

**Remarks by H. Kim Bottomly
President of Wellesley College
Rhode Island Wellesley Club Guest Speaker
November 12, 2009**

On November 12, 2009, H. Kim Bottomly, Ph. D., President of Wellesley College, visited with the Rhode Island Wellesley Club at the Providence Art Club and spoke about the current state of the College, its priorities and challenges, and the administration's plans to take Wellesley into the future.

Opening remarks were made by Valerie Morozov '07, President of the Rhode Island Wellesley Club, who thanked the board, President Bottomly's assistants, the Wellesley Alumnae Association, and President Bottomly for coming to Rhode Island for this event. Valerie gave a quick biography of Kim Bottomly (the H. stands for Helen which is also her mother's first name):

Kim Bottomly, Ph. D. is the thirteenth president of Wellesley College. She has both a BS in Zoology and a Ph. D. in Biological Structure from the University of Washington. She performed post-doctoral research at the National Institutes of Health, after which she joined the faculty of Yale and began her ground-breaking career in the then new field of Immunology.

Editor's Note: President Bottomly's research was focused on the parts of the immune system that protect us from disease by instructing white blood cells to attack foreign bodies in the blood and tissue. The timing of her work was vital because, within the next decade, the HIV/AIDS pandemic would begin and it was her work that formed the basis for discovering how the disease functioned and ultimately finding ways to test for it and fight it.

Professor Bottomly eventually went into administrative work, becoming Deputy Provost of Yale, where she was working when Wellesley called looking for a new President in 2007. Most recently, in 2008, Kim Bottomly was named to the University of Washington's list of 100 Most Remarkable Alumni, and in 2009, she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is the first scientist to become President of Wellesley College.

President Bottomly's remarks were interesting, informative, and gracious. They are summarized below.

President Bottomly's Remarks

President Bottomly thanked the RI Wellesley Club board for their leadership --- this is what "keeps Wellesley strong and vibrant."

She noted that, in a recent visit to her mother in Seattle, her mother asked her to speak to a few friends she knew from the Seven Sisters Colleges in the area. Expecting a group of about twenty people, she was shocked to find over one hundred appear to hear her speak. The strength and power of such a network is a

strategic asset of the College. Dr. Bottomly called ours the single most powerful women's network in the world. What has surprised her most since coming to Wellesley is the "depth of commitment" of its alumnae. "An outsider can see the difference." Wellesley alumnae are the best ambassadors for Wellesley.

State of the College

Last year was difficult. The endowment lost 17% of its value in the economic crisis. This mandated reduction of all budgets, which will be felt through 2014. How did the College handle this?

We "didn't want cuts across the board." The administration and faculty had to assess priorities by deciding what "we can't do without." The top two answers were financial aid and the student experience.

There was some good news: the number of applicants climbed last year and financial aid was increased as the College reaffirmed its goal that admission should be based on accomplishment and promise, not ability to pay. "There should be as much calico as velvet" in the student body and we "want the very best!" Alumnae annual giving rose in the past year and President Bottomly offered her heartfelt thanks for that vote of confidence from the Alumnae.

Planning for the Future

There are a number of projects in the works at the College despite the difficult economy:

1. Financial aid has been increased and fourteen new tenure-track faculty positions have been added to the College.
2. Buildings -- the Diana Chapman Walsh Hall (formerly Alumnae Hall) is being renovated to update its facilities.
3. The Madeleine Korbel Albright Institute for Global Affairs is slated to act as an educational outlet for students and a think tank for women's leadership.
4. The Davis Museum is in the process of hiring a new director.
5. College Collaborations - students may now take courses at the nearby Olin College of Engineering in Needham in addition to MIT. Also, courses may be taken at Babson College in Wellesley.
6. Initiatives:
 - a. New First Year Seminars are planned
 - b. Strengthen the roles of women in Science by expanding research opportunities for students and faculty.

"These are difficult times, but we're not making compromises - we're moving on and we will soar."

Things Wellesley needs from her alumnae:

1. Ambassadors for the College

2. Get the work out about Wellesley's affordability,
3. Continue to support the College.

President Bottomly ended her remarks with a quote from Margaret Mead:

"Never doubt that a small group of citizens can change the world."

Kim Bottomly was sure Mead was thinking of Wellesley women.