

WASHBURN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION — SPRING 2021

# THE CHABOD







10

# Features

10

Washburn social work students learn the difficult but important questions to ask in suicide intervention training

14

Alumnus and 26-year librarian Sean Bird recognized for dedication to student success with national I Love My Librarian Award

20

Retired police officer and adjunct instructor Ron Brown sees the importance of education and experience in building a law enforcement career

26

Student-athletes set personal, career and financial goals while learning importance of philanthropy during Brenneman Series



14



20



SPRING ISSUE 2021

### On the cover:

A fully bloomed redbud tree reaches across Bianchino Pavilion.  
Photo by Jeremy Wangler



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### IN EVERY ISSUE

- 2 From the President
- 4 Campus News
- 13 Alumni News
- 26 Sports
- 30 Class Notes
- 32 In Memory

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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

Being adaptable is essential for the success of a university. Many think universities are slow to change, but higher education has been around since the 12th century. There is no way higher education would still be vibrant today if not for its ability to adapt, and Washburn is no exception. As we navigated the onset of a pandemic more than a year ago, we adapted with urgency and thoughtfulness as we adjusted teaching methods and provided new ways to reach a changing world.

This issue of *The Ichabod* features people who make themselves adaptable to better accomplish their goals and serve those around them. We feature students studying music and theatre who have missed out on a key element of their craft – performing for a live audience. While they have found ways to make it work, we all look forward to the days when we can fill White Concert Hall and Neese Gray Theatre once again. We also feature students who grew up in foster care and attended Washburn as they were aging out of the system. These are students who had no choice but to adapt to uncertainties in their life. We all know college is a transformative time in people's life, but many former foster children have told us some of their first solid relationships were built while attending Washburn. We should all feel good knowing we were a part of helping students become their best self. You will also read about Washburn Tech East. We brought Washburn Tech's mission of technical education for in-demand jobs to East Topeka, and we remain adaptable as we add and adjust programs offered on that campus. Librarian and alumnus Sean Bird recently won a national award because of the great impact he has on students, and you will read about how he is a major part of our library adapting to ever-changing learning methods.

Adaptability has been essential in K-12 education during the pandemic, and a pair of Washburn alumnae educators shared their experiences reaching and impacting children in the last year during difficult times. Alumnus Ron Brown retired recently as chief of police for Topeka Public Schools. Chief Brown is very engaged in both Washburn and the community, and we are grateful he shared his expertise for 20 years as an adjunct instructor in our criminal justice department. His lessons are invaluable for students.

The traditional, brick-and-mortar university as we know it will return. I am confident in that. There is and always will be a demand for in-person learning and interactions. However, we must be flexible. There are academic programs and events that lend themselves to virtual components. Washburn's success demands we stay adaptable when building and enhancing our relationships with students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends.





Theatre student Taylor Molt performed online during her final year at Washburn and looks forward to when full audiences can hear her sing. *Photo by Doug Stremel*

# Still Performing

Even with limited audiences, performance arts students find ways to hone craft

*By Angela Lutz*

At Washburn University's theatre department, the show must go on – even in the midst of a global pandemic.

Despite social distancing guidelines, mask mandates and rows of empty seats at Neese Gray Theatre intended to curb the spread of COVID-19, the University's resilient performing arts students and faculty have found a way to make performances happen. That's not to say the experience has been easy or ideal.

"There were so many problems to solve," said Sharon Sullivan, professor and chair, theatre. "How do you create intimacy from six feet away while wearing a

mask? How do you choreograph seven fight scenes and maintain social distancing? How do we seat a limited live audience so everyone is safe? But we solve problems every day, so I knew we would figure it out."

When stay-at-home orders went into effect last March, one of the first hurdles for the department was learning to use technology that would enable faculty to teach online, as well as allow students to record and stream virtual performances. For vocal performance major Elena Hageman, early experiences with poor camera and sound quality were frustrating, though she has gradually adjusted as technology has improved.

“It has definitely been a learning experience, and singing through a mask has been exceedingly difficult,” Hageman said. “One good thing is virtual performances can be recorded as many times as needed, but it never sounds as good as it does live. I’ve definitely had to advance my knowledge with technology.”

Students have also adjusted to performing without an audience, an essential component that has been sorely missed. Musical theatre major Taylor Molt had to move her senior capstone performance of “The Last Five Years” entirely online, especially since singing is considered a COVID-19 super-spreader activity.

“As a performer, your energy drops without an audience,” Molt said. “Knowing we’re impacting the audience in some way is why we do what we do.”

While most pandemic performances have happened online, students and faculty have also found creative ways to safely hold some live performances. Neese Gray Theatre has a capacity of 330, but only a limited number of seats can be filled, and for much of last year the room was aired out every 15 minutes even during rehearsals. Performers must also wear masks, and they have re-orchestrated certain scenes so they will have less interaction with each other.

“The students want to make a show, so they’re willing to do what they need to do,” said Julie Noonan, assistant professor, theatre. “We’ve done smaller cast shows in general. We had a student doing a senior project, and there were only two people in her show, and she cast her roommate so they could rehearse together. Students are used to wearing masks and they’re so concerned with everyone’s safety that it’s become a habit for them. It’s been encouraging to see that kind of responsibility for others.”

For some performers, the pandemic’s various challenges have not been without a silver lining. Working with lecturer and assistant director of bands Von Hansen, b music ’08, music education major Daniel Albertson has been able to hone his expertise with recording and editing software to ensure his percussion productions were top notch for his virtual graduate school applications.

“Von Hansen has been really good about keeping us involved and playing at a high level,” Albertson said.

“Last semester we did recording projects, and the same standards applied as to live performances. Music is interactive, and taking away the audience removes that aspect, but we’ve made it work.”

This spring, students worked on “The Moors,” a play directed by Theodore Shonka, lecturer, theatre, and “A Year with Frog and Toad,” a musical for young audiences directed by Noonan.

“One of the things I’m most proud of is the way the students have handled this,” said Shonka. “They’ve been for the most part really positive.”

While “The Moors” was presented with a limited live audience, Noonan presented “A Year With Frog and Toad” primarily outdoors on campus, at local elementary schools and at Boys and Girls Clubs. While full-capacity live performances may not happen again for some time, students and faculty are eager to get back to doing what they love most.

“Because of the pandemic I’ve definitely done some things I’ve never planned on doing,” said Molt, who will continue her studies in graduate school. “I am most looking forward to singing on stage for an audience and having my voice heard in its full capacity again. I miss it so much.” 🦊



Music education major Daniel Albertson focused on learning recording and editing software when COVID-19 limited public performances. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

# No Longer Alone

Former foster youth find stability, support system at Washburn

By Jeremy Wangler • [jwangler@wualumni.org](mailto:jwangler@wualumni.org)

Stormy Lukasavage's life went from daily fist fights to fighting for the needs of foster youth. In between those transformative years came a degree from Washburn University, something only 2-4% of former foster youth in the United States receive, according to some studies.

Lukasavage, bs '19, grew up without stable living most of his life and was in a group home the final two years of his childhood, including his freshman year at Washburn when he was 17.

"I legitimately had to fight every day, and I'm not talking about metaphorically," he said. "I'm talking about throwing my fist into other people in order

to get the same things as kids who don't know the struggle kids in the foster care system have daily.

"From my perspective, education became a way out."

He graduated high school a year early, moved to on-campus housing his second year and got very involved. Classmates, faculty and staff became the stable support he never had. He now has a degree in criminal justice and works in Topeka as a consultant for a national agency supporting foster youth.

Sherika Carey, certificate '20, knew education was also her way out of the foster system. Growing up, she took note of the successful adults around her and the ones who weren't living up to their potential.

"If I want to be like the successful ones, how do I get there?" Carey would ask herself. "I told myself when I was 14 or 15 failure wasn't an option. That is one of the reasons I came to college."

She earned a medical office assistant certificate from Washburn University Institute of Technology and is taking classes to earn a bachelor's degree and become a registered nurse. Living on campus has provided her with solid relationships.

"Residential Living was my main support system," Carey said. "They didn't really treat me any differently than anybody else, but they were there when I needed them, and they're still there if I need them."

Foster youth are part of a system throughout their childhood, and then as adults, the opportunities become voluntary. Shanelle Dupree, jd '07, is a regional director for the Kansas Department for Children and Families. She manages 450 employees spread between Kansas City and Lawrence and oversees foster care and other social services.

"We're not there to be in their lives forever, but we are there to absolutely help families when, usually, they're



Stormy Lukasavage, bs '19. Photo by Doug Stremel

at their worst moment,” Dupree said. “We have to remember foster youth experienced trauma either their entire life or toward the end of their childhood. Sometimes, when they age out, they're sick of us. They're sick of the system. They're sick of anyone who is an authority telling them what to do and how to do it.”

For those who do seek higher education, they may just want to blend in with everyone else. Not every foster youth comes forward when attending Washburn.

“It's been one-on-one interactions because it is hard to identify those students unless they self-disclose,” said Jared Dechant, BA '15, assistant director of Residential Living. “They don't want people to think differently of them. We do our best with what we know.”

Lukasavage said the hardest part of college was when other students went home for breaks.

“When the holidays came and everyone else was looking forward to being able to go home and be with their families, eat huge Thanksgiving feasts, have all these lavish Christmas presents, I wasn't afforded any of those opportunities because I didn't have that in my life,” Lukasavage said.

He ended up building a family with the people in the residence halls, and he credits them with his college success. Dupree and Dechant hope more people become aware of the unique needs of foster youth transitioning into college and the stigma is erased from this non-traditional group of students.

“Think about when you were going to your first day of college,” Dupree said. “Most people had a parent or a loved one who would drop them off at the dorms. I know I did, and I remember I was scared out of my mind. I spent the first night crying, thinking, ‘I don't know if I can do this.’ But then that next day, I got a call from my mom, and we talked, and I knew I could do it. A child who has aged out of foster care may not have outside positive support, and that needs to change.”

Residential Living now has a program called Non Nobis Solum that raises money and collects donations to help meet the extra needs of any student who may not have a support system when residence halls close.



Sherika Carey, certificate '20, and pre-nursing student.  
*Photo by Doug Stremel*

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“Residential living was my main support system. They didn't really treat me any differently than anybody else, but they were there when I needed them, and they're still there if I need them.”

- Sherika Carey

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“Some of those funds will help with paying for their nightly stays during those days,” Dechant said. “Sometimes, we can put together food and care packages. We use our resources on campus and help them get connected.” 🦿



Chaz Havens, m ed '16, director, Washburn Tech East, explains new equipment purchased this spring with gifts from Mars Wrigley and the Kansas Board of Regents. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

# Growing Confidence

Faculty, staff and industry partners continue investing in Washburn Tech East

*By Jeremy Wangler • [jwangler@wualumni.org](mailto:jwangler@wualumni.org)*

With a waiting list in some programs and room to grow in others, Washburn Tech East is becoming a catalyst for workforce development in the region and a lifeline for residents in East Topeka seeking easier access to adult education.

And there's no "wait and see" approach as COVID-19 limited enrollment capacity in some programs and tapered demand in others. Washburn University Institute of Technology leadership and faculty are

working now to adapt program offerings at Washburn Tech East as the job market adjusts and hopefully rebounds after the effects of COVID-19.

Tech East opened in spring 2019 and offers programs in certified nurse aide, certified medication aide, home health aide, certified production technician, electrical technology and building technology (carpentry). It also offers adult education in GED preparation, English as a second language and commercial truck driving.

Recent developments are showing the wide commitment to Washburn Tech East's success:

- A gift from Mars Wrigley and an Innovative Technology Grant from the Kansas Board of Regents helped buy equipment for the certified production technician program that will start this fall and prepare graduates to work in manufacturing plants and distribution centers. "Mars, in effect can pick the cream of the crop," said Gary Bayens, bs '90, dean, Washburn Tech. "If you really excel in the CPT program, there's a good chance you're going to be hired when those positions become available."
- To continue meeting the needs of the community, Tech East started offering evening classes in the certified nurse aid and electrical technology programs.

Washburn, in partnership with GO Topeka, the Joint Economic Development Organization and the East Topeka community, opened Washburn Tech East in response to a market research study that confirmed the need for an educational facility in East Topeka that teaches desired skills.

"I really enjoyed the fact that Washburn University and GO Topeka were willing to put in the effort and the money to help build up this side of town," said Chaz Havens, m ed '16, director, Washburn Tech East. "Being an integral part of the growth and development of this side of town I've been living on really means a lot to me."

Havens saw the lack of access East Topeka residents had to adult education and training for in-demand jobs.

"We have students who couldn't take the GED where it was over on the Huntoon campus," Havens said. "Imagine, you start your day with an hour bus drive, do classes for an hour and ride the bus back for an hour; Most of your day is gone and you haven't had a chance to go to work or anything. This way, they can work, provide for their families and go to classes at the same time."

He said the smaller East campus has a family feel among the faculty, staff and students. One of those staff members is Mandy Cox, bas '02, director,

Washburn Tech's Advantage Center. The center offers adult education including English as a second language and preparation for the GED exam – the two Tech East programs with waiting lists during spring 2021.

"I love this work and being able to help somebody change and to watch in that excitement," Cox said. "Just watching students come in, they usually have their head down and a lack of confidence. Then when they're done, watching them grow, that impact is something we can never take away from them."

With dedicated faculty and staff and continued commitments from partners in the workforce, there is a strong sense of optimism at Tech East.

"The students are being successful, and that's what it's all about," Bayens said. "When I talk to students, they tell me what they're learning on that campus is putting them on a path to a job. It's about workforce development. That's the core of the mission of Washburn Tech - to educate students so they are marketable and can compete for good-paying jobs."

"My hope and outlook for Tech East is just to be a beacon of career technical education for East Topeka," Havens said. "The community really enjoys having us here, and we've really enjoyed being a part of this community." 🏃



The Washburn Tech East campus opened in 2019.  
Photo by Jeremy Wangler



Assistant Professor Beth O'Neill (front left) worked with graduate students RaeLynn McClelland, certificate '16, bsw '20 (back left), Myisha Edmonds, bsw '20 (back right), and Stephanie Carrillo, certificate '15, bsw '20, as they did ASIST suicide intervention training. "The most rewarding part is that I was trained by professionals and I know what to do to help. I'm not going in blind. I have the tools, resources, and skills to help someone go home alive to their parents," said Edmonds, who wants to work with children in her career. *Photo by Doug Stremel*

# Hard Questions

Suicide intervention training available through Washburn

*By Jensen Simons*

*"Have you ever thought about taking your own life?"*

It is as intimidating a question to receive as it is to ask.

Being prepared to ask these kinds of questions comfortably and confidently doesn't come easy to many but proper training can help. The Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training program at

Washburn University seeks to offer that special training.

Beth O'Neill, assistant professor, social work, finds this training is valuable for everyone because suicide can touch anyone's life. She knows because it happened to her; the first time being when she was in high school. Her friend called and told her plainly he

was seriously contemplating suicide. At 16 years old, she had no idea how to respond. Although the friend was able to find help, she still remembers how helpless she felt at that moment.

“He not only had a plan but was ready to implement that plan right then,” she said. “I just wished I had been prepared to have these conversations for people I cared about.”

O’Neill said the two-day ASIST training session is targeted specifically to social work students.

“ASIST is designed to be a suicide first aid program that could prepare anyone to intervene in these crisis situations,” she said.

The training forces participants to focus on asking the hard questions in real time with real people. This role-playing portion of the training lets participants become comfortable having these direct conversations, while also applying what they’ve learned from the lecture and theory portions of the class, such as identifying the first signs or risk factors a person is having or developing thoughts of suicide.

“From a professional standpoint, I really wanted to jump on this opportunity to equip our Washburn students with the skills that they’re going to need when they get out in the community so that they can benefit the broader public,” O’Neill said.

Due to COVID-19, it’s been over a year since the last ASIST program took place, but it will resume during the 2021-22 school year. ASIST is funded in part by Washburn Women’s Venture Partners and the Brenneman Series, two Washburn programs that funnel private donations to worthy and impactful programs and projects.

Two social work graduate students still carry with them the lessons they learned in this training. Stephanie Carrillo, certificate ’15, bsw ’20, and Raelynn McClelland, certificate ’16, bsw ’20, conceded that prior to the training they felt helpless, uncomfortable or overwhelmed when faced with the topic of suicide.

“A lot of people think if you bring up suicide, you’ve already put it in their head,” McClelland said. “And, while that to me isn’t true, I was worried about imposing my way of thinking onto someone else.

This training, especially the role play, helped me learn about other methods to talk about it in more of a sensitive way.”

Prior to her training, Carrillo was impacted by an attempted suicide during her internship at a high school. The entire school was still reeling after one of its students had been shot and killed. Not long after, Carrillo found out a student she worked closely with attempted suicide due in part to the recent traumatic event. The young intern was disgusted with herself for not having seen the warning signs.

“I had no words and I wanted to do much more,” she said.

Carrillo credits the hands-on, interactive nature of the training for challenging her, as well as the lecture and theory portion for giving her tools to utilize in practice.

“After this program you look at life a little differently,” Carrillo said. “You are able to have this conversation with people who are currently feeling suicidal and ask them, ‘Are you thinking about suicide?’ And it’s either a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer that you get, and if they tell you ‘no,’ you have to take their word for it. If you feel they may need more help you make sure they have a plan at hand and have the numbers of who they are able to talk to and who can support them. With this in place, you make sure they have support around them and continue to follow up.”

McClelland believes transparency is the key to having more productive discussions regarding suicide.

“Death is a very difficult topic in general for people,” she said. “Do you feel safe right now? ‘Are you okay?’ ‘What would be helpful?’ These questions can help support an open line of communication.” 

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, please call 800-273-8255 to talk to a specialist with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. To connect with a crisis counselor through the Crisis Text Line, text “HOME” to 741741. Both services are free, confidential and available 24/7.

# Essential Needs

Campus food pantry expands offerings with new freezer, commodities section

By Angela Lutz

Food insecurity can be a hidden problem that is not often discussed on college campuses. As a student and manager of Washburn University's Bods Feeding Bods Food and Commodities Pantry, Matthew Smoker wants to talk about it.

"Making sure people know we are here is really important, and reducing stigma is another main goal of ours," said Smoker, who is majoring in psychology and minoring in sociology and poverty studies. "The way I present it is we're all struggling college students to some degree, and just because we're a little short on cash and need a few extra meals is not a bad thing."

Since opening in 2014, the pantry has moved to Kuehne Hall to be more accessible and expanded to include a variety of fresh and frozen foods along with other nonperishable items and commodities such as toiletries, clothes and feminine hygiene products. Last year, the pantry received a grant from Washburn Women's Venture Partners to purchase a new glass-door freezer, enabling them to stock more perishable items and premade meals. Anyone with a Washburn ID can use the pantry.

"We don't ask for things like proof of income or citizenship," said Kristine Hart, mcj '03, senior lecturer and associate director, Center for Community Services, who serves as the Bods Feeding Bods faculty advisor. "If you're coming to the pantry, we're not going to make you prove you need food or commodities. We know it's already hard enough to ask for help."

In addition to donations from individuals, the pantry has thrived due to partnerships with organizations such as Harvesters and Chartwells, which provides Washburn's on-campus dining and offers free emergency meals to students. Pantry volunteer leader and secondary math education major Clare Bindley and Smoker have also organized fundraisers to keep the pantry stocked and running during COVID-19, with



Clare Bindley (left) and Matthew Smoker. Photo by Doug Stremel

particular success during the University's annual Day of Giving.

"Our volunteers were really able to step up during the pandemic and keep the pantry open, which to me demonstrates the need," Bindley said. "It breaks my heart that this is an issue, so I'm glad I'm able to help relieve some of the struggles of not being able to afford food."

Perhaps most important to the continued growth of Bods Feeding Bods is the hard work and commitment of the students who volunteer with the organization and serve on its leadership board. Having been involved with the pantry from the beginning, Hart continues to be heartened by how much Washburn students care about their peers on campus.

"They stayed open all summer when there was no one here due to COVID-19," Hart said. "They knew there were students in town with their families who needed food. It's incredible how they have stepped up year after year to make sure the pantry is sustainable and accessible." 🦿

# Impactful Decisions

Business simulations prepare students for reality and success after graduation

By Emma Wittmer • [ewittmer@wualumni.org](mailto:ewittmer@wualumni.org)

Not everyone can say they placed in the top three out of hundreds of teams from around the world, but Washburn School of Business alumna Brooke Preston can.

Preston, bba '20, finished third in the Capsim Challenge at the end of the fall 2020 semester. The Capsim Challenge takes Capstone and Foundation simulation alumni and pits them against each other to determine the world's best at running a multi-million dollar simulation company. Preston participated in a group simulation throughout her Strategic Management class with Norma Juma, professor, School of Business, and did the international competition as a solo team.

"I encourage all of my students to enroll in the Capsim Challenge," Juma said. "It gives them another opportunity to polish up their skills before the class final and an opportunity to gain confidence in their accomplishments within the competition."

Business simulations are different from lectures, case studies and other classroom tools. They create an experience that not only involves their hands and minds, but their emotions too.

"I have used the Capstone simulation in my classes since 2006," Juma said. "The greatest benefits are the testimonials from alumni who talk about the transferable skills that they acquired from Capstone, and we have had a lot of success with it. I define success in terms of what my students can carry on into their careers and continuous learning after graduation."

The Capstone simulation integrates all functional areas of learning so students can grasp what a viable business model is and what it takes to run a business.

"What I quickly experienced in the simulation was that I could listen and try to learn a lot in a class lecture, but when I did the simulation, I got to really learn where the topics you hear about in class come from," Preston said.

"Experiential tools are powerful because they invoke emotions and emotions are hard to forget," Juma said.

Preston worked with a group in class throughout the semester in the Capstone simulation and quickly learned the importance of communication across all the links.

"If one of those links doesn't match up with the other, then it's all going to come tumbling down," Preston said. "If one fails then the entire operation fails. I really learned the impact of our decisions and the importance of coordinating with my team."

Preston then had to effectively coordinate with herself when she entered the Capsim Challenge. There was a round in the challenge simulation she didn't realize a recession had taken place and had to work to catch back up with the other teams.

"The opportunity to engage with their peers in a global competition builds their confidence and appreciation for the education they are receiving," Juma said. "It is a resounding assurance of their impactful learning experience at Washburn." 🚶



Brooke Preston, bba '20 . Photo by Doug Stremel



Sean Bird, ba '91, was one of 10 national winners of an I Love My Librarian award in 2020. He's worked at Mabee Library since 1995. *Photo by Doug Stremel*

# We Love our Librarian

Mabee librarian Sean Bird receives American Library Association award

*By Annie Flachsbarth*

As the associate dean of university libraries and the Center for Student Success and Retention, Sean Bird, ba '91, has made it his primary focus to do everything he can for the success of Washburn University students.

With a passion that shines through in all he does, he was recently named a winner of the 2021 I Love My Librarian Award – an honor bestowed by the American Library Association for his outstanding commitment to student success. He was one of only 10 award recipients selected from 1,865 nominations from library users across the country.

A graduate of the Washburn English department, Bird has worked for the university since 1995. He is highly respected among students, many of whom seek out his guidance. Early in his time at Washburn, he learned many incoming freshmen were coming from unique places and weren't always prepared for college in the way their professors expected them to be.

“Many students are coming in as first-generation students who don't have someone at home they can ask about the university experience. Mabee Library needed to be the place to help students transition into an environment of learning,” Bird said. “It's important for

Washburn students to get to the same finish line and obtain their degrees and go on to do wonderful things.”

With that goal in mind, Bird made it his mission to find ways to help students navigate the new world of the university experience to find the success they desired.

“It’s about knowing where you are and how to find the resources you need in a given moment to find a new direction” Bird said. “It all comes down to information literacy and broadening their perspectives.”

To Bird, that means students need to know more than how to find resources in a library.

“We recognize that information is a much bigger part in today’s culture than the culture that got us here,” Bird said. “The reality is we’re not checking out the same number of books we did a decade ago. So sometimes we buy books for the library, but we also buy electronic journals and work to improve the spaces in the library through meeting space, classroom space and even a math lab.”

While that dedication to providing much needed resources to Washburn students is always at the top of Bird’s agenda, recent graduate Andrew Gallegos, ba ’20, who worked in Mabee Library while a student, said it’s Bird’s ability to connect with students that stands out.

“Sean’s best trait is he can help you talk things out,” Gallegos said. “He helped me change my perspective and encouraged critical thinking. It’s difficult to leave a conversation with Sean without new insights and feeling optimistic.”

Gallegos said Bird’s personality always makes everyone feel welcome, no matter where you come from.

“Without fail, anytime a new group of people come into Mabee Library, he immediately becomes the ‘host.’ He tells them about the library, any recent upgrades and really focuses on all of the opportunities the library has to offer,” Gallegos said.

Bird acts as a mentor to many. Sara Escandon, bsw ’16, had been sitting in the library and mentioned to Bird she was looking for a job. He offered her a job at the library – one that helped shape her future.

“It was the best random job I ever had,” Escandon said. “After graduation, I worked another job for a few years, but I just didn’t love it. I remembered how much I enjoyed working at the library and decided to pursue a career in that. I’m now working for the Kansas City Public Libraries in a social work librarian position.”

Those who gain new insights when talking to Bird likely do so as a result of his constant focus on the success of Washburn students.

“Sean’s biggest question is, ‘What happens at Washburn that makes people successful?’” Gallegos said. “He is determined to help individuals find success and leave Washburn as productive members of society.”

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“The education students receive at Washburn impacts so many lives in the Topeka area, and Washburn’s reach is large. It’s a testament to the great work of the people of Washburn for more than 155 years.” - Sean Bird

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“I’m so grateful to be a part of the Washburn community as an alumnus, parent, librarian and adjunct faculty member,” Bird said. “The education students receive at Washburn impacts so many lives in the Topeka area, and Washburn’s reach is large. It’s a testament to the great work of the people of Washburn for more than 155 years.”

Sean and his wife, Brooke, have two sons, Christopher, ba ’16, and Alex, ba ’19, and two grandchildren, Garrett and Kendra. Both of their sons are Washburn graduates and Alex is even getting into the family business – he’s currently working on his master of library science. 

# Learning's a Gas

In a trying year, educators find new ways to keep kids smiling

By Chris Marshall

Keeping a class of 20 third graders on the same page is hard enough when they're all learning in a confined physical space. Scatter them across town into their "home offices" for weeks at a time, and the task immediately takes on an added degree of difficulty.

Four months into an academic year when schools experimented with every combination of in-person and online learning, Emma Ginder, b ed '17, a teacher at Indian Hills Elementary School in Topeka, was looking for a way to pep up a group of 9-year-olds mired in another full day of screen time.

So what magic did Ginder pull from her bag of tricks to lift students' spirits? A fart noise.

In a video clip that went viral on local and national news websites, Ginder asked her class to get out their textbooks, then she hit play on the unmistakable sound of passed gas. After a slight pause, laughter filled the Zoom.

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"Looking back, I'm grateful for my Washburn education, and especially the education department. They were very intentional in teaching us that you never know what you're going to be faced with as educators, so learn to roll with it. Find ways to adapt and support the students because the kids are the number one priority." - Chelsea Artzer

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"I tend to be laid back and make a fool of myself in front of the kids," Ginder said. "We were coming back from lunch and I played the sound to see what I'd get. Their reactions are what make the video so good. Laughter from kids is contagious."

The break was a welcome one. At the time, all classes for grades 3-6 were remote, which means students were logging on from 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. every weekday.

"The days were long and exhausting," Ginder said, "and I wanted to spice things up to get them going for the last half of the day."

No profession was fully prepared for the twists and turns created by COVID-19, but Ginder said as a teacher, many of the lessons she learned from Washburn University's education department apply to any circumstance.

"I saw the difference it makes having professors who knew my name and actually cared and wanted to see success in their students," Ginder said.

Chelsea Artzer, b ed '11, also found ways to deal with COVID-19 curveballs. After five years as a fifth-grade teacher and two years as an instructional coach at Farley Elementary School in Topeka, Artzer was hired in 2020 as assistant principal of Whitson Elementary School in Topeka. Moving to a new position in a new district takes some adjusting on its own, and the pandemic brought additional waves of change.

"I missed out on some of the fun experiences of a typical year, but what I learned in exchange of that is more valuable," Artzer said. "One silver lining is I realized you can still have an impact on the kids, regardless if you're in a brick-and-mortar building or not; even if you're in the living room of your own home."

Whitson also had stretches of in-person and online learning and reduced maximum class sizes to 15 students to help meet social-distance protocols. Artzer said Washburn helped prepare her for handling obstacles on the fly.

“Looking back, I’m grateful for my Washburn education, and especially the education department,” Artzer said. “They were very intentional in teaching us that you never know what you’re going to be faced with as educators, so learn to roll with it. Find ways to adapt and support the students because the kids are the number one priority.”

Children are always top of mind for educators, but sometimes their actions make an impression beyond the classroom, as Ginder learned when her sound effect drew widespread positive feedback.

“It started out so lighthearted, and I feel silly saying this, but with the amount of people who have reached out to me, it’s so much more than a fart,” Ginder said. “A woman messaged me that she lost her job

during COVID and got divorced, and her kids were at her ex-husband’s house that night. She was getting ready to end her life, but she said when she saw the video, ‘The laughter brought me back to reality. I can’t leave my kids, my boys. I can’t end my life.’ It gives me goosebumps. Even with how hard a year it was, children’s laughter makes a meaningful impact.”

Fortunately, that laughter was gradually restored to the school hallways. Most schools resumed in-person learning full time before the academic year ended. Even as schools return to normalcy and ditch Zoom for good, students won’t soon forget the example set by teachers in a year unlike any other.

“I continue to be impressed with every single educator in the state,” Artzer said. “The situation was obviously not ideal, but they stepped up and learned new ways of teaching, connecting with kids, putting in tireless hours to support them, academically and socially. It’s just another reminder of how important the education system is for kids.” 🦋



Emma Ginder, b ed '17. Photo by Jeremy Wangler



Chelsea Artzer, b ed '11. Photo by Jeremy Wangler



Derik Flerlage, as '18, ba '18, is the infectious disease division manager and deputy COVID-19 operations section chief for the Shawnee County Health Department. *Photo by Doug Stremel*

# Slowing the Spread

Flerlage helping manage Shawnee County's COVID-19 response

*By Breckyn Rowley*

When Derik Flerlage, as '18, ba '18, joined the Shawnee County Health Department, it was in the midst of battling one of its most difficult challenges in its history – the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This wasn't your typical start to a job,” Flerlage said. “I immediately had to hit the ground running without any sort of orientation or introduction. Day one people began to turn to me for direction and advice.”

Despite the challenging situation, Flerlage felt well prepared by his previous work in health care, his business background and – of course – his Washburn University education.

Flerlage came to the Shawnee County Health Department in July 2020 after working as the director of admissions and business development at Tanglewood Health and Rehabilitation. He is the infectious disease division manager and deputy

COVID-19 operations section chief where he works to control the spread of COVID-19.

“It was a clear choice,” Flerlage said. “As COVID got underway and it started affecting nursing homes, I just kind of felt called to help.”

Flerlage started working immediately to help slow the spread. He analyzed the reports of cases and deaths to determine which groups were being most affected. He also worked to track the epidemiological trends that appeared in an effort to keep ahead of the virus. Flerlage then used this information while working alongside the Shawnee County health officer to build a plan to fight the spread. As deputy COVID-19 operations section chief, he updated the command team and kept elected officials and the media apprised of their plans.

Carrie Delfs, bsn '07, clinical services division manager for Shawnee County Health Department, helped Flerlage transition into the position.

“He started during a difficult time,” Delfs said. “The workload around COVID was already overwhelming. Processes that had been in place needed to be reworked, and new processes needed to be created to meet the needs of our staff and community. However, Derik’s understanding of public health and the role of the local health department has continued to expand.”

She credited Flerlage’s diverse health care background with easing his transition into the job.

“This was the perfect role for me to blend what I know about the clinical side of things, which would be my health care education, and the business knowledge that Tanglewood helped me develop,” Flerlage said.

Flerlage said his Washburn University education also prepared him by providing a range of experiences that helped him learn to deal with complex problems and fluid situations.

He said Washburn “opens your mind to complex ideas and situations that happen in the world.”

He might not have realized it at the time, but classes such as Current Literature in Kinesiology taught by Associate Professor Park Lockwood set him up for success in his job at the health department.

“What really prepared me for the working world is that the class required you to read research and then discuss it with the group in a way that made sense scientifically,” Flerlage said. “That discussion directly correlates with my career today and I use it daily.”

Flerlage worked the night shift at Stormont Vail Health as a phlebotomist while pursuing his associate's degree in respiratory therapy and bachelor's degree in exercise physiology at Washburn. He began working as a respiratory therapist after graduation but then had the opportunity to enter the administrative side of health care at Tanglewood Health and Rehabilitation.

Flerlage is not only thankful for the education he received at Washburn but appreciative of the constant support the Washburn community provides him.

“Washburn is everything to me,” he said. “I wouldn’t be in my current career without it, there’s no doubt.”

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“What really prepared me for the working world is that the class required you to read research and then discuss it with the group in a way that made sense scientifically. That discussion directly correlates with my career today and I use it daily.” - Derik Flerlage

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Flerlage is currently working on his master of business administration and plans on continuing further into the administrative side of health care. He hopes to expand access to care to the less fortunate and those who are uninsured, as well as change the delivery of health care.

“Health care in this country needs someone at the top to change the way we think about it in general,” Flerlage said. 🦿

# The Education Beat

Brown balanced education and experience during law enforcement career

By Jeremy Wangler • [jwangler@wualumni.org](mailto:jwangler@wualumni.org)

Education and experience are key to moving up in almost any profession. For Ron Brown, he was able to have a rewarding career in law enforcement thanks to invaluable experience on the streets and advanced education in the classroom.

Brown, bs '97, mcj '14, was with the Topeka Police Department for 28 years, retiring in 2009 as a major and a division commander. He then became chief of the Topeka Public Schools Police Department and held that position for 10 years until retiring in summer 2020. On top of that, he was a member of the Marine Corps for 31 years, training Iraqi police among other things, and he was an adjunct criminal justice instructor at Washburn University for 20 years.

Brown took over the Topeka Public Schools police force at a time when they were starting to turn duties over to TPD. He revamped the agency and proved he and his officers were relevant, telling them their most important tool was their relationship with the kids.

“Part of that was just getting into the hallways and talking to the kids on a daily basis,” he said. “One of my favorite things to do, honestly, was to go to a preschool or an elementary school in a uniform because if you needed an ego boost for the day, that was the place to get it. You are a rock star in an elementary school or a preschool.”

Brown believes if police agencies want to be considered a profession, they must rise to the level of education expected by most professions – a college degree. When he started with TPD, he said only one officer had a master’s degree. Now there are many, and there’s even a major with a doctorate. Nationwide, 30% of officers have at least a four-year degree and 5% have a graduate degree, according to a 2017 study funded by the Police Foundation.

But Brown didn’t want his students thinking they would be able to walk right into their dream job. Experience is still essential, as is continued education in your desired field.



Ron Brown, bs '97, mcj '14. Photo by Doug Stremel

“One of the questions I always ask my classes is, where do you see yourself in five years,” Brown said. “Some of them are pretty realistic and some are not. I’ll explain to them that you have to be willing to do your time. You have to be on the streets as a patrol officer for a number of years before you move up the ranks. I got to do a lot of cool stuff. I was in charge of SWAT. I was in charge of narcotics. I did special operations. But it didn’t start right at the beginning.”

Brown said the best part of his career was teaching and classroom interactions with Washburn students. He would gladly talk to them after class, write letters of recommendation or hire students as TPD interns.

“I always told students on my last day of class, ‘Our class is over, but our relationship is not. Here’s my phone number. You call me any time you have questions, concerns, anything I can help you with.’” 



# Friend of Humanity

Alumnus spent career writing in opposition to Nazi Germany, communism

By Ted Van Dyke

*(Editor's note: Ted Van Dyke is the grandson of Reuben Markham)*

In 1949, the Washburn Alumni Association initiated its Distinguished Service Award, choosing Reuben Markham, 1908, among its first honorees. The citation mentioned him as “distinguished foreign editor for the Christian Science Monitor,” a “widely known lecturer and author,” and “at present invited by the United States government to perform a task for which he is considered especially qualified.” Markham was known for his lifelong opposition to dictatorships; his life reflected Washburn’s abolitionist heritage and inclusive core values.

Born of homesteaders in Smith County, Kansas, in 1887, Markham had a distinguished career at Washburn as valedictorian of both the high school academy and the college. After graduating, he married Mary Gall, 1908, the class salutatorian. Years later, she said, “(Washburn) did a lot for us.”



Reuben Markham, in the Office of War Information. After writing in favor of entering World War II to defeat Nazi Germany, Markham was hired as deputy director of the Balkans by the OWI. *Photo submitted*



Reuben Markham, 1908.

“A Kansas college in those days,” Reuben once wrote, “offered a clear picture of life and the world... A good society seemed possible. Patriotism seemed noble; faith, alluring; loyalty, heroic... The choice between right and wrong seemed simple, duty clear... But life didn’t turn out that way. Truth itself came to seem very elusive.”

Upon graduation, Markham attended Union Theological Seminary. Ordained a Congregational minister in 1912, he and Mary sailed for Bulgaria to be missionary educators at an American school. After a military coup in 1923, Reuben became increasingly outspoken about the Bulgarian government’s violent repression of the peasants, and the regime forced his resignation from the mission in 1925. Ultimately, he was tried and convicted, but subsequently amnestied. He joined the Christian Science Monitor, eventually becoming its Central European correspondent, and was considered by many to have been America’s foremost authority on the Balkans.

Returning to the United States in 1939, Markham was appalled at the rise of Nazi Germany. In March 1941, the nadir of Allied prospects, with France defeated, Russia allied with Germany and England under assault, Reuben sounded a clarion call for America to enter the war in his best-selling “The Wave of the Past.” In response to Anne Lindbergh’s isolationist, “The Wave of the Future,” Reuben wrote, “let us act with all our might... It means to do everything that must be done. Nothing less. In a supreme struggle, for supreme values, supreme efforts must be made... Whatever it may cost.”

After Pearl Harbor, Reuben became deputy director for the Balkans for the Office of War Information. Spending 1944 in Europe, he saw the brutality



Reuben Markham speaking to students at a radio station in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1947. *Photo submitted*

of communism and the threat that Russia might dominate all of Europe and Asia. As early as 1941, Reuben had written, “Communism is a blight and a curse, destroying the masses and blasting every hope or dream that little men and women have cherished for the better life.” When America threw its support to communist guerilla leader Josip Broz Tito in Yugoslavia in 1944, Reuben resigned in protest. His life’s work then became preventing Soviet expansion and fighting totalitarianism.

In 1945, the Monitor sent Markham back to Romania and Bulgaria. One political meeting he covered was violently disrupted, with Markham escaping out the back, climbing an outdoor staircase and slipping into an apartment where he spent the night amid sounds of gunfire. His reporting caused Russia to expel him in June 1946. Shortly afterward, he met with President Harry Truman at the White House to convey his first-hand observations.

He then analyzed Romania’s subjugation in “Rumania Under the Soviet Yoke,” and the Yugoslav tragedy in “Tito’s Imperial Communism.” His strong stance

against communism led the United States to invite him back into government in 1949 as part of the newly created C.I.A. Sadly, he died seven months later.

Championing the oppressed was something of a Markham family tradition that became intertwined with Washburn. Markham’s grandfather, also a Congregational minister, participated in the Underground Railroad. His grandson remembered “his telling of riding in a lumber wagon with a shotgun concealed while slaves were covered with blankets lying in the wagon bed.” After the Civil War, he worked raising money for the American Missionary Association, which helped found 11 historically black colleges. At least eight of his grandchildren attended Washburn, including Reuben’s first cousin, Hattie Halbert, 1900, who was secretary to the president of Washburn under five administrations from 1901-1942.

The Monitor honored Reuben Markham with an editorial after his death entitled, “Friend of Humanity.” The Washburn community can take pride in an alumnus who worked so effectively against two great tyrannies of the 20th century. ✎

# Honorary Degrees

Washburn University conferred honorary degrees on four people during the spring 2021 commencement ceremonies.

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## Elizabeth Farnsworth, Doctor of Humane Letters



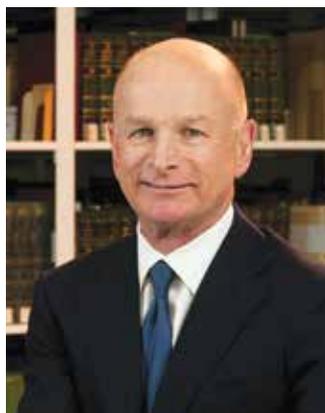
Elizabeth Fink Farnsworth, who grew up in Topeka, is former chief correspondent and principal substitute anchor of the PBS NewsHour. She has reported from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Cambodia, Vietnam, Haiti, Guatemala and

Chile, and has been published in Foreign Policy, World Policy Journal, The San Francisco Chronicle, The Nation and Mother Jones. Earlier this year the

Berkeley Review of Latin American Studies published interviews by Farnsworth with Chilean human rights activist and journalist Mónica González Mujica. Farnsworth has four Emmy nominations and her 2008 documentary, “The Judge and the General,” won an Alfred I Dupont-Columbia University Award, which is often considered the broadcast equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize. Her 2017 memoir, “A Train Through Time: A Life, Real and Imagined,” explores how childhood experiences influenced her commitment to reporting from danger zones. Farnsworth serves on the advisory board of the Human Rights Center, UC Berkeley School of Law, and the advisory committee of the World Affairs Council of Northern California.

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## Gilbert Galle, ba '70, Doctor of Commerce

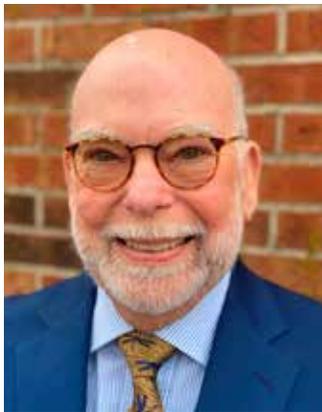


After graduation, Gilbert Galle moved to Houston, Texas, where he was a member of the management committee of the Astrodome Corporation, owners of the Houston Astros and the Astroworld Entertainment complex. He then became an

institutional broker with the investment banking firm of Rotan Mosle. In 1985, Galle moved to Atlanta,

Georgia, and was a senior vice president of institutional sales for Lehman Brothers. In 1988, he joined WEDGE Capital Management LLP in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he was a managing general partner and portfolio manager. He retired in 2008. Active in his Pinehurst, North Carolina, community, he is current chair of the board of trustees of Thompson Child & Family Focus, an Episcopal agency serving children and families. Galle joined the Washburn University Foundation board of trustees in 2004 and served as chair from 2010-12. Washburn honored him with an Alumni Fellow award, Distinguished Service Award and Garvey Trustee Award.

## Pedro Irigonegaray, bba '70, jd '73, Doctor of Law



At the age of 12, Pedro Irigonegaray and his mother immigrated from Cuba to the United States as political refugees, joined later by his two sisters and father. He is the founder and senior partner of Irigonegaray, Turney, & Revenaugh, LLP in Topeka, which practices tort litigation. Additionally, Irigonegaray is involved in

pro bono work and advocacy on behalf of civil rights. Irigonegaray has served as special counsel to Gov. Laura Kelly and special counsel to the late Gov. Joan Finney of Kansas. He is a former president of the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association, a former member of the Topeka Race Relations Council and the Kansas Hispanic Affairs Committee. He is an awardee of the Daughters of the American Revolution Americanism Medal, which honors naturalized citizens for outstanding contributions to the nation. He has been an advisor or advocate for organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation and Kansas Appleseed.

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## Robert Meinershagen, ba '63, Doctor of Science



Following his graduation, Robert Meinershagen spent a few years working in sales and marketing positions with two U.S. manufacturers of medical diagnostics products. In 1976, he made the decision to start his own company, and founded Columbia Diagnostics, Inc. in suburban Washington, D.C., distributing a full range of diagnostic instrumentation, reagents and laboratory

disposables to the hospital, pathology and medical research laboratory markets. Meinershagen navigated the business into becoming a major pioneer in medical diagnostic kits until his retirement in 2000 when Columbia was sold to a large, multinational business. Meinershagen served on the board of trustees for the Washburn University Foundation from 1997 until 2010 and remains a trustee emeritus. In 2000 he was honored as an Alumni Fellow. Meinershagen was instrumental in creating the biology field laboratory in Karlyle Woods that now bears his name, and he and his wife's contributions established the Robert E. & Helen L. Meinershagen Excellence in Biology Fund. 



# Come Back for Good

Student-athletes make positive changes through Brenneman Series

By Chris Marshall

Over the past 18 months, Mitch Schurig has witnessed the impact of timely turnarounds.

After Washburn University started the 2019 football season with a 1-4 record, the team's starting quarterback put his early-season struggles behind him. Schurig threw 15 touchdown passes and just four interceptions the rest of the way, leading the Ichabods to five victories in their last six games to finish the year with a winning record.

The cancellation of fall sports robbed Washburn of the opportunity to carry that momentum into 2020, but Schurig, b ed '20, and several other student-athletes used the down time to learn from a prominent alumnus who wrote the book on turnarounds.

Greg Brenneman, bba '84, h '99, the former CEO of such companies as Continental Airlines, Burger King and Quiznos, authored "Right Away and All at Once: Five Steps to Transform Your Business and Enrich

Your Life" in 2016 to explain how people can use his business principles to better their personal lives.

For the past two years, Greg and his wife, Ronda, b ed '84, have donated their time and financial resources to create the Brenneman Series, a seven-week program at Washburn built on the groundwork in Greg's book. Offered to all Washburn students, the series has been a big draw for student-athletes. When COVID-19 brought an abrupt end to the sports calendar in 2020, a separate Brenneman Series cohort was added to handle the demand.

"We thought they'd have a little extra time compared to a normal semester and decided to add a second cohort for student-athletes," said Marshall Meek, mba '17, president of the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation. "The lessons in the book apply to business, your career and your life, but can be applied just as easily to your team in sports."



Mitch Schurig, b ed '20. Photo by Andrew Rosenthal

Meek co-facilitates the Brenneman Series with Jeff Mott, adjunct instructor. Twenty students are selected per cohort each semester to learn from the Brennemens, along with other speakers, like Advisors Excel co-founder Cody Foster, BA '99, and JuliAnn Mazachek, Washburn's vice president for academic affairs.

Schurig, who received his bachelor's degree in education last fall, will return for one more season as Washburn's quarterback while pursuing his master's degree. He said the Brenneman Series provided lessons he applies both on and off the field.

"It's beneficial to build an A team and surround yourself with people who have your back but hold you accountable as well," Schurig said. "And no matter what you're doing, it's important to learn from both your failures and successes."

Between practice, games, schoolwork and other extracurricular activities, student-athletes have more obligations than most. Madeline Lysaught, a sophomore business major, said participating in the Brenneman Series while competing on the Washburn tennis team as a freshman showed her how to focus on what she felt mattered long term.

"It helped as a business student, but I'm also a very spiritual person, so I loved the personal side of it," said Lysaught, who is involved in the Leadership Institute and Called to Greatness, a Christian group at Washburn. "One of the biggest parts to me was creating a one-page plan for ourselves. Putting that together gave me a visual of what I want to accomplish, who I want to be and be more disciplined in every area of life."

As much as Brenneman Series participants learn about themselves, the program's greatest impact is on others. The Brennemens provide \$20,000 for each of the program's cohorts to award to charitable organizations and projects. Philanthropy and giving back are prominent themes in Brenneman's book. Students pour through applications to determine where the money would be best spent, then allocate \$10,000 to Washburn projects and \$10,000 to non-profit organizations in the community.

At the start of the seven weeks, students have a broad group of nonprofits to consider, then they narrow



Madeline Lysaught. Photo by Mackenzie Collyer, Washburn Athletic Communications

the candidates down by factoring in everything from diversity of the organization's board of directors to the number of people impacted.

"We bring representatives from those organizations in at the end of the program to spend time with the students, and they're always so overjoyed," Meek said. "That last session is really powerful. Everyone walks away feeling great about the difference they've made."

A few of the Washburn organizations to receive money included Ichabods Moving Forward, Diversity in Elementary Education and the Washburn University Institute of Technology Care Closet. Topeka groups to receive donations included the Capper Foundation, Doorstep and Communities in Schools.

By the end of the series, the Brennemens have demonstrated to students how positive changes can make a difference, not just in their own lives and careers, but in the community as a whole.

"How many times do students finish a class and get to have a dialogue with the author of their textbook?" Meek said. "For the Brennemens to give this gift and do this program in the first place is excellent, but to be involved each semester and interact with students is really a blessing to students and to Washburn." 🏃

# Catalyst for Change

Washburn's student-athletes advocate for social and racial justice

By Annie Flachsbarth

In a year when athletes saw competition seasons cut short or eliminated completely, Washburn University's student-athletes took to a different playing field.

Their goal? To make a positive impact on the campus and Topeka community by educating themselves and their fellow students through a series of lectures and events on the issues of the world around them.

Not ones to sit idly by and wait for something to happen, members of Washburn's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee made their voices heard and advocated for change. SAAC identified four areas of focus they believed would help make an impact on other student-athletes: mental health, nutrition, social justice and community service.

"Often resources to mental health, nutrition and community services are marketed and more readily available to those with more power and privilege. We

wanted to bring to light the fact that social justice has been under-prioritized and underrepresented within our community and country," said SAAC co-president and senior volleyball player Kelsey Gordon.

The program included Zoom discussions with a variety of speakers' thought-provoking topics, including:

- Race and education with Preston Webb, visual information specialist, Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site
- Race and law with Carla Pratt, dean, Washburn University School of Law
- Race and sports with Ray Doswell, vice president of curatorial services, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum
- Race and voting with Linsey Modellmog, associate professor, political science, and Grant Armstrong, lecturer, political science
- Indigenous culture and representation with Rep. Sharice Davids of Kansas
- Racial and gender equality with WNBA star Napheesa Collier of the Minnesota Lynx

As Washburn's assistant athletic director and SAAC student advisor, Brittany Lauritsen couldn't be prouder.

"It's one thing to say a lot of things and another to do them," Lauritsen said. "These students are helping pull everyone in and meet them wherever they are. It's also teaching our student-athletes that their voices are valued and powerful."

To prepare for the series, SAAC campaigned on Washburn's Day of Giving, raising \$7,000.

"From the day we stepped on campus as freshmen, we were urged to have a mindset of being lifelong learners," Gordon said. "In order to be the change, we have to be educated and willing to confront the uncomfortable conversations and realities that come with the topic of social and racial justice." 🏃



Members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Photo by Doug Stremel

# School of Business receives extension on prestigious business accreditation

The Washburn University School of Business was awarded another five-year period of business accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. The AACSB International accreditation is earned by less than five percent of the world's business schools.

"I am so grateful for the hard work of our faculty, staff, students, alumni, supporters and friends that allowed us to maintain this prestigious accreditation," said David Sollars, dean and professor, School of Business. "We truly appreciate that AACSB recognizes our continued efforts and commitment to high-quality business education."

The School of Business received its first AACSB International accreditation in 2006 and continued to prove its excellence by having this accreditation extended in 2011 and 2016.

"This continuing accreditation is yet another indication of the excellence, accountability and

innovation the Washburn campus and Topeka community have come to expect," said JuliAnn Mazachek, vice president for academic affairs.

The AACSB International is the longest-serving global accrediting body for business schools, founded in 1916. It is also the largest business education network, bringing students, educators and businesses from over 870 schools together.

"We see the outstanding work the faculty in the School of Business do reflected in the accomplishments of their students," Mazachek said.

Business schools awarded this accreditation undergo meticulous and demanding processes to ensure they meet all 15 international standards for excellence. These processes include self-evaluations, peer reviews, committee reviews and the development of in-depth strategic plans. 

## Alumni Association launches app

The Washburn University Alumni Association launched a free membership app. The app provides access to an easier to reach, digital version of the Alumni Association and Foundation website; this includes features such as a digital membership card and access to The Ichabod magazine, social media streams, upcoming events, travel information and the ability to locate all membership discounts.

To download, open the App Store or Google Play and search "Washburn Alumni". Alumni Association members will need to log in using the email associated with their membership account. Non-members will also have access to features and the option to

join the Association. Notifications and location can be turned on to let users see all in-app exclusives that are available, as well as any Alumni Association events in the area.

For more information on the Washburn Alumni Association membership app, visit [wualumni.org/membershipapp](http://wualumni.org/membershipapp). 



# 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](http://wualumni.org/alumninotes) or to Brooke Donaldson at [bdonaldson@wualumni.org](mailto:bdonaldson@wualumni.org) by July 30, 2021, to be included in the fall magazine.

## 1960s

**Bob Davis**, ba '67, Lawrence, Kansas, collaborated with former University of Kansas assistant sports information director, Jeff Bollig to write a book called "The Dream is Real: My Life on the Airwaves," that is available for purchase.

**Delano Lewis, Sr.**, jd '63, Las Cruces, New Mexico, is New Mexico State University's visiting senior fellow for Global Affairs.

**Beverly Dodge-Radefeld**, bfa '68, Topeka, Kansas, has put together a collection of work with alumnus Cally Krallman, "Two Visions -- One Prairie," which celebrates the color and majesty of the Kansas prairie as the next exhibition at the Deines Cultural Center.

## 1970s

**Gary Elliott**, bba '74, Topeka, Kansas, Football, Phi Delta Theta, retired April 24, 2020, after 43 years in the roofing industry with the last 20 years as a roof consultant.

**J. Michael Keeley**, bba '79, jd '82, Great Bend, Kansas, retired on Jan. 11, 2021, after serving 28 years as a district judge having been elected in 1992. He was appointed chief judge in 2004. Keeley served as president of the Kansas District Judges Association from 2012-13, and prior to being elected he began his law career as an attorney in 1982 with the law firm of Ward and Berscheidt.

**Catherine (Wollen) Maxwell**, ba '75, Buda, Texas, has released a new book, "Her First Desire," a historical romance novel on March 27, 2021, and is one of over 40 historical romances to her credit. She will also be one of the featured writers at Independence's Mid-Continental Public Library's GenreCon scheduled for this August.

**David Moses**, jd '79, Bel Air, Kansas, Phi Alpha Delta, Law Clinic Intern, was appointed as chair of the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission by Gov. Laura Kelly.

**Linda B. (Usher) Mott**, b ed '73, Greenville, Texas, retired after over 40 years as a teacher, administrator and university instructor.

**Gary Nafziger**, jd '73, Ozawkie, Kansas, Law Clinic Intern, retired from the 2nd Judicial District after 38 years of service.

**L. Daniel Rector**, jd '76, Monument, Colorado, was named a Colorado Super Lawyer in the 2021 Super Lawyer magazine.

**Charles Stones**, ba '78, Topeka, Kansas, has been sworn in as the newest member of Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation's board of directors.

## 1980s

**Cally (Kirby) Krallman**, bfa '81, Topeka, Kansas, Washburn Review, has put together a collection of work with alumnus Beverly Dodge-Redefeld, "Two Visions -- One Prairie," which celebrates the color and majesty of the Kansas prairie as the next exhibition at the Deines Cultural Center.

**James Murphy**, bcj '86, Highlands Ranch, Colorado, Alpha Delta, WSGA, Washburn Review, retired as a supervising U.S. probation officer in Denver, Colorado, in Sept. 2020.

**Angie (Allendorf) Price**, aa '88, aa '89, b music '89, Topeka, Kansas, is retiring as coach of the Washburn Dancing Blues after 33 years and has won seven national championships as coach.

**Richard "Rick" Weissbeck**, bcj '82, Topeka, Kansas, Football, Track, retired from the Shawnee County Department of Corrections in 2007, adult division with 25 years of service. He also retired from the Kansas Army National Guard in 1996.

## 1990s

**Sean Bird**, ba '91, Topeka, Kansas, was presented a national "I Love My Librarian" award by the American Library Association.

**Lesley Isherwood**, ba '95, jd '98, Wichita, Kansas, Phi Delta Phi, Moot Court Council, was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Court of Appeals by Gov. Laura Kelly.

**Eric Ridenour**, jd '95, Sylva, North Carolina, was appointed as the new county attorney for Macon County in North Carolina.

## 2000s

**Michael J. Burbach**, jd '05, Overland Park, Kansas, started a new position as senior counsel with GE Capital in January 2021.

**Andrew Davidson**, jd '04, Buhler, Kansas, was appointed the deputy district attorney for the Reno County District Attorney's Office.

**Adam Ennett**, bba '08, Santa Ana, California, Sigma Phi Epsilon, has been hired as Orange County's Credit Union's new vice president of consumer lending.

**Christopher Etzel**, jd '04, Havensville, Kansas, Law Clinic Intern, has been appointed by Gov. Laura Kelly to the 2nd Judicial District vacancy that was created by the retirement of Chief Judge Gary Nafziger.

**Lynelle (Strong) Homolka**, jd '00, Central City, Nebraska, Moot Court Council, has been appointed as a county court judge in the 5th Judicial District by Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts.

**Adam Johnson**, msw '09, Manhattan, Kansas, has been promoted to recovery services manager at Pawnee Mental Health.

**Megan (Beck) Milner**, ba '00, Shawnee, Kansas, has been selected as the superintendent of the Kansas Juvenile Corrections Complex.

**Matthew Resnick**, ba '08, Topeka, Kansas, Washburn Review, has joined The Chanute Tribune staff as assistant editor.

**Samuel Wendt**, jd '01, Leawood, Kansas, International Law Society, was named the new president of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association.

**Erin Whalen-Freeberg**, ba '00, Indianola, Iowa, and her business, Feed & Foster, were named an emerging business of 2020 by Indianola's chamber of commerce.

## 2010s

**Keaton Ashlock**, jd '14, Springfield, Missouri, was appointed by Missouri Gov. Mike Parson as Hickory County prosecuting attorney.

**Cameron Bernard**, jd '19, Lawrence, Kansas, Moot Court Council, Federalists' Society, has joined Goodell, Stratton, Edmonds & Palmer LLP, following his position as a research attorney for Judge Kathryn Gardner at the Kansas Court of Appeals.

**Meghan Bitter**, ba '18, bba '18, Topeka, Kansas, Alpha Lambda Delta, American Business Women Association, International Business Club, is working as a records management specialist for Capitol Federal Savings.

**Landon Hay**, ba '16, Highland, Kansas, Baseball, was named the new head coach of Highland Community College's baseball program beginning with the 2021 baseball season.

**Cody Heiman**, bba '16, Topeka, Kansas, Football, was named vice president/loan officer for First Bank Kansas in Salina.

**Riley Krane**, bba '16, Shawnee, Kansas, Baseball, WU Society for HR Management, was signed as an infielder for the Evansville Otters for the 2021 season in Indiana.

**Kaleb Koch**, bs '12, Atchison, Kansas, Football, has been promoted to defensive coordinator for Benedictine College's football team.

**Breanna Lewis**, ba '12, Memphis, Tennessee, Phi Alpha Theta, Volleyball, began as head volleyball coach at Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tennessee.

**Melody Osborne-Samuels**, ba '19, Kansas City, Kansas, Sigma Tau Delta, Alpha Lambda Delta, published her first book, "The Adventures of Misty Raindrop - Misty Makes a New Friend."

**Brady Skeens**, bba '18, mba '19, Lenexa, Kansas, Basketball, Mortar Board, played professional basketball for Tampereen Pyrinto in Tampere, Finland, in 2020-21. He then signed with the Edmonton Stingers of the Canadian Elite Basketball League for the 2021 season.

**Coleman Younger**, jd '15, Garden City, Kansas, will be managing the new Garden City personal injury law office as an expansion of Patterson Legal Group's legal practice into Western Kansas.

## 2020s

**Cale Beam**, bba '20, Topeka, Kansas, was appointed as Representative Tracey Mann's legislative correspondent on his congressional staff for Washington, D.C.

**Richa Bhattarai**, jd '20, Bowling Green, Kentucky, was accepted into a doctorate program in international conflict management at Kennesaw State University (Georgia).

**John Donaldson**, certificate '20, Topeka, Kansas, has joined Certus Structural Engineers, Inc. as a full-time engineering technician.

**Deborah Miller**, certificate '20, Dorchester, Wisconsin, joined Aspirus Riverview Behavioral Health in Wisconsin Rapids to provide mental health care as a behavioral health specialist.

**Jacob Talkin**, bs '20, Kansas City, Kansas, Kappa Mu Epsilon, Honors Student Council, is working as a junior data scientist for EMoney USA Holdings.

**Jack Williamson**, ba '20, Topeka, Kansas, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Tau Delta, Phi Alpha Theta, University Honors Program, started a new position at the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation as the data integrity specialist. 



# In Memory

The following information was received by the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation between Nov. 29, 2020, and March 30, 2021. Submit any omissions to Brooke Donaldson at [bdonaldson@wualumni.org](mailto:bdonaldson@wualumni.org).

## 1940s

**Orville J. Cole**, ba '49, jd '51, 92, Garnett, Kansas, on Nov. 7, 2020  
**Jack Glaves**, ba '49, jd '50, 93, Wichita, Kansas, Delta Theta Phi - Law, on March 2, 2021  
**James J. Noone**, jd '47, 99, Wichita, Kansas, on Jan. 14, 2021

## 1950s

**Lester "Lee" Banks**, jd '54, 91, Wichita, Kansas, on Dec. 22, 2020  
**John R. Blair**, bba '55, jd '57, 92, Phoenix, Arizona, Delta Theta Phi - Law, on Feb. 7, 2021  
**Ralph G. Bowen**, bba '55, 89, Hutchinson, Kansas, Phi Delta Theta, Football, Track, Sagamore Society, on Nov. 14, 2020  
**Frances J. (Vallas) Calys**, ba '52, 90, Kansas City, Missouri, on Feb. 3, 2021  
**Claire M. "Terry" (Carpenter) Chesnut**, ba '56, 89, Wichita, Kansas, Delta Gamma, Sigma Alpha Iota Int'l Music, on Dec. 3, 2020  
**Walter G. "Pete" Clark**, bba '55, 90, Topeka, Kansas, on March 1, 2021  
**Dorothy L. (Huffman) Coder**, b ed '53, 92, Topeka, Kansas, Phi Kappa Phi, on Dec. 18, 2020  
**Doris E. Derrington**, ba '55, 87, Topeka, Kansas, Zeta Tau Alpha, Student Council, Young Democrats, on Feb. 21, 2021  
**Addison A. Downey**, ba '54, 89, Austin, Texas, on Dec. 15, 2020  
**Dean P. Duling**, ba '52, 92, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 23, 2020  
**Ellery E. L. "Tom" Farr**, ba '50, 98, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 14, 2020  
**Elizabeth "Betty" (Beal) Heitzmann**, ba '57, 85, Roseville, Minnesota, Delta Gamma, Pep Club, on Dec. 2, 2020

**Clayton C. Hudson**, bsw '52, 92, Williamsburg, Virginia, on Feb. 24, 2020  
**Melvin D. Kemp**, bba '57, 82, Crown Point, Indiana, Phi Delta Theta, on Oct. 1, 2017  
**Tyler C. Lockett**, ba '55, jd '62, 87, Topeka, Kansas, Delta Theta Phi - Law, on Nov. 28, 2020  
**Julius "Jay" Martell**, b music '51, 96, Raleigh, North Carolina, Sagamore Society, on Dec. 25, 2020  
**Carol J. Metsker**, b ed '56, 93, Denver, Colorado, on Nov. 5, 2020  
**Ernest J. Monk**, bba '56, 90, Caney, Kansas, on Dec. 31, 2020  
**Robert J. "Bob" Olin**, bba '57, 87, Jacksonville, Florida, Kappa Sigma, Air Force ROTC, on June 15, 2019  
**John D. Parr**, ba '58, 90, Phoenix, Arizona, on June 29, 2020  
**Carl W. Quarnstrom**, jd '57, 92, Topeka, Kansas, Delta Theta Phi - Law, on Nov. 26, 2020  
**Glenn F. St. John**, bba '52, 95, Edmond, Oklahoma, on Nov. 23, 2020

## 1960s

**Charles L. Allen**, ba '68, 75, Garden City, Kansas, Air Force ROTC, Arnold Air Society, on Jan. 15, 2021  
**Jean E. Blaisdell**, b ed '62, 80, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Angel Flight, Student Council, Delta Gamma, on Feb. 21, 2021  
**Jerry E. Brown**, b ed '62, 84, Grantville, Kansas, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Football, Track, Air Force ROTC, Sagamore Society, on Jan. 25, 2021  
**Douglas S. Brunson**, ba '69, jd '72, 74, Great Bend, Kansas, on Dec. 24, 2020  
**Dennis G. Casebier**, bs '60, 87, Bullhead City, Arizona, Kappa Mu Epsilon, Sigma Pi Sigma, on Feb. 10, 2021  
**Kathleen A. (Pitt) Edsall**, b ed '68, 74, Topeka, Kansas, Delta Gamma, Young Democrats, on Jan. 21, 2021  
**Ross R. Freeman**, jd '67, 81, Topeka, Kansas, on March 4, 2021  
**Barbara J. (Spears) Hanson**, ba '63, 79, Topeka, Kansas, on March 9, 2021  
**Mary F. (Alderson) Hill**, ba '60, 81, Newfane, Vermont, Delta Gamma, Young Democrats, on Dec. 26, 2020  
**Laurence R. Hollis**, bs '69, jd '72, 77, Wichita, Kansas, Law Clinic, on March 10, 2021  
**Danford L. Hoben**, jd '61, 84, Estes Park, Colorado, Delta Theta Phi - Law, Kansas Bar Association, on Dec. 28, 2020  
**Philip H. Jones**, ba '63, bba '64, 80, Wichita, Kansas, on Jan. 3, 2021  
**Tracy D. Klingensmith**, ba '64, jd '68, 79, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 11, 2020  
**Clarence E. Koch**, jd '67, 81, Wichita, Kansas, Law Journal, on March 10, 2021  
**Terrence S. Leek**, ba '62, jd '65, 81, Prescott, Arizona, Basketball, Baseball, on Feb. 18, 2021  
**Donald R. Longren**, ba '67, 75, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 13, 2021  
**Marion W. Manion**, ba '69, 93, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 21, 2021  
**Dennis Mayo**, bba '69, 75, Topeka, Kansas, Football, Kappa Sigma, on March 23, 2021  
**Carole J. (Manieri) Mikos**, ba '64, 78, Topeka, Kansas, Kappa Alpha Theta, on Dec. 13, 2020  
**Lewis T. Mills**, ba '61, 86, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 14, 2020  
**Robert "Bob" L. Morton**, jd '66, 86, Emporia, Kansas, on Aug. 20, 2020  
**Ramon C. Noches**, ba '63, 80, Austin, Texas, Kappa Alpha Psi, Arnold Air Society, Air Force ROTC, on Jan. 29, 2021

**Kenneth D. Ray**, ba '67, 76, Abilene, Texas, on March 28, 2020  
**Edwin H. "Ed" Shauffer III**, ba '61, 88, Phoenix, Arizona, on Nov. 20, 2020  
**Linda B. (Bartley) Sprague**, b ed '69, 88, Topeka, Kansas, Cum Laude, on March 16, 2021  
**Judy A. (Wychelewski) Swiger**, ba '69, 73, Mahomet, Illinois, on Nov. 19, 2020  
**Royce E. Wallace**, ba '62, jd '62, 87, Wichita, Kansas, Phi Alpha Delta - Law, Law Journal, on June 1, 2020  
**Barry K. Wilks**, bba '63, 80, Roseville, California, Alpha Delta, on Oct. 16, 2020

## 1970s

**George F. Berlin**, bsw '70, 99, Lawrence, Kansas, on March 17, 2021  
**Morris D. Birch**, jd '73, 76, Wichita, Kansas, on Dec. 2, 2020  
**Steven P. Clark**, ba '73, jd '76, 69, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 31, 2020  
**Virgil H. Crook**, bba '71, 76, Arvada, Colorado, on Jan. 13, 2021  
**James V. Dodson**, ba '78, 67, Topeka, Kansas, Sagamore Society, on March 20, 2021  
**Darl E. Everett, Sr.**, ba '76, 82, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 22, 2021  
**Charlotte R. Gay**, ba '77, 75, Midwest City, Oklahoma, on March 21, 2021  
**Patricia "Pat" A. (Commodore) Hall**, certificate '75, aa '77, ba '78, 77, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 4, 2021  
**H. Kent Hollins**, jd '70, 76, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 17, 2021  
**John A. Hurla**, ba '73, 79, Topeka, Kansas, Phi Kappa Phi, on Nov. 25, 2020  
**Richard A. Johnson**, jd '76, 69, Valley Falls, Kansas, Phi Alpha Delta - Law, on March 4, 2021

**Timothy L. Kennedy**, ba '72, 71, Lawrence, Kansas, on Jan. 2, 2020

**Stephen C. Leweke**, bba '76, 68, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 23, 2021

**Patricia A. (Newberry) Miller**, aa '79, ba '81, ma '87, 82, Overbrook, Kansas, on Jan. 10, 2021

**Clifford R. Pence**, bba '76, 72, South Padre Island, Texas, Delta Sigma Pi, on March 20, 2021

**Helen I. (Hunker) Potter**, bs '73, 82, Cummings, Kansas, on Feb. 20, 2021

**Harold W. Powers Jr.**, jd '74, 72, Topeka, Kansas, Law Clinic, on Jan. 3, 2021

**Daniel M. Radcliff**, bba '75, 73, Denver, Colorado, Delta Sigma Pi, on Nov. 6, 2020

**Frances L. (Frey) Ridley**, ba '77, 90, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 18, 2020

**Helen J. (Brown) Roper**, ba '77, 67, Wichita, Kansas, on Dec. 12, 2020

**Gary R. Sawyer**, bba '71, 77, Wichita, Kansas, Delta Sigma Pi, Young Republicans, on March 23, 2021

**Phillip G. Schrader**, bba '71, 71, Kansas City, Missouri, Young Democrats, on March 12, 2020

**Mary F. (Tierney) Simmons**, ba '70, m ed '72, 100, Topeka, Kansas, Phi Kappa Phi, on Jan. 23, 2021

**Donald R. Snapp**, jd '78, 68, Newton, Kansas, on Jan. 15, 2021

**George W. "Bill" Stafford**, jd '75, 70, Bethesda, Maryland, on Feb. 24, 2021

**Bob W. Tate**, bba '71, 73, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Delta Sigma Pi, on Oct. 25, 2020

**Tran Van Thuong**, ba '77, 80, Norman, Oklahoma, on Jan. 19, 2021

**Michael J. Wiktorek**, bsw '75, 72, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, Phi Kappa Phi, on Feb. 17, 2020

**Ronald P. Williams**, jd '77, 73, Wichita, Kansas, on Jan. 4, 2021

**Sharon S. (Heidner) Winans**, m ed '73, 78, Williamstown, New Jersey, Phi Kappa Phi, on Nov. 19, 2020

## 1980s

**Joseph P. "Joe" Anthony**, jd '83, 62, Kankakee, Illinois, on Jan. 2, 2021

**Nadine P. (Manieri) Barnhill**, bsw '85, 82, Topeka, Kansas, Kappa Alpha Theta, Marketing Association, on Dec. 17, 2020

**Sally S. (Blake) Bentobji**, aa '84, ba '85, 79, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 5, 2021

**Michael F. Blevins**, jd '80, 66, Waukon, Iowa, Phi Delta Phi, on Feb. 14, 2021

**Harry E. "Ernie" Blow, Jr.**, m ed '84, 74, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 14, 2020

**Michael W. Born**, ba '88, 55, Olathe, Kansas, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Student Council, on Dec. 15, 2020

**Lola K. (Duncan) Cachard**, bba '86, 69, Weatherford, Texas, on Dec. 13, 2020

**Gertrude E. (Goslin) Cadue**, bsw '82, aa '86, 87, Horton, Kansas, on Dec. 6, 2020

**Michael J. Carter**, bba '87, 62, Frisco, Texas, on Dec. 17, 2020

**Donald R. "Rex" Crowell**, jd '88, 77, Longton, Kansas, on Dec. 22, 2020

**Jill D. (Welsh) Fitzgibbons**, aa '89, bsw '90, msw '98, 53, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 16, 2020

**Martha "Lois" (Balching) Jenkins**, ba '84, 86, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 10, 2021

**Randy G. Kaufman**, bs '81, 66, Tecumseh, Kansas, Sigma Phi Epsilon, on Jan. 21, 2021

**Mary J. (Maher) Kennison**, m ed '80, 80, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 5, 2021

**Robert R. McCaffrey**, ba '86, aa '88, 68, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 3, 2021

**Larry R. La Mee**, ba '89, 62, Wetmore, Kansas, Kappa Mu Epsilon, on Nov. 26, 2020

**Dorothy M. (Hasenkamp) Morris**, bba '85, ba '85, aa '87, 80, Tucson, Arizona, on Nov. 27, 2020

**Gary A. Norton**, jd '84, 67, West Des Moines, Iowa, on Dec. 23, 2020

**Ronald E. Spalding**, ba '88, 58, Kansas City, Missouri, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Choir, Marching Band, Orchestra, Spirit Squad, Rowing, on Sept. 2, 2020

**Larry E. Swope**, bba '86, 69, Smithville, Missouri, on April 1, 2020

**Steve M. Tallen**, ba '89, 77, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 19, 2020

**Raleigh H. VanTrease**, ba '83, 59, Austin, Texas, Phi Delta Theta, Student Council, on Jan. 17, 2021

**David A. Williams**, jd '81, 69, Wichita, Kansas, Law Clinic, Phi Delta Phi, on Jan. 31, 2021

**Esther B. (Bolton) Wolfe**, b ed '83, 83, Lawrence, Kansas, on Feb. 1, 2020

**Carey (Wilkinson) Wietharn**, aa '86, 59, Richmond, Virginia, on March 1, 2020

## 1990s

**Jeanette R. Banahan**, bsw '90, 60, Diller, Nebraska, on March 6, 2021

**Daniel W. Bell**, bs '99, mcj '03, 49, Topeka, Kansas, on July 31, 2020

**Leticia S. (Ramirez) Carlson**, bs '90, 81, Topeka, Kansas, Student Nurses Association, on March 11, 2021

**Melanie D. (Webb) Downie**, b ed '95, 48, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 20, 2021

**Mary A. (Burnham) Hayden**, m ed '97, 72, Topeka, Kansas, on March 18, 2021

**Brent A. Nothern**, ba '90, 56, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 14, 2020

**Wayne E. Pence Jr.**, bs '94, 53, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 9, 2021

**Grace E. Reichle**, bsw '96, 74, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 26, 2020

**Lee E. Velasquez**, jd '90, 61, Arkansas City, Kansas, Delta Theta Phi - Law, on Jan. 16, 2021

## 2000s

**Patricia "Tricia" A. Haffner**, bs '09, 41, Topeka, Kansas, on March 27, 2020

**Travis L. Reed**, ba '00, 44, Topeka, Kansas, on March 10, 2021

## 2010s

**Holden M. Hurla**, certificate '19, 20, Mayetta, Kansas, on Jan. 1, 2021

**Troy D. Manz**, bs '16, Evansville, Indiana, Biology Club, on Feb. 28, 2021.

**David L. Purvis**, certificate '11, 76, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 22, 2020

**Ashton P. Rucker**, ba '11, 35, Topeka, Kansas, on July 11, 2020

**Erika L. Rein-Mills**, as '15, 35, Abilene, Kansas, Respiratory Care Student Organization, on Jan. 3, 2021

**Brady A. Smith**, ba '12, 30, Kansas City, Missouri, on Dec. 4, 2020

**Friends**

**Mary (Selig) Allen**, 90, Topeka, Kansas, on March 9, 2021

**Claude A. Barnhill**, 88, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 1, 2020

**Catherine "Katy" Bell**, 90, Ridgecrest, California, on Dec. 9, 2020

**Shirley C. (Cleland) Byrnes**, 88, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 18, 2021

**Ruu K. Chang**, 97, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 30, 2020

**Judith H. (Hahn) Cogswell**, 82, Topeka, Kansas, on May 2, 2020

**Donald Gordon**, 87, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 24, 2020

**Cleora "June" (Barcellina) Hutchins**, 94, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 16, 2021

**Glinda (Beck) Leach**, 94, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 21, 2020

**Alexander Mack**, 22, Freeburg, Illinois, on Jan. 4, 2021

**Katherine E. "Kem" McHugh**, 86, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 8, 2020

**Elborn E. Mendenhall**, 92, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 28, 2021

**David L. Miller**, 79, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 7, 2021

**Wilfred W. "Willie" Nicklin**, 92, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 10, 2020

**Philip W. Patterson Jr.**, 100, Long Beach, California, on Dec. 19, 2020

**Margaret "Jeanne" (Spencer) Richardson**, 87, Kansas City, Missouri, on Jan. 22, 2021

**William F. Sipes**, 85, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 16, 2020

**Jonas McNeil "JoJo" Turner**, 36, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 15, 2021

**Howard R. "Rocky" Vacek**, 73, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 28, 2020

**June K. (Stapleton) Windscheffel**, 93, Topeka, Kansas, on March 5, 2021

**Deloris A. (Pratt) Zink**, 84, Hays, Kansas, on Feb. 21, 2021

**Correction:** The Winter 2021 In Memory section of The Ichabod did not list Karen Simpson's maiden name. The correct entry is: Karen Elaine (Alumbaugh) Simpson, ba '71, 73, Topeka, Kansas, Alpha Phi, on Sept. 2, 2020

**Richard “Dick” Barta, bs '87, Washburn Alumni Association Board of Directors, 74, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 9, 2020**



Dick Barta was employed by the Kansas Highway Patrol when he decided to attend Washburn University and earn a degree. His criminal justice degree boosted his 29-year career with the Kansas

Highway Patrol and his service as Shawnee County Sheriff for 12 years. Barta's law enforcement career spanned 43 years. Wanting to make Washburn a part of their legacy, he and his wife created the Richard W. and Marcia Barta Criminal Justice Scholarship in 2009.

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**Louis F. “Lou” Eisenbarth, bs '52, jd '54, Washburn University Board of Regents, 96, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 18, 2021**



Delta Theta Phi - Law

Lou Eisenbarth practiced law in Topeka for 51 years and was a partner in the firm of Sloan, Listrom, Eisenbarth & Glassman, retiring in 2005. He received the Honorable

E. Newton Vickers Professionalism Award in 2007. He served as an assistant city attorney for the City of Topeka from 1957-60. He was an adjunct professor of law teaching Corporation Law and Creditor Rights at the School of Law from 1967-78. He served on the Washburn University board of regents from 1981-87 and was the chair from 1982-84.

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**Delores I. (Phillips) Fay, ba '58, Washburn Alumni Association Board of Directors, 84, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 28, 2020**



Zeta Tau Alpha, Young Republicans, Kaw

Delores Fay graduated from Washburn University with a bachelor's degree in history and was employed by the Menninger

Foundation for 33 years. She worked as an administrative secretary for the Topeka Institute

for Psychoanalysis at the Menninger Foundation, where she was immersed among training analysts and students of many backgrounds and cultures from around the world. She relished the cultural amenities available to her during her time with Menninger, when they would take annual winter trips to New York City as a part of the Institute's delegation to the American Psychoanalytic Association meetings.

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**Jo Ann (Johnson) Klemmer, ba '53, honorary degree '11, 94, Belleville, Kansas, on Dec. 31, 2020**



Jo Ann Klemmer taught English at the University of Kansas, Topeka High School and Washburn University. She started Inscape, a literary magazine at Washburn, and she also published several collections of her poems and

enjoyed playing semi-pro golf. She created and funded the Herbert & JoAnn Klemmer English Department Enhancement Fund to bring scholars and writers to campus. She also created and funded scholarships for English and chemistry students, and she supported numerous other campus initiatives including the Welcome Center and Mabee Library.

**Gregory L. Waller, bs '70, jd '72, Washburn University Foundation Trustee, Washburn Alumni Association Board of Directors, 72, Wichita, Kansas, on Dec. 1, 2020**



Law Clinic Intern

Gregory Waller began his career as a partner in Hays & Waller, and later he worked as a Sedgwick County assistant

district attorney from 1975-93. In 1993 he was appointed by Gov. Joan Finney as a district court judge in Kansas, where he served for almost 22 years as one of only a few African Americans to serve the state of Kansas as both a prosecutor and a judge.

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**Lyle D. Baker, Associate Professor Emeritus, Education, 88, Topeka, Kansas, on March 24, 2021**



Lyle Baker taught in both the Washburn department of education and the department of mathematics and statistics. A colleague, Allen Riveland, described Baker as “a well-educated, talented scientist

and truly exceptional educator who guided and mentored countless future teachers.” He cared deeply that his students would be sufficiently knowledgeable and well prepared to face the challenging world of education. Baker was awarded the Ned Fleming Excellence in Teaching Award from Washburn in 1994.

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**Steven J. Cann, Professor Emeritus, Political Science, 76, Topeka, Kansas, on March 18, 2021**



Steven Cann joined the faculty at Washburn University in 1983 and in the ensuing years never flagged in his commitment to the political science department, Washburn University and the students even after his retirement

in 2019. Bob Beatty, professor and chair, political science, noted “if there has been one constant, day in, day out, during my first 18 years at

Washburn, it was arriving in the department and seeing Dr. Cann helping, advising and mentoring students.” Cann taught 20 different courses during his career at Washburn and was known as one of the best advisors in the University, serving as the pre-law advisor. He served as the coach of Washburn Mock Trial team from 1986-2008. He is so beloved by his former students, that in 2017 several of them started a scholarship in his name.

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**Marilyn L. Geiger, Professor Emeritus, History, 89, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 23, 2020**



Marilyn Geiger taught history at Washburn University from 1962-2000, serving as department chair from 1981-91. She advised all history majors going into teaching and supervised their student-teaching experiences. Geiger also originated the

History Day competition at Washburn. Honors she received include Phi Alpha Theta, Phi Kappa Phi, Nonono, Alpha Delta Kappa, La Trironne and Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa. Geiger was active in professional organizations like the Kansas Council for the Social Studies and the Kansas History Teacher’s Association, serving as president of both organizations.

**John L. Green, Jr., President of Washburn University, 91, Overland Park, Kansas, on Jan. 5, 2021**



During John Green's tenure as president, the men's basketball team won the NAIA national championship at Kemper Arena in Kansas City in 1987, the School of Applied Studies and Continuing Education was established and

the School of Nursing separated from the College of Arts and Sciences to become its own program. The landscape of the campus also changed with

construction of West Hall, Petro Allied Health Center and the Bennett Computer Center, and a new Vietnam Memorial was dedicated. "With his leadership, President Green made an enduring mark on Washburn University's campus," said Jerry Farley, president. "He committed his life to higher education before and after his time at Washburn, and we are forever grateful to the advancements he made on our campus that will continue to benefit us for years to come."

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**Jerry D. McElroy, Friend of Washburn University, 78, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 29, 2020**



Jerry McElroy was a lifelong Topekan and attended Washburn University. He had a great entrepreneurial spirit and spent his career growing McElroy's Inc. and opening several additional companies. He and his wife, Janet,

made a lead gift to the construction of Washburn's Welcome Center that was completed in 2015 and

headed off the beautification of the "front door" to campus. He served on the board of directors of CoreFirst Bank and Trust, First National Bank, St. Francis Hospital, Kansas Builders Insurance Group, Top of the Tower, 20-30 Club, and Mechanical Contractors Association of Kansas. In 2008, he was awarded the Caritas Honor by St. Francis Foundation, and in 2011, he was inducted into the Junior Achievement Topeka Business Hall of Fame.

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**Gregory J. Pease, Professor Emeritus, Law, 79, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 21, 2020**



Gregory Pease began at Washburn University School of Law in 1976. His primary teaching responsibilities included Decedents' Estates, Trusts and Future Interests, Property I, and Law and Literature. He began

a phased retirement in 2007 and taught his last classes in the spring of 2013. In all his time at Washburn, his love of teaching exceeded his enjoyment of other responsibilities. Students selected him as the William O. Douglas Professor of the Year six times, a number unmatched by any other member of the Washburn faculty.

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**Robert "Bob" Thompson, Associate Professor Emeritus, Mathematics, 96, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 10, 2021**



Before his time at Washburn from 1967-89, Bob Thompson was a professor of mathematics at Sterling College from 1947-67. Washburn colleague Allen Riveland remembered him as a "very effective math professor at

Washburn for many years. He was very involved

with the student math honorary society, KME. He was one of those rare individuals who was very proficient in a wide range of areas besides mathematics. He was a very nice and honorable man." Thompson's life purpose was to help young people reach their goals in education and to encourage them in their Christian life. 



## *Alumni Travel Opportunities*

**SEE THE WORLD WITH FELLOW ICHABODS**

### **Mississippi River cruise — Chattanooga to Memphis | June 12-20, 2021**

See compelling Civil War sites aboard the American Countess. Visit these ports of call: Chattanooga, Savannah and Memphis, Tennessee; Decatur and Florence, Alabama; Paducah, Kentucky; and New Madrid, Missouri. Pricing begins at \$2,599 per person double occupancy and includes shore excursions, all meals onboard the ship and more. Airfare, airport transfers, port charges and gratuities are not included. Extend your trip with a post-cruise stay in Memphis.

### **Iceland | July 25-31, 2021**

Your Icelandic adventure awaits. Soak in the famous Blue Lagoon, visit the Vikingaheimar Museum and travel the Golden Circle. Admire waterfalls, volcanoes and black sand beaches. Price is \$2,750 per person double occupancy and includes round trip airfare from Kansas City (other departure cities available, but price may vary), five nights hotel accommodations, 11 meals and sightseeing.

### **Mediterranean Cruise | Oct. 25 - Nov. 1, 2021**

Sail along the sunny rivieras of Spain, France, Monaco and Italy aboard Oceania Cruises' Marina. Fly to Barcelona, board the ship and cruise to the ports of Palma de Mallorca, Marseille, Monte Carlo, Antibes, Cinque Terre (La Spezia), Florence (Livorno) and Rome. Pricing begins at \$1,849 per person double occupancy and includes airfare and cruise. Extend your trip with a pre-cruise stay in Barcelona or post cruise stay in Rome.

### **Puerto Morelos, Mexico | Jan. 23-30, 2022**

Enjoy eight days at the Azul Beach Resort Riviera Cancun on the Mexican Caribbean. Pricing begins at \$1,799 per person double occupancy and includes roundtrip non-stop airfare from Kansas City (other departure cities available, but pricing may vary), seven nights stay at the all-inclusive resort hotel, all meals and beverages.

### **Portugal and the Douro River | April 6-16, 2022**

Join Washburn President Jerry Farley and his wife, Susan, aboard the MS Emerald Radiance. Spend two days in Lisbon before boarding the ship in Porto and visiting the following ports of call: Pinhao, Vega de Terron, Salamanca, Pocinho and Regua. Pricing begins at \$4,499 per person double occupancy and includes roundtrip airfare, cruise, sightseeing, 22 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](http://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](mailto:susie@wualumni.org) | [wualumni.org/alumni-travel](http://wualumni.org/alumni-travel)**



# WASHBURN ALUMNI

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