



# SCHOLARSHIP INTO TEACHING

## TEACHER-SCHOLARS IN OUR CLASSROOMS

At Washington College, faculty take seriously their role as teacher-scholars. They are engaged in a wide range of artistic and scholarly pursuits that inform their pedagogy and mentorship, in the classroom and beyond.

### Heir to the Crescent Moon

**Sufiya Abdur-Rahman**  
**Assistant Professor of Journalism & Nonfiction**

Winner of the prestigious Iowa Prize for Literary Nonfiction, Prof. Abdur-Rahman's memoir *Heir to the Crescent Moon* investigates intersecting questions of family, identity, race, and religion. She brings these questions and her experiences as a publishing writer, editor, and professional journalist into numerous courses, practicums, and workshops in creative writing, journalism, and creative nonfiction. Believing that everyone has a story to tell, Prof. Abdur-Rahman encourages her students to write their truth.



### Questioning Leadership

Michael Harvey

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**Michael Harvey**  
**John S. Toll Associate Professor of Business Management**

Proposing questions as the heart of leadership, Prof. Harvey's book *Questioning Leadership* explores the way leaders ask hard questions that spark creative solutions and new understandings. Prof. Harvey teaches the value of questions in courses on leadership, organizational behavior, and global business and has been a campus leader as the Director of First Year Seminars and the Interim Provost and Dean of the College.

### Behavioral Neuroscience

**George Spilich**  
**John S. Toll Professor of Psychology (Emeritus)**

Prof. Spilich's textbook *Behavioral Neuroscience* reflects his many years of research on the experience of consciousness and his approach to teaching. The text has an accessible writing style, real-life examples, data sets for analytical skill building, and multi-modal media and quizzes - all designed to make the subject engaging and relevant to students preparing for a career in medicine, the behavioral sciences, as well as students fulfilling a general education science requirement.





# EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

## HANDS-ON AND APPLIED LEARNING

At Washington College, students have a wide variety of experiential opportunities to advance their learning. Through innovative courses, engagements with the community, diverse internships, and more, students regularly apply their skills and knowledge.

### Light of Day Internships

**James Hall, Director, & Roy Kesey, Associate Director, Rose O'Neill Literary House**

In honor of its Founding Director, Bob Day, who dedicated his days to lighting literary pathways for students, the Lit House established the Light of Day Internship Program, which pairs WC students with high-profile literary organizations and publishers nation-wide. These world-class opportunities give students hands-on experience and the start of a professional network, providing them with an edge in their post-graduation job search. It gives them, in short, the Light of Day!



### Oyster Restoration

**Jill Bible  
Assistant Professor of Environmental Science & Studies**

Oysters are a delicacy, but they also clean our waterways and provide important habitat. In classes such as "Marine Conservation" and "Restoration Ecology" Dr. Bible helps her students understand the importance of oysters to the Chesapeake Bay by getting them out on the Bay. Students collect data on oysters and water quality from local docks and use Go Pro cameras launched from our research vessel to assess oyster reef restoration in the Chester River.

### Class-Career Center Collaboration

**Andrew Oros  
Professor of Political Science & International Studies**

In a new Political Science course, Intelligence and National Security, Prof. Oros collaborated with the Career Center to host a series of guest lecturers, including Washington College alumni. The speakers illuminated potential career paths and provided updates on important intelligence and national security topics based on "real world" experiences, thus linking theory and practice. By promoting the lecture series across campus, all Washington College students had the opportunity to learn from the guest experts regardless of their major.





# CIVIC & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Through collaborations with people and organizations on campus and beyond, Washington College faculty support civic and community initiatives, expand educational access, and provide students with opportunities to make a difference in the world.

### Mentorship in Action

**Bridget Bunten, Associate Professor of Education & Rachel Rodriguez, Director of the Writing Center**

Drs. Bunten and Rodriguez jointly coordinate a community engagement initiative with Talbot Mentors, a local nonprofit that supports K-12 student success and expanded college access for young people from underserved communities in Talbot County. Each semester, they recruit, train, and supervise Washington College student tutors who travel to Easton twice a week to provide after-school academic support to middle and high school students.



### Model United Nations

**Carrie Reiling  
Assistant Professor of Political Science & International Studies**

The Model UN program trains students in diplomacy, extemporaneous public speaking, negotiation, and policy writing. Each year, students take their skills to compete at two conferences, one in Washington, DC, and one at a different city around the world. Open to all majors, Model UN is a co-curricular collaboration that encourages students to explore the connections between global politics and technology, health, finance and banking, development, the climate, transportation, and myriad other issues.

### Psychology Wellness Internships

**Lauren Littlefield  
Dr. Carol C. Culp Professor of Psychology**

The wellness internship program is designed to enhance “health, wellness, and belonging” in our student body and is made possible through collaboration with Student Affairs and Counseling Services. Wellness Advocacy Coaches offer individual, drop-in student support in the evenings, and social media interns create Instagram posts to educate about, and inspire, overall wellness. In addition, interns develop events for the broader campus community, such as wellness on wheels, mindfulness moments, and decompression sessions.

### Wellness Advocacy Coaches





# COLLABORATIVE TEACHING

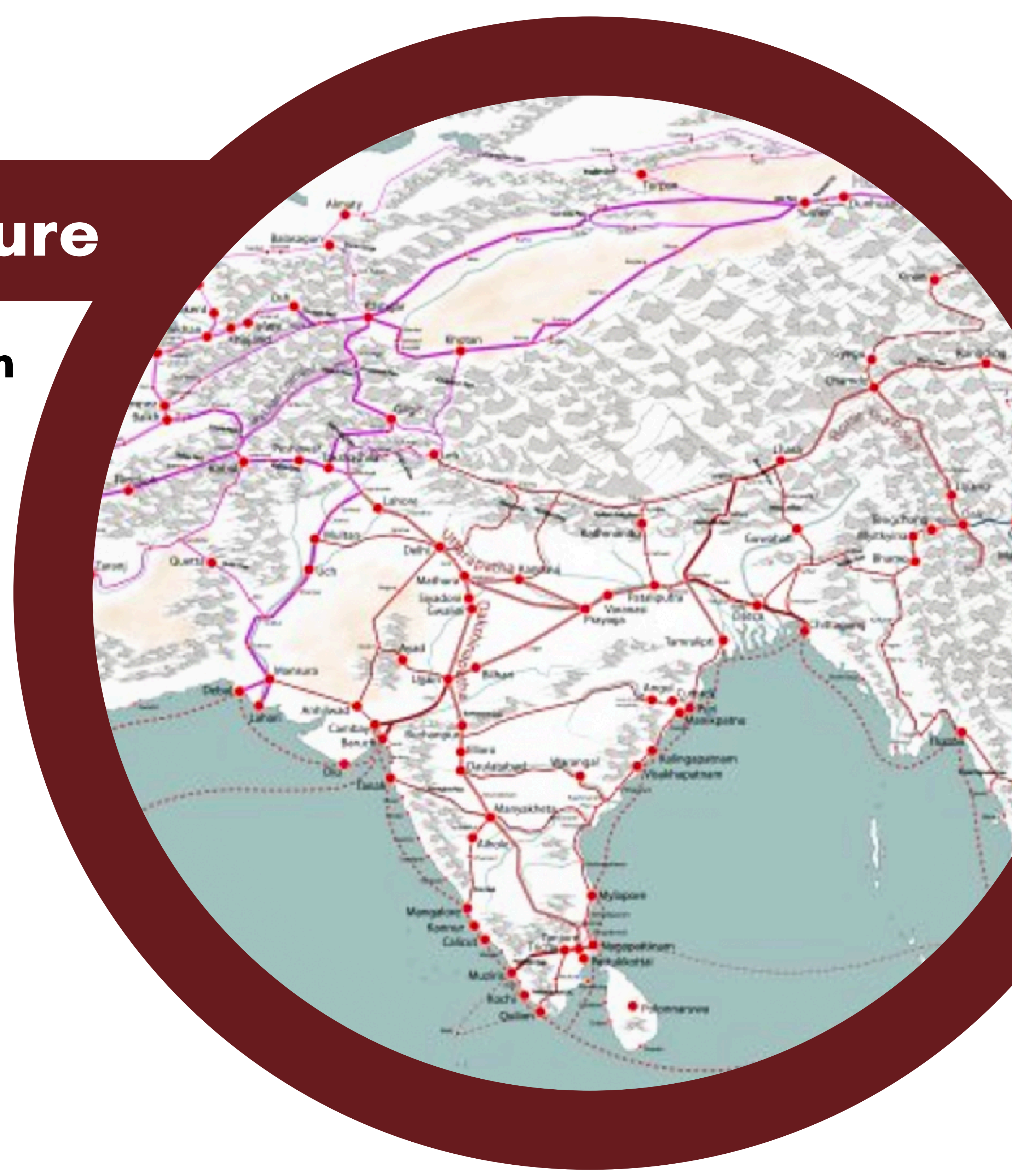
## COURSES THAT CROSS DISCIPLINARY LINES

Washington College faculty regularly design and collaboratively teach courses that strengthen student learning across disciplines. Collaborative teaching takes many forms, from team-taught classes to concurrent courses that come together for interdisciplinary project-based learning.

### Global Wisdom and Literature

**Courtney Rydel, Associate Professor of English & Bin Song, Assistant Professor of Philosophy & Religion**

This class is an interdisciplinary exploration of global wisdom and literature traditions, combining literary studies, philosophy, and religious studies. Together, students overcome barriers of history, geography, ideology, genre, and academic discipline. With the joint instruction and guidance of Drs. Rydel and Song, students acquire skills of intercultural and interdisciplinary competence, which is pivotal to the real-world value of contemporary liberal arts education.



### Community Engaged Research

**Sara Clarke-De Reza, Associate Professor of Education & Meghan Grosse, Assistant Professor of Communication & Media Studies**

Drs. Clarke-De Reza and Grosse bring together their interests in education and media studies to offer innovative and creative approaches to teaching students critical information literacy and research skills. Last year, they developed a social scientific research methods class in which students undertook a large-scale, mixed-methods study of civic engagement at Washington College. They, along with a new cohort of students, are now in their second year of data collection.

### Cross-Course Collaborative Project

**Rebecca Fox, Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Studies & Jordan Tirrell, Assistant Professor of Mathematics**

This project brings together students in two different courses, Statistics II and Watershed Biogeochemistry, who “test run” their disciplinary skills and knowledge as they carry out collaborative projects. Statistics students are embedded consultants in a team of biogeochemistry students, and together they design and conduct a study of a local creek. Effective communication, teamwork, and interdisciplinary problem solving are central to their project success.





# INNOVATION

## EXPLORING NEW PEDAGOGIES & TECHNOLOGIES

Washington College faculty create courses and educational resources that build on innovative teaching and learning strategies as well as new technologies. Our creative approaches to education provide students with tools and critical thinking skills for living and working in the 21st-Century.

### Digitizing the Archives

**Lindsay Sheldon**  
**Director of Archives and Technical Services**

The library and archives team recently digitized significant material from the Washington College Archives. The diverse collection features notable campus speakers, including Dwight D. Eisenhower and Lady Bird Johnson, films of the college shot in the 1930s, professors, students, and Presidents talking about the importance of a liberal arts education, recordings of track and field events from the 1950s, and more. This material is highlighted on the College's Digital Archives and through the upcoming Talking Democracy at Washington College website.



### Toxicology-Based CURE Course

**Mindy Reynolds**  
**Professor of Biology**

Course-based undergraduate research experience (CURE) is a novel type of course that provides students with hands-on research experience. This toxicology-based CURE course exposed students to principles in toxicology while also actively engaging them in original research and providing them with essential skills for their post graduate pursuits. Students were introduced to a research question: how vaping chemicals impact survival of human lung epithelial cells. They then designed experiments, collected and analyzed data, and presented their findings.

### Acknowledging Artificial Intelligence

**Sean Meehan**  
**Professor of English and Director of Writing**

The educational impact of Generative AI tools such as ChatGPT has been hyped and feared. Working with faculty and staff across campus, and in articles published in Inside Higher Ed, Sean Meehan as Director of Writing and Co-Director of the Cromwell CTL has urged critical engagement with AI's potential uses and limitations. Writing is itself a technology that extends our thinking and Dr. Meehan teaches students to acknowledge how AI and other resources, old and new, might play a role in the writing process.

