

WASHBURN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION — FALL 2022

THE ICHABOD





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Jerry and Susan Farley spent 25 years as the face of Washburn before President Farley's retirement this fall. Read their history, hear from people close to them, see photos and more.

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A nearly solid-orange backdrop surrounds the Ichabod statue in the Doris Firestone Joss Garden outside the Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*



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Your news, thoughts and questions are important to us. Please write, telephone or send us an email. News of jobs, honors, weddings, anniversaries and births are always welcome. Please include your name, class year, address and daytime phone number.

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From the President

Dear alumni and friends,

This fall is a time of transition at Washburn University. As we say farewell to President Jerry Farley after 25 years of leadership, the search for Washburn's next president is in full swing. The future of our University is bright because of the dedicated faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends who have worked to create a vibrant and healthy community. Times of transition are also times of opportunity if you are prepared, and Washburn University is prepared.

As you may have heard, I have the honor of serving as the interim president of Washburn University until the next president arrives. This is a duty I do not take lightly. As the leader of the Alumni Association and Foundation for the last five years, I have been in a unique position to connect with some of Washburn's greatest supporters while closely studying and sharing the tremendous work that happens on our campus each semester. The opportunity to provide stability and leadership on campus and beyond is incredibly humbling.

I simply cannot say enough about the impact our alumni and friends have on the continued success of the University. Your engagement and generosity never cease to amaze me. Similarly, I cannot overstate the transformative impact our faculty and staff have on Washburn students. Your dedication and willingness to engage directly in our student's learning is an inspiration to me and to many others.

These are the constants that will endure at Washburn University, even as we move into a new era. They are the spirit of Washburn.

This issue of *The Ichabod* will look at the last 25 years and how Washburn has grown and changed under Dr. Farley's leadership. Our beloved University has transformed in so many ways – from its conversion into a traditional residential campus, to the addition of academic programs and technical education, to changes in the physical appearance with more than 25 buildings either constructed or renovated. Dr. Farley has left an indelible mark on our campus through his vision and leadership.

We are forever grateful for the 25 years of service from Jerry and Susan Farley. We are also excited to move forward knowing Washburn is in solid footing with tremendous faculty and staff and supportive alumni and friends. Washburn University is a very special place, and our spirit will endure. We are prepared.

Thank you for all you do for Washburn.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marshall Meek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marshall Meek
Interim President, Washburn University
President, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation





Jerry Farley at his desk in his office in Morgan Hall. *Photo by Doug Stremel*

Hello, Everyone

Farley carried out his grand vision for Washburn over 25 years as president

By Jeremy Wangler • jwangler@wualumni.org

When Jerry Farley began his presidency at Washburn University in 1997, higher education was at a crossroads. Technology was taking over classrooms and libraries. Accelerated learning and for-profit colleges were popular options. The burgeoning internet brought a new way to deliver courses.

Some predicted brick-and-mortar universities would become obsolete. Farley rejected that notion and dug into his grand vision for Washburn.

“It has been my opinion that a certain segment of the population still wants to send their child to a school with a solid residential tradition,” he said.

In his 25 years as president, Farley built a vibrant student life, a strong residential feel, multiple campuses to meet the needs of the region, solid financial roots and a healthy endowment built by supportive alumni and donors. He retired this September as the longest serving president in Washburn’s 157 years.



“It’s amazing to look at the Washburn campus today compared to what it looked like when I went to school there – right after the tornado – in 1967. Jerry Farley has had an amazing impact on the campus as well as the university itself.”

- Jacki Summerson, ba '68, h '18, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation trustee

Going Places

Farley was born in 1946 in Tipton, Oklahoma. His father owned a service station. Farley observed how well his father ran the business – as well as any trained accountant would keep a book – and at 17, he moved 130 miles northeast to the University of Oklahoma to study finance and accounting. He was the first of five siblings to attend college and became the first in his family to graduate.



Jerry Farley's college yearbook photo.

“I was a pretty good student,” Farley said. “I’m not brilliant but I knew how to study and I knew how to prepare for tests.”

The weekend of his graduation in 1968 his father took a message from OU’s bursar.

“I thought maybe I hadn't paid a parking ticket and they weren't going to let me graduate on Sunday,” he said. “On Monday morning I went to the bursar's office, and it turned out they had a job opening and a faculty member recommended me. The bursar interviewed me and hired me on the spot.”

That started his journey to his dream job – chief financial officer at OU – but it would be almost 30 years before Washburn entered his radar screen.

“Did I have a vision I was going to be president of a university? Not even close,” Farley said.

Service and Learning

The Vietnam War draft halted his work at OU, but he didn't stop growing and learning as the Army accepted him into the drill sergeant academy. A student once again, Farley excelled at anything that wasn't physical but struggled with things like throwing a hand grenade. His three roommates in the barracks excelled at the physical but struggled with the written tests.

“My roommates said, ‘Why do you have all those good grades? Are you cheating?’ I said, ‘No. Just preparing

for a test.’ They asked for my help with the tests, and they would help me learn the rest. When we finished the program at the academy, I was number 1 and they were number 2, 3 and 4. I helped them, and they helped me. I’m still proud of that,” Farley said.

After graduation, Farley was assigned to stay in the drill sergeant academy to teach and develop lesson plans.

“I really became a military man at the time,” Farley said. “I worked with some of the best people I’ve ever been around. They were top notch, and I learned a lot from them.”

Continuing Education

After his military service, Farley returned to his job at OU, enrolled in the university’s MBA program and aspired for bigger roles.



Susan and Jerry Farley pose at the Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center. Photo by Gary Jones

New Buildings Constructed or Acquired Under Farley's Leadership

Living Learning Center - 2001
Bianchino Pavilion - 2003
Washburn Village - 2004
Student Recreation & Wellness Center - 2004
Carole Chapel - 2004
Art Building - 2005
Washburn University Foundation Building - 2006
Washburn University Institute of Technology - 2008
KBI Forensic Science Center - 2015
Lincoln Hall and Lincoln Dining Hall - 2016
Rita Blitt Gallery and Sculpture Garden - 2018
Golf Indoor Practice Facility - 2018
Washburn Tech East - 2019
Indoor Athletic Facility - 2020
School of Law Building - Completion in 2023

Major Building Renovations Under Farley's Leadership

Memorial Union - 2001
White Concert Hall - 2001
Lee Arena - 2001
Yager Stadium at Moore Bowl - 2003
Mulvane Art Museum and Sabatini Art Lab - 2006
Stoffer Science Hall - 2007
Whiting Field House - 2009
Morgan Hall and the Welcome Center - 2015

In-Progress Fundraising and Planning

Recital Hall - New Construction
Henderson Learning Resources Center - Renovation

"It was clear if I wanted to stay in higher education, I would need to have a doctorate," he said.

He did just that and held several roles for the next 27 years. In 1974 he became controller at OU and in 1981 he became associate vice president for administrative affairs. He joined Oklahoma State University in 1986 as vice president for business and finance. He returned to OU in 1989 and held two vice presidential positions before taking the presidency at Washburn in July 1997.

Farley heard about the Washburn job because of Tom Ellis, ba '75, a Washburn graduate who worked at OU. Farley was on a trip in Washington, D.C., and working near the firm managing Washburn's presidential search. He walked in unannounced and talked to the representative for about an hour.

"I said, 'You know, I might be interested in this,' and she said, 'Give me a resume by tonight because I'm going to Topeka tomorrow morning.'"

"But I was still thinking, 'President of a university; do I really want to do that? Do I know what that involves?'"

The committee thought so and the regents offered him the job, which, of course, he took.

Putting Living and Learning Together

"The first thing we decided to do was increase enrollment and change our identity to a residential experience," Farley said.

Within the first years he created the vice president for student life position, reinvigorated athletics and built the Living Learning Center, Art Building and Student Recreation and Wellness Center. The LLC did not have everyone's support at first.



"I knew then he was the right person at the right moment with the right message. Fast forward two decades plus, and I'm proud to say I was right!"

- **Garry Cushinberry, ba '80, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation trustee, senior vice president, CoreFirst Bank & Trust**



“Since we first participated in NABC’s Recycled Rides program in 2011, Dr. Farley has been an avid supporter. It takes backing from administration to make anything successful, and he has been there for us. Dr. Farley has always taken time to visit with the students who worked on the vehicles and the recipients of those vehicles.”

- Eric Showalter, instructor, collision repair, Washburn Tech



Jerry Farley spoke at Washburn Tech East in 2021 to announce a partnership with Mars Wrigley and the Kansas Board of Regents to create a certified production technician program. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

“I wanted it in the heart of campus so everybody would see it and want to be a part of it,” Farley said. “Others worried what it may look like to have people playing Frisbee out on the lawn. By the time we finished that building, everyone was on board.”

The 400 beds in the LLC filled up quickly, and since then, Washburn has built Washburn Village and Lincoln Hall, increasing residential living opportunities currently to about 800 people.

“We made those changes and have been thinking more residential every day,” he said.

Getting Technical

In the mid-2000s, Farley led Washburn on a bold opportunity – taking over Kaw Area Technical School

from Topeka Public Schools. The campus, three miles northwest of Washburn University, enrolled high school students and adults earning technical and professional certificates. Farley and his leadership team spent about four years devising a way to make that campus part of what Washburn offers. In 2008, KATS became Washburn University Institute of Technology. The merger continues to offer technical education and gives students a direct route to associate degrees and more offered by Washburn.

“I am really proud of Washburn Tech,” Farley said. “When we were planning this, other four-year schools looked at that and said, ‘You have a nice little arts and sciences campus and a nice reputation, and you are going to sullen it with tech.’ I did not view it that way



Jerry and Susan Farley dance in 2017 during a celebration of their 20th year at Washburn. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

at all, and I think it has proven to be phenomenally successful.”

Washburn Tech continues to adapt the programs offered, and relationships with area businesses ensure it produces well-trained graduates for the workforce. Washburn Tech East opened in 2019 to give east Topeka residents better access to adult education and training.

“We must remain responsive and agile to the needs of the workforce around us,” Farley said. “I think Washburn Tech is one of the best things we have done.”

Community Investment

“A personal initiative of mine was to bring the city of Topeka a little closer to Washburn because that’s where we get our funding,” Farley said. “We’ve got to show the citizens this is a good investment.”

When Farley started, Washburn’s funding came from a property tax levy. He worked with the Kansas legislature to change it to a local sales tax. He also worked with his team to create what they called a smoothing fund.

“In years when collections were up, we took what was above the budget and put it in a rainy day account,” Farley said. “When we were down, we pulled money out of the fund. We’ve had some down years that were difficult, but we had the money to cover it. It stabilized our funding, and that model is still working.”

During Farley’s time, he’s overseen the construction of the KBI Forensic Science Center on campus, which put a high-tech crime lab on campus and gave Washburn students access to criminal justice learning spaces. The Pine Ridge Family Health Center opened to meet a need for health care in an underrepresented area and gave doctor of nursing practice students a place to

“President Farley’s legacy is his total transformation of the Washburn University campus. Every aspect of the Washburn experience felt his commitment. Thank you, Dr. Farley, for your passion to make Washburn University a great university for all students.”

- Richard Ross, ba '71, jd '75, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation trustee

“His enthusiasm and vision are infectious, and alumni overwhelmingly admire him. He values and understands the importance of the work we do at the Alumni Association. Alongside him for nearly all events and travel is his wife, Susan. They’re a dynamic duo; as an alumni director, I couldn’t have asked for two better people to represent and lead Washburn University, thereby making alumni proud of their alma mater.”

- Susie Hoffmann, bba '87, director, Washburn Alumni Association

“He is a big reason why international partners like to work with us. His genuine enthusiasm in his profession, brimming pride in Washburn, intense interest in helping students grow, endless optimism when facing challenges and friendly persona in his interaction with others would quickly win people over everywhere we went.”

- Baili Zhang, director, International Programs, Washburn University



Jerry Farley speaks at the ribbon cutting of the Morgan Hall renovation, Welcome Center and Ichabod Plaza during the sesquicentennial in 2015. *Photo by Bruce Matthews*

practice. When a cosmetology school in Topeka went out of business without warning, Farley proposed and carried out the creation of a cosmetology program through Washburn Tech. Those students were back in a classroom within a few weeks. Washburn remodeled Morgan Hall to include a Welcome Center to serve as the front door to the main campus. Washburn also created and maintains the landscaped boulevard where SW 17th Street passes campus.

“We want to make sure students and parents like us,” Farley said. “We also want donors, community members and our legislators to like us. We have to create good relationships with all those people, and it makes a tremendous difference in my opinion.”

Legacy, Advice and Praise

A 1998 article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* said experts considered Farley one of the top three

“Dr. Farley is retiring from a different university than the one he began leading 25 years ago. Washburn has been forever transformed under his leadership and is perfectly positioned to provide students with the authentic college experience deep into the future.”

- Marshall Meek, mba '17, interim president, Washburn University; president, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation

“We tackled renovations, new construction, applications of new technologies and delivery systems. It was heartening to see such focus on new facilities and programs for students. In the midst of this movement was Dr. Farley. He was unique in his focus on the student life experience. I will always remember being at Washburn at a time of historic growth and development.”

- Denise Ottinger, eminentes universitatis vice president for student life, Washburn University

“When Dr. Farley hired me as dean for the School of Applied Studies, he asked me what he could do for me in my new leadership role. I remember saying, ‘Don’t say no to me when I ask for something.’ I remember him chuckling and saying, ‘Have I ever?’ He never did say no. He truly understood what was important and needed for Topeka and Washburn University.”

- Pat Munzer, professor emeritus, School of Applied Studies, Washburn University



Jerry Farley speaking at his presidential inauguration on April 19, 1998. *Photo by Topeka Capital-Journal*

financial minds in higher education around the country. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society Hall of Fame in 1997, and his induction biography said he was “nationally known for his expertise in higher education finance.” While at Washburn, he was named a Distinguished Kansan in 2015 and a Distinguished Citizen by Boy Scouts of America in 2008. He’s in the Topeka Business Hall of Fame and has served on the boards of many civic and charitable organizations.

Farley plans to stay active in his president emeritus position with passions that include building up the international student population. He plans to keep teaching continuing education courses for higher education leaders around the country. His wife, Susan, wants him to take up golf, and he wants to get back into flying airplanes – he used to own a single-engine Beechcraft Bonanza.

He knows he left a legacy at Washburn in many ways, but he also knows the next president could take

“Dr. Farley is a well-respected leader on intercollegiate athletics, and I appreciate that he always forms a position on important issues by prioritizing what is best for our student-athletes. He understands that intercollegiate athletics participation helps prepare student-athletes for success after graduation.”

- Mike Racy, bba '87, commissioner, The MIAA



“Dr. Farley’s leadership and involvement extends well beyond the Washburn campus. He knew early on if he was going to see his vision for Washburn succeed, he needed to be out and involved in the Topeka community, and he went above and beyond in that regard. Washburn and Topeka will benefit for many years to come from his efforts and we all owe a great deal of gratitude to him for that.”

- **John Dicus, chair and president, chief executive officer, Capitol Federal**

Washburn in different directions. He’s fine with that and offers some advice.

“Somebody’s going to have this job soon, and that person will have different characteristics than I have, and it will change the direction of the university,” he said.

“Do not try to make us look like the university you came from. If you’ve got an idea you think is a good idea, sell it to Washburn. Make Washburn see the wisdom of the idea. Spend a long time listening. You start that on day one, but you don’t have to finish listening on day three.

“Look at me. I knew nothing about Washburn and I survived for 25 years.”

A quarter century brought enumerable changes to Washburn. The physical landscape is the most visible, but the mark he left on the academic programming, the financial practices and his engagement with alumni might even last longer than any building.

“A few years were tough, but the others have been really good,” he said. “We just happened to be at the right time and place, and the board of regents and faculty agreed with what we were doing. But I recognize absolutely all the things that happened are not because of me. It is a whole bunch of other people who are doing amazing things for Washburn.

“The support of Washburn’s family – students, alumni, faculty, staff, regents and community donors, everyone working together – is what makes this such a special place. It has been an absolute privilege to have served as president for 25 years.” 

Farley Goes Out On Top

High U.S. News and World Report Rankings

Jerry Farley left Washburn in good standing as the top public regional university in Kansas by the U.S. News and World Report ranking released this fall. Washburn was named the 14th best public regional university in the Midwest in the same rankings. In addition, Washburn ranked as the top public regional university in Kansas for student veterans, as well as having the lowest typical student debt at graduation. The student debt ranking is based on the amount graduates borrowed through federal loans. The student veteran ranking looks at how universities pay attention to the specific needs of veterans and of those transitioning out of active military service.

The Farley Years

Read and see more about Jerry and Susan Farley at wualumni.org/farley-years

Her Own Path

How the first lady of Washburn found her place and made an impact

By Annie Flachsbarth

When Susan Farley's husband, Jerry Farley, took the role of Washburn president in 1997, it took her a little time to discover her role on campus.

"I wanted to grow up and be a math teacher, which I was," Farley said. "When we moved here, I was a little lost."

So, Farley set to work trying to figure out how she could best contribute to the cause. And she's done just that. For 25 years, she's not only contributed, but she's also held a crucial role in community relations for the university.

Getting to Know Susan

Born in Knoxville, Tennessee, Farley graduated high school in Chattanooga and received her undergraduate degree in mathematics from the University of Tennessee. She received her master's in education from the University of Oklahoma while completing an internship in the Teacher Corps program. She taught mathematics in Oklahoma for 26 years, including 13 years at Norman public schools and seven years at OU prior to moving to Topeka for her role as first lady.

The more Farley learned about the history of Washburn, the prouder she became. When Washburn's archivist, Martha Imperato, shared the 125-year-old autobiography of the University's namesake, Ichabod Washburn, she wanted to share his story. She took it upon herself to retype it and have it re-published. The book was given to the board of regents, sold in the university bookstore and is online through Google books.

Always a student at heart, Farley has gotten to know students and faculty better while auditing courses in the 60+ audit program – taking a variety of classes including biology, chemistry, physics, kinesiology, sociology, religious studies and history. She's also made it a point to host monthly student dinner roundtable discussions during the school year and believes she's touched thousands of students in this personal way.

Farley enjoys those smaller, one-on-one conversations better than the larger events which explains why she also enjoys golf, tennis, bridge, scrabble and discussions with her book club.

"My husband's role has afforded many opportunities to meet wonderful people," Farley said. "I also like to get to know people, and them to get to know me separate from what my husband does. On the other hand, it is wonderful when I can use my role to make people feel better with hospital visits, funerals, weddings and other celebrations."

She also enjoys traveling with Washburn alumni on trips and representing Washburn at community events with the Chamber of Commerce, Topeka Symphony, Topeka Civic Theatre, Topeka Business Hall of Fame and Kansas Day.

"No matter what I do, I have been seen as a reflection of the University," Farley said. "This is the way I have been introduced, and the way most people interact with me. I have tried to always be mindful of this and reflect well for Washburn."

The Ultimate Hostess

A vital part of Farley's role has been to make sure their 98-year-old home is ready for every event. Entertaining in their beautiful Westboro neighborhood home, owned by Washburn University, requires a laundry list of to-dos for Farley, including making sure the house and lawn is ready, coordinating menus, arranging furniture for the anticipated number of guests, supervising catering staff and engaging guests.

A multitude of events have been hosted at their home, including new faculty receptions, student dinner roundtables, discussion dinners, Phi Kappa Phi initiations, visiting international students, Alumni Fellows receptions, donor appreciation gatherings, Washburn Women's Alliance luncheons and KTWU donor dinners.



Susan Farley poses in front of her fireplace with her dog, Hershey, at her side and a copy of "Autobiography of Ichabod Washburn," which she worked to re-publish. *Photo by Peggy Clark*

"I am always glad to use our home to benefit Washburn," Farley said. "It is a privilege to live in this home and serve this outstanding University."

However, Farley's role as hostess extends much further than entertaining at home. She regularly entertains "on the go" at Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation events and Washburn Athletic events – in Topeka and other cities across the country – to help strengthen relationships with attendees.

She also helps woo prospective students and develops positive relationships with students, faculty, alumni, elected officials and community leaders to garner support for Washburn.

"These relationships have enriched my life, and it is gratifying to think this may have inspired more

interest in contributing to Washburn, whether with time, talent, or treasure," Farley said. "I am blessed to have had the opportunity to serve the University in this way."

Retirement and Beyond

As Jerry Farley retired on Sept. 30, Susan said she's not exactly sure what to expect. She knows they'll continue to be involved with Washburn as much as they can, but looks forward to fewer evening obligations and of course, being able to spend more time with her husband.

"I know I have been blessed with so many wonderful experiences for the past 25 years," Farley said. "I will always treasure these memories. Now it's time to take care of the little things and spend more quality time with people." 🦿

Under the Surface

Archaeology students explore Brown v. Board site before historic court case

By Jeremy Wangler • jwangler@wualumni.org

The Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park is an icon in Topeka and a landmark on the road to racial equality in the United States. This summer, Washburn University archaeology students joined Kansas Historical Society and Kansas Anthropological Association employees and volunteers in digging deeper into the history of the land owned by the National Park Service.

With signs of their urban environment all around them – neighbors checking in, lawn mowers humming, ambulance sirens in the distance and the Topeka skyline just to the north – they explored the area around the museum, and just a foot or two below the surface, they found artifacts that will help piece together the history.

“The National Park Service wanted to do more interpretation and really understand early Topeka life in this neighborhood before this was a school,” said Shelby Beltz, ba '18, archaeologist, KHS.



Shelby Beltz, ba '18 (right), takes measurements while Laura Murphy, associate professor, archaeology, assists.
Photo by Jeremy Wangler

Seven students enrolled in Associate Professor Laura Murphy's Archaeological Field School, a summer class that includes two weeks at the site and the rest of the time analyzing their finds and preparing a presentation. The National Park Service scanned the ground surrounding the Monroe Elementary School using geophysical equipment to look for signatures of buried structures. This survey guided the decisions on where to dig.

“You don't really know a lot about what went on here other than after the Supreme Court case,” said Tori Shaw, a junior anthropology major. “We studied maps and historical records that were provided in the field manual, and it doesn't seem like the community that existed here really got their story told.”

Shaw's dig unit was south of the Monroe Elementary School building, which is now the National Park Service museum. Her group was looking for evidence of a home belonging to a woman named Lulu Perkins in the early 1900s. Curiously, the geophysical survey did not show evidence of a previous structure, but historic maps did. Shaw predicted it was a shack-like building without a foundation. One week into the dig, Shaw's unit found a trove of artifacts including ceramic plates, window glass and an inkwell.

“It was this really exciting moment where I thought there could be evidence of somebody who resided here, whether the house was bulldozed or demolished or something. We know there are signs of residence because of all the household items.”

On the northeast side of the school, El Miller, a junior anthropology major, and their group were looking for signs of privies based on the geophysical signatures and the historic maps. The group ended up finding a sidewalk and a building foundation, and Miller found one of the first bricks.

“It's exhilarating,” they said. “Finding something someone left from the past is really interesting.”



Student El Miller (center) just found this brick while digging in a plot at the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Park. Kansas Anthropological Association ambassador Bill Olson investigates it for markings while fellow student Savannah Cusack (left) looks on. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

Miller has always been interested in history and is majoring in anthropology.

“Dr. Murphy told me about the class, and I got really excited about it,” Miller said. “I thought it would be the perfect fit, and this ended up cementing that I really want to do archaeology field work.”

Beltz is one of Murphy’s former students, and the professor is proud to see the graduate mentor her current students.

“It’s really great to see students leave and graduate, follow their passions and do exactly what they studied,” Murphy said. “And having Shelby mentor my own students right now, it gives them a sense of what it takes to become a professional archaeologist.”

The students learn digging techniques, mapping, data recording and proper use of the equipment. They came into the summer as seven individuals and finished as a team.

“There’s only so much you can teach in the classroom,” Murphy said. “They were all a little apprehensive at

first. Now that we have watched some of them take on real leadership roles, it’s just great.”

“We kind of broke them out of their shell,” Beltz said.

Murphy hopes she can start offering the class more often, working at different sites throughout the region. She offered it once before, but the pandemic kept her from doing it for two years.

“It would be nice to get back on a regular schedule,” she said. “I would love to have more students get field experience and do these hands-on activities and interact with the community. It’s been really beneficial for them.”

Unlike most digs, these archaeologists-in-training got to sleep in their own beds at night and make an impact in their own community.

“I hope the end result of this research is we have a lot more data and artifacts that put together how people lived here,” Shaw said. “It’s something that has probably been ignored; other than people knowing about the Supreme Court case, we haven’t considered there’s an entire history and community.” 



Stacy Conner teaching Service Coordination in the health sciences department. Conner is the coordinator of the addiction counseling master's program at Washburn. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

Road to Recovery

Addiction counseling program meets needs of growing problems

By Angela Lutz

When Nick Casarona started working as a peer recovery mentor, he knew he'd found his calling. After going into recovery from drug addiction at the age of 41, he worried he'd wasted too much time – that his past, including a ruined career and jail time, would keep him from making a meaningful professional impact. But he quickly discovered his own struggles with addiction could allow him to help others heading down the same path.

"I decided to study addictions counseling because of my own personal experiences," he said. "Two weeks after graduating high school I broke my neck and got prescribed pain medication – eventually it got out of control and pretty much destroyed my life and everything I'd ever worked for. It's not something I

ever thought would happen, but here I am now in a completely different life."

Today, Casarona is the recovery coach supervisor at Heartland Regional Alcohol and Drug Assessment Center in Kansas City, Kansas, and he's working toward his bachelor's degree in addiction counseling through Washburn's family and human services department in the School of Applied Studies. He said he is living proof people can change – and other people recovering from drug and alcohol addictions can help show them the way.

"When I started in recovery, I thought there was no hope for change, but I met people who were able to help me figure it out," Casarona said. "My personal journey combined with my education allows me

to help so many others. They say that if you find something you love you never work a day in your life, and that's kind of where I'm at with this."

Filling a Vital Need in the Area

For Stacy Conner, assistant professor, family and human services, who currently coordinates the addiction counseling master's program and previously spearheaded the bachelor's program, this type of education fills a vital need in the area. Drug addiction is a growing problem across the country, and counselors are desperately needed in Kansas.

"To educate people in a field that has high demand is incredibly important to our area," she said. "We're helping to feed the pipeline of people who can do this work side by side with people who are needing to get into recovery."

To help students gain experience, Washburn's program includes internships where students work with a licensed supervisor at a site in their community. Because the master's program is based online, this allows students to become invested in working where they live, which has been beneficial for care access in central and western Kansas.

"Seeing addiction counseling happening live and practicing it with the support of a supervisor and with actual people who are going through it is valuable to their development in the field," Conner said. "They get to see if it's a good fit for them, and that makes them more ready for the career itself."

Washburn's program also offers specialties students can incorporate into their degree plan, such as trauma and recovery or family services. According to Conner, this helps students gain a more complete picture of addiction, which often includes many factors beyond substance abuse. Certificate programs also allow students who have completed another degree or are returning to school to quickly expand their educational horizons.

Value of Personal Experience

For many students, education is bolstered by personal experiences. Washburn graduate student Renee Sheldon was drawn to the university's addiction counseling program after dealing with addiction in her family when she was a child. Today, she works as a high school addiction counselor at Sea Mar Community Health Centers in Vancouver, Washington, helping young

people achieve positive outcomes.

"A lot of the kids I work with who struggle with addiction were first introduced to it in their families," Sheldon said "I want to be the person they can trust – a lot of them don't trust adults very easily. I want to help instill those skills I lacked going into adulthood."

"At Washburn, I've gained a ton of experience," Casarona added. "The clinical side of the program has given me a lot more tools to help clients find the path to recovery. I also share my own personal story. It's not just about the substance – there's so much underlying turmoil that goes on within."

Because Casarona and Sheldon are both parents who work full time, the flexible nature of Washburn's programs is also appealing, allowing them to expand their knowledge and expertise and become leaders in their field.

"I am a much more effective addictions counselor having gone through this program and am better able to bridge the gap between needs and resources," Sheldon said. "The discussions are so relevant and the professors are very involved. What they teach in this program is exactly on point with what we need to be successful in the field." 🚶



Nick Casarona is studying addiction counseling after going into recovery himself as a 41-year-old. *Photo submitted*

Making a Trade

Washburn Tech, Explore the Trades create new plumbing program

By Katie Hampton

Washburn University Institute of Technology made an addition to its program offerings for the new school year. Starting this fall, students can enroll in the plumbing technology program that will provide them with knowledge and skills needed to equip them for the plumbing industry. Plumbers are in high demand, meaning this two-semester program will benefit the institution and community greatly.

The plumbing program has been in the works at Washburn Tech for over a year. The process entailed contacting a local plumber, Patrick Grogan of Pat Plumbing, Heating and Air, to help with the curriculum and the layout of the project. After partnering with Grogan's company, Washburn Tech was able to work with Explore the Trades to move forward with the process and start setting up shop for students.

Explore the Trades is a nonprofit organization that focuses on bridging the technical talent gap to trades like plumbing, heating, cooling and electrical. Kate Cinnamo, executive director of Explore the Trades, has high hopes for the new program which is being offered at Washburn Tech East.

"We are excited to see how the students progress through the program and to see their successes," she said. "On the flip side, together with Pat Plumbing, Heating and Air, we are excited to see the relationship between the institution and business take shape."

She anticipates many students moving through the program and establishing their career in plumbing due to the increase in open job positions.

"Plumbing is a career that will never be automated," she said. "Students will be able to serve their community in these well-respected positions."

There has been a shift in the last couple of years surrounding the stigma of a technical education.



Posing where students will take part in the new plumbing program at Washburn Tech East are, from left to right: (front row) Keith Szuba, Patrick Grogan, (back row): Charles Haven, m ed '16, Kate Cinnamo, and Mike Strohschein. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

Mike Strohschein, dean, Washburn Tech, advises students to "never judge a book by its cover; technical trade programs are just a robust job opportunity."

For students interested in plumbing or other trade programs, Washburn Tech has financial support available.

"Do not let money make a determination for your career; come visit us at Washburn Tech to hone in on what you want to do with a degree in technical education," Strohschein said. 🛠️

Goal-Oriented

Law student achieving academic, athletic success following stroke

By Chris Marshall

Emily Lauritsen is a goalkeeper in every sense of the word.

When she suffered a stroke in November 2020 in her third semester at Washburn University School of Law, those familiar with her work ethic didn't doubt she would one day return to pursue her law degree.

But what nobody anticipated – especially during a rehabilitation that involved retraining muscles and learning how to speak and write again – was Lauritsen would win a gold medal in the process.

While battling the demands of mental and physical therapy, Lauritsen, aa '19, bas '19, did more than just get by – she started at goalie for the U.S. Women's Para National Team, which won the 2022 IFCPF World Cup in Spain with an undefeated record.

"I had never traveled outside of the country and definitely hadn't played in a World Cup," said Lauritsen, who focused her education on addiction counseling and human services at Washburn. "I hadn't even played soccer competitively since high school, so it had been well over a decade. There were definitely a lot of firsts."



Emily Lauritsen, aa '19, bas '19, during training in Spain. Photo by Buzz Meade, US Soccer

The journey began when Britt Lauritsen, Emily's wife and Washburn's assistant athletic director at the time, saw a U.S. soccer social media post seeking athletes who had palsy, brain trauma or a stroke. The Lauritsens responded, and soon, Emily was taking off for a tryout in California.

After a whirlwind training camp and a crash course on goalkeeping, she recorded three shutouts and allowed just three total goals in five games in Salou, Spain, helping the United States go 4-0-1 to win the inaugural tournament.

"I felt vindicated," she said. "I can see progress in things like my handwriting getting better and being able to walk without a walker, but because I have lingering day-to-day difficulties, I need to remind myself, 'You're still getting better every day and making progress.'"

Lauritsen said her law professors provided every resource necessary to make her return possible. Michelle Ewert, an associate professor Lauritsen worked for as a research assistant, was in constant communication during her recovery. Lauritsen just started her third and final year of law school, and in June, she returned to her research role with Ewert, yet another step toward normalcy.

"It was really hard to see her have to struggle through physical therapy and speech therapy," Ewert said, "but she handled it with such grace and poise. It's inspiring how hard she's worked. Because of her superb problem solving skills, tremendous work ethic and concern for others, Emily is going to be an exceptional attorney."

Lauritsen may have earned gold for denying the goals of others, but now, she's focusing on goals of her own.

"When this all started, I thought, 'What if I make a fool of myself?'" Lauritsen said. "I never had self-doubt, but there were questions if I can trust my body and brain. Britt pushed me to take that risk. I'm really grateful for her support and for the Topeka and Washburn communities." 



Members of the Mammoth Creative team who are Washburn graduates, from left to right: Jerrica Towle, ba '13, Ronnie Murphy, ba '04, Rachel Harden, ba '10, Kip Kraisinger, ba '05, Eryn Allen, ba '05, and Blake Kresge, ba '09.
Photo by Austin Walsh, Mammoth Productions

Lifting Off

With help from Washburn alumni, Mammoth explodes into creative atmosphere

By Annie Flachsbarth

“We were joking that it’s like a rocket ship. Rocket ships aren’t always a smooth ride. But it’s fast, and it’s fun. And the view is great.”

As vice president of creative for Mammoth Creative, Kip Kraisinger, ba '05, explained, working for Mammoth has been a bit of a whirlwind. In the year since joining forces with Mammoth Sports Construction in 2021, the creative group has expanded its Meridan, Kansas, team – now including six Washburn alumni and a Washburn intern. They’ve

even opened a second location in Lenexa, Kansas. By all accounts, this is just the beginning of their story.

One Giant Leap for Creative Kind

The Mammoth crew was launched from a Topeka-owned creative agency called Bajillion, which was sold to Austin Abbott with Abbott-Unlimited in December 2020. They continued as an agency under Abbot-Unlimited for six months or so until they were approached by Mammoth Sports Construction with the opportunity to join forces. The team had helped

with Mammoth's rename, rebrand, film work and website in 2018, so the relationship already existed and the move was a good fit.

"Austin was great, and we owe a ton of gratitude and debt to him for helping us keep our dream alive," Kraisinger said.

According to Ronnie Murphy, ba '04, vice president of strategy, the move gave the team the bandwidth to focus on what they do best.

"We were able to let people who wanted to just come and create things, just create things," Murphy said.

As a branch of the larger Mammoth brand, Mammoth Creative gets the privilege of having a lot of built-in work coming from the construction, concrete, engineering and architectural divisions of the company. This diminishes the struggles to find new clients that many creative agencies have in their first few years.

"Mammoth is doing sports construction projects throughout the Midwest for tons of schools, and now they get to introduce us as another service," Murphy said.

Preparing to Launch

Murphy and Kraisinger met in college while working on Washburn's Campus Activities Board. For Murphy, that experience gave him an edge up in his career.

"When I graduated, I had already booked shows, planned events, worked with ticketing systems and had a lot of real-world experience. It was really valuable in getting my first job," Murphy said.

Kraisinger had a similar experience after finding his love for graphic design in a mass media layout class. CAB also gave him the chance to do graphic design and learn a lot, and he played football, which gave him more than just experiences on the field.

"I met so many people I still have relationships with to this day. For example, we're working with North Alabama on a project and the athletic director there is

Josh Looney (bba '05) – I played football with him," Kraisinger said. "It's awesome to see how these things come full circle."

Mammoth's lead filmmaker, Blake Kresge, ba '09, started working for Topeka's WIBW news station his sophomore year. His teachers gave him the leniency to pursue his job, even if it occasionally conflicted with class.

"I went to the Final Four my junior year for work. I missed an entire week of school to do that, but my teachers worked with me," Kresge said. "That support was nice because I didn't want to fail and lose my scholarship – plus it allowed me to get real-world experience in the industry."

Ready for Liftoff

As an award-winning agency, it's safe to say Mammoth Creative is doing more than a few things right. Their key to success is in the people, the collaboration and the clients.

"I lean toward collaborative. That's why we're all still here together. Things weren't always easy," Kresge said. "We have great creatives, and when you can get out of a rut and find the creative answer together it's super exciting."

The fact that nearly 30 percent of the Mammoth Creative team is made up of Washburn University graduates isn't an accident.

"We get really excited when we get a resume from a Washburn graduate," Murphy said. "Based on the experience we've had, there's a connection point and shared interest. Plus, we always want to build back into the community that built us."

The team has proudly done work for Washburn Athletics, the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation and the Washburn University School of Business.

"I've always enjoyed going back and doing projects at Washburn," Kresge said. "There's a lot of good things happening there." 



Alumni Board

Four alumni joined the Washburn University Alumni Association board of directors effective Aug. 1, 2022.

Lori Clinkinbeard, bba '01 | Topeka, Kansas



Lori Clinkinbeard earned degrees in marketing and management from Washburn in 2001, attending classes as a non-traditional student. Retired now, she was in the consumer travel business for many years and also managed residential and commercial real estate. She is a past member and served on the board of Sales and Marketing Executives of Topeka. She is also a past member of the American Business Women's Association and the local chamber of commerce.

Tony Kisner, bba '85 | Topeka, Kansas



Tony Kisner is a certified public accountant providing consulting services to companies primarily in the Kansas City area. He was previously senior manager of internal audit for Black & Veach. Kisner has been involved with Christmas in October, a group of volunteers assisting homeowners to maintain the safety and energy efficiency of their homes later in life.

Michael Odupitan, bs '11 | Topeka, Kansas



Michael Odupitan is the founder and CEO of Omni Circle Group, a Topeka non-profit organization supporting dreamers, thinkers, innovators and entrepreneurs who are creating tangible solutions to their community's most pressing issues. Omni recently received a \$360,000 grant to help fund its operations and initiatives. He has worked as a youth community care coordinator and intervention specialist in multiple ways since graduating.

Jill Sittenauer, ba '87 | Topeka, Kansas



Shortly after graduation, Jill Sittenauer became a partner and vice president of Jones Huyett partners, a former Topeka public relations firm where she worked for 15 years. She was also communications director for the local American Cancer Society for nine years before becoming a freelance communications consultant and manager of her husband's accounting and consulting firm. She has volunteered with Relay for Life with the American Cancer Society and as a board member and advisory board member for the Race Against Breast Cancer. 

New Trustees

Five new members of the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation board of trustees began their term on Aug. 1, 2022.

David Callanan, bba '98 | Topeka, Kansas



After graduation, David Callanan entered the financial services industry serving as director of annuity sales for a large, corporately owned insurance marketing organization. Under his guidance, the company's annuity volume skyrocketed from roughly \$400 million to just under \$1 billion in 2004. Callanan is a co-founder of Advisors Excel, the nation's leading independent marketing organization assisting independent insurance agents and financial advisors around the country. AE supports its clients through a combination of annuity, life insurance, Medicare, wealth

management and broker-dealer divisions responsible for roughly \$11 billion in combined production in 2021. The company has also been able to make a big impact through its charitable efforts. In 2021, AE gave more than \$1,052,073 and offered some 3,301 hours of employee volunteer time to reducing hunger, addressing mental health resource needs, fighting poverty, enhancing education and improving financial literacy throughout the Shawnee County and Topeka community. David and his wife, Karlun Callanan, support and partner with many organizations in Topeka that include multiple churches, Topeka Rescue Mission, Let's Help, TARC and The Bridge.

Bill Gahnstrom | Topeka, Kansas



Bill Gahnstrom attended the University of Kansas before enlisting in the United States Navy. He was selected for the Naval Enlisted Scientific Education Program and returned to KU to complete his bachelor's degree in mathematics and graduate work in computer science. He also obtained his master's degree in operations analysis at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. He had numerous Naval assignments culminating in commanding officer of the USS Brooke

and he retired following shore duty. Gahnstrom returned to Topeka and taught in the mathematics and statistics department at Washburn University for 24 years before retiring in 2017 as a lecturer emeritus. In 2015, Bill and his wife, Emilie, received the Washburn Alumni Association's first Honorary Ichabod Award. In 2020, Washburn's softball field was renamed Gahnstrom Field in recognition of their support. He has served as secretary for the Kaw Valley Chapter of the Military Officer's Association of America for more than 20 years and on the Topeka Civic Theatre endowment board. He is a longtime KTWU volunteer.

Linda Jeffrey, ba '74, jd '77 | Topeka, Kansas



Currently Linda Jeffrey is interim executive director of the Kansas Historical Foundation. She has served as an assistant attorney general for Kansas, the Shawnee County counselor and the Topeka city attorney. Jeffrey actively participated in legal issues impacting citizens and government at the local and state levels. She served her local church as a trustee and Sunday school superintendent. She serves as a board member for

the Kansas Historical Foundation and the Shawnee County Historical Society. She is a member of P.E.O. Chapter GJ, The Topeka Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, Kansas Bar Association, the Kansas Women Attorneys Association, and the Women Attorneys Association of Topeka. She is a Silver Life Member of the NAACP. She is a past board member for the American Cancer Society, Community Action, Inc., The Race Against Breast Cancer, Topeka Community Foundation, Topeka Housing Authority and the Washburn University Alumni Association.

Bill Malloy, ba '74, h '19 | Wilmette, Illinois



After an 11-year career in advertising and media, Bill Malloy worked at McCaw Cellular Communications at the dawn of the cellular communications industry. Over the next 12 years, he worked in leadership roles becoming executive vice president of U.S. operations for AT&T Wireless after McCaw merged with AT&T. Malloy went on to be CEO of Peapod, the first online grocer, and CEO of WorldStream, a pioneer in online streaming. He then joined venture capital firm, Ignition Partners, as a

venture partner and later serving as CEO and then chair of their portfolio company Sparkplug Communications. In 2011, he joined Sprint/Nextel as chief marketing officer and led the Boost Mobile and Virgin Mobile businesses, retiring in 2014. Malloy endowed the DoGood Scholarships in the Washburn mass media department and Washburn School of Business. He also endowed both a scholarship and a comprehensive fund in the Washburn Office of Diversity and Inclusion honoring Zelma Hurst Henderson, a strong advocate for school integration and a plaintiff in the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Cindy Rogers, ba '69 | Topeka, Kansas



Cindy Rogers was an educator for Topeka Public Schools where she taught home economics and personal finance. She then oversaw the implementation of special education services through Kansas Elks Training Center, Projects with Industry and the Menninger Foundation. Rogers advocates for and contributes to Highland Community College, Kansas State University, Washburn University and the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation. She served as president of the Washburn

Alumni Association board of directors from 2006-07. Rogers' support of Kappa Alpha Theta has continued well beyond her collegiate days, serving in various leadership roles in the local alumnae association. Rogers received the Outstanding Kansas Job Placement Specialist award from the Kansas Rehabilitation Association in recognition of her contributions to the profession. Rogers is a member of Washburn Women's Venture Partners and served as one of the founding members of the Washburn Women's Alliance. She was honored in 2012 with the Washburn Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award. 🏆

Back for More

New basketball coach excited to be back at Washburn

By Angela Lutz

New Washburn University head women's basketball coach Lora Westling is no stranger to success.

Nearly 20 years ago, Westling, bba '05, mba '07, helped the Lady Blues win Washburn's first NCAA Division II national championship in 2005, cementing her place in the school's history. A leader on the team, Westling called her four years playing basketball a transformational experience that put her on track for a coaching career.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to coach where I played. For us, it was the right time and the right place where we knew we would have that community to lean on. I feel very humbled and very honored to have the opportunity to take over the program." - Lora Westling

"I didn't want to be done with basketball when I was through playing, so once I got into my senior year and reflected on my career goals, I realized they were parallel with coaching: I wanted to impact people, make a difference, support and grow opportunities for women and stay competitive," she said. "To use basketball as a vessel to do that – it just kind of fell into place. Eighteen years later I'm still coaching and absolutely love it."

In her coaching career, Westling has continued her winning ways. Before coming back to Washburn this year, she served as head coach at Western Colorado

University for six years and led the team to back-to-back NCAA tournament appearances – the first two in program history. She also spent three seasons as head coach at Illinois College. Still, it was Washburn's unique campus culture and community that enticed Westling – a native of Casper, Wyoming – to return to Topeka.

"What makes Washburn special is the people and the holistic community you walk into, and that's what brought me back," she said. "It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to coach where I played. For us, it was the right time and the right place where we knew we would have that community to lean on. I feel very humbled and very honored to have the opportunity to take over the program."

Loren Ferré, athletic director, Washburn Athletics, is excited to see Westling return. He has worked at the University for 27 years and remembers what Westling was like as a player – competitive, hardworking and tenacious, but always willing to put the team first. He takes pride in watching players grow and develop their athletic and academic skills, and Westling is no exception.

"She brings the same leadership qualities she had as a player into this role," Ferré said. "She is passionate about Washburn, which certainly helps, but she has had head coaching experience, and she's been a winner wherever she goes. In her programs, she's always a people-first person. She creates an environment of high expectations for her players and she tries to empower them to be the best they can."

When it comes to empowerment, Westling believes basketball is an ideal sport for helping young players develop their individual skills while also learning to work as a team. During her time at Washburn, she recalls the diversity and different perspectives of her teammates that melded seamlessly into the cohesive goal of winning and excellence when they were together on the court. Some of those women remain her closest friends today.

“Basketball involves strategy, but you also have to rely on instinct,” Westling said. “If you get with the right group of people and the right chemistry forms, it’s a very special sport to play. You start reading each other’s minds on the floor. You can have huge dramatic turns of score – games are literally never over until the final buzzer. There’s potential for your own individual skills to get better alongside your team.”

Westling loves the impact college sports can have. She looks forward to making Washburn feel like a second home to out-of-state students like it did for her. She also looks forward to reconnecting with old mentors such as Ferré, who expects Westling to bring the same passion and dedication she displayed as a player to her coaching role.

“It was fun to watch Lora as a player – she played hard and encouraged everyone around her to play hard,” Ferré said “We had a very talented team, but there still have to be leaders on the floor. She certainly displayed those qualities. It will be exciting to watch her as a coach as she takes over the program she once played for. It’s a great transition, and we are looking forward to great successes.”

Westling is also excited to uphold and enhance the winning attitude she sees in other teams and coaches at Washburn.

“We want excellence in all facets,” Westling said. “We want women in the program who are going to represent themselves, their families, Washburn and the Topeka community in a way that’s really respectful, honorable and inspirational for everyone – especially the young eyes that are watching them. We want to be part of that network and community that makes Washburn so special.” 🏀



Lora Westling, bba '05, mba '07, poses outside Lee Arena prior to her first season as head coach. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*



Members of the 2022 Washburn softball team pose with their MIAA regular season championship trophy. *Photo by Gene Cassell, Washburn Athletics Communications*

Rising Pitch

Facility upgrades add appeal to championship-winning softball program

By Chris Marshall

For a sport that begins its season outdoors in February, there's always a chance weather will wreak havoc on the schedule. College softball doesn't have the luxury of a major league grounds crew to get the field in playing shape, so on snowy days, Washburn Coach Brenda Holaday and her team pick up shovels and dig until they see green.

That led to a frustrating number of cancellations when the team played on a grass surface. The Ichabods played just four games on their home field in 2019. Major facility upgrades in 2020 – including new fences and bullpens, additional seating and, most

importantly, a synthetic field – have helped Washburn compete on a national level.

Since beginning play on Gahnstrom Field, named after Bill and Emilie Gahnstrom for their generous support of the team, no team has been better at defending its turf. In the 2022 season, the Ichabods were 26-0 at home, 45-15 overall, won the MIAA regular season championship and qualified for the NCAA tournament, the second appearance in Holaday's five-year tenure.

"It's a beautiful facility now, which helps in a lot of ways," said Holaday, who inherited a program with

one previous MIAA title and added two in the past four years. “Obviously it helps with recruiting, but also it allows us to practice the way college teams should be practicing. We can practice on our own field now instead of the football field and take practices inside the Indoor Athletic Facility if we need to.”

Even after ditching the grass field, the Ichabods still found themselves digging out of trouble early in the year. The team lost six of its first eight games, then weather nixed six games scheduled on grass fields in Emporia. Cancellations in a rival town may provide a reminder of how far Washburn’s facilities have come, but at the time, all the Ichabods wanted was a chance to turn their season around. On Feb. 20, Holaday’s team did just that, taking the home opener and rattling off 17 straight wins.

“After every game, you’d look at Twitter and see it was a 14-game, 15-game win streak,” said sophomore third baseman Marrit Mead. “It’s something you look at but don’t put too much thought into because there’s no guarantee for what will happen in the next game.”

Another win streak, this time 24 games, extended into the postseason before a loss to Rogers State in the MIAA tournament. The season ended with two losses in the NCAA regional tournament, but the Ichabods proved they can do more than compete with anyone in the country – they can beat them. Among the two dozen straight wins was a doubleheader sweep of Rogers State, the eventual national champion.

“Those games were huge for us,” said sophomore Jaycee Ginter, who threw a one-hitter and scored on Ashton Friend’s walk-off home run in a 2-0 win against Rogers State. “I knew we were good all season, but playing and beating teams like that proved we can really go on and accomplish what we want if we push ourselves.”

Often, when a program experiences one of the best seasons in school history, it’s because the stars aligned for a stellar group of seniors in their last hurrah. Washburn had just three on the roster, Friend, outfielder Maddie Stipsits and pitcher Raegen Hamm, which gives reason to believe the team’s rise will continue for years to come. Ginter and Mead both received multiple All-America honors after their second collegiate seasons.

“It’s exciting around our team because we have local kids choose this who could’ve gone a lot of places. We rarely play a game that’s not standing-room only all around our field. The Washburn and Topeka communities around us have been so supportive.”

- Coach Brenda Holaday

“Anytime someone’s named All-American, it means you’re the best of the best at your level,” Holaday said. “If you’re around Maritt and Jaycee, and if you followed their careers, you know they stand among the best, but there’s a feeling of validation.”

Both Kansans were recruited to Washburn when the new field and indoor facility were in the works. Ginter, a Berryton native, and Mead, from Overbrook, knew they’d be among the first to play in front of large crowds on a synthetic surface.

“It’s exciting around our team because we have local kids choose this who could’ve gone a lot of places,” Holaday said. “We rarely play a game that’s not standing-room only all around our field. The Washburn and Topeka communities around us have been so supportive.”

The indicators of success are starting to snowball, and unlike the stuff that falls from the sky, it won’t keep the Ichabods from staying on schedule.

“The first step coming into a new program was to get better. Next is to earn respect,” Holaday said. “The third step is to beat teams you’re not supposed to beat. When you have nationally-ranked teams come in and you sweep them, now you’re at that point.” 🏃

Marshall Meek Named Washburn University Interim President



The Washburn University board of regents selected Marshall Meek, mba '17, as interim president until it hires a replacement for retiring President Jerry Farley. Meek has served as president of the Washburn University Alumni

Association and Foundation since 2017.

“I am honored to serve in this capacity during a time of transition for the University,” Meek said. “As an

alumnus, I know Washburn is a very special place, and I look forward to giving the University my best until a new president is selected.”

Farley retired on Sept. 30. Meek said he will not be a candidate for the permanent position and that he is confident the University will continue to run smoothly as the board searches for Farley’s replacement. Meek will continue to hold the title of president for the Alumni Association and Foundation, but will turn day-to-day responsibilities over to Gina Stewart, bs '09, mba '14, executive director of administration, at the organization. 

Mulvane ArtLab Reopens to the Public

The ArtLab at Washburn University’s Mulvane Art Museum – a center for hands-on arts education – reopened this summer. The ArtLab is open to the public on Tuesdays from 4-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 12-4 p.m. The ArtLab had been closed due to the pandemic. Additionally, the ArtLab will be open

for private educational group tours on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tours must be scheduled in advance and are limited to 30 participants. To schedule a private group tour in advance, call the museum office at 785.670.1124. 

Blanche Parks Finished Her Tenure as Longest-Serving Washburn Regent



Washburn University recognized the extraordinary service of Blanche Parks, b ed '71, m ed '76, this summer as the longest-serving regent in Washburn University history. Parks began as a member of the board of regents in 1993 and served continuously until May 2022. Parks said she has been honored

to work with former President Jerry Farley and has enjoyed taking part in the decisions to grow the campus to create a true residential college experience. She said graduation is her favorite time of year and she gets a thrill seeing the faces of students and hearing the cheers of their friends and families. 

Class Notes

The Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation loves to receive your news and updated information, and your former classmates are interested in what you have accomplished. Submit your news and updates online at wualumni.org/alumninotes or to Jeremy Wangler at jwangler@wualumni.org by Nov. 30, 2022, to be included in the winter magazine.

1960s

Elizabeth “Betty” (Young) Rosenwald, bba '64, Grand Junction, Colorado, released a collection of hymns called “In Awesome Majesty.”

1970s

Bernadette (Cushinberry) Barber, bba '70, Shawnee Mission, Kansas, has returned to the classroom after nine years of retirement and is now teaching students with special needs. She has 45 years of experience in education and has held positions as teacher, coordinator and principal of high schools.

Oliver Bennett, Jr., bs '72, Topeka, was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award at the Morrill High School alumni banquet.

Joel Hutchins, ba '71, Holton, Kansas, Football, Air Force ROTC, is retiring after more than 35 years of service as a family doctor.

Richard Mergen, ba '79, Topeka, Sigma Phi Epsilon, has been named the official historian of the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office.

1980s

Ralph Baumgartner, bba '81, Topeka, released a book of poems called “Odds and Ends – An Imagined Life” about his military, college and professional life.

Kyle Bryson, jd '88, Tucson, Arizona, presiding judge of Pima County Superior Court, was named Jurist of the Year by the Arizona Bar Association.

David Debenham, jd '80, Topeka, Phi Delta Phi, retired this summer after serving 14 years as a judge in the 3rd Judicial District.

Frances (Eckhardt) Forgione, bsw '85, Dennis, Massachusetts, Basketball, wrote a book titled “Shine Like Stars – Daily Reflections to Discover Your Inner Light.”

Tracy (Loiacono) Mitchell, jd '83, Olympia, Washington, retired after over 24 years as a commissioner on the bench at Lewis County Superior Court.

Dennis Mize, ba '83, Topeka, Kansas, Marching Band, was promoted to lead developer for information technology and services team at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas. Mize has been with the company for 33 years.

Nancy (Buchele) Parrish, jd '84, Topeka, retired this summer after serving 27 years as a judge in the 3rd Judicial District.

Norman Rodriguez, jd '80, Quincy, Illinois, has retired from his position as professor and head women's basketball coach at John Wood Community College, where he has coached the past 23 seasons.

1990s

William “Trey” Alford, III, jd '99, Kansas City, Missouri, prosecuted a large social security fraud case that Apple TV+ picked up for a documentary. Portions of his interviews are in episode 3 and 4 of The Big Conn true crime documentary.

Sonja Bachus, bba '96, Kansas City, Kansas, has been promoted to chief executive officer of Kansas' Primary Care Association.

Teresa “Terri” (Spinner) Benson, ba '93, Topeka, was recognized by the Washburn University mass media department and awarded the Non Nobis Solum Alumni Award.

Marne (Wasson) Fischer, bba '91, Topeka, was promoted to director of human resources of Sink, Gordon, and Associates LLP's Manhattan office.

Gregory Hill, jd '99, Aurora, Colorado, has been appointed executive director of the New York State Dental Association. Hill was recently executive director and CEO of the Colorado Dental Association.

Theodore “Ted” Martinez, bas '94, Franklin, Tennessee, Baseball, was named head volleyball coach at Centennial High School.

Tracy Newell, ba '94, m ed '03, Manhattan, Kansas, was named principal of North Middle School.

Tonya Ricklefs, aas '98, bas '00, Topeka, received the Kansas State University College of Health and Human Services Rising Professional Award for 2022. This award honors significant contributions made by a graduate in the early stages of their career and recipients have demonstrated significant professional accomplishments in the areas of design, business, human behavior, teacher education or health sciences.

Elizabeth “Libby” (Averill) Rosen, bsn '94, Topeka, was named dean of the Baker University School of Nursing.

2000s

Brenda (Huber) Adkins, bba '03, Holton, Kansas, was named rural water district general manager of the year this spring. She is general manager of Rural Water District #3 in Jackson County.

Ewan Auguste, bs '02, mba '10, Cedar Park, Texas, Basketball, has joined PlanSource as the chief marketing officer.

Matthew Bergmann, ba, '01, jd '05, Silver Lake, Kansas, has been named general counsel and chief legal officer of Mammoth Sports.

Vincent Bowhay, ba '08, Independence, Kansas, WSGA, Sigma Phi Epsilon, has graduated from the LGBTQ executive leadership program at Stanford University.

Angela (Chesney) Coble, jd '09, Salina, Kansas, Washburn Law Journal Staff, was sworn in as a judge on the Kansas Court of Appeals.

Neal Gugler, mcj '03, Chapman, Kansas, was named the magistrate judge of Dickinson County by the 8th Judicial District Nominating Commission.

Molly (Zeckser) Howey, certificate '02, ba '08, Silver Lake, Kansas, was named one of North America's Top 50 Economic Developers.

Bradley “Brad” Johnston, bs '09, Topeka, Tennis, was named the head girls and boys tennis coach at Washburn Rural High School.

Matthew Jones, bs '07, Park City, Kansas, started a new job at Kansas Department of Health and Environment as an environmental laboratory improvement program office specialist.

Lindsey (Lowe) Kaminski, mba '06, Lees Summit, Missouri, has been appointed as Belton Regional Medical Center's chief financial officer. Belton Regional Medical Center is part of HCA Midwest Health, Kansas City's leading health care provider.

Casey McNeil, bs '06, Salina, Kansas, completed residency training at the University of Kansas School of Medicine – Wichita Family Medicine and will be practicing at St. Luke Medical Clinic in Marion, Kansas.

Carolyn (Oelkers) Payne, jd '05, Kansas City, Missouri, has joined AgriSampo North America, Inc. as senior vice president, general counsel.

Andrea (Coplin) Purvis, jd '07, Abilene, Kansas, Law Republicans, was appointed to the 6th Judicial District by Gov. Laura Kelly.

Renee Rodgers, msw '00, Leesville, Louisiana, completed the advanced clinical supervision certificate program for social work at Smith College.

Danielle (McHenry) Schmidt, bba '05, Topeka, Volleyball, Basketball, was inducted into the Shawnee County Sports Hall of Fame.

Keith Tatum, ba '00, Topeka, has accepted a new position as deputy secretary for the Kansas Department of Labor.

Bradley “Brad” Tucker, bba '05, Overland Park, Kansas, was appointed to senior mortgage banker at KeyBank Real Estate Capital.

David Uhler, ba '02, Topeka, won an Emmy from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Heartland Chapter in the news promotion category for a spot titled “Coming Back to Life,” covering how to get vaccinated against COVID-19 for WIBW-TV. This is his second time winning this honor.

2010s

Lance Cahill, bba '12, Bentonville, Arkansas, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Beta Alpha Psi, Alpha Lambda Delta, College Republicans, was recently promoted to director within Walmart's global technical accounting function.

Dylan Dinkla, jd '15, Urbandale, Iowa, recently joined Iowa State Bank's trust department as vice president and trust officer.

Merideth (Cline) Hogan, ba '13, jd '16, and **Keenan Hogan**, bs '12, Shawnee, Kansas, welcomed their first child, Eleanor Jan Hogan in September 2021. Merideth began a two-year term with Judge Jacy Hurst at the Kansas Court of Appeals in August.

Michael Hughes, ma '19, Topeka, Baseball, was named project manager II for FHLBank of Topeka.

Taylor Ignoto, bsw '16, Vermillion, South Dakota, Basketball, has been hired as the University of South Dakota's assistant coach for the women's basketball team.

Garrett Love, bba '10, Basketball, and **Caley (Onek) Love**, ba '11, Montezuma, Kansas, were named a Farm Family of the Year by the Kansas Farm Bureau.

Jesse Nation, jd '19, Houston, Texas, has joined McGuireWoods as a renewable energy attorney.

Tyler Quintin, bfa '16, St. Petersburg, Florida, was accepted into the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts as one of the 2022-23 artists-in-residence.

Taryn Smith, msn '15, Neosho Rapids, Kansas, has joined Veterans Memorial Hospital Clinic as the new behavioral telehealth provider.

Kyle Woodall, bba '11, Salina, Kansas, was promoted to the defensive coordinator for the Butler Community College football program.

2020s

Braxton Moral, jd '21, Ulysses, Kansas, passed his bar exam and has been named the youngest lawyer in the country. He previously graduated both high school and Harvard University in 2019.

Sarah Morrison, jd '20, Lawrence, Kansas, joined Brown and James Law Firm where she practices insurance and construction law and premises and retail liability. 



In Memory

The following information was received by the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation before July 31, 2022. Submit any omissions to Jeremy Wangler at jwangler@wualumni.org.

1940s

Alva H. Bandy, jd '49, 98, Richardson, Texas, on March 17, 2022

Sheldon R. Flowers, ba '45, 98, Basketball, Cincinnati, Ohio, on Nov. 26, 2021

1950s

Adrian J. Allen, ba '51, jd '54, 93, Alpha Delta, Topeka, Kansas, on April 16, 2022

Jean M. (Rudrauff) Barter, ba '56, 88, Arlington, Texas, Phi Kappa Phi, on Jan. 23, 2022

Paul D. Berkley, jd '56, 91, Salina, Kansas, on March 6, 2022

Loren Bowman, Sr., bs '58, 89, St. Louis, Missouri, on May 22, 2022

Marvin A. Carlson, ba '50, 94, Topeka, Kansas, on May 7, 2022

Ethel L. Davis, b ed '57, m ed '65, 87, Kansas City, Kansas, on July 4, 2022

John M. Egnor, ba '52, 91, Overland Park, Kansas, Air Force ROTC, on April 6, 2022

Donna L. (Simmons) Hinshaw, ba '51, 93, Topeka, Kansas, Alpha Phi, Kappa Mu Epsilon, Kappa Phi, former employee, on July 1, 2022

James P. Lagerberg, ba '53, 92, Topeka, Kansas, on April 17, 2022

Doris (Baker) Mayfield, ba '52, 91, Tulsa, Oklahoma, on Jan. 22, 2022

David L. McComb, ba '53, jd '59, 90, Atlanta, Georgia, Delta Theta Phi - Law, on Dec. 23, 2021

John R. C. Morton, ba '58, 99, Macomb, Illinois, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Delta Theta, on Dec. 3, 2021

Richard R. Pilarczyk, ba '59, 89, Aurora, Ohio, on June 14, 2022

Dean J. Smith, jd '59, 89, Overland Park, Kansas, Delta Theta Phi, on Nov. 3, 2021

1960s

Gwendolyn (Webb) Buchanan, ba '60, 85, Olympia, Washington, Delta Sigma Theta, on Dec. 25, 2021

Dean B. Chamberlain, Sr., ba '69, b ed '74, 78, Patchogue, New York, Alpha Delta, on Aug. 27, 2021

Lois A. (Reed) Conklin, b ed '65, 78, Topeka, Kansas, Zeta Tau Alpha, on April 21, 2022

Harry "Pete" Connelly, Jr., jd '62, 88, Santa Fe, New Mexico, on May 28, 2022

Firman G. Gladow, jd '63, 83, Lyons, Kansas, on Jan. 1, 2022

Arthur H. "Art" Griggs, jd '74, 75, Topeka, Kansas, on July 10, 2022

Robert T. High, bba '69, 76, Palm Springs, California, on May 5, 2022

Dale C. Kratochvil, bba '63, 87, Greeley, Colorado, on May 26, 2022

Gregory K. "Greg" Lyne, b music '69, 75, Long Beach, California, Washburn Belles, on Jan. 13, 2022

Dennis V. Mitchell, ba '66, 77, Lee's Summit, Missouri, on April 6, 2022

Judith (Greider) Pixler-Rickett, b ed '63, 79, Jacksonville, Florida, on Jan. 4, 2021

Christie K. (Kleber) Ransom, ba '68, 76, Wichita, Kansas, Zeta Tau Alpha, on Feb. 23, 2022

Joseph F. "Fred" Strathe, b ed '63, 85, Parsons, Kansas, Basketball, on May 18, 2022

1970s

Robert M. Badenoch, b ed '70, 80, Topeka, Kansas, on April 15, 2022

Carolyn B. (Rippetoe) Bayless, ba '71, 77, Berryton, Kansas, on July 18, 2022

Mary L. Boone, bsw '77, 79, Parsons, Kansas, on May 27, 2022

Larry A. Born, bba '75, 76, Topeka, Kansas, on June 12, 2022

Daniel L. Brewster, jd '72, 75, Joplin, Missouri, on May 26, 2022

Genitha L. (Farrell) Clark, ba '71, 89, Topeka, Kansas, on March 22, 2022

Gerald L. Counter, bba '72, 73, Topeka, Kansas, Delta Sigma Pi, on June 13, 2022

Douglas D. Day, ba '72, 68, Grants Pass, Oregon, Air Force ROTC, on May 5, 2019

Marianne "Susie" Denny, bba '79, 64, Topeka, Kansas, Delta Gamma, on April 18, 2022

Sally (Powers) Dietrich, ba '76, 84, Topeka, Kansas, on May 20, 2022

Gregory D. Fisher, ba '75, 69, Pratt, Kansas, on Dec. 21, 2021

James B. Fritton, bba '78, 67, Lawrence, Kansas, on May 24, 2022

Clarence W. Grimes, bba '71, 85, Augusta, Kansas, on Feb. 21, 2022

Ronald W. Hill, jd '70, 77, Topeka, Kansas, on April 13, 2022

Donald L. Jones, Jr., ba '79, ma '82, 62, Overland Park, Kansas, on Oct. 31, 2020

John D. Lawyer, Jr., bs '77, 70, Topeka, Kansas, on June 12, 2022

Harry W. Longbottom, jd '77, 70, Yuma, Arizona, Law Clinic, on March 31, 2022

James A. Lucas, b ed '70, 77, Sarasota, Florida, on April 22, 2022

David P. McAlister, ba '76, 67, Bloomington, Illinois, Tennis, Phi Delta Theta, on May 17, 2022

Michael V. Murrow, bba '70, 72, Wichita, Kansas, on Nov. 6, 2020

John M. Oliver, ba '70, 74, La Crosse, Wisconsin, on Feb. 10, 2022

Daniel W. Olsen, jd '78, 69, Raymore, Missouri, Law Clinic, on Nov. 9, 2021

James K. Packard, jd '75, 73, Loveland, Colorado, Law Clinic, on Dec. 30, 2021

Lois R. (Allen) Park, b ed '73, 88, Manhattan, Kansas, on Dec. 19, 2021

Ethel L. (Ransom) Parks, b ed '71, 101, Clearwater, Florida, Alpha Kappa Alpha, on March 25, 2022

Jack D. Sage, jd '73, 77, Dorrr, Michigan, on April 8, 2022

Douglas B. Salsbury, jd '79, 69, Chesterfield, Missouri, on Feb. 19, 2022

Ross M. Scheffler, ba '75, 73, Newton, Kansas, on April 21, 2022

Daniel P. Shaughnessy, bba '73, 77, Topeka, Kansas, on June 6, 2022

Daniel J. Warren, bba '77, 69, Berryton, Kansas, on June 17, 2022

John W. Weaver, Sr., ba '76, 87, Topeka, Kansas, on July 19, 2022

1980s

Thelma L. (Chapman) Allendorf, b ed '80, 95, Topeka, Kansas, on April 19, 2022

Dana B. Backstrom, ba '86, 60, Overland, Kansas, Tennis, on May 25, 2022

Robert E. "Bob" Bostrom, bs '84, 71, Overbrook, Kansas, on July 25, 2022

David W. Butler, aa '86, 59, Topeka, Kansas, on June 1, 2022

Mark E. Caplinger, bba '82, jd '85, 62, Topeka, Kansas, on June 12, 2022

Barbara J. (Kidd) Clark, aa '83, 94, Topeka, Kansas, on April 20, 2022

Amy B. (McHenry) Daniels, ba '85, 59, Moneta, Virginia, Tennis, on April 19, 2022

Lucy C. "Camille" (Baehni) Engler, bsn '84, 60, Lincoln, Nebraska, on April 5, 2022

Gary W. Gibeson, aa '84, bba '84, 71, Topeka, Kansas, on May 5, 2022

Kirk R. Holzmeister, ba '87, 67, Wichita, Kansas, on June 8, 2022

Linda L. Larsen, jd '81, 65, Flagstaff, Arizona, Law Clinic, Phi Delta Phi, on Nov. 15, 2021

Nancy G. (West) Lister, ba '86, 69, Topeka, Kansas, on July 19, 2022

Roy E. "Ed" Morris Jr., bba '86, 74, Phoenix, Arizona, on Jan. 17, 2022

Kent C. Nichols, ba '86, 62, Topeka, Kansas, on April 16, 2022

Barbara C. (Koch) Porter, bs '86, ba '87, ba '89, 84, Topeka, Kansas, on March 30, 2022

Linda G. (Witty) Rimmer, ba '86, 58, Covington, Washington, Alpha Phi, on April 29, 2022

Phylis A. (Wahwasuck) Thomas, bs '85, 74, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, on Dec. 28, 2021

Claude E. Tidwell, Jr., b ed '82, m ed '88, 75, Topeka, Kansas, on June 9, 2022

Robert L. "Bob" Wininger, Jr., bsw '84, 69, Ozawkie, Kansas, on June 12, 2022

1990s

Sara C. (Clever) Green, bsn '95, 82, Lawrence, Kansas, on June 24, 2022

Todd W. Koers, msw '97, 57, Salina, Kansas, on May 10, 2022

Todd D. Kraus, bsn '96, 56, Topeka, Kansas, on May 30, 2022

Raymond W. Less, mba '90, 58, Olathe, Kansas, on Jan. 27, 2022

Carolyn K. (Freed) Norwood, bsn '92, 72, Topeka, Kansas, on May 27, 2022

Lawrence W. "Larry" Schuckman, bs '96, 73, Topeka, Kansas, on May 1, 2022

Barbara F. (Lunsford) Smith, bsw '93, 82, Topeka, Kansas, on April 22, 2022

Scott E. Smith, m ed '98, 54, Topeka, Kansas, on May 27, 2022

Christi R. (Tomson) Spielman, aa '93, 54, Clay Center, Kansas, on March 30, 2022

Francisco Tiscarenio, Sr., bs '92, 79, Topeka, on May 15, 2022

Brock J. Ware, certificate '96, certificate '05, 45, Topeka, Kansas, on April 28, 2022

2000s

Janet L. (Reedy) Droge, bsw '06, bba '06, 63, Concordia, Kansas, on July 24, 2022

Harley P. Swanson, m ed '22, 51, Tecumseh, Kansas, on June 30, 2022

2010s

Samantha Baum, certificate '13, 27, Salina, Kansas, on April 10, 2022

Jerry A. "Allan" Crow, ma '19, 70, McPherson, Kansas, on Feb. 25, 2022

Joshua J. Ferris, bs '16, 30, Ottawa, Kansas, on Dec. 10, 2021

Troy G. Hofer, bba '10, 37, Topeka, Kansas, Football, on June 7, 2022.

Lori L. (Buchholz) Wormstadt, certificate '19, 44, Manhattan, Kansas, on July 5, 2022

Friends

Rita A. (Zimmerman) Cann, 73, Topeka, Kansas, on July 17, 2022

Terry N. Cummins, 79, Auburn, Kansas, on May 8, 2022

Clark R. Duffy, 73, Topeka, Kansas, on April 17, 2022

Terry L. Durrow, 74, Topeka, Kansas, on April 13, 2022

Timothy R. Elmer, 79, Topeka, Kansas, on May 3, 2022

Gwendolyn S. "Gwen" (Sand) Holmes, 95, Topeka, Kansas, on June 17, 2022

Vickie S. (Bowers) Jacobs, 74, Topeka, Kansas, on March 27, 2022

Patricia A. "Pat" (Wilderman) Jennings, 90, Topeka, Kansas, on June 13, 2022

Leslie E. "Les" Krull, 85, Berryton, Kansas, on June 29, 2022

Mary L. (Verink) Patterson, 97, Topeka, Kansas, on July 21, 2022

Refugio S. Perez, 95, Topeka, Kansas, on May 15, 2022

Betty D. "Darline" Jaquith-Peterson, 93, Topeka, Kansas, on July 19, 2022

Ruthann (Kornbleet) Pozez, 95, Tucson, Arizona, on Jan. 14, 2022

Kenneth B. "Kenn" Rogers, 73, Topeka, Kansas, on June 16, 2022

Dr. Larry Rumans, 75, Tucson, Arizona, on July 6, 2022

Duane D. Steinle, 89, Topeka, Kansas, on May 22, 2022

Keith S. Taylor, 71, Hawthorne, Florida, on May 12, 2022

Gordon L. Walter, 68, St. Peters, Missouri, on June 5, 2021

Larry D. Woodson, 81, Topeka, Kansas, on June 14, 2022

Barry S. Crawford, Professor Emeritus, Religion, 75, Topeka, Kansas, on March 27, 2022



Barry Crawford was a professor of religion at Washburn University from 1978-2017. He coordinated the Thomas L. King Lecture Series for 30 years, bringing well-known religious

scholars to Washburn. He was a member of the original Society of Biblical Literature's Ancient Myths and Modern Theories of Christian Origins Consultation and Seminar, and a contributor to two of the seminar's volumes of essays.

Joan E. (Krause) Denny, Lecturer Emeritus, Nursing, 81, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 1, 2022



Joan Denny was a full-time faculty member in the School of Nursing from 1983-2008 and then retired in 2011. Her area of focus was obstetrical nursing. Her family said she was the first

certified midwife in the state of Kansas, and she delivered many babies at the Topeka Birth and Women's Center.

Elaine M. Duffens, bsw '75, Washburn Alumni Association Board of Directors, 74, Chicago, Illinois, on May 1, 2022



Elaine Duffens was a social worker, an animal lover who was past president of the Helping Hands Humane Society board of directors and a proud supporter

of Washburn University. She served on the Washburn Alumni Association board of directors from 2006-08.

Walter F. James, Professor Emeritus, Accounting, 88, Topeka, Kansas, on May 21, 2022



Walter James taught accounting at Washburn University from 1973-97, retiring as a professor. He won numerous awards for his teaching, mentored countless students and kept in touch with

many of them throughout their careers. Prior to teaching, he was in private practice as a certified public accountant, and he remained active in the professional community for many years.

William L. Roach, Professor Emeritus, Business, 77, Lawrence, Kansas, on June 4, 2022



Bill Roach taught in the Washburn University School of Business from 1983-2014, retiring as a professor. In addition to his teaching and research responsibilities, Roach served on numerous

governance committees both inside and outside the School of Business and acted as an ally for underrepresented students. He received the Student Life Achieving Excellence award in 2014. He volunteered and served with many community organizations after retiring.

William W. Sneed, bba '77, jd '80, Washburn University Board of Regents, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation Trustee, 67, Topeka, Kansas, on July 27, 2022



Track and Field

Bill Sneed worked as chief counsel in the Kansas Insurance Department and then in private practice before opening Sneed Law Firm in 2017, providing legal, lobbying and government affairs services. He served on the Washburn University board

of regents from 2011-18 and the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation board of trustees since 2011. He served with numerous local and national organizations including the USD 437 school board, Republican National Lawyers Association, Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, Topeka Performing Arts Center, Boy Scouts of America, Unison Bancorp and Western National Bank.

Donald R. Yelen, Professor Emeritus, Psychology, 84, Topeka, Kansas, on April 29, 2022



Don Yelen taught as a psychology professor at Washburn University from 1963-2001. He was a pioneer in developing computer teaching approaches and writing software exercises for both statistics and experimental design. He authored numerous

published articles in psychology journals and served on a variety of university committees, including 34 consecutive years as a member of the Library Committee. Upon his death, the Donald R. and R. Delphine Yelen Scholarship Fund was created at Washburn through he and his wife's estate. 🏃





Alumni Travel Opportunities

SEE THE WORLD WITH FELLOW ICHABODS

PLAYA DEL CARMEN MEXICO | Two Departures:

Jan. 22-29, 2023 and Jan. 24-31, 2023

Get away next winter and enjoy the sun, sugary-white sands and crystal-clear waters of the Mexican Caribbean at the all-inclusive Sandos Playacar Beach Resort located in Playa del Carmen, 20 miles south of Cancun. Pricing begins at \$2,199 per person for two people sharing one room and includes roundtrip, non-stop airfare from Kansas City to Cancun (other departure cities available, but pricing may vary), seven nights stay at the Sandos Resort including all meals and beverages. Last January nearly 150 Ichabods and friends signed up for this trip.

ATHENS AND THE GREEK ISLES | May 23-31, 2023

Fly to Athens and spend two days in one of the world's most ancient cities. Among other things, enjoy a private Athens tour, visit the Acropolis and dine al fresco in the Plaka Old City. Then board the Celestyal Olympia for a three-night cruise visiting five enchanting destinations in the romantic Aegean Sea. Discover the celebrated history, landscapes and landmarks of Mykonos, Kusadasi, Patmos, Crete and Santorini. After the cruise, visit the Temple of Poseidon and return to Athens for two additional nights. This has turned out to be a very popular trip; there are more people interested in going than space available. Don't delay; make your reservation sooner, rather than later. The cost starts at \$4,740, and a \$750 deposit per person is fully refundable up until Jan. 22, 2023. Price includes airfare, lodging, several meals and more.



The Alumni Association's travel club is exclusive to dues-paid members of the Washburn University Alumni Association. Members get advance notification of trips. If you are not a member of the Alumni Association, consider joining online at wualumni.org/join. You don't have to be a graduate of Washburn to join the Alumni Association and be a member of the travel club. Nearly every trip sells out quickly. If you are interested in any of these trips, email Susie Hoffmann at your earliest convenience. The Alumni Association offers the trip to prospective travelers in the order they express interest. Get your name on the list early to hold your place. If later you choose not to go, your spots will be offered to someone on the waitlist.

For more information, contact Susie Hoffmann

785.670.1643 | susie@wualumni.org | wualumni.org/alumni-travel



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