
WASHINGTON COLLEGE ACADEMY *of* LIFELONG LEARNING

Fall 2013 Newsletter

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



Twenty-one years ago WC-ALL began with 100 members and five courses; today

we have approximately 350 members and are offering 28 courses. Altogether this semester, 353 students are attending a total of 1,128 classes, a near record for WC-ALL.

The message is clear: the greater Chestertown community values WC-ALL; it provides a vital intellectual service. We recognize the need to grow our capability to serve an expanding membership and our goal is to meet that important need. We are committed to reaching the goal, however it is a major on-going challenge.

Except for two courses which were limited in size for class discussion purposes, everyone



Thirty intrepid travelers participated this past spring in our first international tour, *Cathedrals, Castles, Countryside - and Pubs*. Read Bobbie Chase's lively travelogue and enjoy the photos on the WC-All website: <http://www.washcoll.edu/offices/wc-all/>.

was accepted into their first and second choices. This was possible for three reasons. First, we were able to recruit 28 instructors to teach a wide variety of stimulating subjects. By having so many courses available, students had a greater selection and we had fewer oversubscription problems. Second, we had assistance from the Unitarian Universalists to use its venue to supplement the Washington

College classroom capacity. Third, two instructors generously volunteered to teach a second session, which doubled the number of students able to take those two courses.

We have every reason to believe that the challenges of limited space and demand for more courses will continue. Solving these challenges is the highest priority of your Council. Our greatest immediate need is for more instructors/courses next semester (Spring 2014). You can help us by submitting a course proposal to offer to teach. Our successful instructors have come from

The WC-ALL office has moved and is now located in room #5 on the bottom floor of Smith Hall. Parking is limited in this area, which is all the more reason for you to master on-line registration and to mail in your event and membership checks promptly.

all walks of life. Many of them were not teachers by profession, but have a special interest or avocation they enjoy sharing. Please think of your own interest and consider sharing it with our Members.

Submitting a course proposal is easy. Just complete the on-line course proposal form at <http://www.washcoll.edu/offices/wc-all/propose-a-course.php> to let us know of your potential course and availability to teach. Course proposals are due October 7.

Our second greatest constraint is for off-campus meeting rooms that can accommodate roughly 100 students. For comparative purposes, the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House is ideal for the following reasons: the room is already set up, there is good parking, the room is handicap accessible and is equipped with Wi-Fi and audio/visual

capabilities. If you know of and can help us to obtain a facility that meets these criteria, please let us know.

Another way our members can help is to take advantage of on-line registration. If you have internet access, it is simple and easy and the benefits are many: you know your registration has been entered correctly and on time; your application is not delayed by snail-mail; and it saves us administrative time in that your information does not have to be re-keyed. We hope you'll use our online registration process to make it easier on you and on our office.

We are a volunteer, non-profit organization totally dependent upon our membership. For those of us who are not teachers but would like to help, our Special Events Committee has need of folks to help at Learn at Lunches, day trips and at

bi-annual Showcases.

As the new Chair of WC-ALL, I am honored to lead this vital organization along with the Council during a period of challenging growth. Our stewardship is to continue the successful time-tested practices and policies that have worked well for 21 years. We are totally indebted to our instructors and supporting volunteers, both past and present, who have brought us to where we are today. We thank everyone for their help.

— Bill Low, Chair

CURRICULUM



As the new Curriculum Chair, I want to recognize and thank Jack Stenger for his five

years of service and leadership as the past curriculum chair. The increased prestige of WC-ALL plus the expansion of courses, both in number and diversity, has only been possible thanks to the many dedicated WC-ALL volunteers such as Jack Stenger.

The Fall Semester is in full swing. It was a busy summer reviewing some 35 course proposals and helping prepare the fall catalog. The 28 courses offered this semester represent a balancing act, blending the diversity of courses and the popularity of the instructors across



the span of available time slots and classroom space in an effort to give our members the greatest opportunity to satisfy their interests. Given the quantity of proposals, balanced against available classrooms, we asked some instructors to defer their courses to the Spring 2014 Semester, giving us a healthy start on our spring offerings. This fall we had five new instructors and courses to add to our prestigious ranks: Tom Davis, Criminal Justice; Mary Saner, Producing Radio Programs; Janet Kane, *The Hero's Journey*; Gary Schiff, *Six Great Jewish Communities of Europe*; and John Gillespie, Celtic Music.

No sooner did we get the Fall Semester launched than we started the countdown for the Spring Semester, with course proposals due October 7. This may seem early, but due to numerous festivities and schedule pressures during the holiday season, a timely response is integral to the preparation of the Spring Catalog.

Each semester we encounter challenges, issues and concerns brought forward by our Members, but this affords us the opportunity for continuous improvement of the WC-ALL experience. The Curriculum Committee is focused on making our course offerings relevant, stimulating and enjoyable. As the semester concludes, please remember to submit a course evaluation form, available at



It doesn't get much prettier than Longwood Gardens' fabulous holiday extravaganza. Look for the email/flyer with details of the December 5 trip, coming soon.

our website (<http://www.washcoll.edu/offices/wc-all/course-comments.php>). Your feedback is important to us.

I look forward to seeing you at the Spring Semester Showcase on January 14.

— Dick Swanson
Curriculum Chair

THINK AND LEARN WITH WC-ALL AND YOU WON'T "GROW MOLDY"



The latest edition of *AARP Magazine* (September 13, 2013) talks about keeping both the body and mind active to maintain a high quality of life. Join us for Learn at Lunches and

our day trips to do just that.

The Special Events Committee has planned several activities for this semester. By the time you receive this newsletter, you will have had an opportunity to hear local historian Steve Frohock's September Learn at Lunch talk on the War of 1812.

Don't miss the October Learn at Lunch on Wednesday, October 16 with attorney Jack Lahr who will talk on "The Death Penalty in America". Mr. Lahr is a former colleague and friend of our own John Christie (who has led you through many stimulating discussions on cases before the Supreme Court). Mr. Lahr's talk promises to be equally engaging.

November's Learn at Lunch topic, on Wednesday, November 20, will feature Virginia Hansen Holmes sharing her experiences in WWII Philippines as

her family fled into the jungle when the Japanese invaded her country.

WC-ALL DAY TRIPS FOR FALL 2013

Our first trip of the season to the Maryland Historical Society on October 2 was a huge success, and for our next adventure we are taking you to Longwood Gardens for Christmas! On the afternoon of Thursday, December 5 we will travel to Kennett Square, PA to tour the exhibits, watch and hear the evening Holiday Light Show—a kaleidoscope of flowers, colors and music of the season. We return after dark, leaving you free to just enjoy the trip and not be burdened with nighttime driving. This trip is in lieu of the holiday dinners and cocktail party held in previous years and we hope you will enjoy it as much as we have enjoyed putting it together for you. Registration information will be sent to you very soon.

We'll be filling some big shoes

soon as our office administrator, Meghan Siudzinski, leaves at year-end to join her husband who has taken a position at Amherst. We thank Meghan for her expert work, her warmth and patience, and her willingness to take-on the many roles that come with a one-man office, and we wish her, Robert and their daughters all the best in their new home.

Space is limited on this and all our trips, so mark your calendar and return your reservation form as soon as possible.

Just like our Curriculum Committee, your Special Events team is always working toward the future, so you may want to mark your calendar for the 2014 Learn at Lunch dates and speakers:

January 15: Bayley

Janson-LaPalme on the
“Chestertown Fires”

February 12: Marc Castelli
on his work as an artist

March 19: Susie Chase on
the world of Lacrosse

April 9: Richard Rosenberg
on the National Music
Festival

— Kathy Sack, Co-chair
Special Events Committee

COLLEGE LIAISON



This academic year brought several staff changes to Washington College. We welcomed Satyajit Dattagupta, Vice President of Enrollment and Bradley Booke, Director of Admissions, as well as other new staff in the admissions and enrollment office. Gary Grant arrived in late August to assume responsibilities as the new Vice President of Advancement. Other positions in transition



Long-time instructor and Council member Dan Oberholtzer was recognized for his many contributions to WC-ALL at the annual meeting in May.

include a continuing search for a new Vice President of Student Affairs, a new Director of Marketing, and a replacement for the Chief Information Officer. We also welcomed to campus 392 new students including freshmen, transfers and international students, and a number of new faculty.

The College was recently recognized by Washington Magazine as one of the best “Bang for your Buck” campuses in the nation. The authors reviewed data from 1,527 colleges with only 346 making the final list. Washington College ranked number 46 for available financial aid and for successful outcomes after graduation. Also receiving national kudos is the College’s Psychology Department. The American Psychological Association recently

lauded the number of students conducting scientific research and presenting their work at professional conferences.

The Washington College Concert Series, revamped this year, will showcase diverse works, some presenting original compositions. For subscription information, call 410-778-7839. 12@Hotchkiss, the noon-hour concert series, is also underway on the first Friday of each month in Hotchkiss Recital Hall, with free admission to all!

Several activities occurred on campus shortly after classes started. Fall Convocation featured awards from the Alumni Association to Timothy B Maloney and William J. Burke. Fall Family Weekend included a

Homecoming dance, an Academic Open House, a Waterfront Festival with a cardboard boat race and crab feast and, to cap-off the festivities, a musical event on the Gibson Hall terrace. Buildings and ground changes on campus include the transformation of The Casey Academic Center Forum to a new visitor and prospective student center with interactive panels and digital displays, scheduled to open this month. Several new faculty offices were created to accommodate incremental faculty hires, and the WC-ALL offices were relocated to the basement of Smith Hall, room #5.

—Andrea Lange
Washington College Liaison

MENTOR PROGRAM

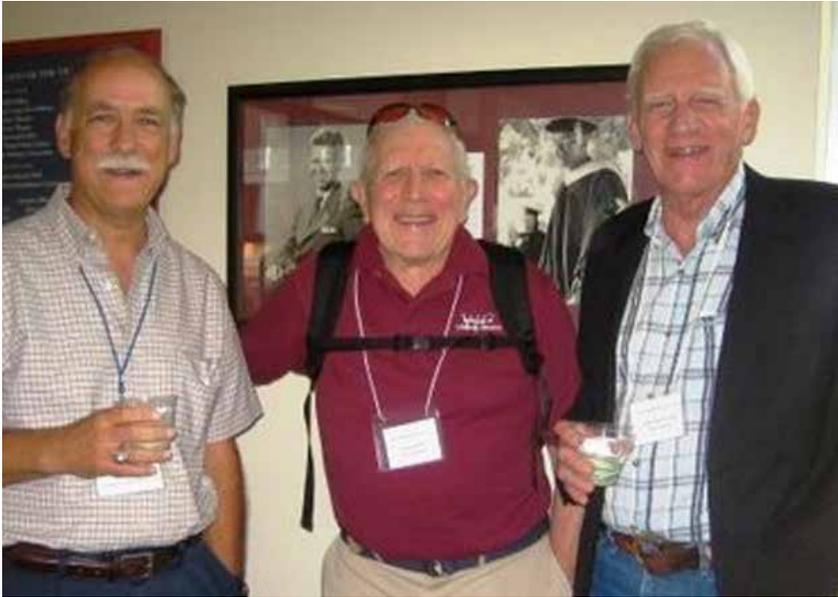


With this semester's bumper crop of 59 new international students, the international population of Washington College has grown to almost 10% of the student population.

Of these incoming students, 48 signed on for mentors. Added to the students returning for another semester or year with mentors already assigned, Kent County (and yes, some of Queen Anne's County) can proudly say that it is going international in a big way.



Forty-eight new international students requested mentors this semester – a record!



Curriculum Committee Chair Dick Swanson, our Webmaster Dick Lance, and Civil War Basics instructor Clayton Newell, shown here at Fall Showcase, are three of the many volunteers who donate their time to make WC-ALL a success

This year's students who have now met mentors are from China, Argentina, France, Norway, Australia, Austria, Hong Kong, Finland, Japan, Turkey, Denmark,

Morocco, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Ecuador, Nigeria, Germany, Ethiopia, and Vietnam.

Over the course of the summer, the mentoring program has

become a great deal more organized thanks to the help of Doug Heisler who, along with Dick Lance and the website committee, has worked hard to get information about the mentoring program included on the WC-ALL website (<http://www.washcoll.edu/offices/wc-all/mentoring.php>). A click on the mentoring tab on the site will take one to all kinds of information, both geared toward WC-ALL members, and toward interested students or parents.

In addition, a new Facebook page "WC-ALL/WAC International Mentoring" has been posted and is quickly gaining membership as past mentors and students post pictures and messages. This is a great place for the mentoring community to meet and to have a chance to fully appreciate just how far their kindness extends out into the greater world. Student after student talk about how much the program continues to mean to them, even years after they have returned to their home countries.

The Mentor barbecue/asado is scheduled for October 19. More details will follow in an invitation to be sent to mentors and former mentors.

—Barbara Parker, Co-Chair Mentor Program

Coming Events

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| October 16 | Learn at Lunch: Death Penalty in America: From Colonial Times to the Present with Jack Lahr |
| November 20 | Learn at Lunch: Guerilla Daughter with Virginia Hansen Holmes |
| December 5 | Christmas at Longwood Gardens |
| January 14, 2014 | Showcase, Hotchkiss Recital Hall, Gibson Center for the Arts |
| January 26 | Spring Semester, First Session classes begin |
| March 16 | Spring Semester, Second Session classes begin |

More information and registration materials will be posted at www.washcoll.edu/offices/wc-all/special-events.php. Special events information will also be sent via email closer to the time. Make sure we have your current email address.

MEET YOUR NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

A warm welcome to Connie Schroth and Turner Smith who were elected to the WC-ALL Council at the May Annual Meeting;



Connie is an educator who taught in New Jersey public schools for 34 years (art education and gifted/talented). After “retiring” to Chestertown, she has not slowed down. She was the Director of Imagination Alley, Director of “Washington’s Legacy,” a Teaching American History federal grant project, and she is currently the Academic Coordinator of Horizons of Kent County, a 6-week summer learning program for low-income public school children. She volunteers in the Kent County school system and has taught an art history class for WC-All. Her great interests are children and their educational opportunities, travel, continued new learning, gardening and art. Connie has attended WC-ALL classes from the time she arrived in Chestertown and as a Council member she is lending her many talents to the Publicity and Curriculum Committees. She lives in Chestertown with her husband, Larry, and their daughter, Kate.



Georgia-born Turner Smith divides his time between Chestertown and Baltimore where he has served on numerous profit and non-profit boards. He is a graduate of Williams College and earned an MBA from the University of Virginia. His 35 year business career was spent in the finance and investment industries, more specifically with the firms Alex Brown and The Bank of America, from which he retired approximately 10 years ago.

Turner and his wife Judy have two sons and five grandchildren. His specific interest in the American Civil War started his association with WC-ALL and that interest has deepened and led to an even greater appreciation of the entire WC-ALL program. He is teaching Civil War Navies this fall and working hard on the WC-ALL Council as Assistant Treasurer.

Georgia-born Turner Smith divides his time between Chestertown and Baltimore where he has



New Council member Connie Schroth and instructor Terry Finn helped with the Fall Showcase. Be sure to mark your calendar for Spring Showcase which will be held January 14 in the Gibson Center for the Arts.

Here’s the full, 12-member Council line-up:

William Low, Chair
Betty Spence, Vice Chair,
Publicity Chair
Damon Bradley, Treasurer
John Christie, Immediate
Past Chair
Dick Swanson, Curriculum
Chair
Frances Miller, Special
Events Co-chair
Kathy Sack, Special Events
Co-chair
Andrea Lange, College
Liaison
Mary Pritchard, Website
Development
Connie Schroth, Publicity
Committee
Turner Smith, Assistant
Treasurer
Joan Wise, Curriculum
Committee



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Photo credits: Our thanks to Members Bobbie Chase, Dick Lance, Barbara Parker, and to Brooke and Trish Harwood (separately!) for the photos in this issue. We'd like to hear from more of you! If you have high resolution photos of our Members engaged in WC-ALL activities you'd like us to consider, please email them to Betty Spence at 4wc-all@gmail.com

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Going down! Despite some optimistic paddling, one boat is destined for the Chester River bottom during Fall Family Weekend's Cardboard Boat Regatta.