Special Notice from the Board
As you may know, the Board of Visitors & Governors met on June 19 for a special session to discuss the status of the strategic plan and the upcoming campaign. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss how President Reiss’ announcement might impact our timing on both these initiatives.

I am very pleased to report that the Board unanimously reconfirmed their earlier endorsement of the substance of the strategic plan and the comprehensive campaign that will enable us to realize it. We believe that once fully implemented, the plan and the campaign will allow us to emulate, in all the ways that matter, a Top 50 liberal arts institution. As such, we see no reason to wait. In fact, the Board believes that by moving ahead with both the strategic plan and the campaign, we will be in a stronger position to attract the caliber of president we need to help us realize our ambitions.

Given that the strategic plan has established a clear pathway for thriving in a difficult higher education market, the Board has, however, issued a challenge. We believe that in order to thrive (and not merely survive) we must accelerate the pace by which we increase the quality of and expand opportunities within the academic and co-curricular programs. In turn, this means that we must accelerate the pace by which we bring new faculty and staff on line, launch and complete major capital projects, and expand support for faculty and staff compensation.

We believe that a more compressed fundraising campaign, a more aggressive admission strategy, and strategic use of limited debt financing are the essential elements that will slingshot us forward. At its June 19 meeting, the Board agreed to task a senior staff working group (Chief of Staff and Interim CFO Joe Holt, Provost Emily Chamlee-Wright, Vice President for Enrollment Management Satya Dattagupta, and Vice President for Advancement Gary Grant) to develop a plan for accelerating the pace by which we fulfill the strategic plan and comprehensive campaign. In the coming weeks, Joe, Emily, Satya, and Gary will vet those plans with the full Senior Staff, Planning Committee, Benefits and Finance Committee, Faculty Council, Administrative Council, Staff Council, and the Board leadership.

The Board of Visitors and Governors has great confidence in the College’s senior management team, excellent faculty, and dedicated staff. We are committed to the direction charted by our new strategic plan and the goals of our comprehensive fundraising campaign. All of this gives us great confidence in the future of Washington College as we embark on the search for Washington College’s 28th President.

Edward P. Nordberg ’82, Chair of the Board

House Keys 4 Employees
Jennifer Sipala, Dining Services Retail Manager, stands in front of her new home. Jennifer is the first recipient of a Washington College grant and the first employee to purchase a home through the WC HK4E program.

Want to make your dream of home ownership a reality? Attend the House Keys 4 Employees Workshop! Details to be announced.

BY GEORGE Employee Newsletter is produced by the Washington College Staff Council. Please send questions, comments and submissions to staff_council@washcoll.edu.
Happy happenings

Sarah Berry, daughter of Jean Berry Smith married Jonathan Paul Kendal on June 1, 2014 in Plymouth Meeting, PA. She was given away by her brother, Tristan, and accompanied by her other brother, Colin.

Darcy E. Elburn, daughter of Sara Ann Smith in the OIT office, just accepted a full time position with the American Association for Justice in Washington, DC. She has accepted the position of Assistant to the CFO. Darcy is also the Chief Editor of "The Motorcycle Times" a free bi-monthly magazine for motorcycle enthusiasts. Darcy is a 2012 graduate from McDaniel college on the tuition exchange program from WC.

Featured Employee

The Featured Employee for the month of June is Laura Wilks-Simms

Laura has been an asset to Advancement jumping right in to a project updating the contact information for over 3,000 alumni, breaking the big lists down into small manageable groups. The goal was to have the changes complete prior to phoneathon. She organized the project and the updates were completed (family, employment, names, etc.) in February. The entire project was more than 390 man hours!

This has helped the Advancement Office to connect with our alumni on a more personal and individualized level which is part of what makes Washington College so special. Having updated information also helps our reunion groups to reach out to their classmates and reconnect with each other as well during times such as Alumni Weekend, which proved to be a great success this past weekend. The success of this project is an example of Laura's positive and organized nature. In her every day work, she dives right in and does an excellent job of staying on track.

Mentor Program

Global Education Office

For over a decade, the Academy of Lifelong Learning has partnered with the College to offer an International Student Mentor Program. Started by Professor Noriko Narita, Lecturer in Japanese, this program has been very successful in connecting international students to the local Chestertown community. Due to the popularity of the Mentor Program and the growing number of international students at the College, there have been more international students than available mentors. Many students seeking a mentor have not been matched. With your help, we hope to change that!

Starting this coming academic year, the Mentor Program will be run out of the Global Education Office in collaboration with Cindi McCann, International Student Mentor Program Volunteer Coordinator. Students will be matched with interested WC-ALL members, Washington College faculty and staff, and local community members. For those unfamiliar with the program, the mentor/mentee friendship is built over time and through ongoing visits during the student's studies at Washington College. After an initial meeting, the mentee and mentor will decide how often they would like to meet (weekly or biweekly meetings is the norm; although the meeting times vary based on the availability of both the mentor and mentees). Mentors and students meet locally (Queen Anne or Kent Counties) and do things such as First Friday, partaking in a holiday tradition (i.e. carving pumpkins around Halloween), attending a local event such as Downrigging Weekend, taking in a show at Gibson or the Garfield, or meeting for tea, coffee or a meal. Through these mentoring relationships, the international students are able to experience “real” life on Maryland’s historic Eastern Shore. Mentors and their families, in turn, are able to meet and form friendships with students from diverse cultural backgrounds and life experiences. The friendships formed between mentors and students often extend beyond the students' stay in Chestertown, and have connected families across the globe.

If you are interested in mentoring a student, please send us an email: geomentorprogram@gmail.com. If you have questions, please reach out to Cindi McCann at (410) 708-6173, Theresa Capule (Assistant Director, GEO, 410-778-7762) or Kate Mc Cleary (Director, GEO, 410-810-7470).

Beginning next month, we will also be sponsoring orientation meetings for new mentors in the Global Education Office (409 Washington Ave.).

Upcoming Events

Benefit Elections Effective
July 1, 2014

Staff Coffee
July 1, 2014 @ 9:00am
Hodson Dining Hall

Independence Day
July 4, 2014
Washington College Offices Closed

Mentor Orientation
July 29, 2014 @ 5:00pm
July 31, 2014 @ 12:00pm
Global Education Office

For a full schedule of Athletic events please visit: washcoll.edu/athletics/
For a full schedule of Drama productions please visit: washcoll.edu/drama
For a full schedule of lectures open to the Washington College community please visit: washcoll.edu/calendar

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The orientation meetings will take place on the following dates (attendance at one meeting is requested):
July 29 @ 5:00 p.m., July 31 @ 12:00 p.m.
August 11 @ 5:00 p.m., August 12 @ 12:00 p.m.

Cookies and drinks will be served. Please RSVP to geomentorprogram@gmail.com by 7/25 for the July dates and 8/8 for the August dates. The sessions are intended to assist in orienting new volunteers to the mentor program. An on-line interest form will be available through the Global Education Office’s website during the coming months; along with more detailed information about the mentor program.

We look forward to having more of the Washington College community and friends involved in the Mentor Program!