A Thoroughly Modern Welcome

It’s a hard-hat zone at the moment but, by early November, prospective students and their families will be greeted in a brand-new visitors center that blends history and modernism to tell the Washington College story.

Workers started deconstructing the Casey Academic Center Forum in early August, preparing to introduce touch-screen information kiosks, a video wall, and iPad tabletops to the grand Georgian-style ballroom. Etched glass walls, modern furnishings, and the latest technological gadgets serve as a counterpoint to the College’s rich history—evident in the old maps, artifacts, and images incorporated into the modern design.

Creating an impressive admissions visitors center was at the top of the list of priorities established by Satyajit Dattagupta, the Vice President for Enrollment Management who joined the College’s senior leadership team on July 1. Dattagupta proposed moving the admissions operation from the third floor of the Casey Academic Center so that visitors enter the building through the College's most gracious entrance and then are easily drawn into a comfortable, welcoming space with a big “wow” factor. A series of interview rooms will be conveniently located down the hall from the visitors center.

“The campus visitor experience is a critical part of our recruitment strategy,” says Dattagupta. “It’s about making a great first impression. When prospective students and their families visit Washington College, their experience has to be memorable. We want to showcase our history, our location, our academic programs, our faculty and alumni, and all the wonderful opportunities Washington College has to offer, so that prospective students can’t imagine going anywhere else.”

The project is being financed from restricted endowment funds set aside for the Casey Academic Center.
Greetings 1782 Society Members,

Over the past four days I have been immersed in getting to know the campus, Chestertown, and the surrounding region. House hunting has helped me to learn my way around, and I love how people wave hello as you pass and are quick to introduce themselves. I visited the farmers market and enjoyed pirate bands in Rock Hall. I’ve attended religious services, made my way to the Betterton Beach, and sampled enough restaurants to begin identifying favorites.

My wife, Kerry, and I walked through a quiet campus at dusk, getting caught in the rain as we stood on the Kudner Bridge and imagined watching our first lacrosse game. It doesn’t take long to begin to feel some of the magic that happens here. Talking to a recent graduate, I got a clear sense of how students become imbued by the spirit of Washington College and through a shared experience feel connected to other students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends who comprise the extended Washington College family.

I’ve never felt more welcomed and more honored to be invited into a community. This is a very special place and I know that I am only just beginning to understand how much so. In Fort Worth, I was friends with the founder of our young medical school, Carl Everett, who was 98 when I asked him for advice on how I and other staff could best preserve his legacy. His response: “Just take care of each other.”

I want to thank you and to express my admiration to all of the members of Washington College’s 1782 Society for taking care of the students of today and tomorrow. You not only preserve traditions, but you expand them to fulfill the needs of our nation and its future citizens and leaders.

I am excited by President Reiss’s vision for Washington College. It is inspiring to hear him and other leaders passionately address the broad challenges in higher education and, at the same time, the needs individual students face on a daily basis. I sense that the ability to think big while caring about each individual is a distinguishing feature of this community.

I look forward to hearing your stories and understanding your passion for the College, and I’m eager to start working together.

Gary Grant
Vice President for College Advancement

The 1782 Society Giving Levels

The Alonzo G. Decker, Jr. Society $25,000 or more
William Smith Fellows $10,000 - $24,999
President’s Club $5,000 - $9,999
Sustaining Members $2,500 - $4,999
The Founders Club $1,500 - $2,499

Associate memberships are available for graduates of the last decade.
2004 Alumni $1,000
2005 - 2009 Alumni $500
2010 - 2013 Alumni $100

To discuss your membership, please phone Rebekah Hardy at 410-778-7865 or email her at rhardy2@washcoll.edu.
Exploring Indiantown Farms

Washington College students are learning more about a Native American settlement along the Chester River after spending several weeks digging, sifting and analyzing in the College’s Summer Archaeology Field School. The site at Indiantown Farms in Centreville, the family home of 1782 Society member Mary Wood ’68, yielded few artifacts, “but, it was very rich in many other forms of information,” says Bill Schindler, associate professor of archaeology, who led the field school with Julie Markin, a teaching fellow in anthropology. “With the type of field recovery techniques we practiced, laboratory analysis can reveal a great deal of valuable information about the past. The real story’s going to be told when the students complete their work.”

Nicolle Gamez ’14, an anthropology major, is studying floral remains. With on-site instruction from archaeobotanist Justine McKnight, Gamez used a method called soil flotation to bring to the surface organic fragments that might otherwise be missed or destroyed using traditional methods. Chris Menke ’14, also studying anthropology, is looking at faunal remains—fish scales, bones, oysters—using carbon 14 dating to place them in temporal context. “The level we’re working in shows no pottery, which suggests it’s pre-ceramic,” Schindler says. “If so, it’s more than 3,000 years old. We’d like to have a more accurate date.”

Sarah Cohen ’14 is analyzing stone tools and flakes from the site, while Dana Case ’14 is conducting experimental archaeological analysis utilizing technology available at the time to open oysters, and comparing those marks and traits to the shells found on site.

The students and the field school are taking advantage of grants through Faculty-Student Summer Collaborations, a new effort to encourage such partnerships in the arts, humanities and social sciences. “Summer collaborative research in the natural sciences has grown tremendously in the past few years, thanks to the leadership of faculty across the division and the generous support of The Hodson Trust,” says Provost and Dean Emily Chamlee-Wright. “These experiences are premier examples of the transformational teaching and learning that takes place at Washington College. It’s my goal to expand them across the disciplines.”

1782 Members Are Drawn To Miller Library

As an independent radio journalist, Mary Saner likes to research and report the stories that other people aren’t paying so much attention to, “something a little offbeat.” Clearly she’s found a niche, since her stories have been aired on Voice of America as well as NPR, Westwood One and CBS radio.

To find ideas and inspiration, the 1782 Society member makes a regular pilgrimage to Washington College’s Miller Library, where she immerses herself in the periodicals, dozens of newspapers and magazines in the racks on the library’s main floor. And while print journalism may be old-fashioned to the students who frequent the library, the periodicals section is deep enough to provide Saner a steady stream of ideas to feed her radio work.

“There’s Maryland news as well as business and film; it covers a wide variety of subjects,” she says. “It’s fun. I really learn a lot while I’m there, and I enjoy seeing the students, and everybody’s so helpful.”

Newly renovated to the tune of $9 million and reopened last fall, the Miller Library’s open spaces for reading and study, as well as its nifty new café, are among those mostly unsung perks of being a 1782 Society member. While all 1782 Society members have borrowing privileges, Saner says she focuses on the periodicals. She knows there’s a depth of resources she hasn’t even touched upon. She also enjoys the new entryway, which is flanked by display cases that show historic books and artifacts related to whatever topic is at hand.

“It’s a joy going over there really,” Saner says. “It’s just got a very welcoming atmosphere.”
As students, Ryan Bankert ’13 and Jeff Nutting ’13 were four-year roommates, rowing teammates and brothers of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. Now recent graduates, they’ve both earned positions in management development programs at Stanley Black & Decker.

Helping to set them apart in the hiring process were their experiences in professional internships—Nutting with a sales firm in Baltimore and Bankert with a digital software start-up in Chile—where they had the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they’d acquired in the classroom. “I felt comfortable challenging ideas and presenting my own recommendations in meetings because in classes, my professors challenged me to analyze strategies and critique theories, and then present and defend my work in front of peers,” says Bankert.

Much to their gratitude, the pair found support within the Washington College community from donors like Rebecca Corbin Loree ’00, who established the Rebecca Corbin Loree Internship Fund to provide $5,000 annually for students seeking internships in financial services. Assistance came from Loree’s husband, Jim, too. As President and Chief Operating Officer of Stanley Black & Decker, he helped facilitate the initial on-campus interviews that eventually earned the grads their jobs.

“The job market is extremely competitive, and quality internships are a great way to separate you from the market,” explains Nutting, “but with many internships unpaid or requiring students to live away for the summer, they can add stress and financial pressure.”

Now that they’ve settled into full-time jobs, Bankert and Nutting are committed to giving back, already joining The 1782 Society as Associate members. As Nutting explains, “Donors are such a pivotal part of every student’s experience. The greatest opportunities presented to me at WC were because of donors. I wanted to find a way to make sure that every student had the same opportunities and experiences that I did. I thought giving back to a place that gave me so much was the best way to ensure that.”
Scholarship Program Pays It Forward

As costs rise, student scholarships continue to be the single largest expense for Washington College each year. When a donor chooses to offset this expense with a gift of $10,000 or more to The Washington Fund for scholarships, he or she is matched with a scholar who has similar interests or career aspirations. In the case of 1782 Society member Ken Oehlkers ’84, that student is Chris Miller ’14.

“I arranged to meet Gretchen Dwyer, then Vice President for College Advancement, at a place named for an Eastern Shore native—Frederick Café Bistro, on Frederick Douglass Boulevard in [New York’s] Harlem, where I live,” Oehlkers recalls. “She explained that if I gave a gift to the program it would benefit a specific student. I liked the idea of knowing where my gift was going; it was an easy decision.”

Oehlkers, a financial analyst who has lived and worked in Asia and Latin America, increased his annual 1782 gift to participate in the scholars program, and then drove to Chestertown to have lunch with the Oehlkers Scholar. Despite the fact that Oehlkers’ and Miller’s class years stand 50 years apart, they learned they had a lot in common.

“Two weeks after I graduated from Washington College in June 1964, I was in Peace Corps training and, on my 21st birthday, I landed in Peru,” says Oehlkers. “Chris spent his sophomore year in Peru working at a hospital, with plans to return. So we had lots to talk about.”

Miller isn’t shy about expressing his gratitude, noting that lunch gave him a chance to put a face to a donor who has invested in his education.

“Having the opportunity to meet Mr. Oehlkers was a very special moment for me. I recognize that my education here depends on the generosity of people like him,” says Miller. “Being an Oehlkers Scholar and having a channel of communication has showed me the differences that individuals can have on the lives of others.”

In Memoriam – Shirley Dale Patterson ’65

Shirley Dale Patterson ’65, a retired chemist, a longstanding College trustee, and the first female African-American student to have graduated from Washington College, died of heart failure on July 15, 2013 at her home in Chattanooga, Tenn. She was 68.

A student of the late chemistry professor Joseph H. McLain ’37, Ms. Patterson went on to earn a master’s degree in inorganic chemistry from the University of Delaware in 1967. She was the senior analytical group leader in the Division of National Starch and Chemical for Alco Chemicals at the time of her retirement in 1996.

Born in Baltimore City, Dale Patterson was a product of the Baltimore City public school system. As a graduating senior at Washington College, Dale was a co-winner of the Clark-Porter Medal, which was presented to students who had done the most to enhance campus life. She was also president of the Washington College Society of Sciences. Ms. Patterson remained close to her mentors at Washington College and served on the Board of Visitors and Governors between 1985 and 2009. Her lifetime giving at the 1782 Society level places her among the College’s top 100 alumni donors.

Ms. Patterson taught chemistry at Essex Community College and University of Maryland at Baltimore County (UMBC) before going into the private sector. She worked for Betz Laboratories in Trevose, Penn., and moved to Alco Chemicals in 1987.

Dale Patterson was a lifelong member of the Baltimore Ethical Society and was an enthusiastic member of the Mid-Atlantic Turtle and Tortoise Society. Her home was filled with an assortment of turtles, as well as a sizable collection of unique clocks that she cherished.

She is survived by her son, Gregory Scott Patterson of Laurel, Md., his wife, Tira, and two granddaughters. Additional family members include one sister, Carolyn Patterson Ladeji of Baltimore; an aunt, Dorothy V. Brown of Lynchburg, Va.; her brother-in-law, Lalere A. Ladeji, and three loving nieces. The family suggests gifts may be made to Washington College in Dale’s memory.
Nationally prominent sculptor John Ruppert has written that the visual relationship of his artworks to various other objects and to their surroundings is key to his vision. This semester, Ruppert is bringing that vision to Chestertown as part of the College’s groundbreaking SANDBOX initiative.

Funded by a $575,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, SANDBOX is more formally known as “Sandbox: The Washington College Program for Creativity and the Environment.” The interdisciplinary program invites visual and performing artists to collaborate with scholars and professionals in the natural and social sciences to create works and develop courses focused on the environment.

Ruppert will be in residence at Washington College intermittently throughout the semester, working with students and faculty. He will also be giving a talk about the progress of his work at a date yet to be announced. A month-long exhibition of his work opened September 6 in Kohl Gallery.

Former chair of the Department of Art at the University of Maryland, College Park, Ruppert has practiced his art for more than 40 years, always with a focus on nature and the nature of materials, from mud and metal to chain-link fabric and video. Working in a converted trolley-car barn near Baltimore’s Druid Hill Park, he sculpts primarily in stone and metals—aluminum, bronze, copper, iron, zinc and prison-grade chain-link fencing. Ruppert describes his work as inspired by natural phenomena and man’s manipulation of nature. His most recent works juxtapose castings with the chain-link fabric sculptures and introduce video as the light source.

Alex Castro, adjunct professor of studio art and the main creator of the SANDBOX concept, says the award-winning sculptor is a fitting choice to launch the visiting artist aspect of the program. “It will be a tremendous learning experience for our students and the community to have him spending so much time and creative energy with us.”

College Expands Concert Series

Now in its 62nd year, the Washington College Concert Series has been re-organized and expanded to include the full spectrum of musical offerings on campus. It now includes a newly established Premier Artist Series, the free monthly 12@Hotchkiss concerts, and special performances by faculty and students in the Music Department.

The Premier Artists Series takes on the primary function the Concert Series has served in the past—bringing national and international talents to campus for performances, most of them ticketed events. But this year there is an increased multi-disciplinary and educational aspect to the programming. Examples include a Sept. 19 book talk and performance by banjo player and author Stephen Wade and, on October 17, a multi-media performance titled “First Person: Seeing America,” with music by Ensemble Galilei, narration by two actors, and iconic photographs from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Both events are co-sponsored by the College’s C.V. Starr Center.

The 12@Hotchkiss series will continue to provide free lunchtime concerts by top regional or emerging artists on the first Friday of every month. Completing the schedule: Performances by Washington College faculty and students that showcase solo talent, collaborations and campus groups such as the Chorus, Symphonic Band and String Orchestra.

“It just made sense to bring it all under the same roof,” says Music Department chair Ken Schweitzer, who expresses thanks to former Concert Series director Kate Bennett for her years of stewardship and dedication. “By uniting and promoting all the concerts and performances together, we emphasize the great diversity of our offerings. Our new mission is to provide exciting and culturally innovative performances that continue to establish Washington College as a haven for music and a leader in arts education.”
SEPTEMBER 6 – OCTOBER 6, 2013

John Ruppert, sculpture exhibition
(Read full story, opposite page)
Kohl Gallery, Open Wednesday through Sunday, 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2013
An Evening of Fiction with Justin Torres
Torres is the first guest of the Chicano/a & Latino/a Voices Series. The series continues with “An Evening of Nonfiction with Joy Castro” on October 22 and “An Evening of Poetry with Eduardo Corral” on November 3.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2013
The Sophie Kerr Lecture Series begins with a poetry reading by James Allen Hall, recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts, and newest member of the English faculty at WC. Next in the series is “X-Squared + Y-Squared = I Could Care Less: Analysis and Enjoyment in the Literature Classroom” with David Laurence on November 12.

Stephen Wade - The Beautiful Music All Around Us
(Read full story, opposite page)
6:00 p.m. Decker Theatre

SEPTEMBER 20 – 21, 2013
On campus and at the riverfront, enjoy events celebrating Fall Family Weekend, Homecoming, Athletics and the Waterfront Festival. See the full slate at www.washcoll.edu/calendar.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2013
King Henry IV, Part I performed by the American Shakespeare Center
7:00 p.m. Decker Theatre

SEPTEMBER 23, 2013
Don McPherson: Domestic Violence Memorial Lecture
8:00 p.m. Decker Theatre

SEPTEMBER 26, 2013
Lawrence Culp ’85, George Washington Leadership Series
4:00 p.m. Hyson Lounge

SEPTEMBER 28, 2013
Noche de Tango
5:00 p.m. Workshop, Dance Studio (Johnson Fitness Center)

8:00 p.m. Performance, Decker Theatre

OCTOBER 1, 2013
Talk by Jenn Vervier ’90, Director of Sustainability and Strategic Development at New Belgium Brewing Company
4:00 p.m. Hyson Lounge

New Belgium Brewing Company Beer Tasting
7:30 p.m. Goose Nest, Hodson Hall Commons

OCTOBER 2, 2013

5:00 p.m. Hyson Lounge

OCTOBER 3, 2013
Nature Wars: The Incredible Story of How Wildlife Comebacks Turned Backyards into Battlegrounds, with Jim Sterba
5:00 p.m. Rose O’Neill Literary House

OCTOBER 3 – 6, 2013
Clybourne Park by Bruce Norris
Directed by Professor Dale Daigle; Lighting Design by Professor Laura Eckelman
7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday; Decker Theatre
1:00 p.m. Sunday, Decker Theatre
For tickets call 410-778-7835 or email drama_tickets@washcoll.edu

OCTOBER 4, 2013
12@Hotchkiss Series performance: Dan Shomper, cello and Grace Eun Hae Kim, piano
Featuring works by da Falla, Ginastera, Piazolla, Shomper, cello and Grace Eun Hae Kim, piano
and more. The series continues on November 1 with the Capital Reeds.

OCTOBER 11 – 12, 2013
Athletic Hall of Fame Celebration including the Coach Arthey Golf Outing, Sho’Men Happy Hour, Dinner and Induction Ceremony. For a full schedule, ticket prices and to make your reservation, please contact Susanne Kelly at 410-778-7231.

OCTOBER 14, 2013
George Washington Book Prize Celebration honoring the 2013 winner Stephen Brunwell, author of George Washington: Gentleman Warrior
4:30 p.m. Book signing, Underwood Lobby

5:30 p.m. Conversation with the Author, Decker Theatre
6:30 p.m. Reception, Underwood Lobby
7:00 p.m. Dinner hosted by The 1782 Society, Hyson Lounge

OCTOBER 15, 2013
Business Biographers Series: Walter Isaacson
4:00 p.m. Talk, Decker Theatre
5:00 p.m. Book-signing and Reception, Underwood Lobby

OCTOBER 17, 2013
Ensemble Galilei - First Person: Seeing America
Narrated by actor Rob Nagel and actress Lily Knight and featuring iconic photographs from The Metropolitan Museum of Art.
7:30 p.m. Decker Theatre

OCTOBER 18, 2013
The second exhibition in the SANDBOX series: Eric Denker, Senior Lecturer at the National Gallery of Art. The exhibit will feature an original Whistler and other late 19th century engravings from his collection, “Whistler and His Circle in Venice.” Dr. Denker will also present a talk to the College community on Wednesday, October 23.

Following on the topic of Venice will be a talk by Judy Kohl on November 13 and another by Judith Martin on December 4.

OCTOBER 19, 2013
100-Voice Choir Concert
This annual gospel concert celebrates the life and example of the late Reverend Vincent Hynson ’87 and benefits the scholarship bearing his name at Washington College. Tickets will be available for purchase at the door.
4:00 p.m. Decker Theatre

NOVEMBER 11, 2013
Veterans Day Celebration
(see ad on page 8)

NOVEMBER 18
In Search of Jewish Italy, Lecture by Gary Schiff
4:30 p.m. Hyson Lounge

DECEMBER 7, 2013
Kent & Queen Anne’s County Alumni Chapter Holiday Party with special guests, The 1782 Society
5:00 p.m. Hyson-Ringgold House
(108 Water Street, Chestertown)
Box Kite To Bali:
The Last Great Adventure of a U.S. Navy Pilot
by George Thackray Weems
presentation by Gwen Manseau, editor
5:00 p.m.
Hynson Lounge, Hodson Hall

Complimentary Dinner for all Veterans
following the book-signing reception
(Guests are welcomed for a small fee)
6:15 p.m.
Main Dining Room, Hodson Hall Commons

Jazz Ambassadors of the U.S. Army Field Band
7:30 p.m.
Decker Theatre, Daniel Z. Gibson Center for the Arts
For free tickets email concertseries@washcoll.edu or call 410-778-7839.

Post-concert Cocktail Reception
for veterans, their families and Concert Series patrons
9:00 p.m.
Underwood Lobby, Daniel Z. Gibson Center for the Arts

RSVP to Fannie Hobbs Shenk ’84 P’15 at fshenk2@washcoll.edu or call 410-810-5764