DEAN’S REPORT TO THE FACULTY
DECEMBER, 2013

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Provost and Dean of the College

It is my pleasure to submit this report to the Washington College faculty. Included here are brief updates from the Curriculum Committee, the Middle States Steering Committee, and the Planning Committee.

Curriculum Committee
As you know, the Curriculum Committee has several action items for the Faculty to consider at its December meeting. Additionally, I wish to report that the Faculty Council has agreed to work with Division Chairs Rick Locker, Aaron Lampman, and Jon McCollum to organize a faculty retreat to discuss the all-college curriculum.

Update on Middle States Review Process
December 2-3, we will be hosting Dr. William Fox, President of St. Lawrence University and Chair of the Middle States evaluation team. In preparation for that visit, members of the Middle States Steering Committee have briefed faculty, staff, students, and board members who will be meeting with Dr. Fox. The full evaluation team is scheduled to be on campus in March 2014.

Planning Committee
The Planning Committee has met to address feedback regarding the Implementation Plan received from faculty, staff, and board members. The principal work ahead is to develop a long-term financial plan that will correspond to the goals, objectives, and tactics within the Implementation Plan. These efforts will, in turn, inform the process led by College Advancement to develop the campaign statement.

Important Dates

- January 31: Candidate materials due for 1st and 3rd Year Reviews. Program chair letters for jointly appointed review candidates are also due.

- February 7: Department chair letters due for 1st Year Review candidates. Department chair letters and tenured departmental colleague letters are due for 3rd Year Reviews.

Faculty Accomplishments
Stewart Bruce and Erica McMaster received a new grant from the Maryland Highway Safety Office entitled "Improving Accessibility and Completeness of Traffic Safety Data." The project has three main objectives as follows:
1. Increase accessibility of traffic safety data (e.g., crash and citation data) to Maryland traffic safety partners
2. Provide training to traffic safety professionals on the use of GIS analytical tools.
3. Increase the completeness of the statewide crash data and locational accuracy of E-TIX data

The grant, worth $97,720, will employ several student apprentices and journeymen in the GIS lab as well as one new professional staff position.

In November, **Bridget Bunten** presented a paper entitled: “Personal and Professional Networks and Divisions: How Teachers Make Sense of an English-only Policy” at the annual Curriculum and Pedagogy Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Tom Cousineau** presented a paper entitled "'Children still weaving budded aureoles': Ancestral Hands in *The Book of Disquiet*," at O III Congresso Internacional Fernando Pessoa hosted by the Casa Fernando Pessoa in Lisbon.

**Lisa Daniels** served as one of six mentors for 30 women in their first or second year in economics departments at liberal arts colleges in the U.S. The workshop, funded by the American Economics Association, was held in Florida from November 21-22. Lisa spoke on two panels related to teaching and balancing work and family while also guiding discussion for a smaller group of development economists during each break-out session.


**Laura J. Eckelman** toured to Juniata College with Asphalt Orchestra, a modern 12-piece street band for whom she is the Associate Lighting Designer. The group (a project of Brooklyn-based new music collective Bang on a Can) performed its "Unpack the Elephant" show--a mix of live music, choreography, and theatrical design.

**James Allen Hall**'s poem "At the Table" was published in AGNI, volume 78 (Fall 2013).

**Ryan Kelty** (with Alex Bierman, University of Calgary) presented a paper entitled "Life Under the Gun: Threat of War and Psychological Distress in Civilians Working in Iraq and Afghanistan" at the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces & Society biennial meeting, Chicago, IL.
Lauren Littlefield presented an invited workshop at the Columbia, Maryland location of Bowman Educational Services on November 6, 2013. "Working Memory and Verbal Retrieval Deficits in Dyslexia: Theory, Research and Practice" highlighted two decades of research using the Association Memory Test, developed by Klein & Littlefield. Findings inform standards of practice to be used when remediating dyslexia.

Anne Marteel-Parrish and Larissa Check’12 published a peer-reviewed article entitled, “The fate and behavior of persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals: Examining lead (Pb) as persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic metal" in Reviews for Environmental Health, in November 2013.

Pam Pears’s article "Delacroix, Djebar’s Interlocutor, par excellence" has been published in Contemporary French and Francophone Studies, Vol. 17, Issue 5 (December 2013).

Shaun Ramsey earned the Extra Class amateur operator/primary station license permit. This is an amateur radio operator and station permit, which is an official Federal Communications Commission (FCC) radio service. The Extra Class license grants maximum amateur communication privileges in our region, including worldwide bands, data and video communications. This is the highest license available to U.S. citizens due to its privileges on worldwide bands, the need for safety and security, and other radio communication challenges. Using these new privileges, I hope to establish a Washington College radio presence in the community and beyond.

In preparation for these new licenses, he led study groups over the previous three weekends (six 4 hour study sessions in total), which incorporated students and outside community members. From this group, he and three students (Ian Egland, Brian Zohorsky and Greg Lee) took radio license tests on Wednesday and passed every attempted test. He moved up two licenses by passing the General Class and Extra Class exams, while each student took and passed one test to move up a Class in licensing. Ian Egland passed the Extra Class, Brian Zohorsky passed the General Class, and Greg Lee passed the Technician Class exam. Look for a FCC sanctioned radio club to start on campus soon!

On October 30, Kenneth Schweitzer hosted a workshop for students in his WC Jazz Combo. Coordinated by the Music Department in partnership with the Mainstay Theater in Rock Hall, the workshop with four professional jazz artists was funded by a grant from the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust. On November 7 and 8, Ken attended the conference “Lucumí Music: Singing, Dancing, and Drumming Black Divinity,” organized by the Center for African and African American Studies (CAAAAR) at Duke University in part to support his ongoing research for his book with Temple Press, Lucumí Music. Ken participated in several panels, which included a paper on “Lucumí Musical Genres and Concepts,” a presentation on “Lucumí Music Multi-Media: Photography, Audio, and Video,” and a roundtable discussion on “Lucumí Music as Art, Ritual, and Culture.” On November 15-17, Ken attended the 58th Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM) in Indianapolis, hosted by the Indiana
University, Bloomington. He participated in a roundtable discussion entitled, “On the Orisha of the Drum: Tracking a Transatlantic God through Narrative.”

Leslie Sherman presented the results of her sabbatical research at the International Annual Meeting of the Soil Science, Agronomy, and Crop Science Societies in Tampa Florida. The title of her presentation was "Soil Quality Changes in Response to Long-Term Pineapple Production in Costa Rica."

Rick Striner gave a lecture about his book "Lincoln and Race" at the annual Lincoln Forum at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on November 18th. On the following day, he spoke about the Gettysburg Address on WYPR's Mid-Day Show with Dan Rodricks.

Hui-Ju Tsai presented her paper “Optimal Portfolio Choice for Investors with Heterogeneous Labor Income Risk across Industries” in the annual conference held by Southern Finance Association in Fajardo, Puerto Rico on November 23rd, 2013. She also served as a discussant in the conference.

Michele Volansky served as the dramaturg for the reading of Willy Holtzman's play The First Mrs. Rochester on Tuesday, November 19th at New York's New Dramatists. The cast featured Laura Esterman and Janis Dardaris in the roles of Jean Rhys and Selma Vaz Dias, respectively. Michele has been attached as dramaturg for the play since its inception.