

WASHBURN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION — SPRING 2022

# THE ICHABOD







**On the cover:**

“Tracker,” a 25-foot tall sculpture by Michael Hager, ba '92, associate professor of art, stands in the lawn between Memorial Union and Garvey Fine Arts Center. *Photo by Doug Stremel*



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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

We all take bold steps throughout our lives. Here at Washburn, it could be freshmen taking their first college courses, seniors graduating and going onto careers or advanced degrees or faculty and staff creating a new program. With deep commitment and belief in what you are doing, the bold step may not seem so bold – at least until you step back and celebrate what you have accomplished.

After 25 years of leading Washburn through bold and transformational steps, I will be stepping back and retiring from my role as president on Sept. 30, 2022. Susan and I very much love our Washburn and Topeka community and appreciate all the good it has brought us. We will continue to serve Washburn in meaningful ways – I as president emeritus and Susan in the many opportunities where her passions align with Washburn's. It will be a privilege to continue making our home here, where we have made so many good friends.

This edition of *The Ichabod* is full of people who have taken bold steps to improve their lives, improve Washburn or improve the lives of others.

One of the boldest steps a student can take is to travel internationally, and this edition features our commitment to international studies. We have great relationships with universities around the world, but with a global pandemic and an everchanging political climate, it has become harder to maintain those relationships. Many students have their first interactions with people from a different culture while in college and those interactions grow into lasting friendships. The experience can change their lives, and we will stay committed to offering these experiences.

We also feature an article about JuliAnn Mazachek. The longtime Washburn administrator will be leaving us this summer to become president at Midwestern State University-Texas. She's been dean of our School of Business, president of the Alumni Association and Foundation and now vice president for academic affairs. She began the process which subsequently led our School of Business to its first major accreditation, led the Foundation through a campaign that raised more than \$140 million and now leads our talented and dedicated faculty. We look forward to hearing about her new accomplishments in this next bold step.

We also feature Ron McHenry, the longtime women's basketball coach who helped players take bold steps on the court and in their lives. He retired at the end of this year, and we wish him well.

As Susan and I reflect on the many bold steps we have taken and are yet to take, I hope reading this issue will help you look back and celebrate the bold steps you have taken while thoughtfully planning your next endeavor.



# Abroad Approach

International travel programs resuming flight

By Chris Marshall

Studying abroad is an essential experience for students in several majors, but during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the thought of international travel felt like a foreign concept.

During the 2019-20 academic year, Washburn University had as many as 200 students studying overseas at one time. That number was reduced to a handful of individuals who chose to remain in their host countries as the virus swept the globe. The last group program to return before travel restrictions heightened was a spring break trip in Cuba, and all 2020 summer programs were cancelled.

“There were definitely a lot of challenges as COVID made its way across the world,” said Tina Williams, BA ’95, study abroad coordinator in the Office of International Programs. “It came on our radar in January 2020 because we had students out in the world in those places that were affected before it came here to the United States. We’d been watching it for quite some time and had some time to prepare.”

Unlike some institutions, Washburn’s international studies program never came to a complete halt. About 10 students studied abroad virtually, meaning they attended remote classes with international universities and did internships with international companies - methods that still provided new global and cultural perspectives. Washburn was also able to send students to long-time partner universities they were confident could provide a safe environment.

As virus cases dropped and restrictions eased in recent months, more students have expressed interest in traveling. Eighty-five already signed up to study outside of U.S. borders in summer and fall 2022.

The first group to test the waters by hopping the pond was an international business program to France, Germany and Belgium, led by Michael Stoica, Distinguished Professor of Marketing Business in the

School of Business. The summer 2021 trip was not without obstacles, but ultimately, the students who made the journey came back with valuable lessons, both for themselves and for Washburn’s future international expeditions.

“We had so many meetings about whether it would happen, so the fact we got to go was pretty exciting,” said Abigail McCrory, one of three business students to make the trip with Williams and Stoica. “We wrote letters to the dean saying we were still on board to go. They made the decision, then it was a whirlwind checking flights and booking, and it all worked out.”

In normal years, Belgian students come to Washburn, and members of Stoica’s class travel to work for a business from Belgium. A majority of the coursework was conducted online in 2021, but David Sollars, dean, School of Business, understood the value in the cultural experience and approved a two-week trip to Europe.

“It was the will of the students that made it happen,” Stoica said. “Once we had approval, we were watching restrictions and for local government to allow us to go.”

The group frequently monitored requirements when traveling from place to place and navigated unanticipated virus fallout, such as Paris protests aimed at France’s changing health protocols. But once students settled into each location, they were able to focus on some of the more traditional concerns.

“The first days were nerve-racking, and I was timid,” said Kera Hicks, a business major on the trip. “I almost didn’t want to order coffee, just because I didn’t want to say it wrong. But by the end, you get braver and speak the language for basic necessities, and it helped me grow as a person. Now that I’m back, I applied for a job I wasn’t qualified for, and the only reason I went for it is because, if I can travel overseas during COVID, I can do anything.”



Tina Williams, ba '95 (center), is joined by students Abigail McCrory (left) and Shela Pierre Noel in the International House. McCrory went on an international business trip to Europe and Pierre Noel studied abroad for a semester in France. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

Hicks, a 35-year-old mother of four, is no stranger to life-changing experiences, but as someone who had never left the United States, her story illustrates what can be gained through immersion in another country.

“You don’t understand how different society is,” she said. “Traveling to another country, you see their life doesn’t revolve around work. Getting that perspective changed how I view things. Growing up, you’re taught to prioritize schoolwork and work over everything else. Going there, you learn that’s not all life is.”

In some ways, the international travel program also gained new perspective during the pandemic. Williams said online international programs are here

to stay, even as COVID-19 concerns decrease, and trip locations also have some added flexibility. For example, a nursing course this summer will travel to Puerto Rico, which is not considered an international destination, but still provides a unique cultural experience somewhat closer to home.

“Those are ways for students who may not be able to get away for two weeks to study abroad and have an international connection and have experiences,” Williams said. “I’m ready to have all of our programs fully functioning. We welcome the continuation of online and virtual programs as well. From necessity comes the invention of new opportunities.” 🏃



Kaydee Emperley (right), an academic advisor in the Center for Student Success and Retention, meets with advisee and senior student, Tyler Clark-Chiapparelli. *Photo by Doug Stremel*

# Advising Matters

Students find success with academic advising

*By Annie Flachsbarth*

When Washburn University senior Tyler Clark-Chiapparelli started college, he thought he could figure everything out on his own and didn't need to ask for help. Turns out, he needed all the help he could get.

Clark-Chiapparelli came to Washburn as a transfer student to play baseball. But with a low grade-point average from his freshman and sophomore years, Washburn's Center for Student Success and Retention has been critical to helping Clark-Chiapparelli hit required academic benchmarks as well as achieve overall college success.

"I don't want to say I was stubborn, but I have grown up and learned a lot," Clark-Chiapparelli said. "They helped me with time management, making sure my credits transferred and figuring out how to graduate."

## **Finding a Connection**

The CSSR provides academic advising to keep students on path to on-time graduation – particularly first-generation, underprepared and exploratory students. Director Jeannie Cornelius said although they most likely work with first- and second-year students who have not yet declared their major, she wishes all students would meet with an advisor.

“It’s more than having an academic plan. It’s about having a connection with someone. We’ve seen that those who have a connection are more likely to persist,” Cornelius said. “Many students come back after they’ve declared a major just to check in on a personal level. It’s less about, ‘How are your classes going?’ and more about, ‘How are you doing?’”

When Holly Bergeman, ’17, first met with Cornelius, she felt the student-advisor connection right away.

“I was really nervous about starting college, and Jeannie seemed nice and helpful,” Bergeman said. “If I ever had any issues or was struggling, she would always hear me out and offer suggestions. It was good to have the support.”

CSSR advisor Kaydee Emperley agrees that her job is often more like being an academic cheerleader.

“Students can’t always see around the corner. There could be something really menacing coming up,” Emperley said. “I’m their mama bear when they’re here; I’m their biggest advocate. I help push students along and keep them on the right track. It’s what I feel like I’ve been called to do here.”

Alan Bearman, dean of university libraries and the Center for Student Success and Retention, believes CSSR advisors drive enrollment and retention.

“Academic advising is the one consistent interaction, happening at a minimum twice per year, that every student has with the University,” Bearman said. “Great advising focused upon student success is, therefore, pivotal in helping students graduate on-time.”

## Plan for Success

Fall is the busiest time for the CSSR team every year. In addition to meeting with any undeclared student who needs academic advising, the small but mighty team of four CSSR advisors meet with every student in the Washburn Experience classes to create an academic plan.

“Fall is a trying time,” Emperley said. “We’re empowering students to make their plans and make sure they have what they need to get on course to

graduate. But at the same time, we’re trying to make sure they have the skills they need for success – training the student to be responsible and figure it out.”

Even with the help, some students – like Bergeman – have a hard time deciding their path.

“When I still hadn’t decided what to do as a junior, I took Washburn’s Career Exploration course. Jeanine came in as a presenter, and that’s when I realized advising might be a fun career path,” Bergeman said.

After graduating from Washburn, Bergeman earned a master’s degree in college student counseling and development from Kansas State University – proving just how big of an impact the CSSR advising team has on students.

All told, CSSR’s advisors saw 939 unique students in fall 2021 with 1,742 appointments. In addition, students who attended an advising appointment in fall 2021 returned for spring 2022 at a rate of 86.6%, compared to a 75.1% return rate among those who did not seek advising.

## Making the Grade

With hard work, Clark-Chiapparelli realized it takes him 10-15 hours of homework each week to get straight As. In fact, he’s improved his grades and even made the Dean’s List four times since being at Washburn. He was also recently inducted into Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Association honor society.

“I’m not the most scholarly person, but I’ve recognized if you put in the effort, teachers recognize that and good things can happen,” he said.

And good things are happening for Clark-Chiapparelli. He is graduating this May with a bachelor’s degree in mass media. After graduation, he will go overseas to continue his baseball career.

“It’s been a crazy journey from where everything started to where I’m at now. I’m grateful for Washburn and all the services they offer to students,” Clark-Chiapparelli said. “They definitely set us up for greatness.” 

# Ending an Era

With April announcement, Farley begins transition into retirement

Jerry Farley announced on April 18, 2022, that he will be retiring as president of Washburn University on Sept. 30, 2022, after serving in the job for more than 25 years. The Washburn board of regents has the primary role in hiring a new president and will appoint a search committee representing all parts of the Washburn University community.

“I began discussing my retirement with the board more than two years ago to ensure an orderly and effective transfer of executive authority when the time came for me to step back from the day-to-day duties of the presidency,” Farley said. “My wife, Susan, and I have been carefully considering the timing of our retirement for several months now and we have decided that this is the correct time for us.”

Farley said he will be taking on the role of president emeritus with a focus on fundraising and international student recruitment.

“I expect to have a small office somewhere on campus where I can continue to serve a university and community that I love,” he said. “In the meantime, I will work with the board to make the transition of executive authority as smooth and effective as possible when they pick a new president.”

During his time as the longest-serving president in Washburn University’s 158-year history, Farley had a significant impact on the nature of the campus. He returned the campus to a more traditional college experience by adding multiple residence halls. In addition, he championed the addition of Washburn University Institute of Technology to the Washburn family in 2008. He also led the effort to add new and expanded spaces for teaching and attracted the Kansas Bureau of Investigation Forensic Science Center to campus, which allowed Washburn to add multiple world-class forensic programs to the academic portfolio.



Jerry Farley. Photo by Bruce Matthews

Farley also had a significant role in the community including serving on multiple local boards and taking a role in economic development as one of the co-founders of Go Topeka, now the community development arm of the Greater Topeka Partnership.

“It has been my great honor to serve Washburn as president,” Farley said. “Susan has served right alongside me and we have been blessed with great colleagues and a highly supportive community.” 🙌

The fall issue of *The Ichabod* will look deeper into the many ways Jerry and Susan Farley have made an impact on the Washburn community.

# A True Honor

Mazachek, longtime leader at Washburn, named president at Texas university

By Annie Flachsbarth

After 30 years, Washburn University is losing a truly dedicated administrator and faculty member.

In March, JuliAnn Mazachek was named president of Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas. MSU Texas is a nationally recognized liberal arts university and a member institution of the Texas Tech University System.

“Dr. Mazachek has proven herself a skilled leader and an outstanding educator,” said Jerry Farley, president, Washburn University. “We will miss her, but I certainly understand the reason the Texas Tech University System wants her to lead Midwestern State University.”

Mazachek was born in Topeka but grew up in St. Louis. She earned her doctorate in accounting from the University of Kansas, and then joined Washburn’s accounting faculty in 1992 after a friend referred her.

“When I interviewed here, I looked for signs they really cared about students and it wasn’t just part of their story. But it was real,” Mazachek said. “Everything I saw at Washburn was true to trying to make a difference, and that aligned with what I thought was important.”

As a first-generation student, Mazachek was impacted by two faculty members when in college, making a student-centered approach to learning her priority.

“Those faculty changed the course of my future by just a few small interactions we had before and after class. I knew firsthand what a difference really caring, authentic professors could make,” Mazachek said.

In 1998, Mazachek became the dean of the Washburn University School of Business. In 2002, she was named president and CEO of the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation, then the Washburn Endowment Association. She served in that role for 15 years, all while continuing to teach accounting. She helped grow the Foundation substantially by running the first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign for the



JuliAnn Mazachek. Photo by Doug Stremel

University – work that raised more than \$140 million to benefit all areas of Washburn. She also oversaw the merging of Washburn’s endowment and fundraising operations with the Washburn Alumni Association to create one organization dedicated to engaging alumni and friends with Washburn.

“We were able to create a philanthropic culture among our alumni and on campus,” Mazachek said. “It was important because we tied it all back to students, scholarships, creating the best learning environment and hiring the very best faculty. That’s the magic that makes Washburn what it is.”

In 2016, Mazachek was named interim and then permanent vice president for academic affairs.

“I have enjoyed working with students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors and the community, to make a difference for the future, to create wonderful lives, to enhance the environment in which we live, and to give back to the community. It’s been a true honor,” Mazachek said.

Mazachek and her husband, Keith Mazachek, a senior lecturer in Washburn’s engineering transfer program and faculty member for 23 years, plan to relocate to Wichita Falls, Texas, in late May. 🏡

# A Whole New World

Miss Teen Bahamas International pursues joy and passion at Washburn

By Annie Flachsbarth

The first time freshmen Sheronika Simeon saw snow she was stopped in her tracks. She came to Washburn University from her home in Nassau, the Bahamas, with no winter clothing and wasn't expecting Kansas winters to be so cold. But the excitement she had for her first snow experience took away any concerns about the temperature.

"My friend and I saw it from the window of the Living Learning Center, and at first we just stared in awe," Simeon said. "Then we ran outside to throw snowballs and play. It was so fun!"

That joy for life and new experiences is one of the things that shines brightly about Simeon – and likely one of the many reasons she was crowned Miss Teen Bahamas International in 2021.

## The Queen Life

Sheronika, or Roni as her friends call her, learned about pageants on television but wasn't aware they existed in the Bahamas until shortly before competing in her first event in 2020. In that event, Simeon had a sponsor to help with her pageant expenses and placed second runner-up.

"Pageants are an adventure. In 2021, I worked harder and corrected the areas I needed to improve, but sponsors couldn't help as much because of the coronavirus," Simeon said. "I got help with a dress, but I had to use my natural hair, which I was nervous about because the other girls had extensions. It turned out the judges liked that. They told me I stood out because of how natural I looked – I wasn't expecting that."

After her win, Simeon went on to compete at the Miss Teen International pageant in Kingsport, Tennessee, where she placed third runner-up.

"I was sad that I didn't win at first, but then I realized I'm the first from my country to place in the top three.

I made history, and everyone back at home was happy about it," Simeon said.

"I learned to never doubt myself and to have confidence."

## Finding Washburn

For winning Miss Teen Bahamas International, Simeon was awarded a college scholarship. After looking at many options, Simeon chose to attend Washburn and enroll in the kinesiology program with plans to become a physical therapist.

"I've always admired the way physical therapists come to track meets and think about bodies to help us get energized," Simeon said. "Helping someone heal and preventing them from having to have surgery – that would bring me so much joy."

Back in the Bahamas, Simeon has been a track star since primary school, setting record after record on the high jump throughout junior and high school. She hopes to soon be involved with Washburn's track and field team as well.

However, sports and pageantry do not consume all of Simeon's interests. She also dances, plays the flute, sings, writes poetry and has her own YouTube channel where she shares music she has composed and performed herself.

As a freshman, Simeon has done an excellent job of getting involved. Andrew Vogel, Washburn's international student recruitment and retention coordinator, noted that where some international students struggle with coming into higher education in a new country due to language or cultural differences, Simeon has excelled.

"Roni hit the ground running. She started to get involved with lots of organizations on campus right away. She's trying out for track and theater productions and the Dancing Blues. She's taking



Sheronika Simeon won Miss Teen Bahamas in 2021 and chose to attend Washburn University and study kinesiology with the scholarship prize. *Photo by Doug Stremel*

every opportunity to get involved,” Vogel said. “She’s becoming a leader on campus very quickly and she’s precisely the type of student we want to have at Washburn.”

Vogel also noted that Simeon has been crucial to student recruiting efforts, and there will be seven or eight more students from the Bahamas attending Washburn in the fall of 2022. Simeon said it’s because Washburn is a school that checks all the boxes.

“I applied to various schools, but I wanted to be able to pursue all of my interests – sports, music and kinesiology,” Simeon said. “The other schools and programs weren’t able to give me all of that. It didn’t

matter where it was – or how cold it gets there – I wanted to go to a school that had everything I was looking to do.”

### **All the World’s a Stage**

Simeon is not ready to hang up her hat on pageants quite yet. She’s interested in competing in either the Miss World or Miss Universe pageants, as well as doing some modeling, in the next few years. In the meantime, she is busy as a freshman and getting involved on campus.

“Competing on the international stage was fun,” Simeon said. “I love the whole idea of getting my name out there and representing the country I love.” 



Cate Moody (left), Brandon Michael (center) and Diana Martinez-Ponce all graduated this spring with Washburn's first degrees offered in data analytics. *Photo by Doug Stremel*

# Data is the Future

Three Ichabods become first graduates of data analytics program

*By Angela Lutz*

With a new data analytics program, the Washburn University School of Business is looking toward the future. This proactive, forward-thinking curriculum that focuses on analyzing raw data to look for meaningful insights not only benefits businesses, but also helps graduates get hired. When Washburn student Cate Moody interviewed for an internship, she mentioned she was considering majoring in data analytics, and the company said they would have a permanent job for her if she did.

“One of the coolest things about this program is how excited future employers get when they learn you're in data analytics,” Moody said. “There have been several times where I've been speaking to employers and let them know I'm in a data analytics program, and they've immediately requested an interview.”

Along with Brandon Michael and Diana Martinez-Ponce, Moody will be among the first three Washburn students to graduate with a data analytics major this spring. In addition to the major, the data analytics

program includes a core course for all business students, as well as a minor and a certificate program for students pursuing any degree at Washburn and alumni seeking skills to enhance their career. For School of Business Professor Gail Hoover King, who teaches the core course and has taken the lead in developing the program, data analytics represents an important shift in the way organizations of all sizes and types make decisions and do business.

“Good business decisions are data driven,” she said. “With data analytics, we can scrape the web and figure out what customers are saying. We can look at all types of data and all types of formats from all sources – not just what the company collects. Anybody who is able to take that data and convert it into information that helps make data-driven decisions is going to improve any organization’s ability to not only improve what they do but strategize for the future and to remain competitive.”

Washburn began developing the data analytics program in 2019 in response to these changing needs in the business world. That’s when David Sollars, dean, School of Business, hired King to start the program as a visiting professorship funded by the Richard K. and Lynne Patricia Davidson School of Business Professorship fund. A lifelong accounting professor who has previously taught at Rockhurst University and Purdue University Northwest, King saw an incredible professional opportunity in developing the program at Washburn, as she has been intensively focused on data analytics since 2014.

“The future of accounting is data analytics, and the future of business is that as well,” she said. “I saw an opportunity to be on the ground floor putting data analytics into a program. You don’t get many opportunities like this – development of the data analytics course and program was a perfect opportunity to use my education and background in data analysis and accounting.”

Michael also appreciates the way data analytics combines the marketing and number-based aspects of business, which appeals to the introversion and extroversion aspects of his personality and keeps the subject interesting.

“What I like about business is you have the qualitative side of it, where you have your sales, marketing and presentation, and then you have the quantitative side, where you have the accounting, finance and

economics,” Michael said. “Data analytics combines both of these attributes. Not only do we need to understand and interpret the data, we also need to present it in a meaningful way.”

Data analytics is useful not only to business majors but to a wide variety of disciplines. The program is structured around data analysis process and teaches students methods of analyzing data. According to King, this has led to a great deal of interest among all Washburn students – and alumni who want to return to Washburn to gain data analytics skills.

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“One of the coolest things about this program is how excited future employers get when they learn you’re in data analytics. There have been several times where I’ve been speaking to employers and let them know I’m in a data analytics program, and they’ve immediately requested an interview.” - Cate Moody

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“The tools and skills we teach are generalizable across the spectrum of majors,” King said. “Our program is very agile in the fact that we can stay up to date with what’s important in that field – the tools and the skill sets. We teach students the process of data analysis, which can be used over and over again regardless of the software tools or discipline in which it is applied.”

For Michael, the job hunt begins in May. But with his newly minted degree, he is confident he will find the high-end remote position he desires while remaining in Kansas. Moody is also excited about how her data analytics experience will impact her academic and professional future.

“Data analytics is a rapidly growing field, and it ties into all aspects of business,” she said. “I was excited Washburn decided to offer it as there are few schools in the state that have the program, and I soon learned how many opportunities it could give me.” 

# New Perspectives

African American and African diaspora studies minor now available

By Jensen Simons • [jsimons@wualumni.org](mailto:jsimons@wualumni.org)

Washburn's African American and African diaspora studies minor was developed not only from a need, but an expectation brought forward by students and faculty to help address the topics of race, power and privilege.

In summer 2019, Washburn University created a committee focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion in response to students and faculty wanting to address certain issues surrounding social justice inequities, which – while alive in the public consciousness for many years – were now circulating at a national level. Subsequently, the committee's findings resulted in the creation of the AAADS minor.

Mary Sundal, sociology and anthropology department chair and professor with an emphasis in biocultural anthropology and African Studies, serves as director for the new course study.

"Folks were ready to have this at Washburn," Sundal said.

As an interdisciplinary course study, the minor is comprised of classes that span the fields of anthropology, psychology, history, English, art, sociology and mass media. A sampling of the course work includes: People and Cultures of Africa, The Civil

Rights Movement, Race and Ethnic Relations and African American History. Each of these classes offer students the opportunity to use a critical lens to better understand social movements, society and disparity.

Chelsea Armstrong, senior psychology major and AAADS minor, finds many of these courses to be important for all students, regardless of their majors or backgrounds.

"These issues are relevant everywhere, and you can't be a person in the U.S. and not learn about the history between White and Indigenous people, White and Black people – the narrative we're taught is from a White perspective. Everyone needs to hear many voices and perspectives," Armstrong said.

This minor is also significant to Armstrong as a mixed-race person.

"It's personal to me. I'm Black and White, so I have grown up being very aware of racial issues. Having a White mom and a Black dad, seeing how each one was treated by society, and then also how people reacted to them being a couple and toward myself and my two siblings – it is an important part of who I am."

In addition to falling in love with many of her classes, finding validation has been at the height of her experience with the course work.

"Having your feelings validated is one of the most therapeutic things you can experience," Armstrong said.

The next step for the minor is a focus on building awareness. "The minor has been up and running for two whole academic years," Sundal said. "My job right now is to spread the word."

Sundal did just that by participating in Washburn's annual Day of Giving in February, a campus-wide fundraiser. AAADS raised \$1,555 from 16 gifts. These donations will go to student scholarships and academic opportunities, as well as additional training for faculty. 🚶



Chelsea Armstrong. Photo by Doug Stremel

# Helping Hand

Baker makes historic gift to Ichabods Moving Forward

By Brad Porter • [bporter@wualumni.org](mailto:bporter@wualumni.org)

When James Baker, ba '53, got out of the Navy after World War II, he had no money, little education and few prospects. He had dropped out of high school his freshman year to work on his family's rental farm outside of Solomon, Kansas, and from there decided to join the service. But after discharge, as he was working odd jobs around Topeka, a friend suggested he take advantage of the GI Bill and get a degree. Baker didn't think any college would be interested in a poor farm kid with a 9th grade education, but Washburn University told him: get your GED and we'll let you in on a probationary basis.

It wasn't easy. Even after the GED diploma, Baker struggled his first year at Washburn, finding academic life as difficult and demanding as navigating Navy vessels. But he had some help. He met a woman, Mary Ward, ba '50, whose background could not have been more different. She was from one of the oldest blue blood families in Topeka. Her descendants, starting with Anthony and Mary Jane Ward, had built a farm on the south side of the Kansas River – known as Ward-Meade Park today – and family lore has it that when early city planners were building Topeka and needed sand for concrete, Mary's great-great-grandmother let them take it from their property for a nickel a wagon load, helping them amass a family fortune.

Mary had inherited her grandmother's brightness, and when she and Jim first got together she tutored him through his early math classes. Later, when they were married but struggling to make ends meet, Jim went to his father-in-law for a small loan, an experience he found embarrassing and unpleasant. But the day came when he walked out of Washburn's married student housing not a high school dropout but a college graduate. He went on to a career in the life insurance industry, raised two sons with Mary and they lived happily together until Mary's death in 2011.

Long after the kids were grown and the Bakers no longer needed the income from his retirement accounts, Jim and Mary started talking about ways



James Baker, ba '53

they could give back. Jim could still remember being a struggling student just trying to get through the year, when the future seemed on a knife's-edge.

"Washburn gave me a good foundation that started my whole career," Baker recalled. "But I almost didn't get through it – I needed a little help. That little help went a long way."

So he's decided to redirect his IRA required minimum distribution to Washburn every year, eventually creating the endowed James E. and Mary E. Ward Baker Student Emergency Assistance Fund, which will help underwrite small grants given out by Ichabods Moving Forward, Washburn's student-led philanthropic organization which aids fellow students facing unforeseen financial hardship or sudden emergencies. This will be the largest donation to IMF, and Baker hopes it gives other students a chance to overcome adversity and succeed, like he did 70 years ago. Asking for help is never easy, Baker observed. But it can be the key to unlocking a person's future.

"When something happens and a student needs a hand, I want this fund to be there for them the way Washburn, Mary and the Wards were there for me," Baker said. 



James and Mary Baker. Photo submitted



John Pinegar, ba '82, (right) is joined by Sen. Bob Dole, ba '52, jd '52, h '69, h '85, and Sen. Elizabeth Dole (left) during an unveiling of a sculpture of Bob Dole in 2018. Pinegar and Doug and Kathleen Smith, bba '84, funded the sculpture. *Photo by Doug Stremel*

# Memories of Dole

Washburn alumni share recollections of the iconic senator

*By Angela Lutz*

When Rita Noll, ba '81, jd '84, was 11 years old, she considered herself Sen. Bob Dole's biggest fan. She clipped every article about him in her local newspaper, and she never missed a chance to catch him on television – sometimes she even ordered the transcript. In 1970, she begged her mother to take her to see Dole, ba '52, jd '52, h '69, h '85, who was dedicating a new building in Atchison, Kansas, only 25 miles from her hometown of Effingham. More than 50 years later, she recalls the day vividly.

"I still remember what I was wearing – a purple and white polka dot shirt, and I had pigtails," Noll said. "Bob Dole was working the crowd, and he came up to my mom and me. My mom told him I was his biggest fan. He shook my hand and said, 'I hope you still feel that way when you're old enough to vote.' I was thrilled. He made you feel important – even an 11-year-old kid."

Noll is one of many Washburn alumni whose careers and lives were influenced by Dole, who served as a United States senator for more than 25 years and is widely recognized as one of Washburn's most distinguished graduates. He passed away in 2021 at the age of 98, but his legacy lives on in the memories of those who knew him and seek to emulate his trademark graciousness, humor and humility.

As a student at Washburn, Noll spent more time with Dole when she showed him around campus during a visit, and she was again struck by his kindness and sharp wit. After earning her law degree, she went on to work as deputy director and chief counsel at the Health Care Stabilization Fund, which provides professional liability coverage for Kansas health care providers. In her career, she has a guiding refrain: "What would Bob Dole do?"

“I watched how he would go out of his way to help people, and I always try to remember that in my career,” Noll said. “I make sure when anybody calls our office, we respond immediately. Bob Dole’s whole life was about service to Kansas and the public. His motto was to help at least one person every day, and I try to do the same.”

Like Noll, John Pinegar, ba ’82, always admired Dole’s sense of selflessness and dedication to others. He first met the senator at the age of 13 when Dole spoke at a political gathering in his hometown of Garden City, Kansas, and the two shared a close friendship throughout their lives. Pinegar’s most memorable time spent with Dole was traveling with him during his 2014 “thank you” tour of all 105 Kansas counties.

“Despite his enormous stature across the country, he was about as humble as they come,” Pinegar said. “Forever an optimist, he deeply inspired those of us who knew him well and knew what challenges he faced on a daily basis. He genuinely lived to make the world a better place – I’ve never met somebody who was so dedicated to helping others. His compassion was unmatched, and I truly cherished the friendship we enjoyed.”

As co-founder of Pinegar, Smith & Associates, Inc., a firm that engages in governmental and public affairs and provides strategic advice and representation to clients, Pinegar believes Dole’s influence has been extremely valuable not only in his own career but to future Washburn students and alumni. Pinegar,

his business partner, Doug Smith and Doug’s wife Kathleen Smith, bba ’84, donated a bronze statue of Dole to Washburn in 2018.

“I believe the University’s motto says it all: ‘Non nobis solum,’ or ‘Not for ourselves alone.’ Sen. Dole lived his entire life with a keen awareness that he was never alone, even during his darkest days,” Pinegar said. “Washburn helped him put his life back together following his devastating injuries during World War II. He then went on to achieve great things for so many others in need.”

Susie Hoffmann, bba ’87, who has served as director of the Washburn Alumni Association since 2000, has seen the tremendous value of Dole’s legacy firsthand. Before coming to Washburn, Hoffmann worked in Dole’s Topeka office for 10 years, acting as a liaison between constituents and federal agencies and often driving Dole around in her grandparents’ Lincoln Town Car when he came to town. During this time, Hoffmann observed the senator’s uncanny ability to remember names and faces – and turn strangers into friends.

“A lot of the folks I’ve met through the Alumni Association are not just alumni – they’re also my friends,” Hoffmann said. “We have a lot of really wonderful alumni – more than 150 years of graduates – but Sen. Dole is one of our most noteworthy. His success puts the University in a good light, as do so many of our alumni who have gone on to do extraordinary things.”



Sen. Bob Dole (left of the sign) is joined by supporters at the 1987 Young Republican Leadership Conference in Seattle, Washington. Rita Noll, ba ’81, jd ’84 (sixth from right) and Susie Hoffmann, bba ’87 (third from right), shared stories of their time with Dole for this article. Also pictured are Washburn graduates Scott Hesse, jd ’84 (front row, left, crouching), Jim Coder, jd ’87 (immediate left of Dole) and Bruce Mayfield, jd ’86 (back row, first from left). *Photo submitted*



Melissa Tovar, bcj '20. Photo by Michael Snell

# Creating the Change

Recent alumna begins her pursuit of justice for refugees

By Brooke Donaldson

Melissa Tovar, bcj '20, is no stranger to the hardships of being a minority. When she started her journey at Washburn University, she was ready to create the change she wanted to see in her community.

“My desire to study criminal justice had a lot to do with the inequity I saw growing up in a low-income family,” Tovar said. “The majority of interaction with law enforcement was negative, and I was ready to make a change.”

During her years at North High School in Wichita, Kansas, Tovar worked hard to best prepare herself for the future, despite those who doubted her. Her mother encouraged her to take college readiness classes, and it was through these programs that Tovar’s name was submitted to Michelle Obama’s Beating the Odds Summit in 2016.

The summer before her freshman year of college, Tovar flew to Washington, D.C., to attend this event and met Michelle and Barack Obama.

“It was an amazing experience,” Tovar said. “I was able to prove to myself and the people around me that I was capable of doing anything I set my mind to.”

Along with attending the summit, Tovar received a full-ride scholarship to the college of her choice. It was the first time anyone from her high school had received such a scholarship.

Tovar worked hard to create a space of inclusion for herself and those around her when she came to Washburn; she helped bring the associate chapter of Sigma Lambda Gamma, a Latina sorority, to campus, worked with the Office of University Diversity and Inclusion and was part of the We Are First program, student government, Hispanic American Leadership Organization and the Kansas Women’s Leadership Institute at the University of Kansas.

“I wanted to make this a place where my siblings could come and feel like they belong,” she said.

The oldest of six, Tovar continued to put her siblings first even as a college student. During her sophomore year at Washburn, Tovar’s mother was picked up by U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement and detained at an unknown location. She faced leaving school to try to find her mother and take care of her younger siblings.

“This was a devastating decision for Melissa, as she was very passionate about her education and earning her degree,” said Danielle Dempsey-Swopes, jd ’92, director, Office of University Diversity and Inclusion at Washburn. “I met her during these trying circumstances and worked with her to put a plan in place that took care of her siblings, found the right immigration attorneys for her mother and kept her in school.”

Tovar currently works at the Office of Refugee Resettlement at The Villages in Topeka. Part of her job includes case management, where she evaluates situations in which family members of children separated at the border are seeking to be reunified. She works directly with these children when they arrive at The Villages and sees their cases through to the reunification process.

“When these children first come here, they do not have the mentality of a child; they are worried about

money, food, family and other issues that children should not have to be dealing with,” Tovar said.

“This being said, one of my favorite parts of this job is letting them have the opportunity to just be kids, without worrying about the future.”

Having always had a special place in her heart for children, Tovar enjoys every aspect of this job and aims to continue working with kids in the future.

“The staff here never fail to treat the children with dignity, respect and kindness, and seeing the effect it has on them daily is amazing,” she said.

Tovar plans to return to Washburn and attend the School of Law with the ultimate goal of working in immigration law for refugees.

“I want to continue to work for the Office of Refugee Resettlement and become an advocate for those who are afraid and in need of help, especially children,” Tovar said. “I want to help my people.”

Dempsey-Swopes and Tovar continue to stay in touch and have discussions about her plans to attend Washburn Law.

“Melissa is simply brilliant,” Dempsey-Swopes said. “We had many conversations during her time here as well as after graduation about her pursuing a law degree, and I know without a doubt she would make an excellent immigration lawyer.”

Tovar is striving to make a difference in the world today, and she hopes to see many more Latina women in roles and occupations who hold power.

“She is passionate, driven and has a clear idea of what her goals are,” Dempsey-Swopes said. “It has been an honor to work with Melissa and I could not be more excited to continue to watch her grow.”

Tovar looks forward to furthering her career with Washburn Law and growing in her current role at the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

“At the end of the day, these are just kids, and they deserve the world,” Tovar said. ✨

# Honored to Teach

Waugh guided and mentored many through nursing honors program

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

Entering college later in your life can be a daunting experience. Whether to change careers or earn an advanced degree, leaving what you already created and starting anew can be a bold step. Having mentors along the way can make a big difference.

Shirley Waugh, msn '09, has been providing mentorship to students as an associate professor in the School of Nursing and director of the nursing honors program. Retiring this May, Waugh taught at Washburn for 13 years. Her story of returning to nursing and advancing her education should be an inspiration to anyone, especially nontraditional nursing students.

Waugh worked as a registered nurse as a young adult in the Kansas City area before moving to Topeka where she was a stay-at-home parent while her husband worked as a physician. As their kids grew up, she wanted to return to nursing, get a master's degree and teach. A postcard advertising Washburn's new master of nursing program led her to enroll.

"I didn't have PowerPoint or Word. When I first left the workplace, we didn't have computers," she said. "All of a sudden, I'm an older student who's expected to have all this technology. Multiple times I thought, I can't do this, but I just dug my claws in and thought, I'm not going to quit. You're going to have to fail me, but I'm not going to quit."

She persisted, graduated and became an adjunct instructor at Washburn in 2009. She also continued her education, earned a doctorate in nursing and became a tenure-track associate professor. One of her new roles was directing the nursing honors program where she saw students do amazing projects.

"Working with exceptional, high-achieving students is really rewarding," she said.

One such nursing student selected for the honors program was Jeanette Wood, who will graduate with her bachelor's degree this May. She's a nontraditional student who went back to school after her husband was diagnosed with cancer. One of her children uses a wheelchair, and her honors project was to bring attention to the need for inclusive playgrounds.

"I talked about the importance of inclusive playgrounds, not just accessible playgrounds," Wood said. "In Topeka, we do have playgrounds where children with mobility devices can go and play, but they're very segregated. I used evidence-based research to show what's been done in other communities and how it can improve physical and mental health and reduce social injustices, prejudice and racism."

Wood presented her research to the Shawnee County commissioners and explained how Hughes Park is the first park in Topeka to have an inclusive playground – equipment used together by children with and without disabilities. She is committed to helping convert more parks in the future.



Jeanette Wood and her son, Danny Wood. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*



Shirley Waugh, msn '09 (right), retired associate professor, led the School of Nursing honors program and helped students like Jeanette Wood (left) make a difference with their projects. Wood presented research about how inclusive parks help children with mobility devices like her son, Danny Wood (front), have improved physical and mental health. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

Wood will become a perioperative nurse in the surgery department at Stormont Vail after she graduates. Like Waugh, she experienced doubt throughout her education, but Waugh's guidance helped along the way.

"There's this battle in your mind. It's scary," Wood said. "The main thing is getting over feeling like I didn't belong. I remember how important it was to me the first time I heard, 'You belong here.' Shirley had such a neat way of edifying, encouraging and inspiring, and at the same time, challenging and driving me to do better."

Steve Golden, ba '06, bsn '18, also did an honors project as he completed his nursing degree. As a male wanting to work in labor and delivery, he experienced discrimination and bias – mostly from staff members. His project focused on those experiences.

"When I started to look into the research on it, it actually seemed like a really viable topic for me, as well as a good opportunity for me to write something that would help other male nurses who felt like they wanted to practice in labor and delivery," Golden said.

A labor and delivery nursing journal published his article and made it the cover story, and he said he's heard from men who were encouraged by his writing.

"I had the resources to take on something like that and the support from Shirley in the process," Golden said. "It's a real talent for a teacher like her to make a student feel good about their work and still challenge them to do more."

Golden worked in labor and delivery as a registered nurse for a year and is now a nurse in the heart and vascular center at the University of Kansas St. Francis Campus in Topeka. As Waugh settles into retirement, she'll continue to take pride in the compassionate nurses she helped train.

"I see former students thriving, doing 10 things at once in a really high-skilled area and knowing what a difference they're making and what an important job they're doing," Waugh said. "I see them so confident, compassionate and skilled as nurses." 🏃

# Alumni Awards

Eight people were honored by the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation on April 30, 2022, for their service to their community and Washburn University.

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## Jacki Summerson, ba '68, h '18 | Distinguished Service Award



Jacki Summerson and her late husband, Frank Summerson, purchased their first Manpower franchise in 1987 and owned several more franchises before selling them and retiring in 2008. Manpower is a multinational corporation that provides staffing solutions, and she served as the chief financial officer of her franchises. Throughout her career, Summerson served on the Human Resources Committee of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry for several years. She was a member and past president of the Data Processing Management Association, as well as the Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumni Association of Topeka. Summerson is on the Washburn University

Alumni Association and Foundation board of trustees and was on the board of directors from 2010-20. She joined Washburn Women's Venture Partners in 2020 and is a member of the Washburn women's honorary society, Nonoso. She received an honorary doctor of commerce from Washburn University in 2018.

### **How has Washburn contributed to your career:**

Coming from a small town, I really appreciated the smaller classes and personal relationships with the professors. I have always felt that my college education helped me succeed both in my career and in life. I am proud that my husband and I were able to own a business. I never dreamed that I would have that opportunity.

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## Michael Mustain, ba '76 | Distinguished Service Award



Michael Mustain retired after 30 years with the Department of the Army. He most recently served as director of the threat test and evaluation directorate at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He was a threat intelligence analyst for the implementation and portrayal of threat in Operational Tests for new Army and joint service acquisition programs. He received Army performance awards in these roles. Mustain is a Vietnam veteran and served in the Army with the 101st Airborne Division receiving the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Combat Air Medal and Vietnam Campaign Medal with two stars. Among other duties, he was a general military intelligence analyst with Psychological Operations Company assigned to Headquarters III Corps. He continues to

serve Washburn, his community and fellow veterans. He was on the Washburn Alumni Association board of directors for eight years, including two as president. He is a lifetime member of the Washburn Alumni Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans.

### **What are your favorite Washburn memories:**

My most interesting academic experiences were the discussions with Dr. Menninger in our criminal justice seminars and lectures. Professors Ted Heim and Ben Coats made a big impression on me and gave me confidence going forward. I loved going to most of the sporting events. The basketball games at Whiting Field House were always a great atmosphere, especially when we played Emporia State. At football games, participating in the human zipper at halftime was embarrassing.

## Jenifer Lucas, jd '75 | Lilla Day Monroe Award



Jenifer Lucas spent her freshman year of college at Washburn where she pledged Kappa Alpha Theta. After completing college in Oklahoma and teaching high school English there for five years, Lucas enrolled at Washburn University School of Law. That led to a 40-year career in law, and she retired in 2015 from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C., after 25 years. Prior to that, she worked with the Kansas Corporation Commission and with an oil company in Oklahoma. She was named Theta of the Year by the Tulsa and Northern Virginia alumnae chapters. The Topeka alumnae chapter named her a Theta for a Lifetime.

She was a member of the Oklahoma State Board of Public Accountancy from 1985-93 and currently is a member of the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation board of trustees. She served on the School of Law board of governors from 1985-93.

**How has Washburn contributed to your career:** All of my jobs after law school came through Washburn connections. The most interesting job I ever had (legal advisor to Theta's Grand Council) was in part due to the fact that a member of my Washburn Theta chapter was on Grand Council at the time they needed to fill that position. While that job did not include financial rewards, the intangible rewards continue to this day.

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## John D. Pinegar, ba '82 | Col. John. Ritchie Award



John Pinegar is a partner in the governmental and public relations firm of Pinegar, Smith & Associates, Inc., which he co-founded in 1991. The firm specializes in legislative affairs, lobbying, business-to-government outreach and issues

management, promoting and defending interests before the Kansas legislature and executive branch officials. Pinegar just completed his 42nd consecutive Kansas legislative session. His previous experience includes chief of staff to the governor of Kansas, deputy director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and statewide director of the Reagan-Bush campaign. Pinegar serves on the board of directors of the Washburn University Alumni

Association and Foundation and is a past-president of the Alumni Association board of directors. He is a 2017 Alumni Fellow in the Washburn University College of Arts and Sciences.

**How has Washburn contributed to your career:** Washburn prepared me both intellectually and socially for my career and adult life. Because of the positive influence and encouragement of many professors, and through a college internship program, I was introduced to the state legislative process and politics and found what would become a professional passion for over 40 years. Attending Washburn was a transformational experience that opened so many possibilities for me as a student and continues to this day as an alumnus.

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## Dr. Michael W. Glass, bs '12 | Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) Award



Dr. Michael Glass will be completing a musculoskeletal radiology fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee, in June 2022. He will then begin practicing at Radiology and Nuclear Medicine,

a private-practice radiology group in Topeka. He earned his doctor of medicine at the University of Kansas School of Medicine and completed his internship there in internal medicine and his residency there in diagnostic radiology. Glass earned the KUMC radiology resident

teacher award in 2021 and the KUMC Peter Ronai Award in 2018 as the top first-year resident. His service work includes acting as president of the KUMC chapter of RadAid from 2019-20 and serving as director of physicians for JayDoc Free Clinic from 2013-14.

**What are your fondest memories of Washburn:** My fondest memories are time spent with some of my friends and roommate, either spending long hours together studying or having fun in the dorms my freshman year. I met my wonderful wife, Candace, lifelong friends and mentors. Washburn gave me outstanding preparation for medical school and a career in medicine.

## Dr. Taylor McGown Sutherland, bs '12 | Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) Award



Dr. Taylor Sutherland practices as a dentist at Antioch Dentistry in Merriam, Kansas. She has been the owner of that practice for five years and has since partnered for a second office location. She teaches continuing education courses and stays active in her field and community. She is involved in PDS Serve Day, Give Kids a Smile and various other events that provide dental care to underserved citizens. Her previous work includes practicing at Parkville Modern Dentistry and

Orthodontics in Kansas City, Missouri. As a Washburn student, she was WSGA president, Bod Squad president and a member of several other organizations and honor societies.

### **How has Washburn contributed to your career:**

Washburn definitely set the foundation for my career. The courses at Washburn University taught me how to study hard and apply myself. The instructors genuinely care about your wellbeing and set you up for success. My WSGA leadership roles and experience help me lead my team effectively and efficiently every day.

## Tommy and Lou Ann Olsen | Honorary Ichabod Award

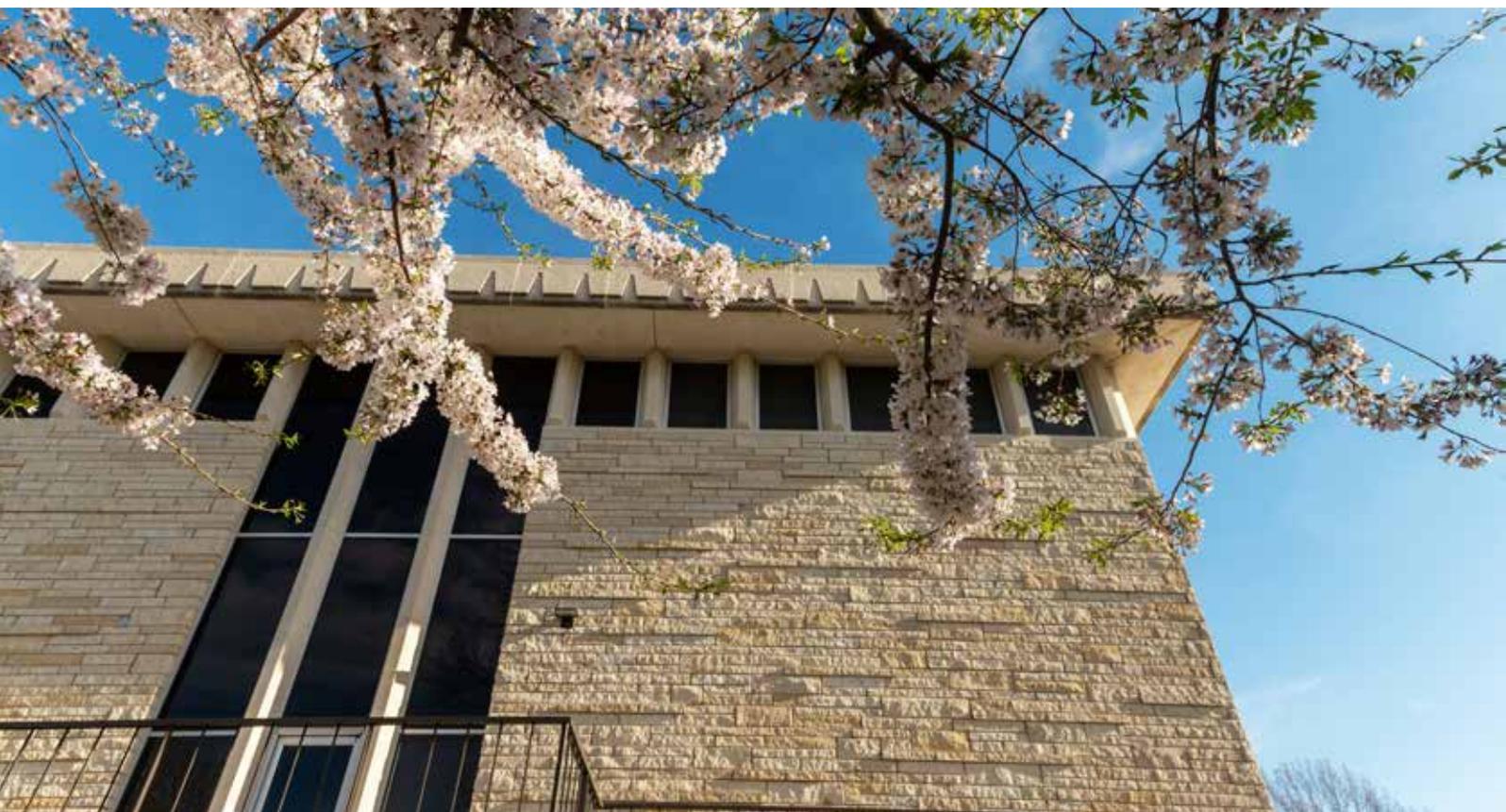


Tommy and Lou Ann Olsen have been longtime supporters of Washburn University. They support athletics during the annual faculty/staff giving campaign. They made a major gift during the 2003 Yager Stadium renovation and joined friends in purchasing a suite in Bianchino Pavilion. Tommy's family has a nursing scholarship to honor the caring treatment his father received before passing away in 1983. They are members of the Alumni Association and serve on the board of the Ichabod Athletic Club. Lou Ann is the benefits specialist in Washburn's Human Resources

department and began her 38th year at Washburn. She has received the Outstanding Service Award for administrative support staff twice. Tommy retired in 2019 after 30 years at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas. He was the team leader who oversaw the implementation of virtual desktops that allowed employees to work from home, which proved to be very beneficial during the onset of the pandemic.

### **How has Washburn contributed to your life:**

Washburn has been a big part of our lives due to Lou Ann being employed there for more than 37 years. We have made lots of lifelong friends and acquaintanceships and consider it our social club. 🏡



# Honorary Degrees

Washburn University conferred honorary degrees on three people during the spring 2022 commencement ceremonies.

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## Cynthia G. Heath, ba '71, Honorary Doctor of Law



Cynthia Heath taught at Topeka West High School before changing her focus to law. She earned a juris doctor from Washington University in St. Louis in 1982, and went on to a distinguished career in

business and law, ultimately as the vice president for executive compensation at Emerson Electric Co. At Washburn, she has served on the Alumni Association

and Foundation board of trustees since 2007 and the board of directors from 2009-19, serving as chair from 2016-18. She was the first chair of Washburn Women's Venture Partners, established endowed scholarships in her and her husband David's name and was instrumental in the fundraising campaign for the new law school building. She was previously honored with the Lilla Day Monroe Award, Athletics Hall of Fame recognition and as a Washburn University Alumni Fellow.

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## Kristin S. Rinne, ba '76, Honorary Doctor of Science



Kris Rinne had a nearly 40-year career as one of the top executives in wireless telecommunications, going on to hold leadership positions at Southwestern Bell, Cingular and AT&T, where she retired in 2014 as

the senior vice president of network technologies. Rinne was on the front lines of developing and implementing

technologies such as smartphones, tablets and high-speed LTE services, and is an inductee into the Wireless Hall of Fame and the Women in Technology International Hall of Fame. At Washburn she was honored as an Alumni Fellow, is involved in Washburn Women's Venture Partners and joined the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation board of trustees in 2012. She has helped fund numerous priorities at Washburn, especially with women in leadership and minority women in STEM.

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## Mark E. Yardley, bba '77, Honorary Doctor of Commerce



Mark Yardley is a leading accounting and finance executive in Topeka. He worked at the national public accounting firm Fox & Co. before joining the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka in 1984, where he has spent

the last 37 years, currently serving as president and chief executive officer. Yardley is a member of the Kansas Society of Certified Public Accountants, the American

Institute of Certified Public Accountants and serves as the longtime treasurer for the Topeka Bible Church and the chairs' council of the Greater Topeka Partnership. Yardley joined the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation board of trustees in 2014 and in 2018 was honored as an Alumni Fellow. He and his wife, Sheree, have establishing business scholarships at Washburn and have been leading donors to many projects including the student emergency fund and athletic capital improvements. 



Ron McHenry, ba '85, cuts down the net after his team won the 2012-13 MIAA championship. McHenry retired after 22 years as head coach. He won eight MIAA regular-season titles and a national championship. *Photo by Gene Cassell*

# Off the Bench

Washburn's winningest women's basketball coach retiring after 22 years

*By Chris Marshall*

Ron McHenry, ba '85, has been a mainstay in the Washburn University athletic department for most of the past 40 years, first as a basketball player, then as men's golf head coach, men's basketball assistant coach and for the past two-plus decades, the leader of a winning women's basketball program. Now, he's moving into an unfamiliar role with the Ichabods: a fan.

Washburn's all-time women's basketball wins leader announced his retirement soon after the season ended in March, capping a 22-year coaching tenure that included an NCAA Division II national championship and 15 MIAA conference championships. While this isn't goodbye from Lee Arena – he and his wife,

Mischa, bs '82, bba '85, mba '91, already purchased season tickets for next year – he is looking forward to life outside of basketball.

"I've been doing something at Washburn for more than half my life," McHenry said. "I haven't done anything away from here. It's been a great place to go to school, to play at and to work at. I didn't move all that time because I can't see anyplace being better than what Washburn had to offer."

McHenry delivered Washburn its first and only NCAA national championship in any sport in 2005, and the following year, led the team to a perfect 27-0 regular season.

“To have a championship team, then keep it going the next year to win 51 straight is pretty special,” he said. “But I still think back to those teams in year two or three that got us to the Elite Eight and got it all started. That was a group where I inherited some players, recruited some of them, and we just came together. It was early in my head coaching career, and it was special because then we knew we could do it.”

McHenry won an unprecedented 490 games in his career, but takes more pride in his development of true student-athletes. Ichabods were frequently named to MIAA all-academic teams, and when their playing days ended, entered their careers with valuable lessons.

“It’s a great degree from Washburn, and probably their most important accomplishment,” he said. “They all quit playing basketball at some point, but they become employees, CEOs, doctors and nurses. That continues on, and I’m really proud about that. Whatever part in that I had means a lot.”

Dr. Alison (Garrett) Blevins, bs ’05, who came to Washburn in McHenry’s second year and played from 2001-05, is still the most accurate 3-point shooter in school history (41.4%) with 120 career 3-pointers made. Now, her focus is on a more important three: raising her trio of children with her husband, Eric Blevins, bs ’01, mcj ’03, jd ’06.

As an OB-GYN, balancing family life with an unpredictable work schedule can be difficult, but while playing for McHenry, she learned how to perform at her best, even when the responsibilities feel overwhelming.

“My job as an OB-GYN is very stressful but also rewarding,” said Blevins, a doctor at the Women’s Clinic of Johnson County. “Playing basketball at Washburn was very similar. We had great success, but worked extremely hard to achieve it. I learned a lot in my four years at Washburn, and not all of it came from the classroom.”

Perhaps no former player received more career guidance from McHenry than Brette (Ulsaker) Herber, ba ’11, a guard from McPherson, Kansas, who transferred from the University of Utah after her freshman year. She played for Washburn from 2007-10 and ranks in the top 50 in career assists, steals and offensive rebounds.

Herber was a student assistant for one year, then spent two years as an assistant coach at Iowa Western Community College before returning to McHenry’s staff in 2013.

“Washburn is home for me,” said Herber, whose brother, Christian Ulsaker, ba ’19, played for the men’s basketball team, and sister, Ally Ulsaker, ba ’19, worked in the athletic department. “I appreciate the opportunity he gave me when he brought me here from Utah. It’s been fun to go from a player-coach relationship, then to a student assistant learning the ropes, then going into a role as co-workers, friends and getting closer to each other’s families.”

Like Herber, McHenry’s family became entrenched in Washburn Athletics. His daughters, Dani (McHenry) Schmidt, bba ’05, and Sami (McHenry) Kearney, b ed ’14, played on his basketball teams, in addition to volleyball. His son, Ronnie, played for the Ichabod golf team and was named its head coach last summer.

Like so many of the student-athletes he coached, Ron McHenry’s children now apply his wisdom in careers and families of their own. As the number of grandchildren grows, he’s eager to spend more time with family, while still regularly attending Saturday afternoon basketball games.

“I’ll be chasing grandkids and playing a lot of golf,” he said. “I get to watch them all year round now, and still be great fan of Washburn Athletics and especially women’s basketball. Even if it might not be right on the court, I’ll continue to follow them and look forward to just being a fan of it.” 🏀



Ron McHenry. Photo by Joy Smith

# Hope and Belonging

Basketball teams connect with children facing serious and chronic illnesses

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

Lori Klinkenberg was watching her 8-year-old son, Cash, play basketball with his brother when he made his first ever basket. He started cheering, “Washburn for the win!”

For a child with multiple genetic disorders and complications at birth that gave him a stroke in utero, Cash is the real winner. He was connected with the Washburn University men’s basketball team four years ago through Team IMPACT, an organization that tackles emotional trauma and social isolation experienced by children facing serious and chronic illnesses by matching them with a college athletic team. Head Coach Brett Ballard and the team had a signing day ceremony to officially welcome Cash, and he’s in it for the long haul now after Team IMPACT’s two-year term ended.

“I can remember exactly where I was and what I was doing when I had my first conversation with Coach Ballard and I remember thinking, this man is going to change my child’s life,” Klinkenberg said.

She was starting to lose hope before that. Cash has an intellectual disability, limited leg function due to low muscle tone and occasional seizures and migraines.

“He was getting to the age and comprehension level where he could recognize he was different than everyone else. He felt lost in the world and that he didn’t belong,” she said. “Meeting Coach Ballard and this group of men has completely restored my faith in humanity. That’s his team. They gave him a sense of belonging.”

The women’s basketball team is also involved with Team IMPACT, and they adopted Mallorie, a sixth grader from Sabetha, Kansas, who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in 2019.

“The very first day we went to the hospital for diabetes treatment, they told us straight up, ‘As soon as you think you have figured it out, something will change,’” said Michaela Schultejan, Mallorie’s mother.

That has indeed been the case and a source of frustration for Mallorie as she incorporates constant



Cash Klinkenberg is hoisted up as he joins the men’s basketball team in the locker room. *Photo submitted*



Mallorie Schultejeans (front row, gray t-shirt) joins members of the women's basketball team in the locker room.  
*Photo submitted*

monitoring and regulating of blood sugar with her middle school life that includes playing basketball and volleyball.

"It's hard to put into words what Team IMPACT has done for her confidence," Schultejeans said. "She brought a friend to the last Washburn game we went to. You could just see she was so proud. She was beaming with, 'Hey look at this. I'm associated with this.'"

"She's like a little sister on the team. They don't see the disease. There's no handicap because of that. It means a lot as a parent to see your kiddo be welcomed."

The impact goes beyond the children and families involved. Katie Glatczak, a senior on the women's team who's about to graduate with a bachelor of education, will teach physical education next fall. She will take many of her Team IMPACT lessons to the classroom and the teams she coaches.

"It's been so special to not only help Mallorie, but the way she's helped us has opened my eyes," Glatczak said. "She shows us what we're playing for; it's more than just basketball."

Like the men's team, the women's team had a signing ceremony, invites Mallorie into the locker room after games and invites her to practices and get-togethers throughout the year. Support and encouragement are just a phone call or text away.

"Just being able to see the smile on Mallorie's face as soon as she sees us has been super sweet," Glatczak said. "She's building her confidence through her battle with Type 1 diabetes, and we're hoping it helps her to know we always have her back."

Men's basketball senior Jalen Lewis feels just as lucky to be a part of Cash's life. He graduates this spring with a bachelor's degree in marketing.

"A lot of people will look at the relationship Cash has with the team and think we're his role model or he looks up to us because we're basketball players and we're in college. I think I speak for everyone else on the team when I say we look up to him because of everything he's battled," Lewis said. "He handles it like a warrior. I never see him without a smile on his face."

Like college student-athletes, Cash and Mallorie are at a time in their life when the examples and experiences they have affect the kinds of adults they will become. Ballard's leadership style stuck with Cash and helps him as he goes through his individualized education.

"Cash has found his own voice and is actually advocating for himself to where his teachers were teaching him things lower than what he should be doing, and he was like, 'No. I need something harder. I need to be challenged,'" Klinkenberg said. "That's something Coach Ballard has always instilled in him: being challenged is good. If it's hard, that's good. Everything the team says to him, he takes to heart and he really practices it." 🏀

# Frank Named Dean of School of Applied Studies

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Washburn University named Zach Frank dean of the School of Applied Studies in February after he was acting dean of the school since June 2021. He oversees education programs and provides leadership to the school which offers degrees in criminal

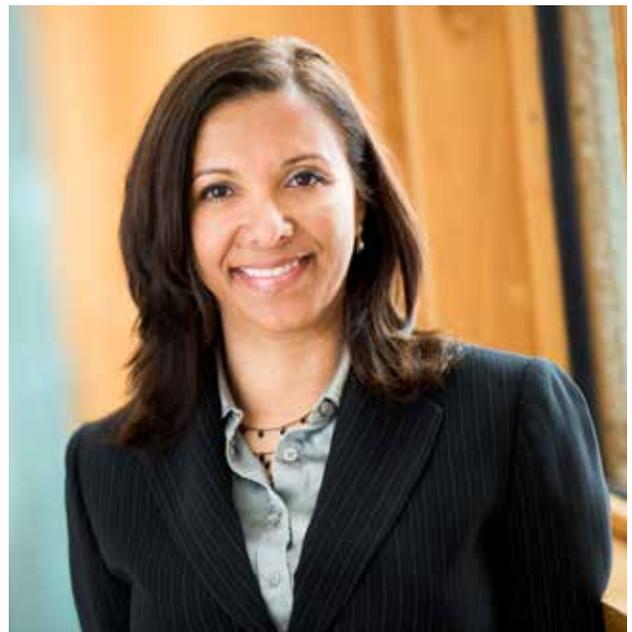
justice, allied health, family and human services and social work. Frank joined Washburn in 2011

as assistant program director and professor in the physical therapist assistant program. In 2018, he moved to the master of health science in health care education program and became associate dean of the school in 2019. He earned his bachelor of science in biology from Pittsburg State University, a master of science in health care administration from Marshall University and a doctorate in physical therapy from the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences. He also holds a certificate in health care education from Washburn. ✍️

# School of Law Dean Leaving Washburn After Nearly Four Years

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Carla Pratt stepped down from her role as dean of the School of Law following the spring commencement ceremony. After nearly four years of service to the school, Pratt is returning to her native state of Oklahoma to serve as the inaugural Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Chair in Civil Rights, Race and Justice in Law at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Pratt became dean at Washburn in 2018 and helped lead the school in completing a fundraising campaign for a new law school building. Under her leadership, the law school launched the Third Year Anywhere enrollment option, allowing students in their final year of law school to increase their practice-readiness by completing an externship in the geographic area where they plan to practice after graduation. A national search for her replacement is underway. ✍️



# 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 [contactus@wualumni.org](mailto:contactus@wualumni.org) by July 30, 2022, to be included in the fall magazine.

## 1960s

**James “Jim” Wight**, ba '69, Matfield Green, Kansas, Baseball, Sigma Phi Epsilon, was honored for his support and service to the Kansas Livestock Association during the KLA Convention in Wichita, Kansas.

## 1970s

**Samuel Crow**, ba '73, Branson, Missouri, Air Force ROTC, recently wrote a memoir called, “From Missiles to Medicine.”

**Bruce Gatterman**, jd '78, Larned, Kansas, was reappointed as chief judge in the 24th Judicial District.

**James Hanni**, ba '74, Lawrence, Kansas, Who's Who, Alpha Delta, was recently elected to his fourth three-year term on the board of directors of the Gettysburg Foundation in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He previously served as secretary and briefly as chair of the board and continues to serve as chair of the membership committee.

## 1980s

**Randy Clayton**, ba '88, Topeka, Kansas, and his wife Debra Clayton, were recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals' Topeka chapter with the Philanthropic Leadership Award for their work in the community as the founders of Clayton Wealth Partners.

**Barry Feaker**, ba '80, Topeka, Kansas, stepped down as executive director at the Topeka Rescue Mission and has taken a new position as its strategic adviser.

**James Fleetwood**, jd '89, Wichita, Kansas, Phi Delta Phi, received the Judicial Excellence Award from the Kansas District Judges Association during the virtual statewide conference for judges.

**Keith Haas**, ba '84, jd '91, Overland Park, Kansas, Phi Delta Phi, was promoted to associate vice president - legal counsel at Black and Veatch Corporation.

**Steven Johnson**, jd '85, Great Bend, Kansas, was reappointed as chief judge in the 20th Judicial District.

**Mark McAnarney**, ba '83, Lawrence, Kansas, retired as Emporia city manager after almost nine years of service.

**James McClinton**, aa '85, Lewisville, Texas, has been named director of community development and housing by the Tarrant County government.

**Ronald McHenry**, ba '85, Topeka, Kansas, Basketball, Golf, retired after 22 seasons as the Washburn women's basketball head coach. He is the school leader with 490 wins, won 15 MIAA titles and the 2004-05 national championship.

**Stephen Minnis**, jd '85, Atchinson, Kansas, God's Bods, received the Papal Award from Caritas in Veritate for being one of the remarkable Catholic leaders, showing outstanding work in charity and leadership.

**Kevin Regan**, jd '81, Kansas City, Missouri, Phi Delta Phi - Law, was selected to serve as the grand marshal for the Annual Topeka St. Patrick's Day parade. His four grandchildren rode along with him.

**Henry Sandate**, bba '82, Shawnee, Kansas, Rowing Crew, Phi Delta Theta, earned the Humanitarian of the Year award by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City.

**Mark Ubert**, bba '80, Durham, North Carolina, Sigma Phi Epsilon, was promoted to chief financial officer at Rho.

## 1990s

**Sonia Betsworth**, bba '93, Lenexa, Kansas, was promoted from senior vice president at FHLBank Topeka to executive vice president and serves as the chief administrative officer.

**Joseph Caldwell**, mba '97, Lawrence, Kansas, will become Bartlett & West's CEO in the summer of 2022. He currently serves as the company's market leader and marketing director.

**Nancy Hanks**, ba '94, Topeka, Kansas, was promoted from assistant vice president to vice president at FHLBank Topeka and serves as the wire services manager.

**Mitch (Cusic) Higgs**, ba '94, Topeka, Kansas, Delta Gamma, retired from Washburn University School of Applied Studies after 37 years of service.

**Eric Johnson**, ba '91, Dallas, Texas, was named the president and CEO of Aeon, a nonprofit developer, owner and manager of affordable housing in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Brian Lang**, bba '99, Topeka, Kansas, Football, was selected as a board member for the Topeka Community Foundation.

**Jeffrey Moots**, jd '91, Hagatna, Guam, Phi Delta Phi, was named legal counsel for the Office of the Governor of Guam this year.

**Kathryn (Hellen) Mosher**, ba '91, Salina, Kansas, Tennis, God's Bods, has been named the chief executive officer at Family Service and Guidance Center.

**William Mott**, jd '95, Wellington, Kansas, Law Clinic, was reappointed as chief judge in the 30th Judicial District.

**Steven Neill**, jd '99, Lenexa, Kansas, Law Journal, has been appointed as a veterans law judge for the Board of Veterans' Appeals in Washington, D.C. Prior to this appointment, he was an active duty Army officer for over 20 years, including two as a military judge and two overseas deployments.

**Joseph “Joe” Perry**, bs '96, Auburn, Kansas, received a master's of public administration from Walden University on Nov. 14, 2021.

**Clinton Peterson**, jd '96, Liberal, Kansas, Delta Theta Phi - Law, was appointed chief judge of the 26th Judicial District.

**Mark Raney**, bs '96, Tampa, Florida, received his doctorate in business administration from the University of South Florida on Dec. 11, 2021.

**Ja'mez Jahmez-James-Antonio Reid**, jd '94, Arverne, New York, Law Clinic, served as an Army doctor until medically boarded with honor due to a traumatic service brain injury of a hemorrhagic stroke.

**William Stetzer**, jd '96, Belmont, North Carolina, Delta Theta Phi - Law, was recently hired as Gaston County's new attorney.

## 2000s

**Tawanna (Morris) Black**, bpa '00, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, Cheer Squad, Kappa Alpha Theta, was named Person of the Year for 2021 by Twin Cities Business. She is the founder and CEO of St. Paul-based Center for Economic Inclusion.

**Matthew Brown**, bba '07, Manhattan, Kansas, Football, Alpha Delta, was promoted to officer at FHLBank Topeka.

**Angela (Chesney) Coble**, jd '09, Salina, Kansas, Law Journal, was appointed to the Kansas Court of Appeals.

**Kaitlin (Cullan) Ditch**, bs '09, Lawrence, Kansas, Mortar Board, Beta Beta Beta, was hired at Stormont Vail Health as an adult endocrinologist.

**Allison (Matile) Garst**, bba '08, Topeka, Kansas, was promoted to officer at FHLBank Topeka.

**Jack Kaplan**, jd '02, High Point, North Carolina, Law Clinic, began working as a member at Wade & Kaplan PLLC.

**Amanda Kiefer**, jd '03, Topeka, Kansas, Law Journal, was promoted from first vice president to senior vice president at FHLBank Topeka and serves as the chief compliance and ethics officer and general counsel, corporate secretary.

**Kerrie (Young) Lonard**, jd '07, Lawrence, Kansas, Law Clinic, was named the Kansas child advocate and head of the Division of the Child Advocate that will oversee child welfare services by Gov. Laura Kelly.

**Laura Lewis**, jd '04, Meade, Kansas, Law Clinic, was reappointed as chief judge in the 16th Judicial District.

**Aaron Mays**, ba '02, Topeka, Kansas, was elected as chair of the Shawnee County Commission.

**Erica (Snyder) Overshiner**, msw '04, Alexandria, Minnesota, was selected to serve as a therapist for the Alexandria Police Department.

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

**Rachel (Lawson) Sachs**, ba '05, Berryton, Kansas, was named a NAILBA Independent Distribution 20 Award Winner of 2021.

**Linda (Giefer) Simmons**, ba '03, Springfield, Missouri, God's Bods, was named an account executive at Bott Radio Network.

**Keith Tatum**, ba '00, Topeka, Kansas, was elected in November 2021 to the USD 501 board of education and will serve in the District 3, position 3 seat.

**Kelly (Gordon) Trussell**, jd '07, Topeka, Kansas, Law Journal, Moot Court Council, was selected as the chief of prosecution for the City of Topeka.

**Amanda "Mandi" Walter**, bba '09, Topeka, Kansas, was named the marketing and engagement coordinator at Bettis Companies.

## 2010s

**Robert Angell**, ba '10, Olathe, Kansas, welcomed a second child, a baby boy, on Jan. 13, 2022, with his wife Catherine (Bender) Angell, msn '14.

**Corey Ballentine**, als '19, Topeka, Kansas, Football, signed a reserve/future contract with the Atlanta Falcons.

**Jamie Blackim**, bs '13, Olathe, Kansas, Tennis, received the Young Professional Distinction Award from the Mid America Athletic Trainers' Association.

**Alicia Guerrero-Chavez**, jd '12, Topeka, Kansas, received the Making a Difference award from Family Service and Guidance Center for providing top-quality mental health care to northeast Kansas children.

**Madisen DeLuna**, bsw '17, Stewartsville, Missouri, received the Making a Difference award from Family Service and Guidance Center for providing top-quality mental health care to northeast Kansas children.

**Jessica Fey**, ba '13, Gunnison, Colorado, Volleyball, was named the head volleyball coach at Missouri Western State University.

**Zachary Kanicki**, as '16, Topeka, Kansas, joined Shawnee County Parks and Recreation as its aquatics supervisor and will oversee three major aquatic centers, four community pools and Lake Shawnee Adventure Cove swimming area and floating playground.

**Xiuhua "Rose" Ma**, bba '18, Topeka, Kansas, was promoted to chief financial officer at Polo Custom Products.

**Natasha Martinez**, ba '17, Rayville, Missouri, Leadership Institute, Alpha Lambda Delta, Mortar Board, Hispanic American Leadership, was named the voter protection director of the Kansas Democratic Party.

**Johanna McDaniel**, ba '15, Topeka, Kansas, was selected as a board member for the Topeka Public Schools Foundation.

**Megan Winona Mendiola**, bas '18, Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, was confirmed as a nominee by the 18th Tinian Municipal Council and appointed by the mayor to the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board and the Public Land Advisory Board.

**Christopher Parker**, msw '14, Topeka, Kansas, was recently hired as the executive director of development at the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation.

**Zachary Pohlenz**, als '18, Topeka, Kansas, was selected as a new board member for the NOTO Arts and Entertainment District.

**Tyler Quintin**, bfa '16, St. Petersburg, Florida, received Best in Show at the Art Festival at Temple Beth-El in January of this year.

**Kimberly Savage**, bis '12, Kansas City, Kansas, was promoted to vice president at FHLBank Topeka and serves as the senior director, operational audit in the internal audit department.

**Jensen (Moore) Simons**, ba '16, Topeka, Kansas, was recently hired as the stewardship engagement specialist at the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation.

**Alyssa Specht**, bsw '17, Topeka, Kansas, received the Making a Difference award from Family Service and Guidance Center for providing top-quality mental health care to northeast Kansas children.

**Jason Steele**, jd '19, Austin, Texas, was promoted to director of government relations at the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services in January of 2022.

**Andrew Stueve**, b ed '13, Topeka, Kansas, has been named by USD 407 as the new activities director at Russell High School for the 2022 school year.

**Michael Swoboda**, ba '16, Topeka, Kansas, joined Shawnee County Parks and Recreation as the adult sports manager and will oversee multiple sports leagues.

**Michael Young**, bba '11, Topeka, Kansas, was promoted from officer to assistant vice president at FHLBank Topeka and serves as a senior lending officer.

## 2020s

**Anastasia "Ana" Donley**, ba '21, Lawrence, Kansas, was recently hired as the office and museum services coordinator at the Mulvane Art Museum.

**Kayla Grotheer**, bhs '20, Girard, Kansas, was recently named the new administrator at the Good Samaritan Society of Parsons.

**Dakota Jeter**, b music '20, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, has been an Army bandsman at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, playing clarinet with the 77th Army Band for almost two years.

**Anna Parish**, bba '21, Topeka, Kansas, was hired as the mortgage loan accountant I at FHLBank Topeka.

**Kyler Wineinger**, jd '20, Lawrence, Kansas, started as the associate attorney at the Law Offices of Morris Laing Brock & Kennedy Chtd. 

# In Memory

The following information was received by the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation before March 25, 2022. Submit any omissions to [contactus@wualumni.org](mailto:contactus@wualumni.org).

## 1940s

**Eunice C. (Dixon) Penner**, ba '45, 98, Prairie Village, Kansas, on Nov. 26, 2021

**Lenore (Stansel) Postier**, ba '48, 97, Inman, Kansas, Zeta Tau Theta, on Feb. 3, 2022

**Bette L. (Settle) Tompkins**, b music '49, 94, Topeka, Kansas, Sigma Alpha Iota, Zeta Tau Alpha, on Feb. 1, 2022

## 1950s

**James C. "Jim" Baker**, ba '56, 88, Kansas City, Missouri, on Feb. 16, 2022

**David V. Buckley**, ba '59, jd '62, 85, Topeka, Kansas, Delta Theta Phi, on Dec. 8, 2021

**William R. "Russ" Davis Jr.**, ba '50, jd '57, 92, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Delta Theta Phi, on Oct. 17, 2021

**John S. Decker**, ba '53, 90, Wichita, Kansas, Phi Kappa Phi, Pi Gamma Mu, on Nov. 5, 2021

**Richard V. "Dick" Foote**, jd '58, 92, Wichita, Kansas, Delta Theta Phi, on March 22, 2022

**Tom H. Foulds**, ba '50, jd '51, 97, Edmonds, Washington, Phi Alpha Delta, on Nov. 14, 2021

**Herbert E. Garrett**, ba '54, 91, Rogers, Arkansas, Alpha Delta, on Dec. 12, 2021

**Phyllis J. (Lieurance) Gates**, b ed '57, 100, Junction City, Kansas, Zeta Tau Alpha, Phi Kappa Phi, Pi Gamma Mu, on Jan. 10, 2022

**Miriam A. (Youngkamp) Gentry**, ba '59, 86, O'Fallon, Illinois, Delta Gamma, Phi Kappa Phi, Kaw, on April 11, 2021

**Roger L. Ginavan**, ba '55, 88, Topeka, Kansas, Football, on Feb. 15, 2022

**Richard C. "Dick" Hite**, jd '53, 93, Wichita, Kansas, Phi Alpha Delta, on Dec. 16, 2021

**Gary M. Hoffsommer**, bs '59, 84, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 6, 2022

**Joseph "Joe" Latas**, bs '52, 91, Kansas City, Kansas, Sagamore Society, Kappa Mu Epsilon, Basketball, on Nov. 29, 2021

**Paul R. Nelson**, bba '58, 89, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 20, 2022

**Charles E. Niemann**, bba '59, 85, Camdenton, Missouri, Young Republicans, on March 4, 2022

**Sandra E. "Sandi" (Frey) St. Denis**, ba '58, 84, Mission Hills, Kansas, on Feb. 26, 2022

**James A. Spillman**, bba '54, 89, Dallas, Texas, Air Force ROTC, Sigma Phi Epsilon, on Jan. 2, 2022

**Marion D. Vaughn**, b ed '51, 93, Lawrence, Kansas, Phi Delta Theta, on Sept. 9, 2021

**Ronald J. Wilkinson**, jd '58, 87, Wichita, Kansas, on Nov. 24, 2021

## 1960s

**Walter J. Badke Jr.**, ba '64, 84, Mansfield, Texas, Phi Kappa Phi, on Nov. 23, 2021

**Marvin D. Bean**, bba '62, 85, Topeka, Kansas, Choir, Kappa Sigma, on Jan. 28, 2022

**Janice M. (Bratton) Bryant**, ba '64, 79, Topeka, Kansas, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Angel Flight, Homecoming Queen, on Feb. 10, 2022

**John M. Erickson**, ba '60, 80, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 27, 2022

**Carol A. (Detter) Falen**, ba '69, 86, Missoula, Montana, on Dec. 28, 2021

**James D. Farris**, jd '65, 82, Kansas City, Kansas, on Jan. 23, 2022

**Robert D. Hamel**, jd '61, 84, Windcrest, Texas, on Dec. 26, 2021

**Virginia M. "Ginna" (Mitchell) Harbison**, b ed '67, 76, Durango, Colorado, Kappa Alpha Theta, on Feb. 2, 2022

**Ronald G. Hinkle**, jd '66, 80, Overland Park, Kansas, on Jan. 17, 2022

**Elizabeth A. (Guinn) Jackson**, ba '69, 89, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 17, 2021

**Gary T. Johnson**, b ed '63, 84, Ozawkie, Kansas, Baseball, on Feb. 25, 2022

**Forrest D. Kidney**, bba '67, 81, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 7, 2022

**Homer D. Klamm**, ba '67, 89, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 16, 2022

**John J. "Jack" Lambert**, ba '62, 85, Kansas City, Missouri, on Feb. 5, 2022

**Louis E. "Gene" Mosiman**, bba '61, 84, Topeka, Kansas, Delta Sigma Pi, Sagamore Society, on Jan. 11, 2022

**Robert E. Pooler**, bs '66, 77, Douglasville, Georgia, Air Force ROTC, on March 10, 2021

**Robert H. "Bob" Reeder**, jd '60, 91, Topeka, Kansas, Phi Alpha Delta, on Feb. 21, 2022

**Thomas F. Richardson**, jd '68, 80, Garden City, Kansas, on Oct. 9, 2021

**David C. Runyon**, bba '67, 77, Centennial, Colorado, Phi Delta Theta, on Oct. 15, 2021

**Richard V. "Rick" Schowengerdt**, ba '69, 74, San Diego, California, Phi Delta Theta, on Feb. 7, 2022

**Fulva M. (Atherton) Seufert**, b ed '67, m ed '74, 88, Topeka, Kansas, Phi Kappa Phi, Delta Gamma, on Dec. 21, 2021

**Gary C. Stansbury**, ba '64, 82, Colorado Springs, Colorado, on Dec. 21, 2021

**Frank E. White Jr.**, bba '66, jd '73, 78, Hesston, Kansas, Law Clinic, Delta Theta Phi, on Nov. 2, 2021

## 1970s

**Frank X. Adkins**, bsn '79, 74, Topeka, Kansas, on March 7, 2022

**Iona (Graf) Baumchen**, b ed '79, 87, St. Mary's, Kansas, on Feb. 4, 2022

**Marian L. (Harrison) Bednasek**, bsw '76, 85, Topeka, Kansas, Phi Kappa Phi, on March 21, 2022

**Nancy L. (Dayton) Brooks**, bba '76, 86, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 29, 2021

**Valerie C. (Mann) Canady-Napue**, b ed '77, m ed '95, 69, Topeka, Kansas, Volleyball, on Feb. 24, 2022

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

**Donald L. Harrison**, ba '71, 76, Colby, Kansas, on Nov. 5, 2021

**James E. "Jim" Howard**, ba '75, 78, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 18, 2022

**Mark B. Hutton**, bba '76, jd '79, 67, Wichita, Kansas, on Dec. 29, 2021

**Michael D. Kohn**, ba '76, 67, Baldwin City, Kansas, Air Force ROTC, Arnold Air Society, on Nov. 28, 2021

**Philip T. Kyle**, jd '78, 80, Ness City, Kansas, Law Clinic, on May 3, 2021



**William R. Leacox**, b music '70, 74, Stockton, California, on Feb. 1, 2022

**R. Daniel Lykins**, jd '72, 75, Topeka, Kansas, Law Clinic, on Nov. 25, 2021

**Mary A. (Miller) Marley**, m ed '79, 88, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 13, 2022

**Dale R. Merriman**, bba '77, 73, Lawrence, Kansas, on Dec. 13, 2021

**Larry D. Mischke**, bba '73, 70, Topeka, Kansas, on March 4, 2022

**Vamba P. Nzwilli**, ba '70, 78, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 28, 2022

**Judith A. (Wood) Sandy**, ba '79, 78, Atchinson, Kansas, on March 15, 2022

**Bruce J. Woner**, jd '79, 67, Topeka, Kansas, Phi Delta Phi, on Jan. 27, 2022

## 1980s

**Kathleen R. (Smith) Brown**, ba '81, 92, Prescott, Arizona, Phi Kappa Phi, on July 21, 2021

**Douglas P. Campbell**, jd '84, 74, Ulysses, Kansas, Law Clinic, on July 28, 2021

**Linda F. (McCall) Chaffin**, b ed '89, 78, Topeka, Kansas, Delta Gamma, on Jan. 30, 2022

**Frank S. "Steven" Coen**, jd '80, 68, Wichita, Kansas, Law Clinic, on Feb. 25, 2022

**David L. Hornbaker**, bs '81, 76, Topeka, Kansas, on March 7, 2022

**Kelly E. (Burket) Jackson**, aa '82, ba '83, 69, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 22, 2022

**Douglas R. Johnson**, bba '80, 72, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 24, 2021

**Lynda A. Langley**, bs '86, 67, Topeka, Kansas, on April 18, 2021

**David D. Leighr**, bs '82, 72, Belton, Missouri, on Aug. 17, 2021

**Cynthia G. "Cindy" Ludwig**, bsw '87, mcj '01, 65, Topeka, Kansas, Phi Kappa Phi, on Dec. 11, 2021

**Larry D. Mathews**, ba '88, 73, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 3, 2022

**Kevin R. Moriarty**, ba '89, 64, Topeka, Kansas, on March 14, 2021

**Joan Y. (Osborne) Morrissey**, ba '84, 87, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 26, 2022

**Robert L. Saving**, m ed '85, 76, Topeka, Kansas, Phi Kappa Phi, on Nov. 19, 2021

**Bret A. Schwarz**, ba '86, 58, Topeka, Kansas, Football, on Jan. 13, 2022

**Kathleen D. (Alexander) Turner**, b ed '86, 75, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 9, 2022

**Franklin T. Young**, ba '87, 71, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 31, 2021

**Mildred F. (Tipton) Wray**, m ed '80, 83, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 29, 2022

## 1990s

**Melissa R. "Missy" (Hatch) Addington**, aa '99, 43, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 8, 2022

**Fannie M. (Comer) Banks**, aa '93, 82, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 21, 2021

**Chad D. Brown**, ba '92, 53, Olathe, Kansas, on Jan. 13, 2022

**David G. Cairns**, aa '94, 82, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 23, 2022

**Scott K. Hanano**, jd '90, 57, Wailuku, Maui, on Nov. 26, 2021

**Sandra K. "Sandy" Lindell Harms**, jd '92, 56, Atlantic, Iowa, Law Clinic, on Nov. 8, 2021

**Phyllis K. "Kate" Miller**, bba '95, 61, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 5, 2022

**Todd A. Tatum**, ba '96, 60, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 11, 2022

**James B. "Billy" Thompson Jr.**, aa '93, 58, Rossville, Kansas, on March 12, 2022

## 2000s

**Christopher C. Bates**, jd '05, 47, Seattle, Washington, on Feb. 28, 2022

**Raymond J. Dashnaw**, aa '00, 67, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 2, 2022

**Paul M. O'Dell**, ba '05, 64, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 7, 2022

## 2010s

**Jorden W. Austin**, certificate '14, 31, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 27, 2021

**Christopher M. Brown**, certificate '13, 33, Valley Falls, Kansas, on Nov. 24, 2021

**Darren K. Bryant**, certificate '17, 38, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 21, 2022

**Gretchen M. Gosch**, msw '12, 33, Kansas City, Kansas, on Jan. 3, 2022

**Robert T. "Trent" Herrington**, certificate '16, 32, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 4, 2021

**Romelle K. Hysten**, certificate '14, 51, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 18, 2021

**Tyler L. Pierce**, certificate '17, 31, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 26, 2022

**Earl S. Woodard**, certificate '14, 88, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 22, 2022

## Friends

**Ava M. (Whitmore) Bates**, 97, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 11, 2022

**Evelyn L. (Schneider) Bernica**, 91, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 17, 2022

**Patricia L. "Pat" (Patterson) Brauer**, 69, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 30, 2022

**Arthur H. "Art" Brown**, 94, Prescott, Arizona, on Nov. 2, 2021

**Aaron M. Charest**, 49, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 21, 2022

**Roy E. Conaway**, 83, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 14, 2022

**Richard F. Dickinson**, 87, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 7, 2022

**Elizabeth A. "Betty" (Glissman) Duermeier**, 81, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 15, 2022

**Maria C. (Ribas) Elting**, 82, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 3, 2022

**Katherine G. "Kay" (Glenn) Kent**, 80, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 28, 2022

**Marjorie J. "Marge" Murphy**, 98, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 5, 2022

**Marilyn K. (Kendall) Nellis**, 90, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 29, 2021

**Peter G. O'Sullivan**, 65, Paola, Kansas, on Oct. 9, 2021

**Betty E. (Hedlund) Quarnstrom**, 94, Topeka, Kansas, on March 4, 2022

**Elizabeth L. "Betsy" (Shrake) Rohleder**, 73, Topeka, Kansas, on March 3, 2022

**Kenneth W. "Kenny" Sieh**, 68, Meriden, Kansas, on July 28, 2021

**Charlene L. Smith**, 84, Wilton Manors, Florida, on Feb. 22, 2022

**Patricia A. (Radke) Wild**, 93, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 22, 2021

**Leland E. "Lee" Williams Jr.**, 77, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 6, 2022

**Betty McEnroe Casper, Honorary Doctor of Public Service '13, 95, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 1, 2022**



Betty McEnroe Casper was heavily involved on campus when her children attended. She served as president of the Mothers Club for two fraternities and a sorority, a chair for a two-state fundraising

campaign for the Petro Allied Health Center, was president of the Ichabod Club and Ichabod of the Year. She received the Alumni Association's Lilla Day Monroe Award. Her charitable giving to Washburn includes a music scholarship in her name.

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**Stanley H. "Pete" Clow, Washburn University Board of Regents, 86, Wilmington, North Carolina, on Jan. 7, 2022**



Stanley Clow served on the board of regents at Washburn from 1976-80. In addition to this, he served as the president of the Kansas Association of Commerce and Industry and served on the

board of directors for Topeka First National Bank. After being honorably discharged from the U.S. Army as a 1st lieutenant in the infantry, he worked in telecommunications, retiring from AT&T as corporate vice president of human resources.

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**The Hon. Robert J. "Bob" Dole, ba '52, jd '52, Honorary Doctor of Law '69, Honorary Doctor of Law '85, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation Trustee, 98, on Dec. 5, 2021**



Sen. Bob Dole spent nearly 30 years as a U.S. senator where he set a record as the longest-serving Republican leader. He earned the Republican nomination for president in 1996. Along with

his wife, Sen. Elizabeth Dole, they established at Washburn the Senator Robert J. Dole Law Professorship, the Robert J. Dole Center for Law and Government and the Honorable Robert J. Dole Scholarship for Law Students with Disabilities.

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**Gerald L. "Jerry" Goodell, bba '54, jd '58, Honorary Doctor of Law '02, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation Trustee, Washburn Alumni Association Board of Directors, 89, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 23, 2022**



Delta Theta Phi - Law

Gerald Goodell worked as a senior partner at the Goodell, Stratton, Edmonds and Palmer law firm. He served as board president of the Washburn University School of

Law Alumni Association, board president of the Washburn Law School Foundation, and board chair of Washburn Endowment Association. He was the recipient of the 1982 Washburn School of Law Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

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**R. Daniel Lykins, jd '72, Washburn University Board of Regents, 75, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 25, 2021**



Law Clinic

R. Daniel Lykins served as a personal injury attorney and senior partner at Bryan Lykins Hejtmanek Law Firm. Over the years, he

received many awards from Washburn Law and the community, including from the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association, the Kansas Bar Association, the Topeka Bar Association, the Topeka Inn's of Court and the American Association of Justice.

**Louis E. “Gene” Mosiman, bba ’61, Vice President Emeritus, 84, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 11, 2022**



Delta Sigma Pi, Sagamore Society

Louis Mosiman held several titles at Washburn before he became the vice president for administration and treasure for 17 years. He helped form the Washburn Law

Foundation, served on the board of directors and was later made an honorary life member. He was awarded the distinguished president honor and life membership of the Topeka Breakfast Optimist Club.

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**Darrell R. Parnell, bs ’56, Associate Professor Emeritus, Astronomy, 87, Topeka, Kansas, on March 7, 2022**



Air Force ROTC, Kappa Mu Epsilon, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Pi Sigma

Darrell Parnell was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force Reserves following his graduation from Washburn in 1956 and served

four years as a research scientist, earning the

rank of captain. He returned to Washburn and taught there for 43 years. He retired in 2001 and continued serving as an adjunct instructor until 2005. He developed a community service astronomy outreach course and was responsible for Washburn’s observatory and planetarium opening to the public.

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**Jerry F. Rogers, ba ’50, Washburn Alumni Association Board of Directors, 95, Lawrence, Kansas, Aug. 2021**



Jerry Rogers served in the Navy during World War II before attending Washburn University. He was a teacher and coach at Lawrence High School until 1967, when he took a position as

the director of financial aid at the University of Kansas. He remained in this position until his retirement in 1991. He volunteered at the Kansas Relays for 50 years and was part of the on-field chain gang with KU football for 49 years.

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**Alan W. Rolley, bba ’55, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation Trustee, Washburn University Board of Regents, Washburn Alumni Association Board of Directors, 88, Cimarron, New Mexico, on Jan. 16, 2022**



Air Force ROTC, Alpha Delta

Alan Rolley served as chair of the Washburn board of regents and Alumni Association board of directors. He served as the director of UMB Financial, chair

and member of the board of Kansas State Bank, First State Bank in Flagstaff, Arizona, and the Community Bank Corporation of New Mexico. He volunteered with the Jayhawk Area Council, the Greater Southwest BSA Council, the Boy Scouts of America and the Philmont Ranch Committee.

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**Charlene L. Smith, Professor Emeritus, Law, 84, on Feb. 22, 2022**



Charlene Smith taught at Washburn University for over twenty years after serving as the head of the Human Rights Division for the Minnesota attorney general. She served on the Kansas

Bar Association task force on women and was the editor of the Kansas Women’s Legal Rights Handbook. She helped bring many important changes to Washburn’s curriculum, including introducing new courses and remote learning. 🏃



## *Alumni Travel Opportunities*

**SEE THE WORLD WITH FELLOW ICHABODS**

### **Alaskan Cruise** | July 30 - Aug. 6, 2022

All aboard the Majestic Princess setting sail from Vancouver to Anchorage and making stops in Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway and scenic cruising through Glacier Bay National Park and College Fjord. Pricing begins at \$2,799 per person double occupancy. Extend your adventure with a glass dome train ride to Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge for a two-night stay and then travel to Fairbanks by scenic motorcoach for one night. Post cruise program is \$1,350 per person. Trip includes roundtrip airfare, cruise, beverage package and gratuities.

### **Playa del Carmen, Mexico** | Two Departures: Jan. 22-29, 2023 and Jan. 24-31, 2023

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



Nearly 60 Washburn alumni and friends joined President Jerry Farley and Susan Farley on a trip to Portugal for a cruise on the Douro River.



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)**



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*Save the date*

# HOMECOMING & FAMILY DAY 2022



FAMILY DAY  
SEPT 16-18

HOMECOMING  
OCT 19-22

