Report to the Faculty
Patrice DiQuinzio, Provost and Dean of the College
October 1, 2018

As the fall semester moves forward, I’m pleased to provide this report to the Washington College faculty.

Replacement and incremental lines
This year the Advisory Committee on Tenure and Promotion received three proposals for replacement tenure-track faculty lines, in economics, psychology and chemistry; two proposals for incremental tenure-track faculty lines, in Accounting and Communication and Media Studies; and one proposal for a three-year visiting assistant professor in Music.

The Committee recommended filling all three of the replacement lines and the incremental faculty line in Communication and Media Studies. And they encouraged business and music to apply again next year.

Value proposition task forces
As President Kurt Landgraf stressed in the recent financial outlook presentations, it is essential that we emphasize the college’s value proposition, rather than affordability, in student recruiting. This refocusing of emphasis, however, means that we must foreground our unique attributes and assets. Highlighting these differentiators is the best way to attract students’ initial interest in Washington College. Once we have attracted their initial interest we will be able to highlight all of our excellent academic programs and outstanding faculty. But if we do not attract their initial interest by showing them something that makes Washington College stand out from all the other colleges that are bombarding them with information, we won’t have the chance to tell them about everything else we offer.

As part of this decision, Kurt has decided to convene three task forces to consider the unique opportunities we provide in three areas, as a result of the collaborative work of our three signature centers and the related faculty and departments.

- Value Proposition Task Force 1: The Study of the Environment
- Value Proposition Task Force 2: The Study of the American Experience
- Value Proposition Task Force 3: The Study of Literature and Creative Writing

These task forces will be charged with developing a clear statement of the College’s value proposition in these specific areas. For example, what do we offer to students interested in studying the American experience? The answer includes opportunities to study American history, American literature, American politics and social problems in the U.S. as well as opportunities offered by the Starr Center.
Kurt will organize the first task force, because, with the recent addition of the River and Field Campus and the commencement of the Eastern Shore Food Lab, it will be a somewhat larger task to articulate all elements of our value proposition with respect to the study of the environment. I will organize the other two task forces and I’m really looking forward to working on this project.

Kurt and I are reaching out now to faculty and staff to ask them to participate. As soon as all participants are identified, I will let you know who they are.

**Phased retirement**

Faculty Council will bring to the October faculty meeting a plan for phased retirement options for faculty. These options are in addition to the usual option of retiring after teaching a full course load and address the needs of departments and programs as well as of retiring faculty members. I urge you to review the proposed handbook language and the detailed explanation of the proposed phased retirement options, both of which are posted under the October 1 faculty meeting on the faculty meeting canvas site.

**Update on program in environmental leadership**

As you may recall, last year Kurt and I and several faculty members discussed the possibility of Washington College offering a master’s degree in environmental leadership. We have since received the results of a marketing study, done by Hanover Research, showing that there’s little market demand for such a program. The study showed that student demand for similar or related programs in Maryland has declined since 2014 and noted that in the Mid-East region many of our competitors would be elite institutions located in or near major cities.

I still think that the Center for Environment and Society has a lot to offer young and mid-career professionals in careers related to the environment. John Seidel and I are exploring other ways in which CES could offer professional development opportunities to this audience short of offering a degree.

**Business expense meals: Change of policy**

After discussion with Laura Johnson and Penney Farley, we have made a change to our policy on business purpose expense meals (change highlighted below):

- Local meal expenses are reimbursable only if there is a business purpose. Washington College defines a business purpose meal as a meal that includes non-College personnel.
- **Meals with students, whether on or off campus, are considered a business purpose meal.**
- The cost of meals that include only College employees is not a business expense.

This change means that you can use your department or program’s funds for meals and entertainment or catering to be reimbursed for meals with students. You will see this change reflected in the Interim Travel and Business Expense Guidelines on the provost’s office web site. I would like to finalize these guidelines, so if you have any other concerns about them, please let me and/or Faculty Council know.
Faculty Accomplishments

Erin Anderson recently attended the summer meeting of Sociologists for Women in Society where she presented a paper on her research, "Women and Girls with Courage, Confidence, and Character: Leadership Socialization through the Girl Scouts." She also participated in the American Sociological Association annual meeting as a member of the ASA section on Teaching and Learning for the session "Exploring the Teaching Experience at Different Types of Institutions." Erin served as a Liberal Arts school mentor for students and faculty interested a career in this type of institution.

Erin Anderson, Raven Bishop, and Nancy Cross have had an article accepted and forthcoming in the journal College Teaching. The article "Dealing with Data: Instructing with Infographics in an Undergraduate Sociology Course" developed out of a course assignment Erin, Raven, and Nancy have developed and implement each semester in Erin's Intro to Sociology course.

Martin Connaughton presented a poster at the ARVO (Association for Research In Vision and Ophthalmology) meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii in April 2018. The poster, titled “Can co-exposure with anti-oxidants mitigate the adverse effects of aflatoxin B1 on the visual system of developing zebrafish larvae?” was the culmination of collaborative research carried out with four Washington College students.

Tom Cousineau gave a guest lecture at the National Museum of Romanian Literature in Bucharest. Titled "The Manole Complex: Pessoa and Cioran as Master-Builders," it dealt with the disguised return of archaic construction-rituals in two monuments of modernist writing: Fernando Pessoa's The Book of Disquiet and E. M. Cioran's Précis de décomposition. He also presented a panel-paper titled "Staging Movement in Waiting for Godot" at the "Temporalities of Modernism" conference hosted by Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Both presentations are related to his online work-in-progress -- with Sophocles' Oedipus the King and Shakespeare's Hamlet as foundational examples -- on the role of human sacrifice in the construction of literary monuments, "The Séance of Reading: Uncanny Designs in Modernist Writing."

Elena Deanda published in Letras Femeninas and Afro-Hispanic Review, and presented her work in the International Conference of Quevedo organized by the University of Vigo in Spain.


Melissa Deckman is involved once again with the Japanese American Woman's Symposium, this year held at Suffolk University, as a co-organizer; She is speaking at an APSA Short Course women and conservatism in the US/UK and presenting a paper, using data she collected this summer with the help of the Faculty Enhancement Grant and Goldstein.

Richard DeProspo will be delivering two papers: "Reading to Transgress: Dissing Masters from The Autobiography of Malcolm X through Spike Lee's Malcolm X and Sanyika Shakur's Monster to Frederick Douglass's Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave" and "Pious Inactivism in America's First Best Seller" at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association National Convention in Birmingham in November. He will also be chairing a session.
**Brendon S. Fox** was chosen by Colorado Shakespeare Festival a year ago to be one of only four professional directors hired in 2018. In June he directed Shakespeare's lesser-known comedy *Love's Labour's Lost* in Boulder (the country's second oldest). Dr. Moncrief served as the dramaturg on the production. CSF is the second-oldest Shakespeare Festival in the US, and *LLL* played in a 1000-seat outdoor amphitheater, opened their summer season, achieved great box office business and garnered strong reviews, including this: [http://www.dailycamera.com/theater-dance/ci_31935563/review-colorado-shakespeare-festival-opens-season-loves-labours](http://www.dailycamera.com/theater-dance/ci_31935563/review-colorado-shakespeare-festival-opens-season-loves-labours)

**Anne Marteel-Parrish** was invited to participate in the 5th World Congress on Green Chemistry and Engineering in Melbourne, Australia on July 19-20. Anne’s video presentation on “Implementing green chemistry education in a private liberal arts and sciences curriculum: A challenging and rewarding adventure” was selected and presented as a keynote speech on July 20th in Melbourne and is available on YouTube.

**Jon McCollum** has been named to the Advisory Board of the Mindfulness-Based Wellness and Pedagogy Program at the prestigious Jacob School of Music of Indiana University. Mindfulness-based wellness, with its emphasis on cultivating a healthy, non-judgmental and present moment orientation towards experience, has been scientifically linked to improved life-satisfaction, improved cognitive performance, creativity, and can serve as an antidote to our often stressful and over stimulated lives. The purpose of this program is to explore how mindfulness can benefit music teachers in both personal and professional settings, and examine ways in which mindfulness-based practices might be incorporated into music teaching and learning.

**Andrew L Oros** served as a content consultant for a History Channel Japan eight-part series called "Defending Japan" -- which began in June in Japan and will continue through the fall. He appeared 4 times on the third episode for about 8 minutes total -- with his Washington College affiliation noted on screen (and a screen appearance of his latest book, Japan's Security Renaissance. That episode aired in Japan on July 29.

He was also invited to South Korea by the Korea Foundation and Mansfield Foundation in DC for a one-week study tour with eight other mid-career scholars of Japan. He wrote a short piece for the Mansfield Foundation web-site about the trip which is posted here: [https://mansfieldfdn.org/blog/14719/](https://mansfieldfdn.org/blog/14719/)

He was invited for a third time to spend a half-day teaching teachers for the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia based at the University of Colorado Boulder, where he lectured on security challenges to the East Asian region and prospects for cooperation on July 12.

**Pamela A. Pears** published her latest book, *Paris and the Marginalized Author: Treachery, Alienation, Queerness, and Exile*. It will be available in December from Lexington Books, as part of their *After the Empire Series*.

The volume, co-edited with Valérie K. Orlando at the University of Maryland, explores what it is that has brought marginalized and often exiled writers, seen as treacherous, alienated, and/or queer by their societies and nations together by way of Paris. Spanning from the inter-war period of the late 1920s to the present millennium, this volume considers many seminal questions that have influenced and continue to shape the realm of exiled writers who have sought refuge in Paris in order to write. Additionally, the volume’s essays seek to define alienation and marginalization as not solely subscribing to any single denominator -- sexual preference, gender, or nationality-- but rather as shared *modes of being* that allow
authors to explore what it is to write from abroad in a place that is foreign yet freed of the constrictions of one’s home space.

John Seidel was awarded a Colonial Williamsburg-EXARC Fellowship for the coming year, which will involve a one month residence in Williamsburg.

Michele Volansky oversaw the development of 8 new plays (with 15 readings) this July in her capacity as Associate Artistic Director of PlayPenn, while also serving as the dramaturg for Dominic Taylor's play KIDS DROP (OFF) and Stephen Belber's JOAN. Volansky was joined at PlayPenn by Rosie Alger '18, who was an intern for the annual conference. Volansky participated in the first-ever convening of new play development organizations in Steamboat Spring, Colorado in June and has a chapter, entitled "Beyond the Proscenium: Internships at Washington College" in Performing Arts as High Impact Practice, edited by Michelle Hayford and Susan Kattwinkel, which was published by Palgrave Macmillan in July.

Staff Accomplishments

Lindsay Lusby’s first full-length poetry collection was selected by Kimiko Hahn for the 2018 Agha Shahid Ali Poetry Prize at The University of Utah Press. Her manuscript Catechesis: a postpastoral will be published by UUP in June 2019.

Lindsay Lusby, Assistant Director of the Rose O’Neill Literary House, has published five new visual poems in the Spring 2018 Issue of Duende, titled “(false dragonhead / plate 170),” “(hooded skullcap / plate 171),” “(jack-in-the-pulpit / plate 2),” “(round-leaved sundew & venus flytrap / plate 74),” and “(swamp pink / plate 35).”

Here’s a link to the publication: http://www.duendeliterary.org/lindsay-lusby/

LAT Staff Accomplishments

Raven Bishop, Instructional Technologist, authored a chapter, “Augmented Archives: Engaging Students in Archives and Special Collections through Augmented Reality Technology” in Augmented and Virtual Reality in Libraries,” (co-authored with Dr. Heather Calloway from Indiana University). Raven and Heather also won the 2018 Campus Technology Impact Award in the category of Education Futurists for their Augmented Archives (AR) Project. The AR project was also feature twice in Ed Tech Magazine: “Augmented Reality Archives Brings Artifacts to Life,” August 30, and on September 18, in “Bringing Primary Source Materials to Life with AR,” as part of their 2018 Technology Impact Awards edition.

Erin Counihan and Raven Bishop published two articles in Voices from the Middle, published by the National Council of Teachers of English. "Beyond the Page: New Literacies in the 21st Century" argues that educators should develop new strategies to teach students 21st century literacy skills so they can comprehend and produce arguments with words, images, numbers and emerging technologies. "Why 'It Doesn't Matter How It Looks' Isn't Good Enough Anymore," argues that the 21st century has brought the visual images to the forefront of conveying ideas. They argue that educators should reestablish art-making as part of the writing process, not an addendum to it, apply common writing strategies to art-making and extrapolate strategies from arts educators to an ELA context.

Brian Palmer, Director of Digital Media Services and Andrea Hearn, Assistant Director of Digital Media Services presented two sessions at the Makerspaces for Innovation and Research in Academics
(MIRA) Conference at La Verne University in July on “Laser Cutter – The Gateway Drug to your Makerspace” and “The Value of a Curricular/Co-Curricular Circle.” Brian also authored two chapters in 63 Ready-to-Use Maker Projects, American Library Association, spring 2018, on the curricular projects Washington College students created in the IDEAWORKS Makerspace. And he has received his FAA Remote Pilot license, which allows the IDEAWORKS Innovation Suite to use drone technology in research, teaching and co-curricular programming.

Adrian Peterson, Director of Innovative Learning Spaces and Special Projects, serves on the Advisory Committee for the Next Generation Learning Spaces Conferences held in the U.S. and internationally, where he has presented twice. In February, he presented on “Doing More with Less in Times of Financial Uncertainty” and in March he chaired and presented on the session “Building Collaborative Partnerships: Selecting, Managing and Driving Value from Multiple User Group.” In June, he presented at the Consortium of Liberal Arts Colleges Conference at Sewanee University on “Learning Space Design: Considering Both Furniture and Technology Together.”

Marianne L. Sade, Research/Information Literacy Librarian, presented at the 46th Annual LOEX* Conference: “New Frontiers: Exploring and Innovating in Uncharted Territory” in Houston, Texas, May 4, 2018. She was part of three panelists from a grant-related, collaborative effort with partner colleges representing their Learning Activities Team. Together they wrote a conference paper, “Five Space Stations Use the Framework to Launch At-Risk, First-Year Students into Information Literacy Orbit,” and presented highlights during this professionally competitive, peer-reviewed, international conference.