Having served as the College’s interim president for the past year, I have had the great honor of seeing the truly excellent work of Washington College's faculty, students, and staff on a daily basis. However, this vantage point has brought to light a less-than-inspiring reality about Washington College: that many basic improvements need to be made and many basic needs met if this great institution is to thrive. To its enduring credit, Washington College is an exemplar of Eastern Shore thrift, but such thrift will be its undoing if key investments are not made.

When I think about what parting words of wisdom I might be able to give to incoming president Sheila Bair, my first thought is, “Insist on nothing short of excellence in all things.” Yet I know all too well that it is one thing to insist on excellence, and quite another to have the resources to make good on that insistence.

That is why I plan to create a Fund for Presidential Initiatives that President Bair can use at her discretion: to address critical improvements or take advantage of opportunities for excellence without having to raid the College’s very tight budget. My goal is for a three-to-one return on my initial gift, raising at least $300,000 by the time of her inauguration on September 26, 2015.

It has been an honor to serve Washington College as its interim president, particularly since it has given me a first-hand view of how difficult the job of a college president is. Nothing would honor me more than to know that you support my goal of giving Sheila Bair the resources she needs to be successful as the College’s next president, and thereby ensure the ongoing strength and vigor of this great institution.
The featured employee for the month of May 2015 is Brian Palmer

Academic Technology Department
Director of
Digital Media Services
Library
Nominated on April 11, 2015

Brian is a dedicated professional who serves the College’s mission by connecting faculty and students to the multi-media tools they need to be effective communicators in the 21st Century. He works closely with faculty interested in using multi-media technologies to open intellectual gateways for their students.

For example, he recently co-taught a course with Ryan Kelty on the sociological documentary in which students use the documentary to develop their writing and editing skills, and to connect sociological theory and research methods with qualitative evidence gathered in the field. This is just one among many examples of the kind of work Brian does with faculty on a daily basis.

I am nominating Brian for Featured Employee of the Month for the video series on experimental course design and academic technologies he produced in preparation for the April 2015 meeting of the Board of Visitors and Governors, which had a thematic focus on the innovative use of academic technologies by Washington College faculty.

Many barrels of midnight oil were burned to complete this project in a timely and professional manner. The result was a highly professional and polished set of videos that provided a window on the many exciting things our faculty are doing to enhance the transformational learning they encounter at Washington College.
SHINE CAMPAIGN
BY John Beck, Associate Director of Annual Giving, College Advancement

This year’s SHINE Faculty & Staff giving campaign is underway, and we have already passed 25% participation! That’s a percentage that puts Washington College among the top 10% of colleges and universities. A huge thank you to everyone who has participated so far this year. For those who haven’t joined in yet, you have until the end of the month to be one of the cool kids.

It’s a testament to the dedication of WC’s employees that so many choose to show their support for WC’s mission. Whether you direct your gift to scholarships for deserving students or to a department on campus that provides programs you admire, it makes a profound statement to other donors and to foundations to see how highly WC’s employees value our workplace. Seriously, your gift matters.

Anyone who makes a gift before June 30th will be entered into a prize drawing for one of four $25 gift cards. Winners will be announced in July with much fanfare (there may be confetti). Additionally, anyone who makes a gift of $60 or more, or who sets up a payroll deduction of at least $2.50 per pay period will get one of our awesome handy dandy SHINE mugs. Complete with handle!

A recurring gift of $2.50 may not seem like much, but last year, together WC employees gave over $40,000.

If you haven’t made your gift yet this year you can do so online at give.washcoll.edu. If you’d like to set up a payroll deduction, call or email John Beck at 410-810-5770 or jbeck2@washcoll.edu. He might not be sitting by the phone all the time, so feel free to leave a funny message and he’ll get back to you.

HOUSE KEYS 4 EMPLOYEE PROGRAM
Made Home Ownership a REALITY for Nina Burton

Traditionally, the purchase price for private residences within Chestertown and Kent County has made it unaffordable for many in the Washington College family to contemplate homeownership, especially homeownership close to campus. The recent collapse in home values has altered this traditional calculus. Coupled with historically low interest rates, there likely will not be a more opportune time for many Washington College faculty and staff to become homeowners.

However, down payment and settlement costs can overwhelm first-time homebuyers and is listed as the number one barrier to homeownership. To ameliorate this issue for our employees, Washington College has joined the Maryland Community Development Administration’s newest homeownership initiative, House Keys 4 Employees (HK4E). An employer partnership program, HK4E helps Maryland’s workforce become homeowners through a creative matching funds program with the State of Maryland. [WC HR website]

Nina Burton, a staff member in the Career Center, recently purchased a home in Kent County using the program. “After coming back to Kent County several years ago to work at my alma mater, I knew I wanted to establish roots in the local community. One of the best ways to do that was to purchase a home, but I needed help financing. I was going through the loan process with a traditional loan company, and I knew WC had a House Keys program, but was unsure how it worked. I did my research and talked to the incredibly knowledgeable and friendly people at First Home Mortgage (located in Centreville), who is one of the partner loan companies in the program. They were able to finagle a great interest rate, no down payment, and a tax break for me! I was able to drop my traditional loan company, and just use State approved programs. The process was very simple and I appreciated working with local people who knew the area. While many places in MD you have to be a first-time homebuyer to take advantage of this program, because Kent County is a target county, almost anyone can take advantage. I certainly encourage people to look into the program if they are thinking of purchasing a home in the area check out the WC webpage at: http://www.washcoll.edu/offices/human-resources/house-keys-4-employees-program.php, and I am happy to answer questions.”
WHATS THE BUZZ, TELL ME WHATS A HAPPENIN
Info about what’s happening on our Campus

DINING HALL SUMMER HOURS
Hodson Dining Hall is operating on summer hours which vary based on the schedules of summer camps and conferences. Please view our emails and/or website for accurate hours.

JUNE 2015

Monday - Thursday (June 1 - 4)
Hodson Dining Hall
Breakfast: 7am - 8:30am
Lunch: 11:30am - 1pm
Dinner: 5pm - 6:30pm
Java George
8am - 2pm
All other locations are closed.

Friday (June 5)
Hodson Dining Hall
Breakfast: 7am - 8:30am
Lunch: Closed
Dinner: Closed
Java George
8am - 2pm
All other locations are closed.

Saturday - Sunday (June 6 & 7)
Hodson Dining Hall
Breakfast: 7:30am - 9am
Lunch: 11:30am - 1pm
Dinner: Closed
Java George
Closed
All other locations are closed.

Mon - Fri (June 8 - 12)
Hodson Dining Hall
Closed
Java George
8am - 2pm
All other locations are closed.

Saturday (June 13)
All locations are closed.

We will continue to send updates regarding hours.

Thank you

www.dineoncampus.com/wc

SUMMER ADVISING DAYS
Summer Advising 2015 are Friday, June 19, Tuesday, June 23, or Friday, June 26. For Schedules etc.: http://www.washcoll.edu/about/first-year-programs-and-orientation/

For general questions regarding Summer Advising, please contact the Provost’s Office at 410-778-7206.
"Hi All,

If you don't come and learn about Geographic Information Systems (That's GIS) this summer you may be lost forever. Don't take that chance!

We have three offerings this summer to help you find your way.

**GT 10 Intro to GIS**
*Meets June 8th, 9th, and 10th on campus*

This class is for folks who have never used GIS before but want to learn. (Anyone on campus has free GIS software as we have an unlimited campus license too)

**GT 20 Intermediate GIS**
*Meets June 15th, 16th, and 17th on campus*

This class is for folks who have used ArcGIS software a little bit already and want to get more serious about it. Not for newbies unless you take GT 10 the week before.

**Network Analyst**
*Meets June 18th on campus*

If you have no idea what this is then this class is not for you.
Please let Nichole Gillis know if you wish to attend. ngillis2@washcoll.edu But don't wait too long as Nichole would like to know by next Friday.

The workshops cost $950 each but since you are an outstanding member of the Washington College community we will waive the fee. Seats are limited so don't delay letting Nichole know.

All faculty and staff can do this and if you have a family member, if seats are available, we will let them sneak in as well. Such a deal.

Yes that includes super smart children of faculty and staff as long as they know more about technology then you do, they will do fine. Which may be alot of them

**DISCLAIMER:** Only well-behaved children who want to learn GIS are welcome.

Any questions please let me know.

**Stewart Bruce**
**GIS/CES/Anthropology**
Please welcome the following staff members to WC:

Raven D. Bishop, Jemima L. Clark, Aaron R. Goodman, Lisa M. Jones, Barnes K. Saunders, Jennifer M. Shultz

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

Eleanor N. Field, Gary Grant, Theodore Hurvul, Stephen D. Kinser, Travis L. Letellier, Ryan Motevalli-Oliner, Kyle Wilson

***please notify us at staff_council@washcoll.edu if we have inadvertently missed a name and we will include in the next newsletter
Alumni Weekend at Washington College

From the Office of Alumni Relations

Thank you to all the volunteers and staff who helped us welcome over 550 visitors to campus this past weekend for Alumni Weekend. Our alumni ranged from their first reunion to their seventy-fifth, and the weather cooperated to make this signature event one of our best ever.

Josh Rogers '15 and Jean Sears Hebert '49 chat at the All Campus Picnic

https://www.washcoll.edu/alumni/

Members of the 25th Reunion in the CAC

Members of the 50th Reunion celebrate

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.