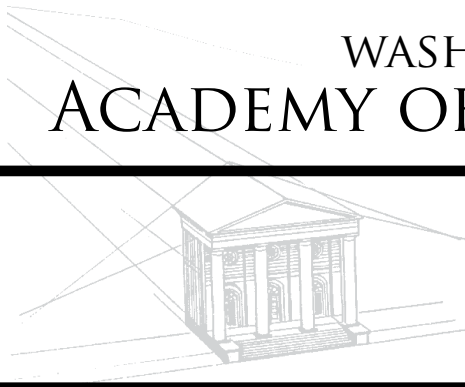


WASHINGTON COLLEGE ACADEMY OF LIFELONG LEARNING



Fall 2009 Newsletter

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome everyone to a new season of WC-ALL. We are now beginning our seventeenth year and are very excited about our course offerings and coming calendar of events.

Whether or not you were able to attend our **Annual Meeting** in June, you'll want to know the highlights....

This year the Atrium of the Toll Science Center was chosen for the venue and, because we wanted to give Members the opportunity to mix and mingle, both with each other and with instructors, we had a cocktail party rather than the traditional luncheon. The College catering was terrific, the Atrium looked fabulous with huge floral arrangements and helium balloons, and the music provided by Chestertown's own Joe Holt all contributed to a gala celebration of another successful year. Since attendance was double the previous year, we're taking this as a sign to make the final event of the year a party and a new tradition.

Another new feature of our



Holding the certificate for his Special Service Award is Dick Lance, with WC-ALL Chair Ginny Barker.

Annual Meeting was the presentation of a **Special Service Award**, voted on by the Council to honor a distinguished instructor. That term doesn't begin to describe recipient Dick Lance, whose commitment to and support of WC-ALL goes way beyond his years of service (eight), courses taught (24 over 16 semesters), service as Chair for two years, and on-going support as our Web master and unofficial photographer. Dick continues to be our "go-to" man for so many things, and we appreciate him more than words can say.

Washington College President Baird Tipson was present at the Meeting to accept WC-ALL's \$8,000 **contribution to the College endowment fund**. This is an increase of \$3,000 from previous years, and helps provide a partial scholarship to a worthy Washington College student. Savannah Frazier has been the recipient for the last two years and will, once again, be awarded the WC-ALL scholarship this year. We are hoping Savannah will be with us at the next annual event to meet some of our Members.



Faculty honorees at the WC-ALL Annual Meeting included (from left) Ralph Thornton, Sharon Somers, Connie Robinson, Dick Lance, John Christie (seated), Judy Kohl and Jim Sood. On page 3, Colin Dickson, John Ames, Dick Hawkins, Jim Urda, Jane Hukill, David Newell and Anne Sirna.

Almost 100 people came to the September 1 **Showcase** ... the best attendance to date! A special thanks to all of you who took the time to come and listen to the instructors' class reviews. WC-ALL Membership is up 10% over last year, including five new Members who drive in from Rock Hall.

There is good news for those who have experienced some frustration parking, and that is that the parking area by the Swim Center has re-opened with more Handicapped spaces available.

Thanks to to Dick Lance, the **WC-ALL Web site(wc-all.washcoll.edu)** now displays information on our instructors, including pictures and biographies, and an overview of their current classes. The Web site also now has an online evaluation form for Members to comment, anonymously if they prefer, about their classes. We encourage you to help maintain the quality of our

programs by sharing your insights and observations.

With **Hodson Hall** about to reopen, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Thom Sinnott, the executive director, and the dining staff at Heron Point for the good food and exceptional service they have provided over the past two years. Our Learn-at-Lunch programs will continue at Heron Point through December, and our Holiday Dinner will also be there. In January we will return to Hodson Hall.

— Ginny Barker, Chair

CURRICULUM

Following a well-attended Showcase to present the lineup, classes for the Fall Semester began on September 14. This term we are offering a record 31 courses covering a wide variety of subjects, from Sports to Sophocles, and, back

by popular request, The Seven Deadly Sins is being offered for a third consecutive session. We have welcomed nine new instructors, including two active Washington College faculty members, to our experienced group.

The Curriculum Committee considered the suggestions given by Members in last spring's questionnaires, and we were able to arrange for several courses in subjects requested. Please continue to let Curriculum Committee members know of your interests in old and/or new subjects for courses. This year we have a course evaluation form which can be completed online. It is simple and easy to use. You can find it on our home page, wc-all.washcoll.edu.

Looking ahead, we will soon be planning the course offerings for the Spring Semester 2010. Let us know if you have a suggested course for the Committee to consider, and of course you can always submit a proposal on our Web site.

— Jack Stenger, Chair



SPECIAL EVENTS

What an exciting line-up of WC-ALL Special Events await you this fall! For our mid-fall trip, we have scheduled two morning cruises – October 30 and November 2 – aboard Echo Hill’s skipjack *Elsworth*. In addition to the sheer enjoyment of the cruise, the narrated program will blend the science and history of our region. Look for the flyer and plan to enroll early, for each cruise is limited to only twelve persons.

This fall WC-ALL is co-sponsoring two lecture events which we hope you’ll attend. The first presentation, “Memory and the Aging Brain,” is by Dr. Peter Rabins, professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at John Hopkins University, and will be held on Tuesday evening, October 27, at the Avalon Theater in Easton. The second is entitled “My Provenance: From Aunt Gertrude

to Sydney Freedberg,” given by Bruce Cole at 5:00 pm on Monday, November 9, in the WC Casey Center Forum. Bruce Cole is a former chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities and current president and CEO of the American Revolution Center at Valley Forge. This lecture is sponsored by The C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience at Washington College.

You won’t want to miss our next two fall Learn-at-Lunch events and our Holiday Dinner. On October 22, artist Marti Hawkins will demonstrate *From Brushwork to Bamboo*, and on Thursday, November 19, Margaret McHale will discuss *Celebrating 25 Years of Maryland’s Critical Area Program – And Where Do We Go From Here?*

Our Holiday Dinner has been rescheduled to Saturday, December 5, in order to bring, as our entertainment, a really great women’s barber-shop quartet – and they have

prepared a special holiday program for us.

— Dan Oberholtzer, Chair

MENTORING

A reception to welcome international students and introduce those who elected to have mentors to their host families was held in front of East Hall on September 3. It was so successful that several students who had not previously signed up for a mentor decided they would like to participate in the program!

In addition to the eight mentors who have students from previous years (matriculating students who are here for four years), half of the 25 new international students have enrolled in the Mentor Program.

Washington College provided a very nice picnic dinner, arranged by the International Programs Department.

— Sue Urda, Mentor

Program Coordinator

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE COLLEGE?

Life has significantly changed at Washington College! On October 2, the Daniel Z. Gibson Center for the Arts was dedicated by President Baird Tipson and the Board of Trustees after a \$24 million renovation. The gala celebration to reopen Gibson was kicked off at Fall Convocation, during which the campus community met in the new Decker Theatre to honor a young alumnus, Stephen Spotswood '99, and several current students for academic excellence. Also honored were Tom Paxton, folk singer/songwriter, who received the honorary Doctor of Music; Linda Nochlin who received the Doctor of Fine Arts for her career as a feminist art historian; and Mark Bramble, awarded the Doctor of Arts for his career as a Broadway author and director. A highlight of the event

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was the performance by Paxton of two songs on guitar and our own Washington College students performing three short scenes from Bramble's award-winning Broadway musicals, *Barnum* and *42nd Street*.

On Sunday afternoon, a packed house had the privilege to hear the world-famous Brentano String Quartet during their inaugural performance in the new Hotchkiss Recital Hall. Visitors to Gibson were also invited to view a magnificent art exhibition, "Second Nature: Masterpieces of 19th-Century Landscape Painting," in the College's first-ever climate-controlled, secure exhibition space, Kohl Gallery, funded by Washington College parents and WC-ALL Members Benjamin and Judy Kohl. The exhibition, which features works by such artists as Claude Monet and Auguste Renoir, will remain on view through November 15.

Hodson Hall Commons, with its new Student Center and Dining Hall—large enough to serve 1800 students—is set to open later in October. Everyone at WC is looking forward to the opening of this state-of-the-art facility.

In academic news, the College launched its new "Chesapeake Semester" this fall. In this interdisciplinary, semester-long program students will

study the complex history, ecology, and culture of the Chesapeake Bay. Reports from student blogs indicate that this is a remarkable experience for those participating. You can learn more about the "Chesapeake Semester" from the link at <http://chesapeake-semester.washcoll.edu/>

Enrollment for the fall 2009 term is 1264 undergraduate students, slightly down from last year but still well within the projected numbers for our current budget. Despite the difficult economic climate and its impact on the College's endowment, the College is in good financial shape and, while experiencing some belt-tightening, is able to sustain all programs and personnel without layoffs or major cuts.

The search for a replacement for President Baird Tipson is well underway. Applications and recommendations have been reviewed and initial interviews held. I am also happy to report that the Middle States review committee (who reviewed the assessment plans for the five year mid-term report in the ten year Middle States review cycle) were very pleased with our planned assessment programs and pronounced the College on the path to a successful re-accreditation in 2014.

— Kathryn W. Sack,
WC Liaison for WC-ALL