Reflections on Birthday Ball
By Dr. Xavier Cole, VP for Student Affairs

Winter at Washington College is an unpredictable force—a force so powerful as to overshadow all other anticipatory celebration of the annual George Washington Birthday Ball. Birthday Ball is a significant and signature event for the College which represents a long tradition of coming together as a community in celebration of our namesake, George Washington. Faculty, staff, students, and alumni don their “Saturday Best” and enjoy the social break in winter that the Ball provides. The Ball is also a significant investment of time, treasure and talent for a dedicated staff in Student Activities, Public Safety, Dining Services, Alumni relations to name the key stakeholders. This February, winter weather had a different idea. Significant snow fell the day of the Ball. Ice was predicted throughout the evening as an additional signal from winter that it had more days to assert its true nature. Organizers came together in the late afternoon to determine a plan to ensure the safest options for the Ball to go on. Compromises were made. Shuttles were limited, bar service scaled back, and Midnight Breakfast curtailed due to reduced staffing. No one making decisions on the Ball wanted to cancel the time-honored event, but the safety of the community was of paramount importance.

It was at this moment that I learned a great deal about the Washington College community. This is a caring and dedicated community willing to sacrifice all the time and energy necessary to make sure the Birthday Ball would happen. Our grounds crew led by Joe Case mobilized members within the normal complement and several persons outside the complement including B & G maintenance members and contracted services to clear the roads and pathways of ice and snow to allow access and egress from the Ball. These men and women worked all day and late into the evening to help ensure the safety of residents and visitors to Washington College. For this, I and many others are extremely grateful. Public Safety led by Jerry Roderick, re-doubled efforts with additional event staff to make sure all safety measures were in place including emergency services if needed for the night. I am truly thankful for their reassuring presence. Student Activities and SEB staff led by Heather Morris managed all late changes gracefully and had the JFC beautifully decorated and organized, including the difficult task of coordinating a large group of volunteers that: drove on-campus shuttles, took tickets, checked coats, and returned lost items to anxious owners. For all of them, I am extremely grateful. There are many others not mentioned in this limited space who dedicated themselves to the mission of having the Ball go on under non-optimal circumstances. I thank them all. I hope the students will do the same when passing these dedicated employees on campus.

While our current bystander intervention campaign out of Lauren Gibson’s Wellness and Prevention Education has the slogan, “You Don’t Have to be a Hero to Save the Day!” I believe our dedicated staff didn’t have to be a hero that night, but that is exactly what they were. To honor these contributions, we will work to have an in-climate weather plan for future Birthday Balls. In Student Affairs, we will work with the student population to develop elements of the Ball that better focus on Washington’s Legacy which harkens back to earlier Balls organized as a scholarship fundraiser. We will commit to reducing high-risk drinking behaviors to build on the gains made this year of significantly reduced hospital transports due to alcohol over-consumption. The College and its members place great pride and energy in staging successful Washington Birthday Balls. I will work with all constituencies to make sure the event is one well worth the investment.
COMINGS AND GOINGS

Please welcome the following staff members to WC:

Daniel Booke
Technical Services Technician

Carmen Clemons
International Programs

James Duff
Special Assistant to the President for Advancement and Alumni Affairs

Rachelle Marks
Assistant Registrar

Kelsey Newcomb
GIS Office Manager

Allen Payne
GIS Analyst

The following staff are no longer with WC. We wish them well in their next adventure:

Katherine Thornton, Nathan Levine, Kathryn Mc Cleary, Jennifer McGovern

UPCOMING EVENTS

COLLEGE CLOSED
SPRING BREAK
Friday, March 13, 2015

Spring Recruitment Fair
Join the Center for Career Development at the Spring Recruitment Fair on Friday, March 27th from 10am to 2pm in the Underwood Lobby. Discover your perfect career environment, network, meet with recruiters, and get a professional headshot taken (great for your LinkedIn profile)!

Smoking Cessation Classes
Free Stop Smoking Classes are offered through Kent County Health Department as 5 week program. Classes are taught by trained Quit Coach, Mary Jo Carpenter. Class topics include the stages of quitting, triggers and understanding addiction, methods to quit, nutrition, and stress. Free Nicotine Replacement Therapy with patches, lozenges, gum, or Chantix is included in the class.

Free Nicotine Replacement Therapy

- If the employee has no insurance the Health Department will provide the Nicotine Replacement Therapy or if the employee has insurance the Health Department has funding to pay the co-pay for the employee.
- Employees will need to get prescription or authorization from their primary care provider for the replacement therapy.

Audience:
Faculty, Staff and Students

Times:

Wednesdays: 3:00 pm - 3:45 pm Starting April 1st continuing for 5 weeks
Thursdays: 10:00 am - 10:45 am Starting April 2nd continuing for 5 weeks

Location:
The Egg at Hodson Hall. This venue provides a central location that all employees and students can get to easily. Along with access to a projection screen, internet and the venue can be set up for tables or more of a classroom setting based on the needs of the presenter. Alternate location will be needed for April 30th. The CAC Commons has been reserved for this date.

Other:
Employees will need to register for the class and will need to sign in at each session to verify attendance to be granted work time to participate in the program. Employees should sign up by Friday, March 27 with Human Resources.

Health Insurance Claims
Some employees have mentioned having trouble resolving health insurance claims. If you have not been able to resolve the problem with the Dr.’s office or insurance company directly, please see Alan Chesney in Human Resources. He will be happy to assist in resolving these matters with you.

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a WC Staff Facebook page?
Like us at: facebook.com/washcollstaff

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