View from the Chair

By the time you receive this newsletter you should be in the midst of spring classes and enjoying your courses. You also will have had the opportunity to attend excellent Learn at Lunches with presentations from historian Bayly Janson-LaPalme and artist Marc Castelli. Hopefully, you will be able to join other members of WC-ALL for the upcoming special day trip to Dumbarton Oaks Museum and Gardens in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, April 23.

On behalf of the Council, I am happy to report that all of our 288 members who signed up for Spring Semester classes got into their top choice – number one priority – for both sessions one and two. This was a major achievement. It took a lot of work behind the scenes by the Council to accomplish the goal.

This success was the combined result of four different factors. First, the Curriculum Committee succeeded in offering 22 courses, 5 more or a 30% increase over the number given last spring. This greater diversity meant there was less chance of too many members choosing the same course. Second, the registration improvement team modified the enrollment form so that we now know every member's number-one class priority and can make meeting that our priority. Third, thanks to the help of the Unitarian Church, we have been able to move three classes off-campus to satisfy membership demand when sufficient space could not be obtained at the College. Fourth, Tom Timberman generously agreed to teach a second session when he learned that twice as many students chose his class, Foreign Policy/21st Century, as their top priority than there was space available. We expect these trends to continue and will work hard to meet the challenge

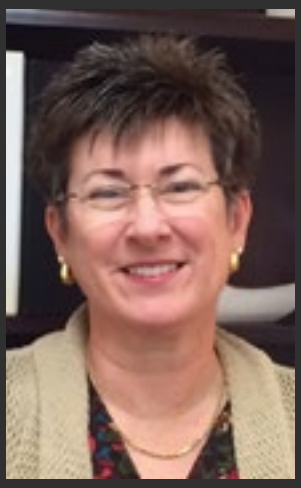
Two of our most valued Council members, John Christie and Damon Bradley, will reach the end of their second three-year terms in May. Due to term limits, they will need to leave the Council. I cannot think of more devoted and capable Council members. Both could always be counted on to provide sound advice in difficult situations. John guided WC-ALL for an unprecedented three years. As a veteran instructor, he added the balanced perspective of both the membership and faculty. Damon always kept us grounded and operating within budget. In his six years on the Council he was our Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer for three years each. We are also losing Francie Miller and Joan Wise, who are retiring after one term. Both served admirably on the Special Events Committee, Francie as a Co-Chair and Joan as a member of the committee. While we are sorry they are leaving the Council, we are pleased they will still be active on their committee.

Lastly, please plan to attend the Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 15, when we will elect four new Council members and celebrate this year's activities. All of us on the Council hope to see you there.

Bill Low
Chair

Sue Calloway

– go-to gal



WC-ALL Administrator Sue Calloway has been the go-to person since November. If you haven't met her, you are missing something! The transition between WC-ALL's former administrator, Meghan Siudzinski, and Sue was seamless.

WC-ALL is indeed fortunate. Sue comes to us from a full-time position at Washington College where she provided front-line reception for the Office of Provost and Dean for four and a half years. There she fielded calls, set up appointments, coordinated calendars and planned a number of activities in that busy administrative area. As an insider, she knows Washington College. She not only brought this knowledge and her many professional skills to WC-ALL, but, as importantly, she brought her cheerful demeanor and willingness to "make it happen," in regard to WC-ALL programs and services. Anyone who has interacted with her knows Sue takes care of requests and questions promptly and efficiently.

Sue originally hails from the Wilmington, DE, area, but she and her husband, Greg, have resided in Galena for 17 years now. Sue has enjoyed taking courses at WC-ALL on an annual basis and has encouraged her parents, who have just moved to the area, to do the same.

Sue's comment for this article was to say "how excited I am to be here. I waited for the job to be open!" We are gratified that you are here, Sue, and we thank you for your stewardship of WC-ALL and its members.

Curriculum Looking at Fall 2014

What a vast supply of curriculum resources exist in and around Kent County! Within a relatively short time, it does not take long for a newcomer to realize the depth and breadth of the talent resident in the Kent County area. Each new social occasion or chance introduction leads to a discussion of some-one's expertise, hobby or knowledge gained during the course of his or her "first" career.

The WC-ALL curriculum continues to be the beneficiary of the large talent and experiences of diverse and stimulating courses. The Spring Semester alone six of 22 courses are topics or instructors new to the WC-ALL membership.

In the next few months, to bolster our continuing effort to offer stimulating and relevant courses, we will be exploring the potential for working relationships with the various organizations around the Kent County community that may be the source of new course topics or content. These organizations include RiverArts, Sultana Projects, Homeports, and the Kent County Library, just to name a few. We are looking for a working relationship that can be beneficial and rejuvenating for both organizations, especially in developing new membership and project ideas.

If you have recently retired and moved to the Eastern Shore, you might consider proposing and teaching a course related to your new "encore" career. It's easy to make a proposal directly on our website: **washcoll.edu/offices/wc-all/propose-a-course.php**.

If you have one of those chance introductions or know someone with the passion to share their knowledge or career with the many members of the WC-ALL community, please contact me, Dick Swanson [rcswan47@yahoo.com], or Sue Calloway at the WC-ALL office. You will be glad you did!

Dick Swanson
Curriculum Committee Chair

Thank you, WC-ALL 2013-14 Instructors

Twenty instructors gave their time and talent to bring superb courses to the WC-ALL membership this academic year. Please add your thanks to the following individuals when you see them for making the WC-ALL Program such a success.

John Ames
Sam Barnett
Warren Beaven
John Christie
Tom Davis
Terrence Finn
David Foster
Robert Fox
Herb Friedman
Carl Gallegos
John Gillespie
Charlotte Hawes
Dick Hawkins
Peter Heck
Jane Hukill
Bayly Janson-LaPalme
Gail Johnston
Janet Kane
David Keating
Dick Lance
Sherwin Markman
Bob Miller
Patricia Molloy
Clayton Newell
Judie Oberholtzer
Fran Phaneuf
Lucia Rather
Mike Roberts
David Robinson
Joe Rogers
Philip Rosenberg
Sharon Somers
Jack Stenger
Mary Saner
Gary Schiff
Turner Smith
Dick Swanson
Tom Timberman
John Wieczoreck
Harold Woodhull

TED

IDEASWORTHSPREADING

Here's food for thought for leisure moments: the wide-ranging presentation of TED Talks on the web. TED, a nonprofit devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading, started out in 1984 as a conference bringing together people from three worlds: **Technology, Entertainment, Design.** The TED Talks are some of the best of the presentations and inspiring voices. They can be accessed at **new.ted.com/playlists** or through the free app from iTunes.

College News

Despite a few disruptions from snow and ice, Washington College welcomed 19 new international students and 17 transfer students to campus in January. The focus now is Fall 2014. As WC-ALL students, you may be interested in our promotional pieces. Take a look at the two videos developed by the Admissions Office: "This Is Washington College", **washcoll.edu/live/news/4338-this-is-washington-college**, and the lively music video "Glad You Chose Us" **washcoll.edu/admissions/**.

The lyrics for "Glad You Chose Us" were written and performed by our own Washington College WACappella group.

February and March activities have included cultural events, speakers series, musical concerts, art exhibits, and athletic competitions, not to mention the traditional Washington's Birthday Convocation and the annual Birthday Ball, with this year's theme, "The Wizarding World of Washington College." Review the College calendar on-line anytime (**washcoll.edu/calendar**) for what is going on.

You may have noticed that plastic trays have been eliminated by our dining services in an effort to reduce food waste. This is part of a larger campus-wide initiative to improve sustainability.

In the safety arena, Public Safety has launched a new smartphone safety application, LiveSafe, that allows faculty, students, staff, parents and visitors direct contact with emergency services and creates the capability for anonymous and fast reporting of health and safety concerns. Washington College is among the first campuses to invest in the LiveSafe app. For more information, visit **washcoll.edu/live/news/4698-campus-safety-theres-an-app-for-that** and the LiveSafe website (**livesafemobile.com/about.php**).

Andrea Lange
College Liaison

Special Events News

Welcome to the Spring 2014 term from the Special Events Committee. We have been pleased to schedule four Learn at Lunches: **Chestertown Fires** by Bayly Janson-La Palme; artist Marc Castelli's talk about **Maryland's Watermen; The World of Lacrosse** by Susie Chase, WC Class of 1990 and Managing Director of the U.S. Lacrosse Foundation; and Dr. Richard Rosenberg's behind-the-scenes view of our favorite June celebration, **The National Music Festival**. Along with the Lunches, we scheduled a day trip to the Maryland Historical Society Museum in Baltimore's Mt. Vernon area.

The Special Events Committee is organized by co-chairs Kathy Sack and Francie Miller along with the wonderful help of committee members: Peggy Christie, Joan Wise, and (joining us for the spring term) Ginny Barker.

Day Trip to Dumbarton Oaks

"There was a need in this country, we thought, of a quiet place where the advanced students and scholars could withdraw, the one to mellow and develop, the other to write the result of a life's study." Robert Bliss, 1940

What a legacy Robert and Mildred Bliss left! We have an opportunity to experience this legacy on April 23 with WC-ALL's trip to Dumbarton Oaks.

Administered by Harvard University, the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection is located in residential Georgetown and is indeed a "quiet place" in a beautiful setting on Georgetown's hillside near Rock Creek Park. Its museum focuses on Byzantine and Pre-Columbian art.

This is a wonderful way to welcome spring. We will enjoy mid-afternoon lunch at a Kent Narrows restaurant as we return home.

Annual Meeting and Cocktail Party

We end the spring term with our Annual Meeting and Cocktail Party to be held on May 15 in the McLain Atrium, Toll Science Center. Enjoy this opportunity to talk informally to WC-ALL faculty, Council members, and your fellow classmates.

Kathy Sack
Special Events Co-chair

Dumbarton Oaks

Mentor Program

Launched in 1996, the WC-ALL International Student Mentoring Program has matched Washington College international students with WC-ALL members and other local residents who serve as their mentors. Through these relationships, students are able to experience "real" life in Kent County and become better acclimated with American culture. Mentors, in turn, meet and form friendships with interesting students, learn about different cultures, and even practice foreign language skills. Many friendships have been formed within the Program, connecting families across the globe.

Each mentor-student relationship is as unique as the individuals themselves. The Program aims to match international students with mentors who have similar hobby, career, travel or language interests. Students can also be matched with mentor families with children, allowing them to experience what American family life is all about. In turn, the families are introduced to another culture, the world around them, and to new people and ideas.

Typically, mentors arrange to meet their students for coffee, a meal, or to go on a local excursion together. From there, they choose how regularly they want to meet, according to what fits into each person's schedule. The international student community at Washington College has grown in recent years and will likely continue to do so. The Fall 2013 semester saw approximately 44 international students matched with local Mentors and their families. Nineteen new international students arrived in the Spring semester. Some of those students are here to study for a semester-long exchange, but more than half are here to study for a year or as matriculating 4-year students.

Please think about mentoring a student in the fall. It's done with a simple application found on the WC-ALL website at **washcoll.edu/offices/wc-all/menoring.php**. Or call me, Cynthia McCann, the new WC-ALL Mentor Coordinator, at (410) 708-6173. I will be happy to talk to tell you more about the Mentoring Program, and what a rewarding experience serving as a mentor has been and continues to be for my family and me.

Cindy McCann
Mentor Program Coordinator

Coming Up!

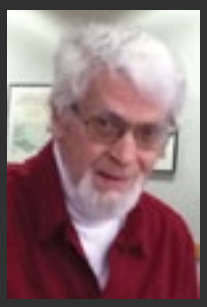
March 19
Learn at Lunch
Susie Chase, The World of Lacrosse

April 9
Learn at Lunch
Richard Rosenberg, The National Music Festival

April 23
Trip to Dumbarton Oaks

May 15
WC-ALL Annual Meeting and Cocktail Party, McLain Atrium, Toll Science Center

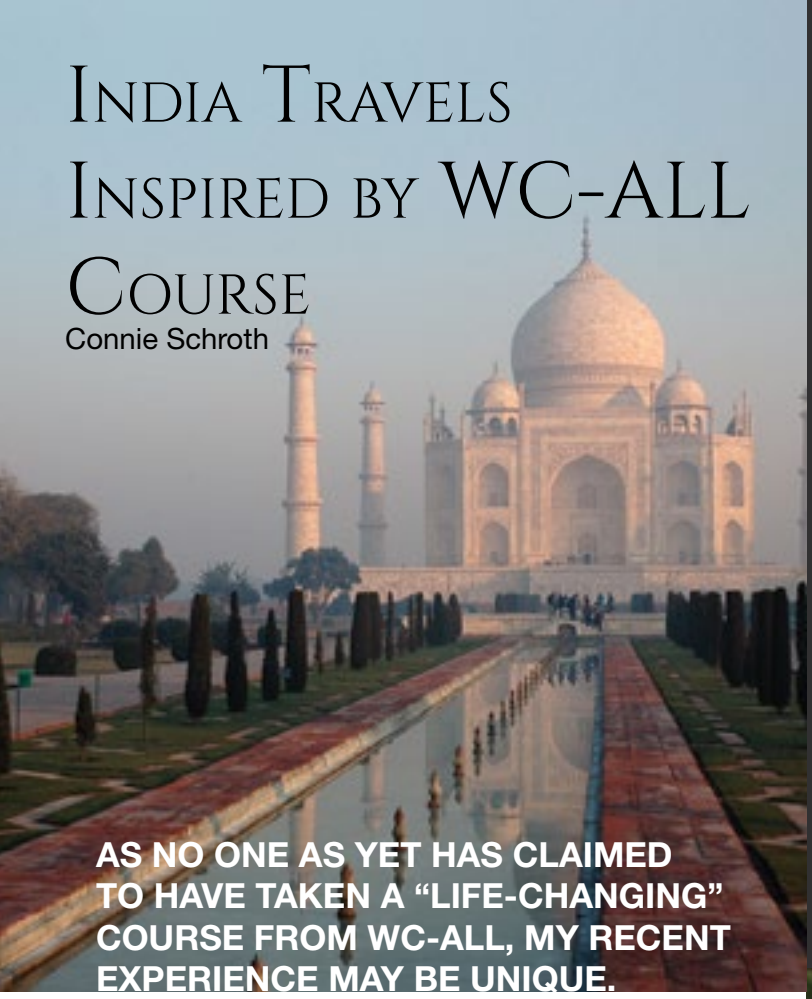
Instructor Carl Gallegos (l) taught Environmental Issues in the first spring session.



Jac Smolens (r), an Annapolis wood sculptor who lived in the Esherick farmhouse in Paoli, PA, shared the outrageous and humorous side of Wharton Esherick.

India Travels Inspired by WC-ALL Course

Connie Schroth



AS NO ONE AS YET HAS CLAIMED TO HAVE TAKEN A "LIFE-CHANGING" COURSE FROM WC-ALL, MY RECENT EXPERIENCE MAY BE UNIQUE.

Seeking to make sense of the political situations in Afghanistan and Pakistan, I took two WC-ALL courses on these topics taught by Charlotte Hawes. Beneath the valuable factual information presented, I sensed a strong personal connection between Charlotte and this part of the world.

When she offered a class on India, I ate it up. Course over, I headed out the day after Thanksgiving to see India for myself. Below are reflections from Charlotte's time in India and my observations after my recent trip to this amazing country. WC-ALL fosters extraordinary experiences, both in and out of the classroom!

From Charlotte: In 1969 Santa Claus came to Delhi on an elephant. Mrs. Nanda, my next door neighbor, worried I was getting too thin, "Your husband will not want you," she said. In Khajuraho we gazed at the endless friezes of three and four people having Tantric sex; a little boy kept pulling my sleeve, "Memsab, memsab, I am showing you the best ones." The Sikh taxi drivers at the end of our road washed their long hair in the public spigot, then wound it up in their turbans. The chai stand in the alley behind the house didn't close till the wee hours. In the heat of mid-day the shop was closed; the chai wallah slept on his charpoi out front. No washing machine, no laundromat, the dhobi did the laundry in the river. The sweeper, from an untouchable caste, wanted desperately to become a cook, but the Ayah, who was Catholic, wouldn't hear of it. In the trains little bits of ash came in the open window and rested on your clothes. At the wedding we went to Indira Gandhi held court out front with the guests while the sixteen-year old bride was secluded in the back dressed in red. The outdoor nursery school my daughter attended had little blue and yellow chairs and monkeys in the trees overhead. When my son got sick Dr. Nanda brought the oxygen tent to the house on the back of his bicycle. Our Ayah had an altar in the corner of her room with statues of Mary, Jesus and Ganesh. And the Taj. Always the Taj. I loved it all. Still do

From Connie: A trip to India had long been at the bottom of my "bucket list," possible, but a stretch. However, after three passionately taught WC-ALL courses on Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India with Charlotte Hawes, it became a priority, a part of the world I needed to experience.

In December 2013 I met my sister in the Delhi airport and began a 16-day adventure that left me amazed, exhausted, wiser and confounded. My photos don't begin to show the feeling of expanded world understanding I brought home. India is stunningly beautiful, painfully brutal, richly spiritual, so very old and very young in so many ways. The contrasts are astounding - colors, smells, noise, traffic, politics, traditions - and difficult to shape into a single impression. The information from Charlotte's classes had prepared me for much of this. I took my course notes with me so I was able to actively observe and participate in the adventure with a solid groundwork of basic understanding, instead of touring within a bubble of cultural aloofness. I also shared my class notes to anyone in our tour group who would listen. Thank you WC-ALL and Charlotte.

David Foster (l) and Bill Herb (c) examine a brass Indian water vessels brought in by Karl Fritz (r), a retired Foreign Service Officer and WC-ALL "student."

The making of a course

Those of us who took David Foster's "Wet and Wild" course can appreciate the "passion" brought to the class as David shared his knowledge and experience on water and sanitation challenges around the world.

David knew about WC-ALL ever since moving to Chestertown in the mid 1990's. A neighbor, the late Bill Wise, told him that WC-ALL was "school the way it ought to be;" but David was then on assignments internationally with EPA, AID, as a faculty member of the Administrative Staff College of India in Hyderabad, and later, serving as Chester Riverkeeper in Kent County.

His class was larger than he had expected, often the case with our engaged WC-ALL membership. Some of his material had been prepared for previous presentations, but all of it was fine-tuned for our WC-ALL class. Did it take long to prepare? "I'm a perfectionist," David said. "You don't want to know."

In his class David presented real problems that exist in other countries and possible solutions that involve social and political systems as well as natural resource management. "Seeing problems elsewhere is easier than seeing them in our own country," he said. "But there are similarities across geographic lines. We learn by looking at other countries."

This WC-ALL course, like so many others, came together by luck. In this instance, David just happened to sit next to Curriculum Committee Chair, Dick Swanson, at a function not at all related to WC-ALL; the conversation between them led to a follow-up by Dick asking David to teach. Teach he did and aren't we fortunate? Perhaps there's another course up David's sleeve. Be alert to any serendipitous conversations that might lead to another great WC-ALL offering. Instructor recruitment is something we all need to consider to continue to provide the wonderful selection of Programs we offer.

Look for your Fall 2014 Catalogue in mid-August. It will come in the mail and be on the WC-ALL website.

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We are looking for pictures: If you have high resolution photos of our Members engaged in WC-ALL activities, please email them to Betty Spence at **4wc-all@gmail.com**