students to parties and club events." Some faculty, students, and administrators found some examples of chalking to be distasteful or offensive and were especially disturbed by those directed against individual persons. The current legal status of chalking is unclear. Chalkings are often washed away within several days, but no student has been disciplined for chalking for several years.

Notable alumni and faculty

Main article: Wesleyan University people

Wesleyan alumni have achieved prominence in many fields, including a U.S. Supreme Court Justice; Presidential cabinet members and Presidential advisers; U.S. Senators, Congresspersons, and Governors; diplomats and other government figures; federal judges and state supreme court justices; U.S. Attorneys; scientists; physicians; academicians; CEOs; artists; musicians; journalists; members of the military and the clergy; inventors; winners of the American Book Award, Edgar Award, National Book Critics Circle Award, O. Henry Award, Orange Prize, Pulitzer Prize, Pushcart Prize, and Whiting Writers' Award; recipients of MacArthur Fellowships, Rhodes, DAAD Scholarships, Fulbrights, Goldwaters, Guggenheim Fellowships, Luce Scholarships, Marshalls, Trumans, and Watson Fellowships; recipients of the Balzan Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Congressional Gold Medal; members of the National Academy of Sciences; Academy, Tony, Emmy, Grammy, and Super Bowl winners.

Wesleyan alumni have founded or been the president of more than 50 universities and colleges in the nation and the world.

Former Wesleyan faculty and affiliates V. S. Naipaul, Woodrow Wilson, and T. S. Eliot have been awarded Nobel Prizes. Gary Yohe, current Professor of Economics, is a senior member and coordinating lead author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was a co-recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former U.S. Vice President Al Gore. Other faculty have been recipients of the Lasker Award, MacArthur Fellowship, National Medal of Science, and Pulitzer Prize, among other awards. Two former faculty members, Richard Wilbur and Mark Strand, were United States Poet Laureates.

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External links

- Official website (http://www.wesleyan.edu/)
- Wesleying, an independent, student-produced blog about real students and real student life at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut (http://www.wesleying.org/)

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Categories: Wesleyan University | Universities and colleges in Connecticut | Liberal arts colleges | New England Small College Athletic Conference | Middletown, Connecticut | Education in Middlesex County, Connecticut | Educational institutions established in 1831 | New England Association of Schools and Colleges | National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

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Wesleyan University people

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This is a partial list of notable people affiliated with **Wesleyan University**.

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Administration and faculty

Academia

- Debby Applegate, former faculty, taught American History, 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Biography or Autobiography
- Hannah Arendt, Fellow 1962-1963, Center for Advanced Studies (now the Center for the Humanities), Political theorist
- Wilbur Olin Atwater, 1865 (Wesleyan B.S.), first Professor of Chemistry; known for study of human metabolism, nutrition; first to quantify the calorie; pioneer in utilization of respiration calorimeter; studied the effect of alcohol on the body; in 1899 proved that alcohol had food value ^{[1][2]}
- Reginald Bartholomew, former Professor of Government; former Ambassador to Italy, Spain, Lebanon and member

- of the United States National Security Council
- George Boas, Fellow 1961-1962, Center for the Humanities; philosopher
- Edgar S. Brightman, faculty 1915-1919, philosopher
- Nathan Brody, current faculty, Professor of Psychology, known for his work on intelligence and personality
- Norman O. Brown, faculty 1946-196?, Professor of Classics, wrote *Life Against Death*^[3]
- Elisabeth Young-Bruehl, faculty 1974–c. 1995, prominent biographer and psychotherapist
- Judith Butler, faculty 1984-86, philosopher and gender theorist
- Walter Guyton Cady, faculty 1902-1946, Professor of Physics; at Wesleyan made first quartz crystal resonator, Duddell Medal and Prize of the Physical Society of London
- Colin G. Campbell, president 1970-1988; president of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund 1987-2000, chairman of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
- Joanne V. Creighton, faculty 1990-94, Professor of English; Interim President of Wesleyan (1994-95); subsequently President of Mount Holyoke College
- Raymond Dodge, former long-time Professor of Psychology; experimental psychologist
- Rene Dubos, Fellow 1963-1964, Center for the Humanities; microbiologist, Lasker Award, Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction
- Henry Duckworth, faculty 1946-1951, Professor of Physics; President of the Royal Society of Canada (1971-1972); Order of Canada in 1976 for his contribution to physics
- Max Farrand, former Professor of History
- H. Bruce Franklin, cultural historian and author; visiting associate professor in the English Department 1974–75 (simultaneously lecturing in American Studies at Yale University).^[4]
- Leslie Gelb, faculty 1964-1967, department of history; Pulitzer Prize for explanatory journalism; director of project that produced the Pentagon Papers
- Dana Gioia, Visiting writer 1986-1989, American Book Award; Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts (2003-2009).^{[5][6][7]}
- Richard N. Goodwin, Fellow 1965-1967, Center for Advanced Studies; advisor and speech writer to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson and to Senator Robert F. Kennedy
- Philip Hallie, faculty for 32 years, philosopher; developed the model of institutional cruelty
- Debra Hamel, visiting Professor of History and Classics (1998-2001)
- Karl William Kapp, faculty 1945-1950; Professor of Economics; one of founders of Ecological economics; one of the leading 20th century institutional economists
- Eugene Marion Klaaren, Emeritus Professor, historian and Professor of Religion
- Charles Lemert, current faculty, social theorist and sociologist
- Clarence Irving Lewis, Fellow 1959-1960, Center for Advanced Studies; philosopher and founder of conceptual pragmatism
- Clarence D. Long, former Professor of Economics, former member of United States Council of Economic Advisers and U.S. Congressman from Maryland (1963-1985)
- David McClelland, 1938 (Wesleyan B.S.), Professor of Psychology in the early 1950s, psychological theorist (appears below)
- Andrei Markovits, Professor of Comparative Politics and German Studies (1977-1983)
- Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Fellow 1964-1967, Center for Advanced Studies; later U.S. Senator, New York
- Sir Leslie Munro, Fellow 1960-1961, Center for Advanced Studies; New Zealand lawyer; 14th President of the United Nations General Assembly, President of the Security Council
- Lawrence Olson, faculty 1966-1988; historian specializing in Japan; Order of the Sacred Treasure; developed the Asian studies program at Wesleyan
- Scott Plous, current faculty, Professor of Psychology
- Nelson W. Polsby, former faculty, political scientist, well-known for study of U.S. Presidency and United States Congress
- Nathan Pusey, former faculty, department of classics, later president of Lawrence University and 24th President of Harvard
- Willard Van Orman Quine, Fellow 1964-1965, Center for Advanced Studies; analytic philosopher and logician
- William North Rice, 1865 (Wesleyan Graduate), long time Professor of Geology
- Theodore R. Sarbin, Fellow 1968-1969, Center for Advanced Studies; Visiting Scholar 1975; Professor of Psychology, seminal contributions to the social psychology of role taking
- Walter Warwick Sawyer, faculty 1958-1965, Professor of Mathematics

- Hon. Barry R. Schaller, current faculty, teaches Bioethics and Public Health law, ethics and policy; Associate Justice, Connecticut Supreme Court
- Elmer Eric Schattschneider, faculty, 1930-1960, political scientist, namesake for award for best dissertation in the United States in field of American Politics
- Carl E. Schorske, Professor of History in the 1950s; Pulitzer Prize for history and MacArthur Foundation "genius grant"
- Frederick Slocum, first Professor of Astronomy, director of Van Vleck Observatory from 1915-1944
- Richard Slotkin, MAAE (Wesleyan graduate), current faculty, Professor of American Studies
- Baron C. P. Snow, Fellow 1961-1962, Center for Advanced Studies; English physicist, essayist; James Tait Black Memorial Prize; Fellow, Christ's College, Cambridge University,^{[8][9]}
- William L. Storrs, faculty 1841-1846, Professor of Law (also Congressman from Conn.; Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court)
- Max Tishler, faculty 1970-1989, Professor, Chemistry; first person to synthesize riboflavin; developed techniques for large scale production of penicillin G and streptomycin; president, Merck Research Laboratories in the 1950s & 1960s; National Inventors Hall of Fame; Priestley Medal; National Medal of Science
- Hing Tong, former Chairman of the Mathematics Department; well-known for providing the original proof of the Katětov–Tong insertion theorem
- Charles Kittredge True, faculty 1849-1860, Professor of Intellectual and Moral Science
- John Monroe Van Vleck, 1850 (Wesleyan graduate), faculty 1853-1904, Emeritus 1904-12, Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy
- C. H. Waddington, Fellow 1960-1961, Center for the Humanities; biologist, geneticist, philosopher; laid foundation for systems biology
- Woodrow Wilson, faculty 1888-1890, Professor and Chair of History and Political Economy, founded the Wesleyan debate team in 1889 (which is still known as the T. Woodrow Wilson Debate Society) (also coached the football team); later president of Princeton University and 28th President of the United States; Nobel Peace Prize
- John Wrench, former Professor of Mathematics, pioneer in using computers for mathematical calculations
- Gary Yohe, current faculty, Professor of Economics; senior member and coordinating lead author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which is a co-recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, along with former U.S. Vice President Al Gore

Arts and letters

- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, visiting writer 2008; MacArthur Fellows Program "genius grant" (2008), Orange Prize (2007), O. Henry Prize (2003)
- Jeanine Basinger, currently faculty, c. 1970–present, film scholar; American Film Institute's honorary Conservatory degree, June 7, 2006^[10]
- Anselm Berrigan, current faculty, poet, work has been included in Best American Poetry of 2002 and 2004
- Ed Blackwell, artist in residence in late 1970s, recorded extensively with Ornette Coleman's quartet
- Anthony Braxton, current faculty, MacArthur Fellows Program "genius grant"; Professor of Music (composition, theory, improvisation); composer, multi-reedist
- Dr. Robert E. Brown, faculty 1962-1979, professor of music, founded ethnomusicology program at Wesleyan, coined the term World Music, pioneer in ideal of bi-musicality
- Dr. Neely Bruce, current faculty, professor of music; composer, conductor, pianist, scholar of American music
- John Cage, Fellow at Center for Advanced Studies (now the Center for Humanities (1961, 1968); composer; affiliated with Wesleyan and collaborated with members of its Music Department from 1950s until his death in 1993; several of his books published by the Wesleyan University Press
- Tony Connor, current faculty, British poet and playwright, Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, poetry anthologized in British Poetry since 1945
- Junot Diaz, Writing Fellow 2009; 2008 Pulitzer Prize and National Book Critics Circle Award, 2009 O. Henry Prize
- Annie Dillard, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, English faculty as of 2006
- Leon Edel, Fellow 1965-1966, Center for Advanced Studies; Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award (1963); literary critic and biographer
- Eiko & Koma, MacArthur Fellows Program "genius grant"; Eiko is current faculty, teaching interdisciplinary classes in the departments of Dance, East Asian Studies, and History
- T.S. Eliot, Nobel Prize for Literature, Presidential Medal of Freedom (1964); in the 1960s served as a special

- editorial consultant to and researcher for the Wesleyan University Press
- Jimmy Garrison, artist in residence ?–1976, bassist; best known for long association with John Coltrane
- Angel Gil-Ordoñez, current faculty, professor of music, noted Spanish conductor
- Dr. Jon B. Higgins (Wesleyan B.A., M.A., Ph.D.), faculty 1978-1984, scholar of Carnatic Music, musician, Fulbright Scholar
- Jay Hoggard (Wesleyan B.A. 1976), current faculty, jazz musician, vibraphonist
- Pamela Hansford Johnson (Lady Snow), Fellow 1961-1962, Center for Advanced Studies, English novelist ^[11]
- Paul Horgan, twice winner of the Pulitzer Prize for History in 1955 and 1976; long time writer in residence; both history volumes published by the Wesleyan University Press
- Paul LaFarge, former faculty, taught writing
- Alvin Lucier, current faculty; pioneering experimental composer
- David P. McAllester, faculty 1947-1986; professor of anthropology and music; co-founded Society for Ethnomusicology
- Dr. Makanda Ken McIntyre, former professor of music at Wesleyan and in 1971 founded the first African American music program in the country
- William Manchester, faculty 1955-2004; writer in residence, adjunct professor, Emeritus Professor of History; non-fiction writer; *Death of a President*, *American Caesar*, *The Last Lion*, *The Arms of Krupp*, *Portrait of a President*, *In Our Time*, and many others
- Lisa Moore (musician), current faculty, international classical and jazz pianist
- V. S. Naipaul, former visiting professor; Nobel Prize for Literature in fiction (2001); Somerset Maugham Award (1960), Hawthornden Prize (1964), W.H. Smith Literary Award (1969), Booker Prize (1971), David Cohen Prize (1993),
- Palghat Kollengode Viswanatha Narayanaswamy, artist in residence, renowned Carnatic vocalist
- Ramnad Raghavan, faculty for many years, South Indian virtuoso of the mridangam
- Dr. S. Ramanathan (Wesleyan Ph.D.-Ethnomusicology), faculty, singer (Carnatic music), and musicologist
- T. Ranganathan, first artist in residence beginning in 1963; Carnatic virtuoso musician (mridangam)
- Jean Redpath, artist in residence, 1972-1976
- Kit Reed, current faculty, science fiction writer
- F.D. Reeve, poet, Emeritus Professor
- Jonathan Schell, journalist, author, visiting professor in writing 2000-2002
- Dani Shapiro, current faculty, professor of creative writing
- Dr. Joseph Siry, current faculty, leading architectural historian, Professor of Art and Art History
- Dr. Mark Slobin, current faculty, professor of music
- Mark Strand, former visiting professor; United States Poet Laureate, 1990; MacArthur Foundation "genius grant"; Pulitzer Prize; Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry; Bollingen Prize
- Sumarsam (Wesleyan M.A. 1976), current faculty, former artist in residence; Javanese virtuoso, scholar of the Gamelan
- Marcus Thompson, former faculty, violist and viola d'amore player, recording artist and educator
- Deb Olin Unferth, current faculty, Pushcart Prize among other awards; professor of English, creative writing
- Dr. T. Viswanathan (Wesleyan Ph.D.-Ethnomusicology 1975), professor of music, Carnatic flute virtuoso
- Richard Wilbur, faculty c. 1950–1980; sixth United States Poet Laureate; (twice winner of) Pulitzer Prize, Bollingen Prize, National Book Award, Edna St. Vincent Millay award, Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, Frost Medal; professor of English; instrumental in establishment of Wesleyan University Press;
- Dr. Elizabeth Willis, current faculty, poet, teaches creative writing and literature
- Edmund Wilson, Fellow 1964-1965, Center for Advanced Studies (now the Center for the Humanities); writer and critic
- Michiyo Yagi, visiting professor in late 1980s, a Japanese musician, koto virtuoso
- Goro Yamaguchi, artist in residence, Japanese shakuhachi (vertical bamboo flute) virtuoso

Alumni

Academia and presidents or founders of universities

- David Allison (college president) - President of Mount Allison Wesleyan College (later Mount Allison University) (1869-78, 1891-1911), Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada

- Elliot Aronson M.A. 1956 - among the 100 most eminent psychologist of the 20th century
- John William Atkinson 1947 - psychologist, pioneered the scientific study of human motivation, achievement, and behavior
- Wilbur Olin Atwater 1865 - chemist, leader in development of agricultural chemistry (appears above)
- John W. Beach 1845 - 7th President of Wesleyan^{[12][13]}
- Joseph Beech 1899 - Co-founder and 1st President of West China Union University in Chengtu, China^{[14][15]}
- William Beeman - professor and chair of anthropology at the University of Minnesota; former professor at Brown University; Linguistic Anthropology; author
- Albert Francis Blakeslee 1896 - botanist, director of the Carnegie Institution for Science; professor at Smith College
- Douglas J. Bennet 1959 - 15th President of Wesleyan (1995-2007) (see below under Politics and Government)
- Lael Brainard - former professor of applied economics at the MIT Sloan School of Management
- Kenneth Bruffee - professor of English, Emeritus, wrote first peer tutoring handbook
- Anthony S. Caprio 1967 - President of Western New England College (1996-), expert and author on the French language
- John Bissell Carroll 1937 - psychologist known for his contributions to psychology, educational linguistics, and psychometrics
- Arthur W. Chickering 1950 - known for contributions to student development theories
- John H. Coatsworth 1963 - professor of history and international and political affairs, dean of Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs (2008-)
- Marion Cohen Ph.D. in mathematics (distribution theory) - mathematician and poet
- Joseph Cummings 1840 - President, Wesleyan (1857-1875); 5th President, Northwestern University (1881-1890); President of predecessor, Syracuse University (Genesee College)
- Ram Dass M.A. - born Richard Alpert, former professor of psychology at Harvard
- Marc Davis (academic) 1989 - founding director of Yahoo! Research Berkeley
- Joseph Denison 1840 - Co-founder and 1st President of Kansas State University (1863-1873); President of Baker University (1874-1879); minister
- Daniel Dennett (attended) - professor of philosophy, Tufts University; Jean Nicod Prize; author of "Consciousness Explained", "Darwin's Dangerous Idea", "Freedom Evolves"
- Paul Douglas - President of American University (1941-1952)
- Gordon P. Eaton 1951 - President of Iowa State University (1986-1990); Director of Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University
- Raymond D. Fogelson - anthropologist known for his research on Native Americans; a founder of the subdiscipline of ethnohistory; professor at the University of Chicago
- Cyrus David Foss 1854 - President of Wesleyan (1875-1880); namesake of "Foss Hill" on the Wesleyan campus
- Daniel Z. Freedman - physicist, professor of physics and applied mathematics at MIT, co-discovered supergravity
- E.K. Fretwell 1944 - President of the University of Buffalo (1967-1978); 2nd Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (1967-1978); Interim President of the University of Massachusetts (1991-1992); Interim President of the University of Florida (1998)
- David Garrow 1975 - Pulitzer Prize for Biography; Fellow, Homerton College at Cambridge University; former distinguished professor, Duke University, among others
- William H. Gass - professor, philosophy at Washington University in St. Louis; three-time winner, National Book Critics Circle Award for criticism, among other awards
- Charles Coulston Gillispie 1940 - Balzan Prize; professor of the history of science, Emeritus, Princeton University; George Sarton Medal, Dartmouth Medal
- John W. Gowdy 1897 - President of the Anglo-Chinese College in Fuzhou, China (1904-1923), President of Fukien Christian University (1923-1927) (appears below)
- A. LeRoy Greason 1944 - 12th President of Bowdoin College (1981-1990), Dean of Students and Dean of the College; professor at Wesleyan and Harvard
- William R. Greiner 1955 - 13th President of the University of Buffalo (1991-2003); professor of law (1967-1984, 2004-)^{[16][17]}
- Adolf Grünbaum 1943 - philosopher of science and critic of psychoanalysis and Karl Popper
- Burton Crosby Hallowell - 9th President of Tufts University; professor of economics at Wesleyan (1946-1967)
- Abram W. Harris - 8th president of Northwestern University (1906-1916); helped develop the School of Commerce (now the Kellogg School of Management)
- Saidiya Hartman - professor of African American literature and history at Columbia University (as of 2010)

- Erastus Otis Haven 1842 - 2nd President, University of Michigan (1863-69); Pres., Northwestern University (1869-74); Chancellor, Syracuse University (1874-80); Overseer, Harvard
- Clark T. Hinman - 1st President of Northwestern University (1853-1854 (death)); President of Albion College (1846-1853)
- Gerald Holton 1941 - professor of physics and professor of the History of Physics Emeritus, Harvard University; world's leading authority on the life of Albert Einstein
- Ole Holsti MAT 1956 - political scientist at Duke University, Emeritus (1974-1998)
- Eric Howard (B.A.) - Fulbright Scholar, Founder and Executive Director of the Fulbright Academy of Science and Technology
- Francis S. Hoyt 1844 - 1st President of Willamette University (1853-1860), professor of chemistry and natural science
- Shelly Kagan - Clark Professor of Philosophy at Yale University and the former Henry R. Luce Professor of Social Thought and Ethics at Yale
- Edwin W. Kemmerer - economist; economic adviser to foreign governments worldwide; professor at Princeton University
- Chan Ka Keung - Dean of Business and Management and professor of finance at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- Seth Lerer 1976 - professor of English and comparative literature at Stanford University
- Peter Lipton 1976 - Hans Rausing Professor and head of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at Cambridge University
- Silas Laurence Loomis 1844 - professor of chemistry, physiology, and toxicology at Georgetown; instructor, mathematics, United States Naval Academy
- Delmar R. Lowell - historian and genealogist
- David McClelland 1938 - noted for his work on achievement motivation and consciousness, co-creator of scoring system for Thematic Apperception Test; professor at Harvard
- Harold Marcuse physics, 1979 - professor of modern and contemporary German history
- Oliver Marcy 1846 - twice Acting President of Northwestern University (1876-1881, 1890); established Northwestern University Museum of Natural History and served as its curator^[18]
- Harold Marks - British educator
- Anthony Marx - 18th President of Amherst College (2007-); former professor and director of undergraduate studies of political science at Columbia University; author
- Elmer Truesdell Merrill 1881 - Latin scholar; professor of Latin, University of Chicago; also professor of classics at Wesleyan
- Bishop Samuel Sobieski Nelles 1846 - 1st Chancellor, President, Victoria University, Ontario Canada (1884-87); President, Victoria College (1850-84)
- John W. North - Co-Founder of the University of Minnesota; founding member of its board of regents (1851-1860); wrote the University's charter
- Henry S. Noyes 1848 - twice Interim President of Northwestern University (1854-56, 1860-67), professor of mathematics
- Tavia Nyong'o (B.A.) - historian, Kenyan-American cultural critic, professor at New York University, Marshall Scholarship
- Thomas Pickard (politician) - Canadian professor of mathematics, Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada (1848-1869); former home is a Local Historic Place
- John A. Randall 1881 - 4th President of the Rochester Institute of Technology (1922-1936), head of physics department at the Pratt Institute (1913-1917)
- David Rhodes 1968 - President, School of Visual Arts
- William North Rice 1865 - geologist, earned first PhD. in geology granted by Yale, Acting President of Wesleyan (1907-1909) (appears above)
- B. T. Roberts - Founder of predecessor of Roberts Wesleyan College (named in his honor)
- Edward Bennett Rosa 1886 - professor of physics (1891-1901); Elliott Cresson Medal, Franklin Institute; E. B. Rosa Award of the National Institute of Standards and Technology
- Michael S. Roth 1978 - 16th President of Wesleyan University (2007-); 8th President of California College of the Arts; historian, author; University Professor at Wesleyan (2009-)^[19]
- Richard W. Schneider M.A., 1973 - 23rd President of Norwich University, the oldest private military academy in the United States(1992-)^{[20][21]}

- Juliet Schor - professor, sociology at Boston College; *The Overworked American: The Unexpected Decline of Leisure*; professor, economics (for 17 years) at Harvard^[22]
- Neil Asher Silberman - archaeologist and historian
- Richard Slotkin MAEE - professor of American studies (appears above), published by Wesleyan University Press
- H. Eugene Stanley 1962 - professor of physics at Boston University; recipient in 2008 of Julius Edgar Lilienfeld Prize (in physics); recipient in 2004 of Boltzmann Medal^[23]
- Leland Stowe 1921 - Pulitzer Prize in 1930 and Légion d'honneur; professor and journalist, University of Michigan in Ann Arbor (1955-1970), Emeritus (1970)
- Beverly Daniel Tatum 1975 - President, Spelman College (2002-); clinical psychologist; author of *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?*; professor, chair of psychology department, Dean (1989-2001), Acting President (2002) of Mount Holyoke College
- Mark C. Taylor 1968 - philosopher of religion, professor and chair of Religion, Columbia
- Edward Thorndike 1895 - psychologist; work led to theory of connectionism in artificial intelligence, cognitive psychology, cognitive science, neuroscience, philosophy of mind
- Robert M. Thorndike 1965 - professor of psychology known for several definitive textbooks on research procedures and psychometrics
- Charles Tiebout 1950 - economist, most known for his development of the Tiebout model
- Aaron Louis Treadwell B.S. 1888, M.S. 1890 - professor, biology and zoology at Vassar College, instructor at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, author
- Edward Burr Van Vleck 1884 - mathematician, professor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison; also professor of mathematics at Wesleyan (1895-1906)
- John Monroe Van Vleck 1850 - astronomer and mathematician; thrice Acting President of Wesleyan (1872-1873, 1887-1889, 1896-1897)
- Clarence Abiathar Waldo 1878 - mathematician, famous for role in the Indiana Pi Bill.
- Henry White Warren 1853 - Co-Founder of the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado (brother of William Fairfield Warren), professor of theology
- William Fairfield Warren 1853 - 1st President of Boston University (1873-1903); Dean (1903-1911); Acting President (1866-1873) of the Boston University School of Theology; Co-Founder, Wellesley College in 1870 (brother of Henry White Warren)
- Christian K. Wedemeyer, 1991 - history of religions faculty at University of Chicago Divinity School, Green Party Committeeman for Chicago's 5th Ward
- Robert Weisbuch 1968 - 11th President of Drew University (2005-); former President of Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation^[24]
- Erastus Wentworth B.A. 1837 - President of McKendree College (1846-1850), chair of philosophy and chemistry at Dickinson College
- George Whitaker (Oregon educator) 1861 - President of Wiley College, Willamette University, Portland University, paster
- Caleb Thomas Winchester 1869 - scholar of English literature, also professor of English at Wesleyan
- Henry Merritt Wriston 1911 (B.A., M.A.) - President, Brown University (1937-1955); President, Lawrence University (1925-1937); President, the Council on Foreign Relations (1951-1964); professor of History at Wesleyan; father of Walter B. Wriston (see below)
- Robert Stalnaker, Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Philosophy at MIT and speaker at the 2007 John Locke Lectures at Oxford University

Art

- Steven Badanes 1967 - professor of Architecture at the University of Washington
- I Made Bandem Ph.D. (ethnomusicology) - Balinese dancer, artist, author, and professor of dance
- Meredith Bergmann 1976 - Sculptor of Women's Memorial (Boston)
- George Fisk Comfort - art scholar and exponent, founder of Metropolitan Museum of Art and Everson Museum of Art
- Thomas Hudson Connell 1956 - painter
- Vincent Fecteau 1992 - artist
- Renee Green - artist (sculptor, architecture, photography, prints, video, film, websites, and sound), writer, and filmmaker

- Rachel Harrison 1989 - contemporary sculptor and multimedia artist
- Jonathan Horowitz 1987 - multimedia artist; sculpture, sound installations, video, and photography
- Wayne Howard 1971 - graphic artist
- Abigail Levine - choreographer and dancer
- C. Stanley Lewis - artist and professor of art
- Paul Lewis (architect) 1998 - principal of LTL Architects, Director of Graduate Studies at the Princeton University School of Architecture
- Glenn Ligon - contemporary conceptual artist
- Nava Lubelski 1990 - contemporary artist
- Thomas McKnight - artist, work is in the permanent collection of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, as well as in the Smithsonian Institution
- Alix Olson 1997 - performance artist and award-winning slam poet
- John Spike 1973 - noted art historian of the Italian Renaissance and contemporary art critic
- Ben Weiner 2003 - contemporary artist; oil painting, video
- Chris Wink - co-founder of the Blue Man Group

Business

- Richard Barth 1948 - president, chairman, CEO, Ciba-Geigy (1986-1996)^{[25][26]}
- Andrea Barthwell - CEO of EMGlobal, LLC ^[27]
- Douglas J. Bennet - former CEO of National Public Radio
- William Bissell - managing director of Fabindia (1993-)^[28]
- Joshua Boger 1973 - founder, CEO (1992-2009), chairman (1997-2006), board of directors (as of 2009), Vertex Pharmaceuticals^[29]
- Jonathan S. Bush - co-founder, president, CEO, Athenahealth, Inc.
- Marc N. Casper 1990 - president and CEO of Thermo Fisher Scientific (incumbent as of October 15, 2009)^[30]
- David Charnay - Onetime president and CEO of Four Star Television productions, died 2002^[31]
- Gilbert Clee 1935 - former managing partner of McKinsey & Company^{[32][33][34]}
- Robert Crispin 1968 - president and CEO, ING Group Investment Management Americas (managed app.152 billion (Euro) in assets as of 2006)^[35]
- D. Ronald Daniel 1952 - former director and managing partner (1976-1988) of McKinsey & Company; developed concept of Critical success factors^{[36][37]}
- David S. Daniel - CEO of Spencer Stuart; former president of Louis Vuitton (N.A.) and of Evian Waters of France (U.S.)
- Charles W. Denny III 1958 - president and CEO (1992-2003), chairman of the board of directors (2001-2003), Square D^[38]
- Edwin Deacon Etherington 1948 - former president and CEO, American Stock Exchange;^[39] 12th President of Wesleyan;^[40] Commission on Private Philanthropy and Public Needs
- Charles Exley, Jr. 1951 - president (1976), chairman (1984), CEO (1983-1991), NCR Corporation^{[41][42][43]}
- Mansfield Freeman - one of original founders of AIG and scholar of Chinese Philosophy
- Michael Fries 1985 - president and CEO, Liberty Global^[44]
- Jordan Goldman 2004 - founder of Unigo^[45]; creator and publisher of bestselling college guidebook, *The Students' Guide to Colleges*
- Christopher Graves 1981 - president and CEO, Ogilvy & Mather Public Relations Worldwide^[46]; one of founders of Wall Street Journal Television
- James F. Haddon - the managing director, PFM Group, the nation's leading provider of independent financial and investment advisory services to state and local governments^{[47][48]}
- John Hagel III - co-chairman of Deloitte Center for Edge Innovation
- Henry I. Harriman - corporate executive of American public utilities; co-founder, New England Power Company; former president of the United States Chamber of Commerce
- Charles James 1976 - vice president and general counsel, ChevronTexaco Corp.
- Herb Kelleher 1953 - founder, chairman, and former president and CEO, Southwest Airlines; Board of Governors of

- Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas
- Edward Kennedy, Jr. 1983 - attorney (disability law); co-founder and president of the Marwood Group, a wall street investment firm^[49]
- Chan Ka Keung - chairman of the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation, former Director of the Hong Kong Futures Exchange
- Mallory Factor - chairman of the Free Enterprise Fund, member Council on Foreign Relations
- George M. La Monte 1884 - chairman of the board of the Prudential Insurance Company
- Gary Loveman 1982 - chairman, president, and CEO, Harrah's Entertainment; former professor at Harvard School of Business
- John Macy - president of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (1969-1972); ran the Council for Better Business Bureaus (1972-1979)
- Gregg Ribatt - president and CEO Stride Rite^[50]
- John Rice 1974 - president, Unilever^{[51][52]}
- Tom Rogers (President and CEO of TiVo Inc.) 1976 - former chairman and CEO, Primedia; president of NBC; founded CNBC^[53]
- Jonathan I. Schwartz 1987 - president and CEO, Sun Microsystems
- Frank V. Sica 1973 - vice-chairman, Jetblue Airways; president, Soros Fund Management (2000-2003); managing partner, Tailwind Capital (incumbent as of 2009);^{[54][55]}
- Jonathan Soros 1992 - president and co-deputy chairman of Soros Fund Management (as of 2009)^{[55][56][57]}, Council on Foreign Relations, Forum of Young Global Leaders
- Gerald Tsai attended - founded Primerica, pioneered use of performance funds
- Jeffrey Weitzen 1978 - former president and CEO, Gateway 2000^{[58][59]}
- John F. Woodhouse 1953 - former president, CEO (1982-1995), chairman of the board of directors (1985-1999), senior chairman (1999-?), Sysco^{[60][61][62]}
- Walter B. Wriston 1941 - commercial banker; former chairman and CEO, Citibank and Citicorp; Presidential Medal of Freedom: twice offered United States Secretary of the Treasury (by Presidents Nixon and Ford), twice refused; recipient of "Parker Prize" at Wesleyan (sophomore or junior who excels in public speaking)
- Straus Zelnick 1979 - president and COO (1989-1993), 20th Century Fox; CEO of BMG Entertainment (1998-2000); founder Zelnick Media (2001-)^[63]

Film, television, acting

- David Abram 1980 - performance artist, cultural ecologist, philosopher; known for work bridging philosophical tradition of phenomenology with environmental, ecological issues
- Phil Abraham - film and television cinematographer and director
- Michael Arias (attended from age 16-18) - film director, producer, and visual effects artist
- Miguel Arteta 1989 - film director (*Star Maps*, *Chuck & Buck*, *The Good Girl*)
- Edoardo Ballerini - actor, writer, director
- Andrew Bancroft - comedian
- Michael Bay 1986 - film director (*The Rock*, *Armageddon*, *Pearl Harbor*, *Bad Boys*, *Bad Boys II*, *Transformers*, *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*)
- Carter Bays 1997 - creator, writer and executive producer for *How I Met Your Mother*
- Jordan Belfi 2000 - actor
- Amy Bloom 1975 - creator of *State of Mind* (TV series)
- Mark Bombback - screenwriter
- Eric Byler 1994 - film director (*Charlotte Sometimes*, *My Life Disoriented*, *Americanese*, *TRE*)
- Peter Cambor 2001 - film and television actor
- Hunter Carson 1998 - actor, screenwriter, producer, and director
- Lynn Chen 1998 - actress, *Saving Face*
- William Christopher 1954 - Father John Patrick Francis Mulcahy on *M*A*S*H* (TV series)
- Jennifer Crittenden 1992 - writer and/or producer for *The Simpsons*, *Seinfeld*, *The Drew Carey Show*, *Everybody Loves Raymond*, and *The New Adventures of Old Christine*
- Jem Cohen 1984 - video artist
- Ed Decter 1979 - screenwriter: *There's Something About Mary*, *The Santa Clause 2*, *The Santa Clause 3*, among

others

- Dana Delany 1978 - two-time Emmy Award-winning actress; television shows *China Beach*, *Presidio Med*, *Desperate Housewives*; films *Tombstone* and *Fly Away Home*
- Toby Emmerich - screenwriter and film executive, head of New Line Cinema as of 2008
- Halley Feiffer 2007 - actress and playwright
- Danny Forster 1999 - host of Discovery Channel shows *Extreme Engineering* and *Build It Bigger*
- Bobbito García 1988 - hip hop DJ, writer
- William "Willie" Garson - actor, most known for his portrayal of Stanford on *Sex and the City*
- Max Goldblatt 2005 - actor, writer, director
- Akiva Goldsman 1983 - Oscar winning screenwriter, *A Beautiful Mind* (Best Adapted Screenplay);*The Client*, *A Time to Kill*, *The Da Vinci code*, *Cinderella Man*, *I Am Legend*
- Matthew Greenfield - producer of independent films
- Adam Hann-Byrd 2004 - actor, *Little Man Tate*, *The Ice Storm*
- Elisabeth Harnois 2001 - actress, *Adventures in Wonderland*, *Pretty Persuasion*
- Willy Holtzman - screenwriter and playwright, two Pulitzer Prize nominations, a Humanitas Prize, a Writers Guild Award, a Peabody Award
- Jack Johnson 2009 - best known for performance in *Lost in Space*
- Evan Katz - writer and executive producer of television series *24*
- Michael E. Knight 1980 - three-time Emmy Award winning actor, best known for his role as Tad Martin on *All My Children*
- David Kohan 1986 - Emmy Award-winning co-creator and executive producer of *Will & Grace* and *Good Morning, Miami*
- Alex Kurtzman - film and television screenwriter, producer; film: *Eagle Eye*, *Star Trek (film)*, *The Legend of Zorro*, *Mission Impossible III*, *Transformers (film)*; television: *Fringe (TV series)*, *Alias (TV series)*, *Hercules: The Legendary Journeys*, *Xena: Warrior Princess*, among others
- Jeffrey Lane - 5 Emmy Awards, a Tony Award, 2 Peabody Awards, a Golden Globe; television scriptwriter, film producer, actor
- Jieho Lee 1995 - filmmaker
- Alan Levin (filmmaker) 1946 - three-time Emmy Award-winning maker of documentaries
- Marc Levin 1973 - Emmy and other award-winning filmmaker
- Tembi Locke - actress, has appeared on more than 30 television shows
- Monica Louwerens 1995 - beauty queen from Canada
- Barton MacLane - actor, playwright, and screenwriter; appeared in many classic films from the 1930s through the 1960s
- Laurence Mark 1971 - Oscar-nominated producer; *Jerry Maguire*, *As Good as It Gets*, *Finding Forrester*, *Dreamgirls (film)*; produced 81st annual Academy Awards Ceremony
- Brett Matthews 1999 - writer of TV shows and comics
- Daisy von Scherler Mayer 1988 - film director (*Party Girl*, *Madeline*, *The Guru*, *Woo*)
- Benjamin Meyer - film writer and editor
- Nick Meyer - president of Paramount Vantage until December 2008; former president of Lionsgate International
- Lin-Manuel Miranda - actor, two Tony Awards (2008), a Grammy Award (2009), a Drama Desk Award (2008), one of 3 finalists, Pulitzer Prize for Drama (2009)
- William R. Moses attended - actor
- Gail O'Neill - fashion model
- Julius Onah - filmmaker of Nigerian descent
- Amanda Palmer 1998 - director *Hotel Blanc*, playwright and actress *The Onion Cellar*
- Benjamin Parrillo 1992 - actor with numerous film and television credits including *Cold Case*, *24*, *NCIS*, *Boston Legal*
- Zak Penn 1990 - screenwriter (*Fantastic Four*, *X-Men*, *The Last Stand*, *PCU*, *The Incredible Hulk (film)*); director (*Incident at Loch Ness*, *The Grand*)
- Owen Renfroe - television soap opera director and former film editor
- Jeffrey Richards 1969 - four-time Tony Award winning producer; August: Osage County (received five Tony Awards in 2008, including Best Play); co-producer of Spring Awakening (received three Tony Awards and one Grammy Award), among other productions and awards ^[64]
- John Rothman 1971 - film, stage, and television actor
- Stefan Schaefer 1994 - director, screenwriter, and producer of independent films; *Confess* and *Arranged*, among

- others; Fulbright Scholar
- Matthew Senreich 1996 - screenwriter, director; producer, *Robot Chicken*
- Lawrence Sher 1992 - cinematographer, *The Dukes of Hazzard*, *Garden State*.^[65]
- Marc Shmuger 1980 - head of Universal Pictures as of 2006
- Wendy Spero - actress, comedian, and writer
- Anuradha Sriram M.A. - Indian carnatic and playback singer, more than 35 Tamil and Hindi films
- Kim Stolz 2005 - *America's Next Top Model* Cycle 5 finalist
- Stephen Talbot 1970 - TV child actor (*Leave It to Beaver*); TV reporter, writer, and producer; twice winner of Peabody Award
- Craig Thomas (screenwriter) 1997 - creator, writer and executive producer for *How I Met Your Mother*
- Ray Tintori 2006 - director, film and music videos
- Jon Turteltaub 1985 - film director (*Cool Runnings*, *Phenomenon*, *While You Were Sleeping*, *National Treasure*, *3 Ninjas*)
- Kim Wayans - actress and member of the Wayans family
- Matthew Weiner - 6-time Emmy Award-winner; 1 Golden Globes, best television series; screenwriter, supervising producer, *The Sopranos*; creator, executive producer, writer, *Mad Men*
- Paul Weitz 1988 - director (with brother Chris Weitz, *American Pie*, *About a Boy*), *Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant*
- Joss Whedon 1987 - Oscar-nominated screenwriter; creator, producer, director, writer, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Angel*, *Firefly*, *Dollhouse*; *Serenity*; screenwriter, *Speed*, *Toy Story*
- Zack Whedon 2002 - screenwriter
- Mike White 1992 - screenwriter for *Chuck & Buck*, *Orange County*, and *The Good Girl*
- Bradley Whitford 1981 - Emmy Award-winning actor in television drama *The West Wing*
- Henry Willson - Hollywood talent agent; clients included Rock Hudson, Tab Hunter, Guy Madison, Robert Wagner, among others; discovered Lana Turner (aka Rhonda Fleming)
- Scott Wiper 1992 - director, Screenwriter, Actor
- Frank Wood 1984 - Tony Award-winning actor (*Side Man*)

Law

Supreme Court of the United States

- David Josiah Brewer 1851-1854 - Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court (1890-1910); a major contributor to the doctrine of substantive due process; author of the then landmark decisions in *Muller v. Oregon* (1908) (upholding legislative protection of exploited workers and supporting a law restricting working hours for women) and *In re Debs* (1895) (upholding federal injunctions to suppress labor strikes as proper regulation of interstate commerce under the commerce clause of the United States Constitution)

Federal and state courts, legal academia, government and other lawyers

- Hon. John Harris Baker A.M. 1879 - Judge, United States District Court for the District of Indiana
- Hon. Raymond E. Baldwin - Associate Justice (1949-1959) and Chief Justice (1959-1963) of Connecticut Supreme Court of Errors (now the Connecticut Supreme Court)
- Gerald L. Baliles - Attorney General of Virginia (1982-1985)
- Hon. John D. Bates 1968 - Judge, United States District Court for the District of Columbia (2001-); Judge, United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court
- Michael Bennet - Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General in the Clinton Administration (appears below)
- Hon. Edward G. Biester, Jr. 1952 - Judge, United States Court of Military Commission Review; Attorney General for Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (1979-1980)
- Hon. David Josiah Brewer - Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit (1884-1890); Judge, United States District Court for the District of Kansas (1865-1969); Justice, Kansas Supreme Court (1870-1884)
- Hon. K C Chan 1979 - Hong Kong Justice of the Peace (government minister, businessman, and former professor)
- Gabriel J. Chin 1985 - *Professor* of Law, University of Arizona; named in "Most Cited Law Professors by Specialty, 2000-2007" and "50 Most Cited Law Professors Who entered Teaching Since 1992"; expert in criminal law, appellate advocacy, and race and the law

- Tristram Coffin 1985 - United States Attorney for the District of Vermont in the administration of President Barack Obama (2009-)^{[66][67]}
- Hon. Charles Douglas III 1960-1962 - Associate Justice (1977-1983) and Senior Justice (1983-1985) New Hampshire Supreme Court
- Hon. Alonzo J. Edgerton 1850 - Judge, United States District Court for the District of South Dakota (1889-1896); Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Dakota Territory
- Shad Saleem Faruqi B.A. at the age of 19 - *Professor* of Law at Universiti Teknologi MARA and International Islamic University Malaysia; served as constitutional consultant to the countries of Fiji, Timor Leste, Afghanistan, and Iraq; helped draft the constitution of the Republic of Maldives, author and co-author of legal treatises
- Hon. Frederick E. Fuller - Federal Judge for Interior Alaska; appointed in 1912 by President William Howard Taft (Woodrow Wilson was one of Fuller's professors at Wesleyan); early champion for the credibility of Alaska natives as witnesses in federal court^{[68][69]}
- John C.P. Goldberg 1983 - *Professor*, Harvard Law School; expert in tort law and theory, common law, preemption; privacy, author of leading tort law treatise and casebook^[70]
- Theodore E. Hancock 1871 - New York State Attorney General (1894-1898)
- Rusty Hardin - attorney, efforts resulted in U.S. Supreme Court unanimously overturning Arthur Andersen's conviction of obstruction of justice
- Robert J. Harris - Attorney and *Professor* at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor (1959-1974), Rhodes Scholar
- Hon. Terry J. Hatter 1954 - Judge, United States District Court for the Central District of California, Los Angeles; Chief Judge 1998; senior status 2005
- Eddie Jordan (attorney) - United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana (1994-2001), District Attorney of Orleans Parish (2003-2007)
- Hon. Andrew Kleinfeld 1966 - Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (1991-); Judge, United States District Court for the District of Alaska (1986-1991); Magistrate Judge, United States District Court for the District of Alaska (1971-1974)
- Hon. Martin A. Knapp 1868 - Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (1916-1923); Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (1910-1916); Judge, United States Commerce Court (1910-1913)
- Hon. Mark R. Kravitz 1972 - Judge, United States District Court for the District of Connecticut
- Naomi Mezey 1987 - *Professor* of Law at Georgetown University
- Hon. James Rogers Miller Jr. 1953 - Judge, United States District Court for the District of Maryland (1970-1986)
- Hon. Patricia Head Minaldi 1980 - Judge, United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana (2003-)
- Hon. J. Frederick Motz 1964 - Judge, United States District Court for the District of Maryland (1985-), Chief Judge (1994-2001); United States Attorney for the District of Maryland
- Hon. Fred C. Norton 1950 - Associate Judge of the Minnesota Court of Appeals
- Hon. Anthony Scirica 1962 - Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit (Philadelphia) (1987-); Judge, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (1984-1987)
- Theodore Shaw 1976 - *Professor*, Columbia Law School; former Director-Counsel and fifth President, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund^[71]
- Abner W. Sibal 1943 - General Counsel for the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) (1975-1978)
- Hon. Dominic J. Squatrito 1961 - Judge, United States District Court for the District of Connecticut (1994-)
- Cameron C. Staples 1980 - long-time *Visiting Lecturer in Law*, Yale Law School; Legislative Advocacy Clinic; also state legislator and practicing attorney^[72]
- Hon. Stephen S. Trott 1962 - Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; Judge, United States Attorney for the Central District of California
- Hon. Arthur T. Vanderbilt - Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court from 1948 to 1957; noted attorney, legal educator; served for many years as *Dean* of the New York University School of Law, currently housed in a building that bears his name; twice declined to be considered for nomination to the United States Supreme Court
- Hon. Ronald M. Whyte mathematics 1964 - Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of California (1992-)
- Hon. Josiah O. Wolcott - Chancellor of Delaware, Attorney General of Delaware
- Hon. John Simson Woolson A.B. 1860, A.M. 1863 - Judge, United States District Court for the District of Iowa
- Charles Alan Wright - long-time *Professor* at the University of Texas School of Law, president of the American Law Institute, and was the nation's foremost authority on U.S. constitutional law as it relates to federal courts and

procedure

Literature

- William Allen (artist) - poet and visual artist
- Steve Almond - writer
- Stephen Alter - author of non-fiction and fiction, grants awarded under the Fulbright Program and the Guggenheim Fellowship
- Andy Behrman 1984 - author of *Electroboy: A Memoir of Mania*
- Suzanne Berne - novelist, winner of Great Britain's prestigious Orange Prize; professor of English
- Peter Blauner - novelist; Edgar Award, New York Times Bestseller, among others
- Amy Bloom 1975 - author of *Away* (New York Times Best Seller list, 2007) *Come to Me*; National Magazine Award, Best American Short Stories, O. Henry Award
- Ethan Bronner - his novel *Battle for Justice* selected by New York Public Library as one of "The Best Books of 1989"
- Jennifer Finney Boylan 1980 - author of *The Planets*, *The Constellations*, the memoir *She's Not There*
- Alexander Chee - writer, 2003 Whiting Writers' Award
- James Wm. Chichetto - poet, novelist, critic, lecturer
- Mei Chin - fiction writer and food critic
- Kate Colby 1996 - poet, editor, Norma Farber First Book Award
- Dr. Robin Cook 1962 - Medical mystery writer, many books have appeared on New York Times Best Seller list, including *Coma*, *Critical*, *Outbreak*, and 24 other bestsellers
- Paul Dickson 1961 - writer
- Melvin Dixon 1971 - author, poet, translator
- Ted Fiske 1959 - educational writer; creator of *The Fiske Guide to Colleges*; former education editor for the New York Times^[73]
- David Garrow 1975 - Pulitzer Prize-winning author, *Bearing the Cross*; Fellow at Cambridge University
- William H. Gass - novelist, short story writer, essayist, critic; three-time winner of National Book Critics Circle Award; American Book Award; Mark Twain Award; five Pushcart Prizes; five Best American Short Stories; Truman Capote Award for Literary Criticism (2007)
- Elizabeth Graver 1986 - writer of fiction and non-fiction; Drue Heinz Literature Prize, O. Henry Award, Pushcart Prize (2001)
- Daniel Handler 1992 - author (under the pseudonym Lemony Snicket) of *A Series of Unfortunate Events* (children's book series)
- Albert Harrison Hoyt 1850 - writer
- Christianne Meneses Jacobs - writer, editor, and teacher
- Kaylie Jones - novelist
- Sebastian Junger 1984 - author of *The Perfect Storm*, *Fire*, and *A Death in Belmont*; National Magazine Award; grand jury prize, 2010 Sundance Film Festival
- James Kaplan - novelist and journalist
- Pagan Kennedy 1984 - author, her novel *Spinsters* (1995)
- Brad Kessler 1986 - novelist, Whiting Writers' Award (fiction, 2007), Dayton Literary Peace Prize
- Alisa Kwitney - novelist, *Destiny: A Chronicle of Deaths Foretold*
- Seth Lerer 1976 - National Book Critics Circle Award for criticism (2008), professor of English and Comparative Literature at Stanford University
- Ariel Levy - author of *Female Chauvinist Pigs*, anthologized in *Best American Essays 2008* and *New York Stories*
- Robert Ludlum 1951 - *The Bourne Identity*, *The Osterman Weekend*, *The Holcroft Covenant*, *The Matarese Circle*, and 21 others; more than 290 million copies of his books in print
- Joanie Mackowski - poet, 2007 Best American Poetry, 2003 Kate Tufts Discovery Award
- Lew McCreary - editor, author, Senior Editor of the Harvard Business Review
- John P. McKay 1961 - author, Herbert Baxter Adams Prize, professor of history
- John Buffalo Mailer - author, playwright, and journalist
- William J. Mann M.A. - novelist, biographer
- Melody Moezzi 2001 - author of *War on Error: Real Stories of American Muslims*
- Gorham Munson 1917 - literary critic

- Blake Nelson (attended) - author
- Charles Olson 1932 - modernist poet, crucial link between such poets as Ezra Pound and the New American poets, one of thinkers who coined the term postmodernism
- Dr. Michael Palmer 1964 - Medical mystery writer, *Side Effects*, *Flashback*, *Extreme Measures*, *Natural Causes*; all of his 14 books have made the New York Times Best Seller list
- Carolyn Parkhurst 1992 - Author of *The Dogs of Babel* (a New York Times Notable Book) and *Lost and Found*
- Peter Pezzelli - author of "Home to Italy" , "Every Sunday" , "Francesca's Kitchen" , "Italian Lessons"
- Daniel Pinchbeck - author of *Breaking Open the Head: A Psychedelic Journey into the Heart of Contemporary Shamanism* and *2012: The Return of Quetzalcoatl*
- Kevin Prufer - poet, essayist, editor; winner of three Pushcart Prizes, Best American Poetry 2003, 2007 National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship in Poetry
- Spencer Reece - writer and poet, recipient of Whiting Writers' Award in 2005 for poetry
- Jean Rikhoff - writer and editor
- Mary Roach - author of *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*
- Carlo Rotella 1986 - writer, Whiting Writers' Award (nonfiction, 2007), L.L. Winship/PEN New England Award^[74]
- Sadia Shepard - author (and documentary filmmaker), Fulbright Scholar (2001)
- Delphine Red Shirt (MALS) - Oglala Lakota writer, adjunct professor at Yale University and Connecticut College
- Tristan Taormino 1993 - author and sex educator
- Jonathan Thirkield - poet, 2008 Walt Whitman Award
- Wells Tower - writer of short stories and fiction, Pushcart Prize, The Paris Review Discover Prize, *Everything Ravaged, Everything Burned* (2009)
- Ayelet Waldman 1986 - author of *Love and Other Impossible Pursuits*, *Daughter's Keeper*, and the Mommy-Track Mysteries
- David Rains Wallace - author of *The Monkey's Bridge* and *The Klamath Knot*, John Burroughs Medal (1984)^[75]
- Austin Warren 1929 - literary critic, author, and professor of English
- D. B. Weiss - author (and screenwriter)
- Michael Wolfe - author, poet
- Paul Yoon 2002 - writer; 2009 O. Henry Award; Best American Short Stories 2006^[76]

MacArthur Fellowship Winners

- Ruth Behar 1977 - 1988 MacArthur Foundation "genius grant"; professor, anthropology, University of Michigan; poet, writer; *Translated Woman*, *The Vulnerable Observer*
- Majora Carter 1984 - 2005 MacArthur Foundation "genius grant"; environmental justice advocate; founder and executive director (2001-2008), Sustainable South Bronx
- James Longley 1994 - 2009 MacArthur Foundation "genius grant"; maker of the documentaries *Gaza Strip*, the Oscar-nominated *Iraq in Fragments* (2007), and the Oscar-nominated *Sari's Mother* (2008)

Medicine

- Dr. Andrea Barthwell - named one of "Best Doctors in America" in 1997, received the Betty Ford Award in 2003, former United States Deputy Drug Czar
- Dr. Herbert Benson 1957 - Cardiologist; founding president of the Mind-Body Medical Institute; author of *The Relaxation Response*; professor, Harvard Medical School
- Charles Brenner 1983 - professor and head of Biochemistry at University of Iowa, leader in the fields of tumor suppressor gene function and metabolism ^[77]
- Thomas Broker 1966 - expert on human papilloma viruses and faculty member at University of Alabama at Birmingham; played central role in the discovery of RNA splicing ^[78]
- Dr. Joseph Fins (College of Letters with Honors) 1982 - Chief of the Division of Medical Ethics at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and Weill Cornell Medical College; Professor, Medicine; Professor, Public Health; Professor, Medicine in Psychiatry; author of *A Palliative Ethic of Care*
- Michael Fossel B.A., M.A. - Professor of Clinical Medicine, known for his views on telomerase therapy
- Dr. Laman Gray, Jr. 1963 - leader in the fields of cardiovascular surgery and the development of artificial hearts and circulatory systems; artificial heart surgeon; implanted world's first self-contained artificial heart^{[79][80][81]}

- Dr. Allan Hobson 1955 - Psychiatrist and dream researcher, known for his research on Rapid eye movement sleep; Professor of Psychiatry, Emeritus, Harvard Medical School
- Dr. Laurence H. Kedes 1959 - Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Founding Director, Institute for Genetic Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California; a leader in efforts to clone animal cell genes^{[82][83][84]}
- Dr. Jay A. Levy 1960 - seminal research in AIDS; Professor, Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco; Editor-in-Chief of the journal AIDS, author^[85]
- Emilie Marcus 1982 - Editor-in-Chief of the scientific journal *Cell*^[86]; also Editor-in-Chief of Cell Press^{[87][88]}
- Dr. Ralph Pomeroy - gynecologist, famous for creation of "Pomeroy" tubal ligation, co-founder of the Williamsburg Hospital in Brooklyn, New York
- Dr. Theodore Shapiro - psychiatrist
- Dr. David J. Sencer 1946 - Director of the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (1966-1977); New York City Health Commissioner (1981-1985); one of the founding fathers of the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University^{[83][89][90][91][92]}

Military

- Admiral Thomas H. Collins - Retired 22nd Commandant of the United States Coast Guard (02-08) (guided Coast Guard after terrorist attacks of 9/11), Vice Commandant (00-02)
- Alonzo J. Edgerton 1850 - Brevet Brigadier General in Union Army in the Civil War
- Admiral James Loy - Retired 21st Commandant of the United States Coast Guard (1998-2002) (guided Coast Guard after terrorist attacks of 9/11), Acting United States Secretary of Homeland Security (2005), Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security (2nd ranking official in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security) (2003-2005)
- Mitchell Jenkins 1919 - Brigadier General in the Pennsylvania National Guard, Colonel of the United States Army during World War II
- Rear Admiral (Ret.) Dr. Richard W. Schneider 1973 - of the United States Coast Guard, significant role in the transformation of the Coast Guard^{[93][94]}
- Chuck Stone 1948 - Congressional Gold Medal presented by President George W. Bush (March 29, 2007); former Tuskegee Airman during World War II

Music

- Adolovni Acosta - graduate student in World Music Program, Philippine-born classical and concert pianist
- Bill Anschell 1982 - pianist, composer; recorded with Lionel Hampton, Tierney Sutton, Ron Carter
- John Perry Barlow 1969 - lyricist for Grateful Dead
- Paul Berliner Ph.D. - professor of music at Duke University
- Marion Brown M.A. (ethnomusicologist) - alto saxophonist, composer
- Darius Brubeck 1969 - pianist, composer, professor of music, band leader
- Kit Clayton - musician and programmer
- Bill Cole Ph.D. (ethnomusicologist) - musician; professor of music at Amherst College (1972-1974) and Dartmouth College (1974-1990s); author
- Nicolas Collins B.A., M.A. - composer of mostly electronic music; former student of Alvin Lucier; Watson Fellow
- Nathan Davis Ph.D. - musician; professor of music at the University of Pittsburgh
- Stanton Davis M.A. - trumpeter and educator
- Santi Debriano M.A. - double bassist and bandleader
- Frank Denyer Ph.D. - composer; professor of composition at Dartington College of Arts, Totnes, Devon, South West England; co-founded the Barton Workshop in Amsterdam
- Judy Dunaway M.A. - avant-garde composer, creator of sound installations
- S. A. K. Durga Ph.D. musicologist and ethnomusicologist
- Tim Eriksen Ph.D. - multi-instrumentalist, musicologist, professor of music; performer and consultant for soundtrack of film *Cold Mountain*
- Kevin Fox - founding director and music director of the Grammy Award winning Pacific Boychoir (incumbent as of 2010)^{[95][96]}
- MC Frontalot (Damien Hess) 1996 - rapper, innovator of the phrase nerdcore

- William Galison - multi-instrumentalist, most famous as harmonica player, singer, composer
- Ben Goldwasser - Grammy Award nominated founding member of music group MGMT
- Adam Goren 1996 - best known as the sole member of synth-punk band Atom and His Package
- Mary Halvorson 2002 - guitarist
- Jon B. Higgins (B.A., M.A., Ph.D.) - musician, scholar of Carnatic music, professor of music at Wesleyan (1978-1984), Fulbright Scholar
- Jay Hoggard 1976 - current faculty at Wesleyan; jazz musician, vibraphonist; recorded often as a leader
- Ashenafi Kebede 1969 M.A., 1971 Ph.D. - Ethiopian ethnomusicologist, historical musicologist, musician, professor of music
- Ron Kuivila 1977 - current faculty at Wesleyan; sound artist, studied under Alvin Lucier; teaches experimental music, computers in music; co-creator of software language Formula
- Robert R. Labaree Ph.D. - chairman, Music History and Musicology, New England Conservatory of Music^[97]
- David Leisner - classical guitarist, composer; teacher, Manhattan School of Music
- Jorge Arevalo Mateus Ph.D. (ethnomusicologist) - 2008 Grammy Award for Best Historical Recording^[98]
- Lin-Manuel Miranda 2002 - creator, composer, lyricist, actor: *In the Heights* (two Tony Awards in 2008, including Best Musical; Grammy Award in 2009, among other awards)
- Dennis Murphy (musician) Ph.D. (ethnomusicologist) - composer, one of the fathers of the American gamelan
- Hankus Netsky Ph.D.- Klezmer musician, composer; member and director, Klezmer Conservatory Band
- Amanda Palmer 1998 - composer/singer/pianist of The Dresden Dolls
- Hewitt Pantaleoni Ph.D. - 20th century ethnomusicologist, best known for his work in African music, professor of music
- Brandon Patton - songwriter
- Chris Pureka - singer/songwriter
- Steve Roslonek - children's musician and composer
- Santigold (Santi White) - electropop/hip-hop artist
- L. Shankar Ph.D. - Tamil Indian virtuoso violinist; vocalist and composer
- Bill Sherman 2002 - composer, orchestrator, arranger; 2008 Tony Award for Best Orchestration (*In the Heights*), 2009 Grammy Award^[99]
- Wadada Leo Smith - trumpeter, composer; avant-garde jazz and free improvisation
- Sumarsam 1976 M.A. - current faculty at Wesleyan; Javanese musician, virtuoso and scholar of the Gamelan
- Tierney Sutton 1986 - jazz singer, winner of JazzWeek's Vocalist of the Year Award, thrice Grammy Award nominated
- Laxmi Ganesh Tewari Ph.D. - Hindustani virtuoso vocalist, exponent of Gwalior gharana vocal music, professor of music
- Stephen Trask 1989 - Grammy Award winning composer, lyricist for the musical *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*; composer for film & theater (*Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant*)
- Stephen S. Trott 1962 - early member of The Highwaymen (folk band), which originated at Wesleyan^[100]; #1 single ("Michael" 1961); top 20 hit ("Cotton Fields" 1962)
- Andrew VanWyngarden - Grammy Award nominated founding member of music group MGMT
- T. Viswanathan 1975 Ph.D. - Carnatic flute virtuoso, professor of music
- Dar Williams 1989 - folksinger
- Daniel James Wolf M.A., Ph.D. - composer of modern classical music and music scholar
- Allie Wrubel - Academy Award winning composer, songwriter; known for writing Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah (Oscar winner, 1947); his other compositions include *Gone with the Wind* and *Song of the South*; Songwriters Hall of Fame (1970)
- Peter Zummo 1970, B.A.; 1975, M.A., Ph.D. - composer and musician (postminimalist)

News

- Dan Ackman - journalist
- Robert Allbritton 1992 - publisher of *The Politico*^[101], chairman and CEO of Allbritton Communications
- Eric Asimov 1979 - restaurant columnist and editor, *The New York Times* (nephew of Isaac Asimov)
- Doug Berman 1984 - National Public Radio producer, fundraiser, and creator of *Car Talk*, *Subway Fugitive*, *Not a Slave to Fashion*, and *Bongo Boy*^[102]

- Robert A. Bertsche - journalist, editor, and media lawyer; two-time winner of the National Magazine Award^[103]
- William Blakemore 1965 - correspondent, ABC News^[104]
- David Brancaccio 1982 - host, "Now", PBS
- Ethan Bronner 1976 - Pulitzer Prize (for explanatory journalism, 2001); deputy foreign editor and assistant editorial page editor, *The New York Times*; his novel *Battle for Justice* selected by The New York Public Library as "one of the Best Books of 1989"
- Dominique Browning 1977 - former Editor-in-chief, *House & Garden (magazine)*^[105]
- Marysol Castro - weather anchor, ABC *Good Morning America Weekend Edition* and contributing writer
- Lisa Chedekel 1982 - 1999 Pulitzer Prize for breaking news (team), nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 2007 for series "Mentally Unfit, Forced to Fight" ^{[106][107]}
- Jonathan Dube - print and online journalist; pioneer in online journalism
- Jane Eisner 1977 - editor, *The Forward*, the paper's first female editor; former editor, reporter, foreign correspondent, and columnist, *The Philadelphia Enquirer*^[108]
- Smokey Fontaine - editor, writer, music critic, Editor-in Chief of *Giant (magazine)*
- Steven Greenhouse 1973 - reporter, *The New York Times*; author^{[109][110]}
- Ferris Greenslet 1897 - editor and writer, associate editor of *Atlantic Monthly*; director and literary advisor of Houghton Mifflin Co.
- Vanessa Grigoriadis 1995 - writer, National Magazine Award
- Peter Gutmann (journalist) 1971 - journalist and attorney
- William Henry Huntington - journalist
- Alberto Ibarguen 1966 - CEO of John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; former publisher, *The Miami Herald*, Chair of PBS Board of Directors
- Brooks Kraft 1987 - nationally recognized photojournalist whose pictures of the White House and President George H. W. Bush have appeared in *Time* magazine ^{[111][112]}
- Alex Kotlowitz 1977 - journalist, activist, author of *There Are No Children Here* which won the Carl Sandburg Award and was named by The New York Public Library as "one of the 150 most important books of the century"; journalism awards include the George Foster Peabody Award and the George Polk Award
- Dave Lindorff 1972 - investigative reporter, columnist, two-time Fulbright Scholar, Project Censored Award (2004)
- Caroline Little 1981 - CEO, Guardian News and Media (N.A.); former CEO and publisher of Washingtonpost.Newsweek Interactive^[113]
- Alan Miller 1976 - Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter
- Kyrie O'Connor 1976 - journalist, writer, editor
- Gail O'Neill - television journalist
- Randall Pinkston 1972 - three time Emmy Award-winning television journalist
- Charles Bennett Ray - journalist, owner and editor of *The Colored American*, first black student at Wesleyan in 1832^[114]
- Jake Silverstein - 2007 Pen/Journalism Award, among other awards; Fulbright Scholar; editor (as of 2008), *Texas Monthly*, ten-time winner of National Magazine Award^{[115][116]}
- Chuck Stone 1948 - journalist; professor of journalism at University of North Carolina; former editor, *Philadelphia Daily News*
- Leland Stowe 1921 - Pulitzer Prize in 1930, journalist who warned of the threat from Nazi Germany, his journalism helped bring down the Neville Chamberlain government in 1940
- Vin Suprynowicz 1972 - libertarian columnist
- Stephen Talbot 1970 - Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker, FRONTLINE (PBS) and Series Editor, FRONTLINE/World
- Laura Walker 1979 - president and CEO, WNYC public radio station, the largest public radio station in the nation^[117]
- Ulrich Wickert - spent 1962 at Wesleyan as a Fulbright Scholar; well-known broadcast journalist in Germany
- Robert F. Worth - journalist at *The New York Times* (2001-), Middle East correspondent (2007-), correspondent in Baghdad (2003-2006)
- Michael Yamashita 1971 - award-winning photographer and photojournalist, *National Geographic*^[118]
- John Yang (journalist) 1980 - Peabody Award-winning journalist; as of 2007, NBC News White House correspondent

Politics and government

Cabinet and subcabinet members, presidential advisers

- Robert M. Ball 1935, M.A. 1936 - United States Commissioner of Social Security (1962-1973); served under 3 Presidents (John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Richard Nixon)
- Andrea Barthwell - former Deputy United States Drug Czar under President George W. Bush (also M.D.)
- Ian Bassin 1998 - Deputy Associate Counsel in the Office of Counsel to the President in the administration of President Barack Obama (2009-)^[119]
- Douglas J. Bennet 1959 - Head of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under President Jimmy Carter; Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs under President Bill Clinton
- Ron Bloom 1977 - U.S. Manufacturing Czar (2009-),^[120] U.S. Car Czar (2009-)^{[121][122]}; Presidential Task Force on the Auto Industry (2009-)^[123]; Senior Adviser, Auto Industry, U.S. Department of Treasury (2009-)
- Lael Brainard - U.S. Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs (2009-); Deputy Director of the United States National Economic Council (98-00); U.S. Sherpa to the G8
- K C Chan 1979 - Hong Kong Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (2007-), member of the Executive Council of Hong Kong (2007-)
- Thomas H. Collins - Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, guided the Coast Guard after 9/11 (2002-2008) (appears above)
- Jim Esquera - Assistant Secretary for Legislation, United States Department of Health and Human Services in the administration of President Barack Obama (2009-)^[124]
- Diana Farrell 1987 - member of the Presidential Task Force on the Auto Industry (2009-); Deputy Director of the United States National Economic Council (2009-)
- Robert E. Hunter 1962 - United States Ambassador to NATO in the Clinton Administration (1993-98); President of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (2003-2008)
- Charles James (attorney) 1976 - former Assistant Attorney General of the United States in charge of the Antitrust Division
- Martin A. Knapp 1868 - member (1897-1910) and chairman (1898-1910) of the United States Interstate Commerce Commission
- James Loy - Acting United States Secretary of Homeland Security (2005); Deputy United States Secretary of Homeland Security (2003-05); Second Administrator, United States Transportation Security Administration; Deputy Under Secretary, United States Transportation Security Administration; Commandant of the United States Coast Guard (1998-2002)
- Nobutaka Machimura - Chief Cabinet Secretary of Japan (stepping stone to becoming Prime Minister of Japan) (2007-2008); twice Head of Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Secretary of State) (2004-05, 2007-); Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (2001); twice Minister of Education (1997-1998, 2000-2001)
- John Macy 1938 - Director of United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (1979-81); twice Executive Director of United States Civil Service Commission for three Presidents (1953-1958 and 1961-1969); Director White House Personnel Appointment Office; namesake of John W. Macy Jr. Award (given by the United States Army)
- Justin Oberman - Senior Executive at the United States Transportation Security Administration, participated in several critical aspects of the agency's start-up
- John A. Randall 1881 - United States Under Secretary of War (1918)
- Horst Siebert - member of German Council of Economic Experts from 1990-2003; German economist; academician, University of Kiel; recipient of Bundesverdienstkreuz
- Stephen S. Trott - United States Associate Attorney General (3rd ranking official in the U.S. Department of Justice) (1986-88), Assistant Attorney General of the United States
- Charles Alan Wright - represented President Richard Nixon as lead lawyer on issues growing out of Watergate investigations, though he did not argue the case in the Supreme Court
- Henry Merritt Wriston B.A. 1911, M.A. - personal adviser to President Dwight D. Eisenhower; appointed by President Eisenhower (in 1960) to the Chairmanship of the President's Commission on National Goals; member of the United States Department of State's Advisory Committee on United States Foreign Service
- Walter B. Wriston 1941 - Chairman of Ronald Reagan's Economic Policy Advisory Board (1980-89); twice offered United States Secretary of the Treasury (by Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford), twice refused; Presidential

Medal of Freedom; recipient of "Parker Prize" at Wesleyan (sophomore or junior who excels in public speaking)

Senators, Representatives, Governors

- John E. Andrus 1862 - Republican Congressman from Westchester, New York
- John H. Baker 1879 - Congressman from Indiana (1875-1881)
- Raymond Baldwin 1916 - Republican Senator; 57th and 59th Governor of Connecticut
- Gerald Baliles 1963 - Former Democratic Governor of Virginia
- Edward G. Biester, Jr. 1952 - Former Republican Congressman from Bucks County, Pennsylvania
- Michael Bennet 1987 - U.S. Senator for Colorado, former Counsel to Deputy Attorney General during the Clinton Administration, superintendent of Denver Public Schools
- Benjamin T. Biggs - Former Democratic Congressman and Governor of Delaware
- John R. Buck - Former Republican Congressman from Connecticut
- William Citron 1918 - Republican Congressman from Connecticut
- Walter Eli Clark 1895 - Republican Governor of Alaska (District, 1909-1912), and last Governor of Alaska Territory (1912-1913)
- Cornelius Cole 1847 - Republican Senator and Congressman from California
- Norris Cotton 1923 - Former Republican Senator and Congressman from New Hampshire
- Clarence D. Coughlin - Republican Congressman from Pennsylvania
- Emilio Daddario 1939 - Former Democratic Congressman from Connecticut, Former co-chair of the American Bar Association
- Frederick Davenport 1889 - Republican Congressman from New York, Progressive Party candidate for Governor, 1914
- Stanley W. Davenport 1884 - Democratic Congressman from Pennsylvania
- Charles Douglas III - Former Republican Congressman from New Hampshire
- Alonzo J. Edgerton 1850 - Republican Senator from Minnesota
- Oran Faville - first Lieutenant Governor of Iowa (1858-1860), former president of Ohio Wesleyan College for women
- Miles Granger 1842 - Democratic Congressman from Connecticut
- Clarence E. Hancock 1906 - Former Republican Congressman, Syracuse, New York
- Chester Hubbard 1840 - Republican Congressman from West Virginia; Unconditional Unionist, 39th Congress; Republican, 40th Congress
- William Pallister Hubbard 1863 - Republican Congressman from West Virginia
- Lester Hunt - former U.S. Senator, Governor of Wyoming, Secretary of State of Wyoming
- Mitchell Jenkins 1919 - Former Republican Congressman from Pennsylvania
- Rufus H. King - U.S. Congressman from New York
- Arthur MacArthur, Sr. attended - fourth Governor of Wisconsin, Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin, judge
- Nobutaka Machimura - current member of House of Representatives of Japan, member and Acting Secretary General of ruling Liberal Democratic Party of Japan
- Edwin May 1948 - Former Republican Congressman from Connecticut
- James Pike (politician) 1837-1839, theology - Congressman from New Hampshire; American Party , 34th Congress; Republican Party, 35th Congress
- Frederick Walker Pitkin - Former Governor of Colorado (*served two terms*)
- George Washington Shonk 1873 - Republican Congressman from Pennsylvania
- Abner Sibal 1943 - Former Republican Congressman from Connecticut
- David Skaggs 1964 - Former Democratic Congressman from Colorado
- Watson Squire 1859 - Republican Senator from Washington; Governor of Territory of Washington (1884-1887)
- Julius Strong - U.S. Congressman from Connecticut.
- William Copeland Wallace 1876 - Republican Congressman from New York
- Josiah O. Wolcott 1901 - Former Democratic Senator from Delaware

Ambassadors and other government figures

- Raymond Bateman 1950 - President of the New Jersey Senate (1970-1972), Chairman of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority (resigned in 2001)

- Douglas J. Bennet 1959 - former Head of the United States Agency for International Development
- L. Dean Brown 1942 - United States Ambassador to Jordan, Gambia, and Senegal^{[125][126]}
- Wilbur Fisk Burns 1860 - Wesleyan's first black graduate; Comptroller of Liberia, Africa; died before the age of 30 [127]
- Walter L. Cutler 1953 - United States Ambassador to Saudi Arabia (1984-1989), Congo-Kinshasa (1975-1979), Tunisia (1982-1984)
- Joseph Denison 1840 - co-founder of the abolitionist town of Manhattan, Kansas (1855) (see Bleeding Kansas)
- Art Feltman B.A. 1980 - Connecticut House of Representatives (1997-2009)
- Brian E. Frosh - Democratic member of Maryland State Senate (1995-)
- William C. Gilbreath - North Dakota Commissioner of Agriculture and Labor (1905-1914)
- Eliot Glassheim - North Dakota House of Representatives since 1993 (and previously in 1975)
- Isaac Goodnow Hon. 1845 - co-founder of the abolitionist town of Manhattan, Kansas (1855); co-founder of Kansas State University; known as father of Kansas formal education
- Robert E. Hunter 1962 - former United States Ambassador to NATO; President of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (2003-2008); represented U.S., Western European Union
- Matt Lesser (Class of 2010) - Member of Connecticut House of Representatives (2009-); full time student at Wesleyan while conducting campaign for the Legislature
- John Lipsky 1968 - First deputy managing director, International Monetary Fund^[128]
- Nobutaka Machimura - twice Head of Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2004-2005; 2007)
- Benjamin Franklin Mudge 1840 - State Geologist for Kansas, Director of the first Kansas Geological Survey
- John W. North - 19th century pioneer; American statesman of national reputation; founder of the cities of Northfield, Minnesota and Riverside, California; member of the Minnesota House of Representatives (1849-1851); one of founders of the Republican Party of Minnesota in 1855
- Fred C. Norton 1950 - 47th (1980-1981) and 50th (1987) Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives
- Robert Carter Pitman 1845 - state representative (1858), state senator (1864-1965; 1868-1869), President of the Senate of Massachusetts (1868-1869)
- Peter Shumlin 1979 - member and President Pro Tempore of Vermont Senate; helped found Landmark College (designed exclusively for students with learning disabilities)
- Benjamin Franklin Tefft 1835 - U.S. Consul in Stockholm during U.S. Civil War; President of Genesee College (which later became Syracuse University)
- Henry Merritt Wriston B.A. 1911, M.A. - member of United States Department of State's Advisory Committee on United States Foreign Service (under President Dwight Eisenhower)
- Stephen M. Young (diplomat) 1973 - former United States Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan; in the United States Department of State served in offices or as Director of Office of Chinese, Mongolian, Soviet, Caucasus, Central Asian, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh affairs

Mayors

- John Emory Andrus 1857 - Mayor of Yonkers, New York
- Emilio Q. Daddario 1939 - Mayor of Middletown, Connecticut; Legion of Merit
- Stanley W. Davenport 1884 - Mayor of Middletown, Connecticut
- William Henry Eustis 1873 - Mayor of Minneapolis, Minnesota; philanthropist; founder of Eustis Hospital
- Robert J. Harris - Mayor of Ann Arbor, Michigan; Rhodes Scholar
- John Hickenlooper 1974 - Mayor of Denver, Colorado (incumbent as of 2009)
- Yoriko Kishimoto 1977 - Mayor of Palo Alto, California; author (incumbent as of 2009)^{[129][130]}
- Stephen May 1953 - Mayor of Rochester, New York, historian and writer^[131]
- Benjamin Franklin Mudge 1840 - Mayor of Lynn, Massachusetts

Religion

- Edward Gayer Andrews (B.A., 1847) - President of Cazenovia Seminary, Cazenovia, New York ; later Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
- Osman Cleander Baker (1812-1871) - Biblical scholar and Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
- Jabez Bunting (D.D. 1834) - English Wesleyan divine.

- John C. Cavadini - Catholic philosopher, theologian; chair, Theology Department, University of Notre Dame; author, editor.^[132] (See List of Catholic Philosophers and Theologians)
- James Wm. Chichetto - Catholic priest, Congregation of Holy Cross, poet, critic.
- Davis Wasgatt Clark (1836) - Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
- Ram Dass (M.A. 1952(?)) - contemporary spiritual teacher; former professor of psychology at Harvard.
- Shira Koch Epstein - Rabbi of the Congregation Beth Elohim (Brooklyn, New York).^{[133][134]}
- James Midwinter Freeman - clergyman and writer.
- John W. Gowdy (1897) - Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Church, and college and university president (appears above).
- Erastus Otis Haven (1842) - Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, multiple university president, and a Massachusetts State Senator (appears above).
- Robert T. Hoshibata (1973) - Hawaiian Bishop of the United Methodist Church.
- John Christian Keener (1835) - Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
- Daniel Parish Kidder (1836) - Theologian and missionary to Brazil.
- Delmar R. Lowell (1873) - Minister, Civil War veteran, historian, genealogist.
- Willard Francis Mallalieu - Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
- James Mudge (1865) - Clergyman, author, and missionary to India.
- Thomas H. Mudge 1840} - Clergyman.
- Zachariah Atwell Mudge (1813-88) - Pastor and author.
- Samuel Sobieski Nelles 1846 - Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, college president (appears above).
- Frederick Buckley Newell (A.B., 1913) - Bishop of The Methodist Church (elected 1952).
- B. T. Roberts (University Honors) - Co-founder of Free Methodist Church of North America, abolitionist, founded college (appears above).
- Henry White Warren (1853) - Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, author, and a member of the Massachusetts Legislature (brother of William Fairfield Warren).
- Erastus Wentworth (B.A. 1837) - Methodist Episcopal minister; missionary to Foochow, China; college president.

Royalty

- Carlos, Prince of Piacenza (political science) - Heir apparent to the headship of the House of Bourbon-Parma, Duke of Madrid

Science, technology, and inventors

- David P. Anderson - scientist at Space Sciences Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley
- Taft Armandroff 1982 - director of the W. M. Keck Observatory at Mauna Kea (July 1, 2006-)^[135]
- Harold DeForest Arnold Ph.B. 1906, M.S. 1907 - physicist, research led to development of transcontinental and intercontinental telephony and advances in electroacoustics, first director of research of Bell Telephone Laboratories^[136]
- Wilbur Olin Atwater 1865 - chemist, founder of first agricultural experiment stations in the U.S.; from 1873-1907 director of Office of Agricultural Experiment Stations, United States Department of Agriculture; first to quantify the calorie; pioneer in utilization of the respiration calorimeter
- Oliver L. Austin - ornithologist
- Susan Barry - neurobiologist; seminal work, Stereoblindness; The Neuroscience Institute, Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole; author^{[137][138][139][140][141]}
- Albert Francis Blakeslee 1896 - botanist, known for research on jimsonweed and fungi
- Bryon Alden Brooks - inventor, first typewriter that could shift between lower- and upper-case letters, among other inventions^{[142][143]}; also author of *Earth Revisited*
- Henry Smith Carhart 1869 - physicist and university professor
- Kenneth G. Carpenter 1976, MA 1977 - Project Scientist for NASA Hubble Space Telescope Operations^[144]
- David Carroll (physicist) Ph.D. 1993 - Director of the Center for Nanotechnology and Molecular Materials at Wake Forest University
- Jennifer Tour Chayes 1979 (BA, Physics and Biology) - mathematical physicist, Head of Theory Group at Microsoft Research, co-author of 100 scientific papers and co-inventor of more than 20 patents, one of 1st women to head a

- research laboratory in the United States^[145]
- John M. Coffin 1966 - molecular biologist, National Academy of Sciences, American Cancer Research Professor at Tufts University, simultaneously Director of the HIV Drug Resistance Program in the National Cancer Institute^[146]
 - Richard Dansky - designer of computer games, author
 - Russell Doolittle 1951 - Biochemist, co-recipient of Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize, National Academy of Sciences, Guggenheim Fellow
 - Clay Dreslough 1983 - creator of Baseball Mogul and Football Mogul computer sports games
 - Gordon P. Eaton 1951 - geologist, 12th Director of the United States Geological Service
 - John Wells Foster 1834 - geologist and paleontologist
 - Daniel Z. Freedman - physicist at MIT, co-discovered supergravity, American Physical Society Dannie Heineman Prize for Mathematical Physics, Dirac Prize, among other awards
 - George Brown Goode - ichthyologist
 - Michael E. Greenberg 1976 - neuroscientist; National Academy of Sciences; professor of neurology and chairman of neurobiology at Harvard Medical School
 - Henry I. Harriman BA 1898 - patents for many automatic looms; builder of hydroelectric dams
 - Gerald Holton 1941 - physicist, Harvard; physics of matter at high pressure; American Physical Society Abraham Pais Prize, American Institute of Physics Gemant Award
 - Eric Howard - geologist, known for his work in environmental policy as well as geology
 - Orange Judd 1847 - agricultural chemist, funded Wesleyan's Orange Judd Hall, one of nation's 1st buildings designed exclusively for teaching undergraduates science courses
 - George Kellogg 1837 - inventor and patent expert
 - Oscar Lanford B.S. and Hon. Doc. - professor of mathematics at ETH Zurich; mathematical physics; 1986 National Academy of Sciences Award; Dobrushin-Lanford-Ruelle equations
 - Albert L. Lehninger BA 1939 - pioneering research in the field of bioenergetics; affiliated with the University of Wisconsin, the University of Chicago, and Johns Hopkins University.^[147]
 - Silas Laurence Loomis 1844 - inventor; Astronomer to the United States Coast Survey, scientist
 - Benjamin Franklin Mudge 1840 - geologist, paleontologist, discovered at least 80 new species of extinct plants and animals, among other work
 - Frank W. Putnam BA 1939, MA - biochemist, National Academy of Sciences^{[148][149]}
 - Edward Bennett Rosa 1886 - physicist, specializing in measurement science; subsequently developed a variety of measurement devices; National Academy of Sciences (1913)
 - H. Eugene Stanley 1962 - physicist; seminal contributions in statistical physics; one of the founders of econophysics; National Academy of Sciences; 2004 Boltzmann Medal
 - Carl Leo Stearns B.A. 1917 - Astronomer; the asteroid (2035) Stearns is named after him, as is the crater Stearns on the far side of the Moon
 - John Stephenson (coachbuilder) - invented and patented the first street car to run on rails, remembered as the creator of the tramway
 - Charles Wardell Stiles (attended) - parasitologist
 - Michael Tibbetts Ph.D. - professor of biology; research in molecular and cell biology, as well as genetics and biochemistry
 - Alfred Charles True 1873 - agriculturalist and educator; from 1893 to 1915 director of Office of Agricultural Experiment Station, United States Department of Agriculture
 - Mark Trueblood - candidate for Ph.D. (in physics), engineer and astronomer, noted for early pioneering work in the development of robotic telescopes, headed development of the Hubble Space Telescope control center at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center
 - George Tucker (Ph.D.) - Puerto Rican physicist and former Olympic luge
 - Nichlas J. Turro 1960 - professor of Chemistry at Columbia University, National Academy of Sciences, Willard Gibbs Award (2000), Distinguished Scholar at Caltech (1984-1985), 800 scientific papers, two textbooks on Organic Photochemistry (considered the "bible" in this field for generations)^[150]
 - Jesse Vincent 1998 - developed Request Tracker while a student at Wesleyan^[151]
 - John Monroe Van Vleck 1850 - astronomer and mathematician; namesake of Van Vleck crater on the Moon

Activists

- Dan Ackman - journalist and civil rights lawyer
- John Emory Andrus 1862 - founder of the SURDNA Foundation (1917)
- Gerald L. Baliles 1987 - director of the Miller Center of Public Affairs (2005-)
- John Perry Barlow 1969 - founding member of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, cyberlibertarian, political activist
- Andrew Bridge 1984 - advocate for foster children; former CEO, the Alliance for Children's Rights; New York Times best selling author; Fulbright Scholar^{[152][153][154]}
- Eric Byler 1994 - political activist
- Marc Kasky - consumer activist, a co-director of the Green Center Institute
- Matt Kelley 2002 - founder of the Mavin Foundation
- Melody Moezzi 2001 - founder of activist group Hooping for Peace, a human rights organization
- Robert Carter Pitman 1845 - a temperance advocate
- Charles Bennett Ray - first black student at Wesleyan in 1832; abolitionist; promoter of the Underground Railway, the newly founded Liberty Party, and the temperance movement
- Richard S. Rust 1841 - abolitionist; co-founder, Freedman's Aid Society; co-founder, 1st president of Wilberforce University; co-founder, Rust College (named in his honor)^{[155][156]}
- Juliet Schor - Leontief Prize (Wassily Leontief) by the Global Development and Environment Institute
- Larry Selzer 1982 - president and CEO, The Conservation Fund^[157]
- Ted Smith (environmentalist) 1967 - environmental activist, founder and former executive director of Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition
- Chuck Stone - strongly associated with the Civil Rights and Black Power movements, first president of the National Association of Black Journalists
- Vin Suprynowicz 1972 - libertarian activist, 2000 U.S. vice presidential candidate of the Libertarian Party in Arizona
- Arthur T. Vanderbilt - proponent of U.S. court modernization and reform

Sports

- Everett Bacon 1913 - football quarterback, pioneer of the forward pass, College Football Hall of Fame
- Bill Belichick 1975 - Head coach, New England Patriots; winner of 2001, 2003, and 2004 Super Bowls (loss in Super Bowl XLII); NFL Coach of the Year twice (2003 and 2007)
- Ambrose Burfoot 1968 - First collegian to win the Boston Marathon; won Manchester Road Race nine times; executive editor, *Runner's World Magazine*
- Mike Carlson - NFL and NFL Europe pundit (Currently working for channel five in the UK)
- Wink Davenport - former volleyball Olympic player, coach, and official; father, tennis champion Lindsay Davenport
- Jeff Galloway 1967 - former American Olympian, celebrated runner, author of *Galloway's Book on Running*
- Jed Hoyer 1996 - General Manager of the San Diego Padres;^[158] former Assistant General Manager (2003-2009) and interim Co-Manager (2005-2006) of the Boston Red Sox
- Kathy Keeler - Olympic Gold Medalist in rowing (member of the women's 8) in the 1984 Olympics; Olympics coach in 1996^{[159][160]}
- Amos Magee 1993 - Professional soccer player and coach, former head coach of the Minnesota Thunder, played for the club for 12 seasons, and is its all-time scoring leader, United Soccer Leagues Hall of Fame
- Jeffrey Maier 2006 - College baseball player famous for an instance of fan interference at age twelve and Wesleyan's all-time leader in hits
- Eric Mangini 1994 - Head Coach of the Cleveland Browns, former Head Coach of the New York Jets, former defensive coordinator of the New England Patriots
- Vince Pazzetti - elected to College Football Hall of Fame
- Bill Rodgers 1970 - Renowned runner; winner of four New York Marathons and four Boston Marathons; winner of Fukuoka Marathon, making him the only runner ever to hold the championship of all three major marathons at the same time
- Henri Salaun 1949 - won the United States Squash Racquets Association (USSR) National Championships four times (1955, '57, '58, and '61); won the inaugural U.S. Open in 1954
- Harry Van Surdam - elected to College Football Hall of Fame
- James Wendell 1913 - Olympic Silver Medalist in 110-meter hurdles in the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm

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