President Bair Announces Scholarship Initiatives

Sheila C. Bair took the oath of office as Washington College’s 28th president on September 26, using the occasion to establish college affordability and access as the first major themes of her tenure. Joined on the podium by luminaries including U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, Maryland Senate President Mike Miller, and Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Joseph Ellis, Bair outlined two initiatives to increase scholarship funding and make Washington College accessible to high-achieving students who come from communities and families that traditionally cannot afford the cost of a top liberal arts education.

“I believe we are well-positioned to contribute to the growing national discussion on college affordability, and we will do so with a two-pronged attack: Doing everything we can to hold the line on costs while dramatically increasing scholarship funding,” Bair said. The first initiative, called George’s Brigade, will allow high-achieving inner-city students to apply with their friends and have their applications considered on a group basis; once admitted they will be fully financially supported through aggressive fundraising.

“Research shows that the success of low-income first-generation students in achieving a college degree is heavily reliant on financial help and a supportive social network,” she said. “George’s Brigade is designed to address both.”

The second, a fundraising campaign called “Dam the Debt,” will raise an additional $1 million a year in scholarship funding to reduce student borrowing by at least a third. “This program will be available to a broad range of families, as we recognize that even families now considered to be ‘upper income’ can struggle to cover tuition costs today.”

Bair said it is essential that America preserve the liberal arts tradition: “It differentiates the American higher education system from others and is one of the reasons why that system is the envy of the world.”

Student debt and college affordability were also mentioned during the Inaugural Symposium, where Bair shared the stage with former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson in a talk moderated by John Harwood, chief White House correspondent for CNBC. Speaking in front of an audience that included students, faculty, staff, the Chestertown community, and the media, Bair and Paulson tackled subjects like tax reform, the economic risks of ignoring climate change, and the presidential campaign. At the end of the event, Larry Culp ’85, chair of the College’s Board of Visitors and Governors, surprised Paulson with an honorary doctorate of laws and environmental policy.
Greetings 1782 Society Members,

Thank you for the incredible generosity you have demonstrated toward our school. I was so pleased to meet so many of you at the 1782 Society cocktail party graciously hosted by Liz and Chips Moore on October 22nd. It truly was an excellent opportunity for me to get to know some of the College’s most loyal supporters.

As 1782 members, I know you recognize how important donor support is to our school, particularly contributions which support scholarship funding. As Chair of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation during the financial crisis, I know all too well how excessive debt can lead to heartbreak for families, create fragility in our financial system, and serve as a drag on economic growth. As I assume the presidency of Washington College, I am concerned that excessive student loan obligations have a similar potential to impose personal hardship on young people and stymie future economic expansion. At Washington College, I want us to do our part to address this growing threat to students’ financial futures. Containing costs and increasing student scholarship support is the most effective way to reduce the post-collegiate debt burden for Washington College graduates. This will be a central focus of my administration.

I thank you for your contributions in the past and look forward to partnering with you to build and expand on these efforts in the years ahead. By increasing annual giving to our school, we can reduce reliance on student borrowing to support our educational mission and make Washington College a more resilient institution, well-positioned to continue serving students in the decades, indeed centuries, ahead.

I am looking forward to seeing you at an upcoming holiday party or Washington College event. During this incredibly busy time of year, it will be lovely to slow down a bit and get better acquainted with those who have given so much to this wonderful school.

Sincerely,

Sheila C. Bair
President

1782 Society Giving Levels

The Alonzo G. Decker, Jr. Society
William Smith Fellows
President’s Club
Sustaining Members
The Founders Club

$25,000 or more
$10,000 - $24,999
$5,000 - $9,999
$2,500 - $4,999
$1,500 - $2,499

$1,000
$500
$100

Associate memberships are available for graduates of the last decade.

2006 Alumni
2007 - 2011 Alumni
2012 - 2016 Alumni

To discuss your membership, please phone Rebekah Hardy at 410-778-7865 or email her at rhardy2@washcoll.edu.
Bunker Takes the Prize

The winner of one of the nation’s largest literary awards, the George Washington Book Prize, was announced May 20 at a black-tie gala at George Washington’s Mount Vernon. The $50,000 prize went to Nick Bunker’s *An Empire on the Edge: How Britain Came to Fight America* (Knopf).

The George Washington Book Prize honors the year’s best new books on early American history, especially books that are written for a broad audience. The three institutions that sponsor the prestigious prize — Washington College, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, and George Washington’s Mount Vernon — are devoted to furthering historical scholarship that contributes to the public understanding of the American Revolution and the founding era.

*An Empire on the Edge* is a probing account of Great Britain’s internal political and financial tensions on the eve of revolution. Drawing on a careful study of primary sources from Britain and the United States, Bunker crafts a compelling story of the deepening antagonism between England and her colonies, giving equal weight to the commercial as well as the political ambitions of the British Empire. Bunker’s series of fully visualized scenes of familiar events like the Boston Tea Party and lesser-known episodes such as the Gaspee Affair, provides a nuanced description of the Anglo-American conflict.

In addition to claiming the Washington Book Prize, *An Empire on the Edge* is a finalist for the 2015 Pulitzer Prize in history, earning praise for its “bifocal perspective on the countdown to the American Revolution.” *An Empire on Edge* is Bunker’s second book; he previously authored *Making Haste from Babylon: The Mayflower Pilgrims and Their World: A New History* (2010).

“Bunker’s book takes readers from the wharves of Boston to the halls of Parliament and the tea plantations of China,” said Adam Goodheart, Hodson Trust-Griswold Director of Washington College’s C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience, which administers the prize. “He shows us that the fate of the American colonies depended on events in all of those places. This is historical narrative at its most vivid and engrossing.”

The Mount Vernon event also honored the three other finalists for this year’s Washington Prize: Richard S. Dunn’s *A Tale of Two Plantations: Slave Life and Labor in Jamaica and Virginia* (Harvard University Press), François Furstenberg’s *When the United States Spoke French: Five Refugees Who Shaped a Nation* (Penguin), and Eric Nelson’s *The Royalist Revolution: Monarchy and the American Founding* (Harvard University Press).

The finalists were selected by a jury of three distinguished American historians and writers: Rosemarie Zagarri (chair), Ted Widmer, and Philip Morgan. Bunker’s book was named the ultimate winner by a panel of representatives from each of the three institutions that sponsor the prize, plus historian Christopher Brown of Columbia University.

Bunker participated in a lively discussion of his book hosted by the C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience, along with signings and a reception at Underwood Lobby in Gibson Center for the Arts, on September 25th.
**Meet the New 1782 Chair**

Albert J. A. “Jay” Young ’81, a member of the College’s Board of Visitors and Governors, has taken the reins as chair of The 1782 Society. “I am deeply grateful to the College for the education I received. I see this as an opportunity to give back and to do my part to help future students enjoy the many benefits of a Washington College education.”

Young, a principal at the Bel Air law firm of Brown, Brown, and Young, specializes in helping senior citizens with estate planning. Founded in 1901, the firm has earned the highest rating given by the Martindale and Hubbell Law Directory and is listed in the prestigious Bar Register. Young’s practice is concentrated in Harford County in the areas of business, real property, land use, estate planning and estate administration. He plans and administers many of the largest estates probated in Harford County, as well as some of the most significant residential and commercial projects developed in the county.

A devoted alumnus, Young has previously served on the Visiting Committee and the Alumni Council. As a student, Young received the Clark-Porter Medal, “awarded to the student whose character and personal integrity have most clearly enhanced the quality of campus life.” A member of the Kappa Alpha Fraternity, he was inducted into the Omicron Delta Kappa honor society and served as SGA president for two terms.

Young has served on the College’s Board of Visitors and Governors since 2004. He is also active in the leadership of the Upper Chesapeake Health System, the Upper Chesapeake Health Foundation, the Principal’s Council of John Carroll School, the Maryland Association for Wildlife Conservation, The Manor Conservancy (a local land trust), and the Maryland Steeplechase Association. An avid equestrian, Mr. Young is president of the historic Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club.

He lives in Monkton with his wife, Orsia.

**Marketing “Ninja” Gives Back to WAC**

Victory Marketing Agency evolved from what might seem an odd beginning: Vinny Antonio ’04 dressing up as a big green lizard. As he toured the country for three years donning the GEICO Gecko costume at fairs, festivals and sporting events, he noticed that event attendees had a lot of interest in his experiential approach to marketing.

When the 1782 member recognized the need for staffing for live events, he decided to lose the gecko get-up and strike out on his own. Since its founding in 2008, the company has seen many successes. “Today, Victory does more than just staffing,” said Antonio. “We dove into this niche marketing industry, and what really drives us is creating a positive lasting relationship between a brand and a consumer.”

In the last nine years, those relationships have built a solid foundation for success. Providing event staffing for such companies as Major League Baseball, TLC, Toyota, and Maxim, Antonio has risen from a one-man show to become the president of a company with 22 employees. Victory Marketing Agency has 4 Inavero Best of Staffing Awards, has staffed over 40,000 events, and is on the Inc. 5000 list of fastest-growing private companies in America.
“Making the Inc. 5000 by the time I was 30 was a goal that I set for myself,” said Antonio. “I would sit in my home office (basically just a couch in a small apartment), devising strategies to make our agency a national player, dreaming of being able to qualify for the award.” The nights of scheming and planning have paid off.

Antonio credits Washington College for much of his success. “Attending WAC helped me ask the bigger questions,” he says. “A liberal arts education is invaluable.”

This, and his hopes for the future, are the reasons he gives to Washington College at the 1782 level. “The entire experience at Washington College is set up to evolve a young person into a critical thinking ninja, to answer bigger questions in new and exciting ways, and to have fun every step of the journey,” he said. “I look forward to the day, 13 years from now, that I get to step on campus as a proud parent. Each time I give to WAC, I am building on my son’s future.”

Campus visitors may have noticed a couple of additions to the Washington College landscape in the form of an outdoor sculpture and a teak bench, both gifts in tribute to the popular former board chair who served as interim president for the 2014-15 school year. Jack S. “Jay” Griswold H’07 P’94 stepped into the presidency at the request of the Board of Visitors and Governors after President Mitchell Reiss resigned to lead the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Griswold won admirers and friends throughout the community—students, staff, faculty, and Chestertown residents—with the commitment, wisdom, personal warmth, and good-humor he exhibited while guiding the College.

In honor of Griswold’s service, Board member Matthew Weir ’90 P’18 donated a sculpture depicting an adult osprey returning to the nest to feed two chicks. It was installed over the summer outside Hodson Hall Commons, on the lawn between the Goose Nest and Cater Walk. Weir purchased the sculpture from Wyoming artist Leland Johnson, who fashioned the nest from found metal much like an osprey creates a nest out of found objects.

The new wooden bench, which is installed on the Cater Walk near the bridge to the library, was purchased through donations from faculty members. English professor Richard Gillin quietly organized the solicitation and purchase of the bench. “The Board of Visitors and Governors can sometimes view the faculty as being contrary,” he says. “But the bench can serve as a true expression of thanks for choosing someone so first-rate to get us through the interim period.”

An official presentation of the bench is planned for later this fall.
First Friday Open House

On an evening in September, President Sheila Bair opened the doors of Hynson-Ringgold House to meet her Chestertown neighbors. Several members of the College’s 1782 Society stopped in to meet the new president. Pictured from left to right, row by row: a garden scene; Judy Kohl P’83, Lizzy ’93 and T.R. Lazo, Lynn McLain, Sheila Austrian ’03 and Pat Patterson, a group of students, and Clare “Pat” Ingersoll ’71 P’74.

Photos: Geoffrey DeMeritt ’02
November 3
The Verbal & the Visual: An Evening of Poetry & Art with Matthea Harvey
4:30 pm Rose O’Neill Literary House

November 4
“The American Slave Coast,” a talk with authors Ned & Constance Sublette
5:30 pm Hynson Lounge

November 5
SANDBOX presents a photography and choreography showcase of “Place/Non-Place” with Professor Laura Eckelman and Valerie Dunn ’15
5:30 pm Litrenta Lecture Hall

November 6
12@Hotchkiss presents: Members of Inscape Orchestra
12 noon Hotchkiss Recital Hall

November 9
Ian Flinn ’16 presents “Conjuring Curiosity”
7:30 pm Hynson Lounge

November 11
Veterans Day events
(see ad at right)

November 13
December Closed

November 16
America’s Longest War: The War on Drugs at Home and Abroad, a panel discussion with experts from the Open Society Foundations
5:00 pm Hynson Lounge

November 17
“The Law and Insider Trading,” a panel discussion with Geoff Garinther ’81, Stacey (Pratt) McEvoy ’05 and K. Edward Raleigh ’08
4:00 p.m. Hynson Lounge

November 18
The History Department presents The Guy F. Goodfellow Memorial Lecture by Kathleen Duval
“Independence Lost: Lives on the Edge of the American Revolution”
4:30 p.m. Litrenta Lecture Hall, book-signing to follow

November 30
SANDBOX presents “The Undisciplined Collector, The Trouble with Jellyfish and Wonder Workshops: Mark Dion’s recent endeavors”
5:00 p.m. Decker Theatre

December 1
Concert Series presents: Jenny Oaks Baker, America’s Violinist, with the Annapolis Chorale Chamber Singers and WC’s Chorus & Orchestra
7:30 pm Decker Theatre

December 5
Kent & Queen Anne’s County Alumni Chapter Holiday Party with special guests, The 1782 Society
5:00 p.m. Hynson-Ringgold House (106 Water Street, Chestertown)

December 8
Honorary Degree Presentation featuring Frank Wisner (former Ambassador to India) and Sir Richard Dalton (former British Ambassador to Jordan and Libya).
4:30 p.m. Hotchkiss Recital Hall

December 18
Chesapeake Semester Forum and Reception
William Frank Visual Arts
3:00-6:00 p.m. Hallway, Gibson Center for the Arts

December 24-January 3
College Closed

January 25, 2016
Undergraduate classes begin

February 3
Wesleyan University President Michael Roth presents “Why Liberal Education Matters.” Book-signing and Reception to follow, sponsored by Phi Beta Kappa.
4:30 p.m. Hynson Lounge

February 5
12@Hotchkiss presents Raphael Fusco on harpsichord
12 noon Hotchkiss Recital Hall

The Davy H. McCall World War II Exhibition
A StoryQuest Oral History Project
Underwood Lobby, Gibson Center for the Arts
4:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Veterans Day Dinner
Hodson Dining Hall, Hodson Hall Commons
$11 for guests, veterans free
6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

United States Navy Bluegrass Concert
“Country Current”
Decker Theatre, Gibson Center for the Arts
7:30 p.m.

Kindly RSVP to Gina Ralston at advancement_events@washcoll.edu or 410-810-7438.
A Grand Moore’s Welcome

On October 22, more than 110 members of The 1782 Society gathered at the picturesque waterfront home of Chips and Liz Moore to officially and elegantly welcome Sheila Bair as President of Washington College. Chair Jay Young ’81 addressed the group and introduced the College’s impressive leading lady who spoke eloquently of her affinity for the College and her ambitious near- and long-term goals.