

1782 - 2026

Washington College

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S
BIRTHDAY CONVOCATION



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026

4:00 PM

CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

WASHINGTON COLLEGE CONVOCATION

PROCESSIONAL.....	Richard C. De Prosopo, Ph.D. <i>Marshal, Professor of English and American Studies</i>
INVOCATION.....	The Reverend Caitlan Gartland <i>Presbyterian Church of Chestertown</i>
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.....	Stevie Lyles '26
WELCOME.....	Bryan Matthews, Ed.D. '75 M'86 P'12 <i>President of the College</i>
GREETINGS.....	Zach Tipton '27 <i>President of the Student Government Association</i> Rick T. Wheeler '86 <i>Chair of the Board of Visitors and Governors</i>
PRESENTATION OF THE.....	Kiho Kim, Ph.D. <i>Provost and Dean of the College</i>
Cromwell Award for Innovation in Teaching Shaun Ramsey, Ph.D., Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science	
PRESENTATION OF THE.....	President Matthews
Joseph L. Holt Distinguished Service Award Hilary Bateman, Ed.D. Nanette Cooley John Ruth	
PRESENTATION OF THE.....	Eddie Raleigh '08 <i>Chair, Washington College Alumni Board</i>
Alumni Service Award L. Myrton Gaines II '78 Pat '87 and Debbie McMenamin '88 P'16	

PRESENTATION OF THEPresident Matthews
President's Medal
John Schratwieser
ShoreRivers

KEYNOTE ADDRESSRanger Angela Crenshaw '04
Director, Maryland State Parks

CLOSING REMARKSPresident Matthews

ALMA MATERWACapella

BENEDICTIONRev. Gartland

RECESSIONALMarshal De Prospro

OLD WASHINGTON

Charles L. Atwater, 1926
Arr. Garry E. Clarke H'88, 1995

By the gleaming blue Chester River
On the Maryland Eastern Shore,
Stands a glorious Alma Mater
Whose name we will ever adore.
'Tis a name that shone high in glory
When our country her freedom won.
And our College alone
Was the first one to own
To the fair name of Washington.

(Chorus)

So Washington, old Washington,
Our Washington we do adore.
We will fight for her honor,
As her sons and daughters have before.
So Washington, old Washington,
Our Washington forevermore,
She's our dear Alma Mater
On the old Eastern Shore.

ABOUT THE AWARDS

Cromwell Award for Innovation in Teaching

This award is given annually to an instructor who has exhibited exceptional accomplishments in pedagogy, including using new instructional technologies, revamping traditional technologies in creative ways, applying novel approaches to instruction, innovating curricular development, and engaging students in the learning process in new ways. Through this award, The Cromwell Center for Teaching and Learning seeks to sustain and encourage Washington College's instructors to continuously rethink and redevelop their teaching and learning approach. This honor is awarded each spring to an instructor for exceptional accomplishments during the two previous academic years and includes a \$1500 prize.

Joseph L. Holt Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes exceptional performance, leadership and service by an employee of Washington College. Recipients have a record of exemplary performance and distinctive contributions to the operation of an administrative, academic, research or service unit on campus. They have clearly demonstrated initiative toward the improvement of the College's programs or campus activities and have shown commitment to the campus community as a whole.

Alumni Service Award

This award is given annually to alumni who have given outstanding and continued support to the College. Recipients have enthusiastically participated in the life of Washington College through personal involvement on leadership committees, association with the student body and engagement of fellow alumni. Their selfless commitment of time and talent has been augmented by their willingness to enhance the financial welfare of the College.

President's Medal

This award is given to an individual or organization with an exemplary record of sustained and acknowledged contribution to the quality of life in Chestertown, Kent County and Washington College. The successful candidates demonstrate service to their fellow human beings and these contributions have exerted a wide-ranging and positive influence upon the greater community.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ranger Angela Crenshaw '04

Director, Maryland Park Service

2026 Washington College Award for Excellence



In April of 2023, **Ranger Angela Crenshaw '04** was appointed the acting director of the Maryland Park Service and was honored to be offered the position full time in November 2023. Her priorities as director include implementing the Great Maryland Outdoors Act, managing the natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources of the State of Maryland, and ensuring that all of our public lands are welcoming places for all guests regardless of race, ethnicity, orientation, gender and ability. She oversees over 90 properties (that include parks, battlefields, rail trails, natural resources management areas, natural environment areas and state historical parks), 269 classified employees, over 140,000 preserved acres, 1,153 miles of trails, and 2,200 camp sites.

In 2024, Crenshaw received the Department of Natural Resources Leader of the Year Award and the Harriet Tubman Lifetime Achievement Award from the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture. In early 2025, she was named the Maryland Woman of the Year by USA Today.

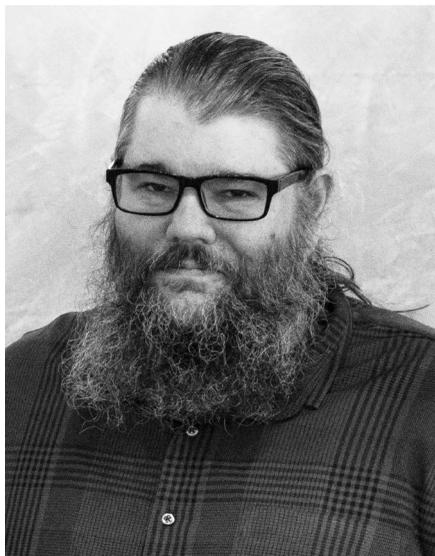
Crenshaw received her bachelor's degree in economics and environmental studies from Washington College and her master's degree in Energy and Environmental Policy from the University of Delaware.

Crenshaw began working at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in 2008 as a Natural Resources Planner, removing abandoned boats and debris and working on the water trails program for Boating Services. She became a Maryland Park Ranger in 2013 and moved up the ranks through her time at Elk Neck and Gunpowder Falls State Parks. As assistant manager of Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park, Crenshaw shared both her knowledge of the environment and the legacy of Harriet Tubman. Crenshaw became the first Black female park manager in the history of the Maryland Park Service when she became park manager of Susquehanna, Rocks and Palmer State Parks in 2022.

CROMWELL AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN TEACHING

Shaun Ramsey, Ph.D.

Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science Department



The Barbara and George Cromwell Center for Teaching and Learning 2026 Innovation in Teaching Award recognizes **Shaun Ramsey** for his success in what he calls “interdisciplinary learning through play.” In courses like Game Design and Computer Organization and Architecture, Ramsey uses creative experiential projects to shift abstract subjects into concrete “celebrations of creation and expression.” Ramsey observed that students find their way to computer science through a love of gaming but are faced with introductory courses that do not connect to what they’re passionate about doing, which requires advanced programming skills. He also understood the need to offer introductory classes that would appeal to both aspiring computer scientists and the computer-curious non-major alike.

Ramsey’s innovative teaching approach addresses these gaps and lowers barriers to entry to computer science by centering creativity, play, and interdisciplinary collaboration. His model shifts abstract, and perhaps intimidating, introductory computer science content into hands-on and curiosity-driven exploration that blends technical problem solving with artistic and creative thinking. He achieves this by designing mixed-level game design courses that center group project-based problem solving and development activities and allow students to learn from each other as they acquire new knowledge and skills. By intentionally recruiting major- and non-major students, then pairing them together in course projects, he models the ways in which the field of game design benefits from a wide range of disciplinary approaches to the work.

Ramsey began his career at Washington College in 2004 after completing an undergraduate degree in computer science with a concentration in chemical engineering at the University of Delaware in 1999, followed by a Ph.D. in computer science at the University of Utah.

JOSEPH L. HOLT DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Hilary Bateman, Ed.D.

Assistant Dean of Advising and Academic Advocacy



Hilary Bateman has been at Washington College since 2015, first joining the Office of Academic Skills. Since 2022, she has served as assistant dean of advising and academic advocacy, creating a meaningful and educationally effective advising experience to support all students. She anchors her work in research-based practices that she adapts to the needs of individual students. She supports students through learning centers, success coaching, disability access, advising, and advocacy, continually challenging herself to improve processes and the student experience.

Bateman works with students individually to create and implement plans for success as they define it. She provides training and leadership in Washington College's advising programs, sharing advising standards and best practices from other small liberal arts schools to support advisors in providing

a holistic and supportive transition from high school through college to graduation and beyond.

While much of her work with students is interpersonal, Bateman also develops large-scale programming to support her vision. She spearheads the summer advising program that welcomes incoming students to the college, introduces them to departments and resources across campus, and sets students up for success through individualized advising sessions. She also volunteers to teach courses such as the first-year seminar *Setting a Course for Academic Success*, designed to improve students' academic performance through topics such as study skills and time management.

Beyond advising, Bateman brings a wealth of knowledge regarding academic support, disability accommodations, and mentorship of student employees to the student success department. She has served in multiple roles in her time at the College, resulting in incredible institutional memory and expertise.

JOSEPH L. HOLT DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Nanette Cooley

Executive Director of the Center for Career Development



Nanette Cooley leads the career center team in providing personalized, meaningful experiences for students, alumni, employers, and families. A true advocate for the liberal arts, Cooley connects students to opportunities aligning with their core values and aspirations, preparing them not only for successful careers, but also for meaningful lives.

Since joining Washington College in 2017, she has elevated the Center for Career Development into a dynamic, student-centered resource. As executive director, Cooley has provided strategic direction for the College's career development initiatives, strengthening career education, experiential learning, and on-campus student employment. Under her leadership, the Center has become known for offering personalized guidance, thoughtful partnership, and innovative programming that engages students, alumni, employers,

faculty, and families alike.

Cooley provides individual career coaching and counseling to students and alumni, facilitates workshops, and coordinates on- and off-campus programs including regional networking events. She has created an environment where students feel supported and inspired as they prepare for life beyond college. She has a remarkable ability to connect students, alumni, faculty, parents, and employers, building relationships that lead to meaningful opportunities. Her leadership strengthens career education and experiential learning and impacts student outcomes while honoring each individual's unique path.

Her service to the broader profession is equally distinguished. Nanette is an active member of the National Association of Colleges and Employers and the Eastern Association of Colleges and Employers. She also serves as a Board Member of the Maryland Career Consortium and played an integral role in the Maryland and Pennsylvania Career Consortium. Through these affiliations, she has elevated Washington College's visibility and strengthened its connections to regional and national networks.

With a master's degree in counseling services from Rider University, Cooley has worked in higher education for more than 30 years.

JOSEPH L. HOLT DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

John Ruth

Sports Fields Manager



John Ruth has worked at Washington College for a decade, starting in Public Safety and spending the last seven years as the College's lead groundskeeper for athletics. In both capacities, he has contributed through dedicated and hard work. His expectations for himself are high, and he takes great pride in his work. His willingness to go the extra mile is exemplary.

The look of Washington's fields and facilities affect recruiting and retention of student-athletes, and Ruth understands the importance of that, doing all he can to ensure our facilities look great year-round. He oversees all of the College's grass practice fields, as well as our baseball and softball fields, and Kibler Turf. He has to manage the demand of all these different types of surfaces and ensure they remain at a level conducive for varsity competition at the collegiate level.

Ruth goes beyond his specific duties as well, helping with preparations for graduation and the annual spring concert. He pitches in to remove snow and lends a hand when equipment needs repair, whether a mower, tractor, generator, truck, or anything else.

His warmth and friendliness also contribute greatly to our campus. John Ruth is a true treasure to our campus and is one of its unsung heroes.

ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

L. Myrton Gaines II '78



A member of the Board of Visitors and Governors since 2020, **L. Myrton Gaines II '78** is vice president of Gaines & Company, a Maryland utility contractor.

As a student, he majored in psychology, was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, and played varsity lacrosse for four years. He was named third team All-American in 1977 and 1978. His 1977 team lost to Hobart in the NCAA Division III Finals.

Gaines was inducted into the Washington College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2015. A former member of the President's Leadership Council, he served on the Johnson Fitness Center Renovation Committee and the Kirby Stadium Committee. A member of the Athletics Director Circle, Gaines hosts the annual Fish Fry event at his Chestertown home in support of

the College's lacrosse program.

After graduating from Washington College, Gaines began his career at the family business, Gaines and Company, founded by his father in 1954. He has helped turn it into one of the most well-respected utility contracting companies on the East Coast. After 40-plus years he is now the vice president of the company coordinating all field operations, visiting jobsites, and working closely with every client. Uniquely qualified by his vast experience in the field, Gaines attends to the intricate details when overseeing projects.

Gaines is known for his congenial nature, and he genuinely helps employees, customers and inspectors understand their worth to the company. He is also a past president of the Associated Utility Contractors of Maryland.

He and his wife, Mary Walsh Gaines '79, have been married for 38 years, and have two children. In addition to Myrt and Mary, the Gaines and Walsh families have four other Washington College alumni: Harry Walsh '48, Patrick Walsh '85, Thomas Gaines '86, and Evan Gaines '22.

ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

Pat '87 and Debbie McMenamín '88 P'16



Pat and his wife **Debbie** have been staunch supporters of the College for decades. Even beyond the graduations of their daughter and son-in-law and Pat's terms on the Alumni Board, they are still avid attendees of Washington College reunion and athletic events, and Pat continues to serve as the Lehigh Valley Chapter Chair.

Patrick J. McMenamín, Jr. '87 is the founder of the Lansdale law firm McMenamín Law, working in the areas of DUI Defense, Criminal Defense, Family Law, Divorce Law, Civil Litigation and Business & Transactional Representation. He has served Montgomery & Bucks Counties since 1990. In his early career Pat worked at a large area law firm known for their sophisticated work in injury law and litigation. He trained as a litigation attorney in the position of

Assistant District Attorney with the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office.

Pat majored in business management and was a member of the baseball and men's soccer teams, Kappa Alpha fraternity, and has been a Watershed volunteer, chapter leader, and reunion committee and Alumni Board member.

Debbie McMenamín '88 has worked in the life insurance industry for more than 35 years at the agency, carrier & brokerage general agency levels. She enjoys working with advisors, carriers, and clients to help obtain coverage with a focus on customer satisfaction. Debbie appreciates working with team members in a collegial environment to promote a positive & productive workplace. Her most recent position was as vice president for life brokerage operations at Wentworth Financial Partners.

At Washington College, Debbie majored in history and was a member of Alpha Chi Omega. She served on the student government, The Elm, and as a resident assistant.

Pat and Debbie are the parents of alumni Cate McMenamín Pervola '16 and son-in-law Neal Pervola '17 and live in Telford, Pennsylvania.

PRESIDENT'S MEDAL

John Schratwieser

Director, Kent Cultural Alliance



John Schratwieser has been the director of the Kent Cultural Alliance since January 2018. In that role, he is a tireless advocate for the centrality of the arts to a thriving, equitable, and connected community. His work has crossed many arts sectors, engaged many audiences, and measurably improved the state of the arts in our small but mighty community through the provision of programming and operational grant funding to county arts organizations, direct grants to working artists, and the maintenance of a beautiful downtown education and gallery space.

Schratwieser has spent nearly 30 years in nonprofit management in the arts, healthcare, and higher education. Prior to taking the reins at KCA, he was the director of Maryland Citizens for the Arts, the statewide arts advocacy

organization responsible for Maryland's public investment in arts and culture. Maryland is currently third in the nation in *per capita* funding for the arts.

Schratwieser first came to Chestertown in 2004 to lead the Prince Theatre Foundation, a community theatre located in downtown Chestertown. While there, he significantly expanded programming, worked to expand and diversify the theatre's participants and audiences, and led the major renovation campaign that resulted in the renamed and rejuvenated Garfield Center for the Arts.

An artist himself, Schratwieser has performed with major choral organizations such as the New York Choral Society, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus, and the Thomas Circle Singers. He currently sings with the Chester River Chorale and the Emmanuel Church Chester Parish choir. He can be seen on stage locally at the Garfield Center for the Arts, the Mainstay in Rock Hall, and Church Hill Theater. John lives with his husband, artisan potter Mike Pugh, and their Golden Retriever Franklin at the historic Friendship Farm in Worton, Maryland.

PRESIDENT'S MEDAL

Shore Rivers



ShoreRivers protects and restores Eastern Shore waterways through science-based advocacy, education, and restoration. ShoreRivers represents a model of effective, community-rooted environmental leadership and envisions healthy, swimmable, fishable rivers that are accessible to all communities.

Formed in 2017 through the merger of the Chester River Association, Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy, and Sassafras River Association, ShoreRivers united decades of collective experience to strengthen the reach and coherence of waterway restoration across the Eastern Shore. Today, with more than 2,500 members and over 300 completed restoration projects, ShoreRivers' portfolio extends from large-scale agricultural wetland and stream restorations to neighborhood stormwater retrofits and shoreline protection projects. Every effort is guided by scientific rigor, community partnership, and a deep commitment to the health of the Chester River and the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The partnership between ShoreRivers and Washington College is a hallmark of their contribution to the region. College faculty and ShoreRivers staff have collaborated on multiple research projects on topics ranging from citizen science participation to cover crops.

Through the Center for Environment & Society, ShoreRivers has mentored countless student interns, research assistants, and citizen scientists—providing hands-on experience in fieldwork, water quality monitoring, data analysis, GIS, community engagement, and campus restoration projects. At least eight Washington College alumni have gone on to work at the organization. ShoreRivers staff are integral to Chesapeake Semester, where they engage students in dialogue about water quality, environmental justice, and restoration challenges. ShoreRivers has also been a consistent supporter of the Washington College Museum, Field, and Community Education program. Each semester, their educators host fieldwork and internship students who are interested in better understanding how the work of informal environmental education is undertaken in both school and community contexts. ShoreRivers' education team consistently models best practices for enduring and high-impact instructional practices.