How did Washington College fare during my first year as President? Thanks to you, we did very well! This year has not been without its challenges and heartbreaks, but overall, it has been marked by considerable progress and achievements on several fronts. I am sincerely grateful to the staff of Washington College for pulling together when things got tough, and for making my job easier through the work you do every day.

I spent a lot of time on the road this past year, sharing my concerns with donors and with the media about the high cost of college and spiraling student debt, both of which can deter young people from completing a degree and getting a good start in life. Happily, our efforts have brought national media attention and several new donors to our school. We’ve raised enough money to cover the full financial need of 16 George’s Brigade Scholars enrolling this fall, and have already funded several more for the FY 18 cohort.

Heavy student debt is another troubling trend I identified at my inauguration. In its inaugural year, the Dam the Debt initiative raised $1.27 million—enough to reduce qualified graduating seniors’ total federal debt load by 10 percent. I am proud of the leadership role we have played in defending the liberal arts tradition, while at the same time pioneering ways to make it more affordable.

All signs are positive for revenue generation. Under Andrea Trisciuzzi’s leadership, our advancement team enjoyed a record-breaking year, with more than $20 million in gifts raised and counting. And after hosting a record number of prospective students throughout the year, we expect to enroll 440 students this fall. Each one of you who helped make our visitors feel welcome, who cleaned and groomed our beautiful campus, and who fed delicious food to armies of hungry teenagers and their families can take special pride in this success.

(Continued on the next page)
I’m also grateful to everyone for the work you did to pull off a series of special events, including my inauguration and my first Commencement, which required monumental efforts when weather conditions forced us inside. In all the mayhem, you worked so quickly to get the new venue set up and to handle all the logistics that made the day perfect for our graduating seniors and their families. Thank you.

In times of celebration, in times of fire and foul weather, and in times of heartbreak, this community always comes together. And it always falls to the essential personnel in Buildings & Grounds, Dining Services, and Public Safety to be there, protecting the safety and welfare of our students and our community. After the fire, it was you who moved furniture and set up new offices. Last November, it was you who fed and sheltered students. On a rainy Saturday in May, it was you who set up two venues, moving chairs and diplomas across campus. Please accept my deepest gratitude for all you do for our students, and for Washington College.

Your words of encouragement throughout my first year in office and your support of this great institution have meant the world to me. I’m committed to making a world-class liberal arts education available to all those bright young citizen-leaders of tomorrow drawn to this extraordinary place. Together, we can make it happen.

Yours truly,

Sheila C. Bair

Upcoming Dates and Events:
Monday, August 29: Fall semester begins

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Please welcome the following staff members to Washington College:

Caitlin M. Buckley
Anne E. Harris
Nicolas J. Moon
Zachary C. Reed
Paige Willingham

Please wish the following staff members well in their new endeavors:

James H. Arnold
Theresa M. Capule
Xavier Cole
Annie B. Coleman
Tyler A. Cotterell
Briggs S. Cunningham
Satyajit Dattagupta
Mike Davenport
Neisha A. Green
Patrick F. Johnston
Ahyana King
Michaela C. Martino
Bryan Matthews
This Month in WAC History

July 12, 1903 - Gilbert Byron is born. Often called the “Thoreau of the Chesapeake”, Byron was born in Chestertown. At age 14, he was awarded a tuition scholarship to attend Washington College’s preparatory school, and went on to become a beloved teacher and prolific writer. His house still stands at the Pickering Creek Audubon Center.

SUMMER READING MADE EASIER

Did you know that you can read Forbes, Rolling Stone, and other popular magazines for FREE just by being part of Washington College? Via Flipster, you’ll have access to:

- Archaeology
- ARTnews
- Consumer Reports
- Ebony
- Entertainment Weekly
- Esquire
- Forbes
- Inc
- Popular Photography
- Rolling Stone
- Runners World
- Sports Illustrated
- Time

By going through the library website, you’ll be able to read online or download these from anywhere in the world! Head over to the library page of the WAC site (washcoll.edu/offices/miller-library/) to get reading.

Staff Council needs your input!

Do you have a new way to recognize an employee for their years of service? Speak to your department’s Staff Council representative, or email the Staff Council at staff_council@washcoll.edu

Washington College is a safe space for people of all genders and orientations. If you feel your right to a discrimination-free work environment has been compromised, please contact Title IX Coordinator Sarah Feyerherm (410-778-7228 or sfeyerherm2@washcoll.edu).

Check out the Staff Council webpage at washcoll.edu/offices/human-resources/staff-council/
Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/washcollstaff