
CAMPUS NEWS

Mitchell Leaves Visible Legacy at W&J



Dr. Brian C. Mitchell, the 11th president of Washington & Jefferson College, announced in March that he would leave the College to become president of Bucknell University this summer.

Mitchell began his term at W&J in July 1998. Under his leadership, W&J began a period of transformation, characterized by a renaissance in academic programming and an active agenda of campus renewal. Perhaps most notably, Mitchell, who had previously served as president of the Association of

Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP), set the College on a new course in its relationship with the community of Washington.

Upon his arrival, Mitchell recognized the important role the City would play in W&J's future. His action resulted in the celebrated *Blueprint for Collaboration*. A document established in conjunction with the City, the *Blueprint* recognized a state of interdependence between the two, and outlined mutually beneficial steps for moving into the future. The spirit of the *Blueprint* echoes in the College's strategic plan, which directs W&J to continue forward as a resource and asset for the community.

On campus, he worked directly with the W&J faculty and staff to transform the campus and enhance the college experience for all students. He and his wife, Maryjane, were actively involved in all aspects of the life of the College. They opened their home to student events in an extraordinary way and traveled extensively on behalf of the College—meeting with alumni and friends of the College throughout the country.

Accomplishments during Mitchell's tenure at W&J include:

- A revised liberal arts curriculum focused on interdisciplinary study and encouragement of faculty efforts to incorporate research into classroom instruction. Under Mitchell, W&J added majors in biochemistry, child development and education, information technology leadership, international business, music, and theatre and communications; a minor in gender and

women's studies; and new programs in environmental studies; mind, brain, and behavior; and neuroscience.

- Physical growth, with the addition of new facilities, including: Cameron Stadium, The Howard J. Burnett Center, and the Vilar Technology Center. In the fall of 2002, W&J introduced a new residence hall for upperclassmen—a second “mirror image” residence hall, an integral part of W&J's plan for housing, will open in the fall of 2004. Ross Memorial Park and Alexandre Stadium were dedicated in April.

- Energized fundraising efforts. *Revolutionary: The Campaign for Washington & Jefferson College*, the most successful fundraising effort in W&J's history, raised more than \$83.7 million. Since 1998, W&J was also awarded government grants and contracts totaling \$5.8 million.

- Sustainable positive change in admission and enrollment. In the fall of 2002, W&J received 1,874 applications for 325 places in the class of 2006. The class of 2007 was chosen from a pool of 3,134 applications for 347 seats. The acceptance rate for the class of 2006 was 51 percent. For the class of 2007, it was 40 percent—with an average SAT score increase of 44 points. The class of 2008 will be one of the largest in W&J history, while still maintaining the academic benchmarks set by previous classes.

Mitchell's annual *State of the College* presentation was his signature method for sharing campus news with students, faculty, administrators, staff, and parents. The anticipated annual address was bound into a publication



W&J in the News

Washington & Jefferson College's faculty, administration, and students continue to contribute knowledge and insight on a variety of issues around the country, showcasing a breadth of expertise.

• The opinions of **Joseph DiSarro**, professor and chair of political science, about Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean were carried in newspapers across the country from Anchorage, Alaska to Raleigh, North Carolina.

• Comments from **Robert Dodge**, professor of history, on President Bush's steel tariff appeared in *The Valley News Dispatch*, *The Tribune Review*, and on the *CNN Money* Web site.

• **Annette Drew-Bear**, professor of English, and **Brian Dawson '03**, were featured in a *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* article highlighting college courses students line up to take around Southwestern Pennsylvania.

• **Robert East**, assistant professor of biology and director of the Environmental Studies Program, discussed U.S. Aid projects in Africa in *The Christian Science Monitor*. East was also profiled in the *Observer-Reporter* for his volunteered time in Kenya under the Peace Corps.



• **Arlan Hess**, adjunct instructor of English, discussed the staging of the Dylan Thomas play "Under Milk Wood" in the *Orlando Sentinel*.



• **Timothy Klitz**, assistant professor of psychology, explained the way the eye perceives images in the *Arizona Republic's* review of "Natural Histories: Realism Revisited," an exhibit at the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art in Arizona.

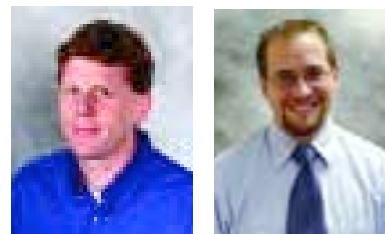
• **James March**, assistant professor of biology, published "Damming Tropical Island Streams: Problems, Solutions, and Alternatives" in *Bioscience Magazine*. The article discusses and offers solutions to the ecological effects dams have on tropical islands.

• **Lauryn Mayer**, assistant professor of English, talked to *The Christian Science Monitor* about the return of teenage sleuth Nancy Drew to bookshelves across America. Mayer's comments also appeared in the online version of *Curriculum Review*.

• **Alton Newell**, vice president for enrollment, was quoted in *The Chicago Tribune* on the effects of consumer approaches taken by parents in

the process of choosing a higher education institution for their children.

• The CAPL (Culturally Authentic Pictorial Lexicon) Web site, www.washjeff.edu/capl, developed by **Michael Shaughnessy** (pictured



left), assistant professor of German, and **Jason Parkhill**, associate director of academic technology, was featured in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Information about the site also appeared in *Pittsburgh T.E.Q.*, magazine of the Pittsburgh Technology Council.

• **Shaughnessy** and **Christy Hyland**, assistant professor of Spanish, were quoted in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* on the current marketplace for foreign language faculty.

• **Jonathan Stehle '04** was featured on *Monster.com* discussing his recent job search and his experiences finding post-graduate employment early on in the 2004-2005 academic year.

Arts Series Announced for 2004–2005

During the 2004–2005 academic year, Washington & Jefferson College's Annual Arts Series will offer critically acclaimed musicians, a celebration of the human body through dance, and a glimpse at *The Invisible Man*. Events recently announced for the coming year include:

TUESDAY, SEPT. 28, The Aquila Theatre Company presents "The Invisible Man"

One of the foremost touring theatre companies in the world, The Aquila Theatre Company brings H.G. Wells' 1897 classic to vivid life on the stage through its penchant for heights of theatricality. Exciting, bold, and compelling, this tragic adventure story has enthralled generations of readers. Aquila mystifies audiences with its staging of *The Invisible Man*.

FRIDAY OCT. 29, Ensemble Chaconne presents "Measure for Measure: Original Music from Shakespeare's Plays" with mezzo-soprano Pamela Dellal



Performed on historical instruments, this presentation by Ensemble Chaconne showcases the versatility and dramatic flair of mezzo-soprano Pamela Dellal. The concert focuses entirely on music from Shakespeare's time, offering a rare musical look at the late 16th and 17th century and the composers of the day.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, Eroica Trio

This Grammy-nominated trio has redefined the chamber ensemble and captured the imaginations of audiences around the world with its heart-stopping mastery of the piano, violin, and cello. Erika Nickrenz, Adela Peña, Sarah Sant' Ambrogio, the three young women who are the Eroica Trio, electrify the concert stage with their technical virtuosity, vivid artistic interpretation, and contagious exuberance, creating a classical music experience like no other.



MONDAY, MARCH 14, Lúnasa

The *Irish Voice* calls this quintet "the hottest Irish acoustic group on the planet." Lúnasa has become one of the most sought-after international music groups in the world by steering Irish music into new territory. On their first American tour, their inventive arrangements and bass-driven grooves resulted in sold-out performances and rave reviews.



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W&J Honors Founder of Respironics at Annual Entrepreneurial Studies Dinner

Washington & Jefferson College honored Gerald E. McGinnis, founder of Respironics, Inc., as Entrepreneur of the Year for 2004, during its 18th Annual Entrepreneurial Leadership Dinner at the Duquesne Club in downtown Pittsburgh on Saturday, February 28.

In 1976, McGinnis founded Respironics, the world's leading provider of sleep and respiratory specialty products, with annual sales approaching \$700 million. McGinnis, who holds 20 registered U.S. patents, contributes directly to the development, design, and manufacturing technology of many Respironics products. Under his guidance, Respironics has been recognized by *Forbes*, *Business Week*, and the American Association for Respiratory Care.

"Mr. McGinnis is the kind of entrepreneur we encourage our students to look to as a model for their business careers," said Tim Murphy, chair of W&J's Entrepreneurial Studies Program. "Not only has he achieved great success by applying his skills and personal experiences to business, he has done it by meeting a true need—developing products that serve a healthcare need and improve quality of life for those suffering from respiratory ailments."

During the dinner, McGinnis was saluted by W&J, as well as by executives and employees of Respironics. Current CEO John Miclot introduced McGinnis, who acknowledged Respironics personnel, past and present, who made key contributions to the growth of the company.

Rich Karlgaard, publisher of *Forbes* and an entrepreneur in his own right, having co-founded Garage Technology Ventures and *Upside* magazine, presented the dinner's keynote address. In his remarks, Karlgaard expressed enthusiasm for

smaller American towns like Washington, and predicted they would be the beneficiaries of economic growth brought on by skyrocketing real estate and services costs in large cities. Joseph A. Hardy, founder of 84 Lumber Corp., first recipient of the W&J Entrepreneur of the Year Award and initial supporter of the College's Entrepreneurial Studies Program, closed the dinner.

The 2004 W&J Entrepreneurial Leadership Dinner marked the unveiling of a new Entrepreneur of the Year Award sculpture, created and crafted by local Washington artist Brody Parker Burroughs with support from World West Galleries of Washington. The award, designed in the likeness of Cervantes' Don Quixote, "the impossible dreamer," commemorates the vision of the modern entrepreneur, as well as the sizable challenges associated with bringing a new business to life.

W&J began its Entrepreneurial Studies Program in 1986, employing its liberal arts tradition to cultivate the spirit and vision vital to the free enterprise system. Over the last 18 years, the College has honored a variety of regional business builders for their success as entrepreneurs.



W&J Entrepreneur of the Year Gerald E. McGinnis (left), founder and chairman of the board of Respironics, Inc., shakes President Brian C. Mitchell's hand after the awards dinner.



Respironics Creates Internship

In recognition of W&J's Entrepreneurial Studies Program, Respironics designed an in-depth, 11-week internship that allows a W&J student to spend the summer exploring all sides of a successful entrepreneurial endeavor, including marketing, operations and finance. Sarah Shabla '05 was chosen for the internship and began her experience at Respironics on June 1. Shabla, a Hardy Scholar in the Entrepreneurial Studies Program, hails from Erie, Pennsylvania.

Archivist Uncovers Historic Documents; Digital Library Makes History Available Online

The archives at U. Grant Miller Library contain a wealth of history related to Washington & Jefferson College. Recently, College Archivist Rebecca Keenan located a number of famous signatures, cataloged and safely stored away years ago.

In the late 1700s and early 1800s, students at Washington College and Jefferson College, the forerunners of W&J, founded literary societies. In an effort to grow their ranks, members of Franklin Literary Society and Philo Literary Society at Jefferson College and Union Literary Society and Washington Literary Society at Washington College often sent letters to influential men inviting them to join their organizations. Two extant books in the archives document the responses received by the societies at Washington College.

Among those who corresponded with the societies were United States Presidents John Quincy Adams, John Tyler, and James Buchanan and political figures Henry Clay and Thaddeus Stevens. Other historic signatures appear to belong to renowned educator Horace Mann and newspaper legend Horace Greeley.

Additional W&J history is available online through the new Digital Library at <http://washjeff.cdm.oclc.org>. Currently, archived material is available on the history, presidents, and buildings of Washington College, Jefferson College, and Washington & Jefferson College. Additional documents, papers, and information from the archives will be added over time to the Digital Library to provide wide access to the College's collection. Ultimately, each document in the Digital Library will be searchable online by keyword.

Delicate Art at W&J



The Tibetan Lamas of the Drepung Loseling Monastery create a Mandala Sand Painting in the gallery of the Olin Fine Arts Center. "The Mystical Arts of Tibet," a series including photography, dance, and sand painting, was presented in conjunction with the W&J Integrated Semester on Asia (Spring 2004).

Yuhasz Brings a Whole New World of Student Life Experiences to W&J

Susan Yuhasz, Washington & Jefferson College's new dean of student life, literally brings a world of experience to her position. Prior to coming to W&J, she was a member of a small team of higher education experts tasked with establishing Dar Al-Hekma Private College Jeddah, the first private women's college in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Yuhasz's work in the Middle East has made her uniquely qualified in the student life arena—the experience not only offered her insider access to another culture, it strengthened her philosophy of student life and higher education, and deepened her appreciation of the American college and university system.

Yuhasz describes her journey to the Middle East as a leap of faith—when she left the United States, she had no idea what she would find in Saudi Arabia. She wasn't even sure that buildings existed for the college, or that any form of administration had been established. Or if there were any students.

"Once I got there," Yuhasz said, "the worry went away. You focus on the task, and the success of the college depended on us."

As it turned out, Yuhasz and her female colleagues would be creating an institution from scratch, styled on Western liberal arts colleges, within the confines of a culture with which most of them had limited exposure. Everything—from curriculum to student policies to tuition to faculty—was created by Yuhasz and the other members of the senior management team, within government guidelines and with great thought and respect for the culture the college would serve.

Dar Al-Hekma opened with 40 staff and faculty members in the fall of 1999. As vice



Dean of Student Life Susan Yuhasz (third from the right) and her female colleagues pose together near their living quarters in Saudi Arabia wearing the traditional garb of Saudi women.

dean of student affairs, Yuhasz had responsibility for: admissions and enrollment, academic support services, student development, recreational activities, counseling and career services, the health center, and the registrar's office. In addition, she also had oversight for the student handbook, new student and parent orientation programs, admission programs and materials, the computerization of student information, institutional and divisional budgets, and student life policies and procedures.

Initial funding to start Dar Al-Hekma came from Saudi citizens—businessmen, who, like many others in Saudi Arabia, wanted to provide the benefits of Western higher education for their daughters without having to send them to live in the Western world. Previously, the Saudi government had not permitted private colleges, but it was forced to change its policy when it could not meet the demand for higher education on its own.

Because of this history, the concept of tuition was completely alien to the Saudis and

had to be introduced into their academic culture clearly and carefully. In August 1999, shortly before the academic year was set to begin, no students had enrolled at Dar Al-Hekma. Through the hard work of Yuhasz and her colleagues, 100 students were admitted for the college's first semester.

According to Yuhasz, although Middle Eastern cultures are considered to be more restrictive of women, she was pleased to discover that the Saudis were very interested in assuring that women received a high-quality education. Support for women's education in the Middle East has its basis in

Islam. In the Koran, women are given responsibility as the teachers of the family, particularly children. In the minds of many Muslims, a strong educational background can make a woman a better mother and wife.

At the same time, Yuhasz describes Saudi society as "controlled." The Western women on her team were immersed in Middle Eastern culture—they were not permitted to drive while in Saudi Arabia and could not be seen publicly without wearing an abaya, the traditional garb of Saudi women. The compound in which they lived was surrounded by high walls, which allowed them to live and dress as Westerners while away from the college. Yuhasz said she came to appreciate facets of American government and society she hadn't before considered in great depth.

"There is no separation of church and state in Saudi Arabia," she said. "It gives you a real appreciation for the freedom we enjoy here, and makes you understand just how fundamental our separation of church and state is."

Still, Yuhasz treasures what she gained from her two-year term as an administrator in Saudi Arabia. She has particularly strong memories of the countries she was able to visit while in the Middle East, and the cultures and people she encountered in places like Portugal, India, Thailand, and Egypt. And she admits to developing a fondness for a rather odd Saudi pastime—camel racing.

“The Saudis seem to think we Westerners were crazy for even going, but it was an interesting thing to witness,” Yuhasz said.

Camel racing aside, Yuhasz has settled at W&J with responsibilities for all student life functions at the College, including residence life, student services and multicultural affairs, career services, student activities, Greek life, student judicial affairs, and the student newspaper and radio. Prior to her work in Saudi Arabia, Yuhasz had over 20 years of experience in higher education and student life. She

holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of New Hampshire; master of arts in teaching and master of science from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio; and a certificate from the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University.

After two years in Saudi Arabia and another two traveling with her husband for his business, Yuhasz is looking forward to some much-needed routine and the joys of home life. There’s just one small challenge:

“After four years of traveling with all of your belongings in storage, you forget what you have,” she said. “I’m no longer sure why I saved a lot of things!”



The exterior to Dar Al-Hekma Private College Jeddah, the first private women’s college in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Almanac Highlights Faculty Scholarship

On Thursday, April 22, Washington & Jefferson College celebrated the achievements of its best and brightest during its annual Honors Convocation.

While Honors Day has traditionally showcased the accomplishments of students, W&J has taken to recognizing the scholarship of its faculty as well, with the publication of “An Almanac of Scholarly and Professional Achievements by Members of the Washington & Jefferson College Community.”

The almanac highlights faculty publications, presentations, grants, research projects, honors, and activities. This year’s almanac includes achievements in a variety of disciplines. Some examples:

- Assistant Professor of Art Patrick Schmidt’s publication of “Self-Portrait in the Manner of Arcimboldo” in *100 Creative Drawing Ideas* compiled by Anna Held Audette.
- Professor of Sociology Stuart Miller’s publication of the 4th edition of *Juvenile Justice in America* with Prentice-Hall.
- Associate Professor of Psychology Elizabeth Bennett’s presentation of “Forensic Science—Crime Scene to Courtroom: The Process of Developing an Interdisciplinary Lab Course for Non-Science Majors” to the American Psychology–Law Society Biennial Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona.
- Associate Professor of Education Rosalie Carpenter’s creation and coordination of activities for Math Field Day at Trinity West Elementary School.

More information on scholarship and research conducted by W&J faculty and students during the 2003–2004 academic year is available at www.washjeff.edu/pdfs/faculty_scholarship.pdf