Change. It’s a word that excites, but that can also strike dread in the hearts of people. It can mean livening things up and providing opportunities to learn, and it can mean disrupting the status quo and threatening one’s comfortable assumptions. Whatever it means, change is inevitable, and is best managed when it is managed, rather than simply ignored.

As I reflect on my past year at Washington College, I see an ongoing series of changes – some small and some not – occurring in the context of a very comfortable and predictable academic cycle. We welcomed the Class of 2018 much as we have welcomed new classes for over 200 years, but did so at the same time we said goodbye to our former president, Mitchell Reiss. We were ably guided by Interim President Jay Griswold through what could easily be considered one of our best years, all the time knowing that a new president would soon be joining us. And, while our preparations for the arrival of the Class of 2019 are much the same as in the past, we will be welcoming our most academically talented and diverse class ever.

Washington College is not alone in its embrace with change. American higher education as a whole has had to come to terms with a number of dramatic changes: declining numbers of college-going high school graduates, greater financial need among new and existing students, tougher financial conditions, and increasing calls for accountability, to name a few. Colleges and universities that ignore these changes very quickly find themselves unable to meet student needs, attract donor support, or enroll sufficient numbers of students to maintain operations. The changes these colleges and universities face might be as severe as a precipitous decline in academic quality, or even closure.

What excited me about Washington College when I made the decision to come here – and what excites me even more now that I’ve been here for a year – is how eagerly we embrace change, and how determined we are to be on the positive side of that change. Rather than merely hold our ground with enrollment, Washington College is determined to improve the quality and diversity of our incoming students and grow our enrollment. Rather than implement a well-constructed strategic plan, we’re determined to do so while also making major improvements to our physical plant. Rather than holding off on important initiatives while we searched for a new president, Washington College accelerated the timeline for those initiatives, had one of the most successful years in its history by virtually every metric, and recruited a top-notch president.

The faculty and staff of Washington College are to be commended for how eagerly they embrace change and how determined they are to make the most of the very turbulent environment in which we now find ourselves. We approach change by focusing on what is best about the College: our history and physical setting, the quality of our programs, the value we place in our interactions with others and with the environment. If change truly is the only constant in life, these are guides that have served us well and will continue to do so in an increasingly uncertain future.
The Washington College Staff Council and Staff
would like to welcome
President Sheila Bair
to the campus. We are so happy you are here!

The Emergency Operations Group, or EOG, takes this old scouting motto to heart.

Throughout the year, the EOG meets to discuss and prepare for various types of emergencies that could threaten campus. From severe weather to illness outbreaks, the EOG aims to plan, prepare, and—if necessary—react. Through table-top exercises and FEMA training, the EOG practices incident management to ready themselves should a problem ever arise on campus. They also work with the Building Coordinators to ensure that the campus is ready to respond to emergencies.

Part of the EOG’s goal is to educate all members of campus about how to respond in the event of an emergency. In addition to preparing for major campus events, the EOG will provide safety tips through email and on their website:

washcoll.edu/eog
Please welcome the following staff members to WC:

Sarah Beresik, Raven Bishop, Todd Cooley, Scott Cowdrey, LaToya Felton, Janet Grimes,
Morgan M. Hoover, Karin M. Hughes, Ahyana King, Max Kurland, Robyn Nesbit, Amy Sine, Nicholas J. Sparacino, Brittany Weaver

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

Mariola Alvarez, Conner Blouin, Kaitlyn McEnroe, Heather Morris, Darnell Parker, Joann Warren, Sarah Wright

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

**Opening of School Schedule (Unofficial)**

- Fall Athletes Arrive: August 21
- Pre-Orientation Begins: August 22
- New Students Arrive: August 27
- Orientation: August 27-30
- Returning Students Arrive: August 30
- All Campus Picnic: August 30
- Classes Start: August 31

**Full schedules and more information can be found at:**

http://www.washcoll.edu/about/first-year-programs-and-orientation/scheduled-events.php
Fair Winds and Following Seas

WC Staff Council says Farewell to Alan Chesney

Washington College Staff Council Chair, Peach Hawn and Vice Chair, Sara Ann Smith present retiring Director of Human Resources Alan Chesney and his lovely wife Barbara with some gifts of appreciation, June 18, 2015 in Hynson Lounge