

WASHBURN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION — SPRING 2023

THE HABOD







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SPRING ISSUE 2023

On the cover:

Roses bloom along the rock wall on SW 17th Street in front of Morgan Hall. Several stretches of this wall were built in the early 1900s and some remain standing. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*



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Your news, thoughts and questions are important to us. News of jobs, honors, weddings, and additions to your family are always welcome. Please include your name, class year, address and daytime phone number.
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From the President

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am overwhelmed with joy and deeply humbled to serve as president of Washburn University. Since starting in February, the warm welcomes, excitement and eagerness have inspired me more than ever to do my best to serve our mission.

As a faculty member and administrator for more than 30 years, I have worked alongside many of you already. Two of my children graduated from Washburn, so I know firsthand the life-changing difference Washburn can make in people's lives. And in 15 years as president of the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation, I know friends like you envision a bright and bold future for Washburn.

Washburn is vital to the city of Topeka and the state of Kansas. The work we do educating students, who are our future leaders, will help our community and state thrive. I truly believe we are in the right place and at the right time for Washburn. Our future is bright. We are coming forward with an ambitious vision. Be watching us!

This March, we introduced a seven-year plan to best use our physical space to deliver the academics and services students need. The Washburn University School of Law moving to its beautiful new building this summer will start this process, allowing us to make a series of moves and changes to other buildings. You can read about the law school's future and our seven-year plan in this issue.

The stories in this issue show you how purposeful we are in meeting the needs of our students while remaining vital to our community. One example is the Indoor Athletic Facility, which is serving our student-athletes while providing a valuable resource for Topeka. And while this affects thousands of people, the story of one person was particularly touching to me. Savannah Stallbaumer became an Ichabod when she enrolled in Washburn Tech's practical nursing program after living in more than 17 homes while in the foster care system. At Washburn, she found support and the perfect program to achieve her dreams of becoming a nurse. She will no doubt touch hundreds, probably thousands of lives during her career. Stories like this remind me of the tremendous responsibility we have in serving our students and our community.

Together, we can keep pushing our great university to new heights and help every Ichabod reach their dreams. I am so excited to join you for the incredible journey ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JuliAnn Mazachek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "JuliAnn" and last name "Mazachek" clearly visible.

JuliAnn Mazachek, Ph.D.
President, Washburn University





JuliAnn Mazachek posed with the Washburn women's basketball team after she was announced as the university's new president on Jan. 11, 2023. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

Off and Running

Mazachek lays out big plans in first months of presidency

By Jeremy Wangler • jwangler@wualumni.org

When JuliAnn Mazachek returned to Washburn University as the new president this February, Alan Bearman was asked by a friend what his work would be like.

"I told him I'm going to have to buy a new pair of tennis shoes," said Bearman, who was recently promoted to vice president for strategic enrollment management and dean of student success and libraries. "She is a person of vision. She's going to have the plan, she's going to have the program, and we're going to be moving forward."

Mazachek became Washburn's 15th president and the first woman to hold the position on Feb. 1. She's no stranger to Washburn, though, as she was vice president for academic affairs from 2016-22 before

becoming president of Midwestern State University (Texas) last spring. Previous roles in her 30 years at Washburn include president of the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation for 15 years and dean and a faculty member of the School of Business, starting on the faculty in 1992 and becoming dean in 1998.

"I've always felt a tremendous amount of responsibility whatever job I've been in for making sure we're serving our people, which has always been our students, our alumni, our donors, faculty and staff," she said. "But I feel a greater responsibility than I've ever felt in the past. I have the ability to think about what we can do differently and reimagine our future. People really are looking for us to move forward in directions maybe we haven't been able to in the past. I'm really excited about that."

"I've known Juli to be extremely passionate about Washburn," said Marshall Meek, mba '17, president, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation. "She's well connected, extremely intelligent and highly motivated to make Washburn an even better place."

A Collective Focus on the Student

Since starting, Mazachek reworked Bearman's role to bring together enrollment and retention efforts.

"With enrollment management, student success and libraries now in a unified unit, we have a singular focus on the student from the first contact in the recruitment process, to the first-year experience, to the student's success, retention and on-time graduation," Bearman said. "It's a singular unit now working with that student all the way through."

Charging Bearman with this task is one example of how Mazachek leads.

"I really believe when you bring smart, committed people together and you have them work on the most important issues, we come up with the very best innovative, creative solutions together," she said. "I consider it part of my DNA of leadership to be inclusive and listen to a lot of voices before we're able to make the best decisions moving forward."



JuliAnn Mazachek met with high school students and their parents at a Finnup Scholars event this spring in Garden City, Kansas. *Photo by Josh Rouse*

JuliAnn Mazachek

President, Washburn University

Education:

Missouri University of Science and Technology
(then University of Missouri-Rolla)

Bachelor of science, mechanical
engineering, 1984

University of Kansas

Master of business administration, 1987

University of Kansas

Doctorate, accounting, 1993

Previous Employment:

Washburn University School of Business

Assistant professor, 1992

Dean, 1998-2002

Washburn University Alumni Association
and Foundation

President, 2002-17

Washburn University

Vice president for academic affairs, 2016-22

Midwestern State University (Texas)

President, 2022-23

A History of Leading and Connecting

One of Bearman's favorite examples of Mazachek's leadership was when she was vice president for academic affairs and he oversaw student success and retention. Mazachek wanted on-time graduation rates to climb more than 10 points to 50%.

"I said, 'I don't know, Dr. Mazachek. We can maybe get to 44. Fifty may take us 10 or 12 years.' I remember her saying we don't have 10 or 12 years. We've got four or five," Bearman said. "But we talked our way through it. We developed an understanding of how to get there, and then we got on with it. In every step of the conversation, every step of the process, there was clarity about what we were trying to accomplish and how we were going to accomplish it. That's pretty close to the ideal work situation."

"And guess what? We got there. We were at 54% on-time graduation in five years."

Meek's most memorable experience with Mazachek was completing 150 Forward Focus, a multi-year comprehensive campaign that raised more than \$140 million for Washburn.

"For me, it doesn't really matter if I'm working on a big, audacious project or something much smaller, I just enjoy working with her," he said.

Mazachek recently announced a seven-year plan to best use the buildings on campus after the School of Law moves into its new home this summer. Those changes will no doubt offer more chances for Meek and Mazachek to work together (read more about the plan on page 8).

"We're excited to see her vision take shape and to help make it become a reality by connecting alumni and donors to the vision and articulating to them how they can help transform the university," Meek said.

Ever-changing Student Demographics

Mazachek has stressed the crossroads higher education is at in the United States. The traditional student coming directly from high school will want and need opportunities right away to work in the field they're studying. Adults will want new degrees, certificates or

"I consider it part of my DNA of leadership to be inclusive and listen to a lot of voices before we're able to make the best decisions moving forward."

— *JuliAnn Mazachek*

even just a few additional college credits to build or change their careers. Course delivery methods must be widespread.



Photo by Jeremy Wangler

"We start to talk about what students are going to want in the future, and you begin to realize, over the years Washburn University has served all of those different student population bases," Mazachek said. "Now, it's just using the tools and technology we have to reinvent how we deliver education to students and perspective students."

And those students, in any stage of their career or education, can find professional opportunities in Topeka and the region.

"We're in the capital of Kansas, in a thriving economy, in a growing community and in a place where students can begin to work while they're here and get real-world experiences while they're still students," Mazachek said. "They can hit the ground running. We believe we're in such a great position to meet the needs of the future."

Rooted in Topeka and Kansas

Born in Topeka, Mazachek was raised in St. Louis, Missouri. She earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Missouri University of Science and Technology (then the University of Missouri-Rolla) in 1984, a master of business administration from the University of Kansas in 1987 and a doctorate in accounting from KU in 1993.

"I attribute my love for education to my experience at Rolla," Mazachek said. "And I was very well prepared by my experiences with the faculty and staff at the University of Kansas."

She met her husband, Keith Mazachek, while they were students in Rolla. They both received graduate degrees from KU. Keith's field is engineering, and he previously taught and managed Washburn's pre-engineering program. He will teach part-time again at Washburn.

They have three children. Garrett Mazachek, ba '14, is an Air Force pilot stationed in Japan. Kara Mazachek Cade, ba '16, is a research manager at a non-profit organization in Washington, D.C. Stephanie Mazachek earned an accounting degree from KU and works in Kansas City.

Ready for Liftoff

With about eight months on the job, Mazachek will deliver her inaugural speech this October. She's already making it clear students are her focus.

"I am passionate and wholly committed to our mission of education for all and ensuring we are providing

opportunities to students no matter your background, no matter where you are in life, to find a way to achieve your educational goals and dreams," Mazachek said.

Bearman and Meek are ready for the challenges and excitement to come.

"She's been a leader here for 30 years, and yet, you're going to see Washburn change a lot with bold new initiatives and big plans. It's going to be very exciting," Meek said. "Her vision is going to be shaped by the input of faculty and staff, alumni and students - all the different stakeholders - because she's a good listener. It's not just going to be her and her vision. Washburn is going to be in a better place, we'll be a better university because of it. I'm excited to be a part of it."

Bearman is prepared to trade his new shoes for space boots.

"You ever see a rocket launch and there's this moment where the energy's building, the energy's building and then boom," he said. "That's Washburn. The energy is building, and we're about to really fly." 🚀

Statements from the Washburn Community

"Dr. Mazachek will continue to build upon the work she has contributed to in the past and prepare us for the amazing possibilities that are yet to come. Truly the best, most qualified and professional person for this responsibility." **Shelly Buhler**, chair, Washburn University board of regents/president, Hayden Catholic High School

"It is important that Washburn University has a leader who understands the current and future needs of our students and faculty while also balancing the needs of our Kansas communities. It is critical that we develop a strong talent pipeline and specialized workforce to help Kansas businesses grow so that our communities and families can thrive. I am confident that Dr. Juli Mazachek is the right person." **Sunee Mickle**, presidential search committee/vice president of government and community relations, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas

"She proved through the interview process she is exactly the collaborative, inclusive and strategic leader

who can best lead Washburn through the ongoing dynamic changes in higher education. She will work aggressively with others to develop our strategy for continued student-centered success." **Greg Greenwood**, chair, presidential search committee/retired executive vice president and chief strategy officer, Evergy

"The faculty are poised and ready to collaborate with President Mazachek to further develop the symbiotic relationship between Washburn University and our Topeka community and broader region." **Shaun Schmidt**, president, Washburn University Faculty Senate/professor and chair, chemistry

"Working collaboratively across factions is the best way to enact sustainable change and Dr. Mazachek understands this. Students need a president who is willing to work collaboratively across the campus and the community while being an advocate for the needs of students." **Shayden Hanes**, president, Washburn Student Government Association



An arial view of Washburn's main campus looking southeast. *Photo submitted.*

Purposeful Change

Washburn, Mazachek unveil vision for premier campus learning experience

Washburn University leaders unveiled a seven-year plan at the board of regents meeting in March, and creating the region's premier student learning environment was the focus of the new campus vision.

When the Washburn University School of Law moves into its new building this summer, many other buildings will see their purpose change as part of this plan.

"Every dollar spent in this plan puts students first," said JuliAnn Mazachek, president, Washburn. "Washburn and our community can wholeheartedly support and be proud of what this means for best serving our students."

The current law school building, 1731 Plass Ave., will be renovated to house the Center for Student Success and Retention, Washburn Libraries, Leadership Institute, honors programs and the department of education. Carnegie Hall, the oldest building on campus, will be repurposed once the education department moves.

"Every undergraduate on campus will learn in the facility at 1731 Plass, so this is an important investment," said Laura Stephenson, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. "This renovation allows us to transform the current building housing Mabee Library into a modern health care

education facility that will bring together our signature nursing and allied health programs, along with Washburn Tech's health care programs."

Mazachek said 38% of students are studying a health care-related field at Washburn.

"We'll be able to bring all of our health care programs together to learn in an environment resembling an interprofessional workplace," Mazachek said.

Significant changes are also planned for Henderson Learning Resources Center, the largest and most utilized classroom building on campus. Henderson is the primary home to the School of Business and many College of Arts and Sciences departments. The \$35 million renovation project has a fundraising goal of \$15 million. Of that, more than \$10 million has been raised thanks to several donations already, including a lead gift in April from Advisors Excel Co-Founders David Callanan, bba '98, and Cody Foster, ba '99.

Marshall Meek, mba '17, president, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation, said he's excited to work with Mazachek to connect additional donors with these impactful changes.

"Henderson is going to be transformational," Meek said. "It's our main academic building and every undergraduate student will likely take a class there at least once. If you want to change the experience for our students, Henderson has the greatest impact."

The recital hall will connect to the northern edge of White Concert Hall to provide a smaller, more intimate artistic setting. Upgrades are planned for Lee Arena, home to graduation celebrations and the basketball and volleyball programs. Nearby metal buildings housing Facilities Services will be removed to



A rendering of the exterior of a new recital hall attached to the north side of White Concert Hall.



An early rendering of the exterior of Henderson Learning Resources Center.


make way for more green space, including an outdoor gathering space. Facilities Services' equipment will move to the southeast corner of 21st and Washburn Ave., property Washburn currently occupies. A new manufacturing institute is in the planning stages for Washburn University Institute of Technology. A new president's residence will be built on the northwestern edge of campus thanks to a donor's generous gift.

The plan also includes the removal of several buildings, including Benton Hall.

"Benton was a great residence hall, and it's served a good number of students, but it does not meet the needs of today's students, and the learning environment is not ideal for how we need to teach our students," Mazachek said.

Funding for these projects will come from several sources including reserves, debt financing, donors and State of Kansas grants. A timeline and budget for this plan have not been finalized although Mazachek projects a seven-year window.

Washburn leadership will host several town hall meetings on campus to share ideas and receive additional input from students, faculty and staff. Support from alumni and local business leaders also will be key to moving Washburn forward.

"Growth is our top priority at Washburn, and research shows prospective students choose a particular university based on the look and feel of campus. It is more important than ever," Mazachek said. "As the higher education landscape changes, Washburn's landscape will change, too, and provide the best campus learning experience for all students." 



"Wings of Freedom," installed in 1997 at the current building, is now at the entrance of the new building.

Taking Flight

School of Law building in final stages of construction before summer opening

Photos by Jeremy Wangler

The Washburn University School of Law will open its new building this summer and welcome its first classes this fall. The building had a construction budget of \$34 million with \$14 million of that coming from private donations. The building, located on the

southeast corner of campus at 21st Street and Washburn Avenue, will allow Washburn to deliver a 21st-century legal education, pay tribute to the history of the law school and recognize many of the alumni who have served the legal community well. ✈️



Natural light and open spaces will be prominent, especially in the entrance tower (left) and atrium (right) of the building. Just outside the rear atrium will be Senator Robert J. Dole Plaza, an outdoor space for events, studying or relaxing.

Washburn's Promise

New scholarship programs reward Shawnee County students

Washburn University announced this May an aggressive campaign to retain homegrown talent. Two new initiatives offer more scholarships to Shawnee County high school graduates who attend Washburn or Washburn University Institute of Technology.

"We are doubling down on our commitment to Shawnee County," said JuliAnn Mazachek, president, Washburn University. "Washburn is proud to be a municipal university that is supported, in part, by the taxpayers of Topeka and Shawnee County. We plan to reinvest into local students and help them realize their educational dreams right here at home."

Starting this fall, students who graduate from a Shawnee County high school, including private and home schools, are eligible for the Washburn Shawnee County Thrives Scholarship. The award, \$1,000 per year for four years, applies to first-time freshmen, transfer students and current full-time students. Shawnee County high school students and graduates enrolling at Washburn Tech will receive up to \$750.

A second initiative further removes financial barriers. The Washburn Shawnee County Promise Scholarship allows Shawnee County high school graduates or current Washburn students to attend tuition-free if they are Pell Grant eligible or demonstrate other financial need. Washburn Tech students currently have access to a similar program.

Learn more about the scholarship programs at washburn.edu/promise and washburn.edu/snco.

"We want Shawnee County students to be the lifeblood of Washburn University, and Washburn is mission critical to the future health of Shawnee County," Mazachek said. "These initiatives also have the potential to create population inflow, which will create opportunities to attract additional donor funding and even more educational opportunities."

Mazachek said these initiatives are a long-time dream of university leadership. She is excited for this chance



JuliAnn Mazachek, president, Washburn University, announced two new scholarships for Shawnee County residents. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

to reinvest taxpayer dollars into Shawnee County.

"Washburn feels a great responsibility to help provide a highly qualified workforce in Shawnee County," Mazachek said. "Our county is home to many talented young people, and we don't want to lose them."

In 2022, U.S. News and World Report ranked Washburn lowest student debt among all public regional universities in the state as well as the top public regional university in Kansas.

"More than ever, affordable access to a high-quality education is integral to equitable outcomes. Washburn's history is one of ensuring both access and success for its students. These new scholarships will further our commitment to meeting these goals for our neighbors," said Alan Bearman, vice president for strategic enrollment management and dean of student success and libraries at Washburn. 🏃

A Seat at the Table

Multicultural sorority Sigma Lambda Gamma sets out to empower change

by Annie Flachsbarth

Before joining Sigma Lambda Gamma, Washburn University senior Lesley Ayala didn't always feel like she had the confidence to speak up as a minority.

"As a Latina woman, I didn't feel like I had a say in the room," Ayala said. "Joining Sigma Lambda Gamma changed my views and perspective. It's very empowering when someone makes a space for you at the table."

Now, as the multicultural sorority's chapter president, Ayala is helping to spread the word about Sigma Lambda Gamma and help others find the community she did within the organization.

"We like to say it's a space to be who you are," Ayala said. "It really is a home away from home."

A Space to Call Home

The Tau Zeta associate chapter of Sigma Lambda Gamma was formed at Washburn in 2019 to create a space for multicultural students. The group received full chapter status in the fall of 2022. Depending on the organization, it is reasonable to take one to three years to establish a chapter as most national and international organizations focus on ensuring the sustainability of membership before chartering a new chapter.

The chapter's marketing chair, Washburn senior Ashlyn Norwood, said many multicultural students have a hard time making connections when starting college.

"It's often hard to find a space to feel fully yourself in primarily white institutions – which is a college where more than 50 percent of enrolled students are white," Norwood said. "Sigma Lambda Gamma can be that space."

Although the organization was originally founded as a sorority for Latina women, the sorority is now open to anyone seeking a multicultural experience. The group focuses on five core values: academics, community service, morals and ethics, social interaction and



Members of Sigma Lambda Gamma from left to right (bottom row), Chelsea Cole, Lesley Ayala, Laisha Figueroa and Yennifer Lopez-Bustamante; and (top row) Ana Estrada, Pat Moore, Jasmin Roman and Ashlyn Norwood. Photo by Jeremy Wangler

cultural awareness. Chapter activities have included community outreach by making sandwiches for kids battling food scarcity at Hillcrest Community Center in Topeka, a highlight on academics by hearing from an alumni panel about life after college and a feature on morals and ethics by learning about abusive relationships and local resources for help from a YWCA speaker. All activities were open to the public for anyone interested.

"Anyone who aligns with our values is able, encouraged and welcome to join," Ayala said. "Our white members not only have a chance to connect

with others who have the same values, but it gives them a chance to become more empowered and secure in those principles.”

Haydee Reyes, Washburn’s assistant director of student involvement and development, said Sigma Lambda Gamma’s recruiting practices are different from how Greek organizations have traditionally sought members.

“Sigma Lambda Gamma intentionally recruits members who come from groups that are traditionally marginalized in higher education, such as women of color and different backgrounds and belief systems,” Reyes said.

Small But Mighty

The sorority had nine active members this spring with additional incoming members going through the membership process. And although the sorority doesn’t have a house, it hasn’t stopped them from building strong connections. The group meets every week throughout the school year for chapter meetings, cultural awareness and bonding. Their goals for the future include continuing to recruit and spread their values on campus and in the community.

“There is power in numbers,” Ayala said. “Not only that, seeing people who look like me in seats of power – like

judges, facilitators, faculty here at Washburn – it’s a big thing. It’s inspiring to think ‘Hey, I can really do that.’”

Now in its fourth year on campus, the group has alumni in a variety of industries, creating built-in connections for members in the real world.

“It’s beneficial for everyone to learn how to interact with people of all different cultures, ethnicities and races. You’re going to have to learn to do that no matter what industry you work in. That’s a big part of who we are, and that can help us in the future,” Norwood said.

After finding their bearings with all that comes from starting a new chapter, members of the sorority are now participating in Washburn’s Fraternity and Sorority Life Week activities to increase their exposure on campus and help with recruitment.

“Our biggest goal going forward as a chapter is to continue to create that space and grow our presence on campus,” Norwood said.

“I know we’re not the last students to feel a little out of place when finding a school to go to, and I want Washburn to continue to grow in this area of multiculturalism and inclusion,” Ayala said. 🦋





Chris Enos, bs '16, chief, Washburn University Police Department, controls a scenario in the Virtual Training and Simulation Lab while Officer Austin Smith interacts and is watched by Melanie Worsley, jd '07, associate dean, School of Applied Studies and professor, criminal justice and legal studies. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

Put Into Practice

New training simulator lets students, law enforcement officers practice decision making skills

By Jeremy Wangler • jwangler@wualumni.org

Julia Kofoid was responding to a homeless person trespassing on private property. With a police officer by her side, the social worker asked the citizen to leave, leading him to become agitated.

"I was telling him we have resources and if you come with me, I can get you temporary housing," said Kofoid, bsw '23. "As an officer, their role was more like, 'This is unfortunately illegal. I understand you need some place to stay, but it can't be here.'"

At any moment, the situation could have turned aggressive. However, the danger was not real since this was a simulation on a screen in the social work class Ethics Workshop. Kofoid and her partner, a fellow social work major, played the roles of police officer and social worker while interacting with the scene.

"I was very nervous," Kofoid said. "There were two faculty in the room watching us, picking up on

things your mind isn't because you're just trying to go through the simulation and help your partner. They're watching how you're reacting, what wording you're using, things like that."

Students studying criminal justice, legal studies, social work and nursing are tested in controllable scenarios in the new Virtual Training and Simulation Lab in Henderson Learning Resources Center at Washburn University. The Washburn University Police Department and other law enforcement agencies also use it.

"You can learn from a professor and from textbooks, but when students actually get in and apply knowledge from the book to different situations in the simulator, a lightbulb clicks in their head," said Scott Sainato, assistant professor, social work, who will teach Ethics Workshop this fall. "The simulator allows students to practice essential skills such as engagement, assessment and problem solving. It provides an interactive

approach for applying classroom knowledge to real-life scenarios they may encounter.”

Chris Enos, bs '16, chief, WUPD, runs his officers through simulations about once a year as part of their regular training. He also uses the simulator to demonstrate police procedures to the public, including members of community organizations.

“There's so much nuance when it comes to police using force,” Enos said. “It's hard to describe those nuances unless you experience it and have to make those decisions yourself. And we like to have the Washburn executive staff go through it because they oversee the police department. It's important they understand what that means, especially when it comes to use of force.”

The simulator can sense if a participant uses the provided decoy weapons including pepper spray, stun guns or firearms. While use of force is possible in every scenario, it doesn't come into play often with Enos – but there's always a chance. Decision making and communication are the focus instead.

“The vast majority of the time, our officers never deploy their firearms or use force in simulations because the vast majority of calls we go on, we never have to use force,” Enos said. “In life and death decisions, you get so focused on the decisions that you lose track of the people. If we can put officers in an environment to practice making those decisions while still communicating as a human and not a robot, those are good things.”

“Giving officers the opportunity to practice decision making, communication and de-escalating skills can lead to better outcomes,” said Melanie Worsley, jd '07, associate dean, School of Applied Studies and professor, criminal justice and legal studies.

And it allows the instructor to coach the participants on the spot.

“We can hit pause and say, ‘Maybe that wasn't the best thing to say,’” Enos said. “And then we hit play and go through it again.”

The discussions afterward can be just as valuable.

“In classes, we've been able to talk about larger issues regarding criminal justice,” Worsley said. “I like the

multifaceted approach you can take with it in terms of very practical, hands-on skills and within a larger, educational environment where you can talk about how society addresses homeless issues and similar things; how are our biases and our own histories influence how we're interacting with people.”

In the Quality and Safety in Healthcare nursing class, Samantha Lawrence, bsn '23, interacted in the simulator with an agitated mother who felt hospital staff weren't treating her daughter quickly enough.

“It gave us a safe environment to approach something we will most likely see, and we were able to come up with something good to say without making a patient's parent mad,” Lawrence said. “You can learn without consequences if you say the wrong thing.”

Kofoid, who is entering Washburn's master of social work program, hopes the simulator's use will spread.

“I think it would be very helpful to work across majors because that is becoming the case in the real world,” Kofoid said. “Social workers and police officers are starting to team up more and it's very needed to have those kinds of connections. My specific scenario helped me engage as a social worker and understand what a police officer has to do, what their commitments are versus my ethical obligations.” 🦋



Criminal justice student Kylie Hawes participates in a simulation. *Photo by Morganne Lander*



Students can play at individual gaming stations or group stations in the new Esports & Gaming Lounge. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

Calling All Gamers

New Esports & Gaming Lounge provides students competition and camaraderie

By Lindsay Thompson

Jaelen Matthews' favorite moments at work are when it gets loud. As a monitor for the Washburn University Esports & Gaming Lounge in the Living Learning Center, seeing a group of students in the joy of the moment is her cue the space is living up to its purpose.



Junior Jaelen Matthews

"I love it when a group of friends is laughing at what just happened in the game and celebrating," Matthews said. "I have fun because they're having fun."

Matthews, a junior in forensic biology, has been working in the lounge since it opened in the fall of 2022. The job provides the perfect opportunity to merge a hobby she loves and her duties as secretary of Washburn's new Esports and Gaming Club. She

coordinates gaming tournaments and twice-weekly practice sessions for students in the lounge.

The idea for a lounge was first proposed by actuarial science student, Jesse Mort. Mort, who is club president, worked with the administration to survey student interest in the space. From there, the Student Recreation and Wellness Center partnered with Residential Living to bring the idea to fruition. Now every Washburn student has access to a comfortable lounge with 24 computers and multiple game consoles.

For the uninitiated who did not grow up with video games or never developed an interest, a space and events like these might be puzzling as video games can be perceived as a solo pursuit. But this could not be further from the truth. Like traditional sports, many of these games involve playing on a team against other

players. And there are other parallels between esports and traditional sports.

“Practices are a big thing,” said Dan Wrenholt, assistant director of intramural and club sports, SRWC. “You can’t come in and pick up a game and be good at it right away, especially with most of them being five or six-person teams. Everyone has to be on the same page.”

Matthews thinks gaming in the lounge also helps students develop skills for any profession. Team games require communication while practicing leadership in a simulated high-pressure environment.

It is also a pathway to a growing range of career opportunities. Jaycie Gluck, ba ’09, applied her mass media degree toward a career in esports, starting as a commentator and working her way to her current position as senior vice president at Wisdom Gaming.

Gluck had been a gamer since childhood. She discovered the career path when she attended her first esports tournament after college. She was particularly inspired by the broadcast talent. Gluck started creating her own videos, commentating on tournaments and streaming on Twitch. It was a perfect application of her mass media training.

“I was in the digital media track and did a lot of video creation and editing,” Gluck said. “I used that to help me start making YouTube content around the game. My education at Washburn has absolutely helped me.”



Jaycie Gluck, ba '09. Photo by Carlton Beener

Gluck said the esports industry needs a variety of skilled professionals to support it.

“People usually think of playing, commentating and coaching,” she said. “But there are many needs beyond those; things like video editing, photography, broadcasting, graphic design, sales and business acumen.”

Washburn's gaming lounge isn't just a resource for students focused on an esports career path. It is also a place where students on any career path can build friendships and community around a hobby they enjoy. It is something Wrenholt sees as especially important after the coronavirus pandemic.

“Lots of these students were living their lives online for several years,” he said. “It provides a way for students to get out and meet people with similar interests.”

It has given Matthews a chance to meet people outside her major and make friends with students she might not have met otherwise. She wants student to know they do not have to be a strong player to join in.

“I'll be the first one to tell you I'm not very good at Valorant, but it is my favorite game and I love it,” Matthews said. “The people I play with know that, and they do not care. It is a very welcoming room and community. You can find your people here.” 🙌



A group of students warm up for a Mario Kart tournament. Photo by Jeremy Wangler

A Work of Art

Two artistic alumni balance the perfect marriage of love and art

By Annie Flachsbarth

As practicing artists of more than 50 years, it's safe to say art is at the heart of everything for husband and wife, Larry Peters, bfa '62, and Barbara Waterman-Peters, bfa '73, h '16. Together, the pair have built an art-filled life with creative inspiration around every corner – and their impact on Washburn, Topeka and the local art landscape has no end.

In Love and Art

While they both graduated from Washburn University's art department and were both active in the local art scene, the two didn't officially meet until 1985 while serving on the board of the Topeka Art Guild (although, Peters is quick to point out he remembered seeing her from across the room at an art show a few years before that). The two became quick friends and met up occasionally to go to art shows in the Kansas City area. A romance quickly budded between the two, though Waterman-Peters admits she was a little clueless to it at first.

"For Valentine's, he gave me a beautiful collage with a big heart," she said. "I was honored that he gave it to me because it was a piece of his original art, but the significance didn't sink in."

When other gifts and champagne picnics didn't cue her, Peters took matters into his own hands one night after an art event.

"This poor man, in desperation, reached over and planted a big kiss on my lips, and I finally understood," she said.

Two months from that first kiss, they were married. Thirty-seven years later, their love and friendship is as strong as ever. While they might quarrel on how to arrange the living room or what is for dinner, they've never let an argument cross over into their relationship as colleagues and artists.

"Like almost everybody who's married, there are points that we clash on sometimes," he said.

"We've always respected each other as artists and friends. And we liked each other's work before we got married. So that's sort of sacrosanct," Waterman-Peters said.

Living in Art

Over the years, the pair has continued to encourage each other to hone their crafts. Primarily working in painting, Waterman-Peters received a master of fine arts from Kansas State University in 1998. She was the staff artist for the Washburn University Theatre from 1999 to 2016. She's also the co-founder of Pen & Brush Press, where she and author Glendyn Buckley have published several children's books.

Preferring mediums of clay and collage, Peters has always had a discerning eye for a variety of media. After attending Washburn, he received his master of fine arts from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1965. He worked as the gallery director and was eventually named gallery director emeritus of the Alice C. Sabatini Gallery at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library and curator of its permanent collections.

Their masterpieces have been exhibited and can be found in museum, corporate and private collections around the globe. However, the collection they keep in their home is worth the price of admission to any museum. Upon entering, visitors are immediately immersed in a sea of art. Tables, bookshelves and walls are adorned at nearly every surface by something they've created or pieces they've purchased as collectors. Whether it's a wall-sized canvas painting Waterman-Peters created while exploring women's issues or a variety of ceramics pieces and canvases Peters created while studying the Holocaust, they have their own perfectly curated,



Surrounded by collected art and their own ceramics and paintings, Larry Peters, bfa '62, and Barbara Waterman-Peters, bfa '73, h '16, pose in their home. The three ceramic pieces in the front right are his and the large painting in the rear center is hers. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

in-home gallery to share the story of their lives and interests.

Home is Where the Art Is


The two have always been connected to the region and Washburn, even both recently serving as adjunct professors in fall 2022. Their work and dedication to the arts has not gone unnoticed.

In 1990, Peters received the Kansas Governor's Arts Award for arts advocacy. In 2003, he received a Kansas Museums Association Distinguished Service Award and was named a Washburn University Alumni Fellow. He received the Col. John Ritchie Award by the Washburn Alumni Association in 2009, and in 2016, he received the Glenda Taylor Visual Arts Award from ArtsConnect Topeka.

In 1987, Waterman-Peters was a founding member of The Collective Art Gallery, the gallery which started

the First Friday gallery openings in Topeka, which are now the First Friday Artwalks. In 2010, she founded STUDIO 831, an artists' space and gallery in the North Topeka Arts & Entertainment District. In 2011, she was awarded the ARTY for distinguished visual artist from ArtsConnect Topeka. She received the Lilla Day Monroe Award from the Washburn Alumni Association, and in 2016, she received an honorary doctor of fine arts from Washburn.

And while the two could have gone anywhere, Topeka has always been home.

"We are so closely connected to Washburn. It's been such an integral part of our lives," she said. "I've lived other places, but you can be a mover and shaker in your own area. There's so much wonderful stuff in Topeka, and Washburn is one of the jewels." 



Savannah Stallbaumer, c '22, earned a practical nursing certificate from Washburn Tech and is working in the field as she prepares to study to become a registered nurse. Growing up, she stayed in more than 17 homes during nine years in the foster care system before becoming an Ichabod. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

Goal-focused

Through countless moves in the foster care system, Stallbaumer stayed focused on her nursing dream

By Angela Lutz

As a child, Savannah Stallbaumer never knew where she would be living from month to month.

After entering foster care at the age of 9, she stayed in more than 17 homes in Kansas in the next nine years. She switched schools a lot too – she attended one school for only two weeks, and her teacher thought she was joking when she said it was her last day. In many cases, this left Stallbaumer, c '22, to figure things out on her own.

“There were a lot of holes in my education,” she said. “I definitely tried to pay attention in school, but it was

not always the easiest. I jumped around from school to school and missed out on key pieces of information, but I still had the same assignments as everyone else. This made it hard to keep up.”

The instability and lack of routine in her home life also led to social and emotional challenges. She found it difficult to keep in contact with friends she’d made after a move, and each new foster home had different rules. Dealing with upheaval and abuse at home sometimes made it difficult to focus at school. She recalled being at a social worker’s office one night until midnight after

a tense situation with her biological mother and failing to complete her math homework.

“My teacher pulled me aside and said, ‘What’s going on? You are the only student I can count on turning in their homework in this class,’” Stallbaumer said. “I don’t know if he knew I was a foster kid, but I told him what happened and he told me to tell him if that happened again. My teachers could usually tell if something was wrong, and they were pretty receptive and helpful.”

Despite these obstacles, Stallbaumer was a bright and dedicated student. Even as she navigated each move, she was committed to learning, particularly after receiving a diagnosis and treatment for dyslexia in fourth grade. She knew she could excel academically, and she wanted to work as a pediatric oncology nurse like one of her older sisters. She also gained confidence through playing sports.

“When I lived at home with my mom, I never thought I would get the opportunity to go to college or play sports,” Stallbaumer said. “I was one of the caregivers for my younger siblings, so I couldn’t stay after school for activities. I think doing extracurriculars helped my confidence a lot – it was encouraging to pursue opportunities and excel at them. My social workers were also very encouraging when they saw my report cards.”

After graduating high school, Stallbaumer wanted to fast track her path to a career in nursing, so she enrolled in the practical nursing program at Washburn University Institute of Technology after learning about it from her boyfriend’s grandmother. Stallbaumer enjoyed the small class sizes at Washburn and the relationships she built with her teachers and classmates, which felt similar to her rural high school. In just nine months, she was able to gain the necessary education and certification to become a licensed practical nurse, and her experiences will help her as she works toward becoming a registered nurse.

“The instructors were knowledgeable and you could ask them anything and they would have an answer. They were very experienced nurses,” Stallbaumer said. “When I shadowed my older sister at work in high school, I loved how busy the nurses were. They weren’t just sitting at a desk. Treating cancer is something I’ve always wanted to do, and this will help me do that.”

During her time at Washburn Tech, Stallbaumer excelled academically and impressed Kathryn Stroebele, Washburn Tech student transition director, with her hard work and tenacity. Stroebele encouraged Stallbaumer to give an inspiring speech at her Washburn Tech graduation ceremony, which Stallbaumer had done previously as valedictorian of Wetmore (Kansas) High School.

“There were a lot of holes in my education. I definitely tried to pay attention in school, but it was not always the easiest. I jumped around from school to school and missed out on key pieces of information, but I still had the same assignments as everyone else. This made it hard to keep up.”

— *Savannah Stallbaumer*

“She is very positive and friendly, and from what I’ve seen she’s developed a lot of compassion for people who are going through troublesome health situations,” Stroebele said. “I’m sure a lot of that goes back to her own upbringing. She realizes that life is not fair, and we don’t all come into the world with equal chances. She is a special young lady – if only everyone had that kind of attitude and persistence.”

After graduation, Stallbaumer started working at the Kansas Neurological Institute in Topeka, where she enjoys getting to know the residents and has helped alleviate staffing shortages at the facility. Now that she has struck out on her own, she is excited to build her future. She feels ready to go wherever her career takes her – and she will continue to overcome her challenges and make the most of every opportunity that comes her way. 🦋



The White family – (from left to right) Cassidy, ba '18; Kennedy, bba '16, jd '19; Dennis, jd '84; and Joni, aa '84, ba '91 – pose in the downtown square of Holton, Kansas, outside White Law Office, which was started by Dennis' father, Marlin White, bba '60, jd '63, 60 years ago. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

Legal Legacy

Washburn family has built a 60-year legacy of law practice in Holton

By Lindsay Thompson

White Law Office and Title Abstract Company, headed by Washburn alumnus Dennis White, is recognizing a big milestone this year. The Holton, Kansas, firm is celebrating its 60th anniversary. It's

a momentous occasion made even more remarkable because three generations of the White family have practiced law there after attending Washburn University School of Law.

Dennis, jd '84, was young when his father, Marlin White, bba '60 and jd '63, graduated from Washburn Law and started the practice. Marlin built a reputation as a winning attorney and a servant leader in the community.

"He was a wise person," Dennis said. "And his wit and humor were exceptional."

By high school, Dennis knew he wanted to follow in his dad's footsteps and study at Washburn to be an attorney. By law school, where he wanted to practice became clear as well.

"I didn't envision anything other than practicing with my dad, under his tutelage," Dennis said.

He joined his dad's practice in 1984 and worked alongside him until Marlin's death in 2006. Dennis' wife, Joni White, aa '84 and ba '91, was the office manager. For a time, it seemed that would be the extent of the legacy; two generations of the White family working together.

Dennis and Joni's son Kennedy White, bba '16, jd '19, was drawn to a career in business. He pursued an entrepreneurial path, encouraged by the close-knit student community and nurturing faculty he found at Washburn.

The summer before his junior year, Kennedy started his own business. Motivated by a dream of helping small local businesses, he launched D18, now called SmartSave. With guidance from faculty like Rick LeJuerrne, bba '91, lecturer, School of Business, he operated and grew the utility tax exemption consulting service while he finished his degree. Even though he had a successful business, Kennedy found himself led toward law and working alongside his family.

"When I first began the SmartSave venture my junior year, I had no idea where it would lead me eight years later, into the career of my dreams," Kennedy said. "At the time, I just followed my heart where I felt God was leading me and focused on becoming a valuable resource others could look to for these complex matters. I think that same heart and mindset led me to the practice of law."

The change was a pleasant surprise to his family.



Dennis White (right) and his sister celebrate with their father, Marlin White (top) at his Washburn graduation.

"We had no idea Kennedy would go to law school," Dennis said. "He's a business guy. It surprised us even further when he decided he wanted to come up here."

A year after Kennedy graduated from law school, SmartSave caught the eye of a diversified financial services company, B. Riley Financial, that wanted to bring him on staff to expand their tax practice. He took the offer. He now splits his time between the business he launched and the family law office.

Dennis is excited about the possibilities for the future. His son-in-law, Jacob Kennedy, is on the team running Title Abstract Company, another family business. Kennedy's wife, Cassidy, ba '18, in addition to her work as an account manager for ComPsych, provides part-time secretarial duties for the practice. And with five grandchildren, and Kennedy and Cassidy expecting a baby this year, he thinks there's a possibility of a four-generation legacy at the practice.

"To think we could be celebrating the 90th anniversary of the White Law Office is exciting," Kennedy said, looking ahead. "I feel very grateful to be here and excited for the future." 🏃

Honorary Degrees

Washburn University conferred honorary degrees on four people during the spring 2023 commencement ceremonies.

Susan Lowe Farley

Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters



Susan Farley taught mathematics in Oklahoma for 26 years, including 13 at Norman public schools and seven at the University of Oklahoma. Her husband, Jerry Farley, then a vice president at OU, became president of Washburn University in 1997

and she remained committed to education as first lady. She was a fixture at Washburn events, hosted monthly student roundtables and tutored or counseled students. In addition to accompanying her husband on trips abroad to visit global partners, she hosted international students, families, faculty and administrators in her home. Farley is a lifelong learner, auditing Washburn classes and taking interest in scholastic and institutional endeavors. She represented Washburn at events with the Topeka Symphony, Topeka Civic Theatre, Topeka Business Hall of Fame and more.

Blanche C. Parks, b ed '71, m ed '71

Honorary Doctor of Public Service



Blanche Parks retired last year as Washburn's longest-serving board of regent member after 29 years. Among her memorable board work was hiring Jerry Farley as president, bringing to Washburn the Institute of Technology and the KBI lab and turning Morgan

Hall into the front door of campus. She attended every commencement as a regent. Parks held management positions for the State of Kansas before retiring in 2011. She created and directed the Kansas tuition savings program Learning Quest, which was ranked a top five such program in the nation. She served on the boards of the Topeka Community Foundation and Topeka Public Schools Foundation among others. She earned national achievement awards from the YWCA of the USA and the American Business Women's Association. She was the first Kansan on the YWCA national board of directors.

Marla Luckert, ba '77, jd '80

Honorary Doctor of Law



Hon. Marla Luckert was appointed to the Kansas Supreme Court in 2002 and became chief justice in 2019. Her law career started after graduation with Goodell, Stratton, Edmonds and Palmer with a general litigation and health law practice. In

1992 she was appointed a judge of the Third Judicial District of Kansas and she became chief judge of the district in 2000. Luckert has served as president of the Kansas Bar Association, the Kansas District Judges Association, the Kansas Women Attorneys Association, the Topeka Bar Association, the Sam A. Crow Inn of Court and the Women Attorneys Association of Topeka. She has earned several awards from those and similar organizations. She has helped the School of Law as an adjunct professor, lecturer, mentor and more.

Dr. David G. Woods, b music '65

Honorary Doctor of Music



David Woods has worked to bring music and fine arts education to thousands of students and improve community access to art. He was dean of the School of Fine Arts at the University of Connecticut from 2000-12 and retired from the

faculty in 2015. There, he developed the first and only partnership with the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. He has led the music and/or fine art units of several large universities. An expert on early childhood music education, Woods has written on all manners of music education. He served 20 years as editor of the College Music Society Symposium and served on the executive board of the National Association of Schools of Music for seven years. Residing in Topeka, he serves on several non-profit boards. ♣





Runners compete during the NJCAA national championship this March in the Indoor Athletic Facility. *Photo by Jared Hitchins*

Host with the Most

Events give opportunity to showcase first-rate athletic facility

By Chris Marshall

After the nation's top track and field stars reach the peak of their junior college careers, they need a good place to land. That was one of the many benefits when Washburn University hosted the NJCAA track and field championships March 3-4 at its Indoor Athletic Facility.

The meet attracted more than 700 athletes and many more fans, family members and coaches to Topeka. It also gave Washburn the opportunity to show there's no better place for runners, throwers and leapers to plant their feet.

Cameron Babb, Washburn track and field coach, was on hand the entire weekend to ensure the event operated smoothly. Every time someone sees the facility, he said they walk away impressed.

"So many people came up to me and asked if we'd host again in the future," Babb said. "A lot said, 'You should host every year,' because it was better than any facility they'd been to recently, it provides easy access to any team and the meet was run well."

The event gave Babb and his staff a firsthand look at up-and-coming track and field stars, while also giving the competitors a chance to see a state-of-the-art venue that is among the nation's best for NCAA Division II – and even many Division I – programs.

"Last year's recruiting class was the strongest we've had because we started hosting high school meets here," Babb said. "This year, we're excited for the same reason: we're getting exposure when kids come see it, compete here and witness what a great facility we have."

On top of that, the school itself is great. People realize if you want the best of both worlds in academics and athletics, you can come to Washburn.”

There’s been no shortage of activity since the Indoor Athletic Facility opened in November 2020. Washburn hosted the MIAA indoor track and field championships that winter and will again in 2024. In three seasons, the building has hosted more than 12,000 athletes. Babb said the hope is to eventually host an NCAA Division II national championship. Every visitor also contributes to the Topeka community by staying in hotels, eating at restaurants and shopping at local businesses.

“We work with a phenomenal group of people at Washburn,” said Sean Dixon, president, Visit Topeka. “I’ve gone to a couple of meets now, including the junior college championships, and it’s put Washburn, the indoor facility and Topeka on the map for many to see. It’s always a great economic impact if you can bring a group of 700 people into any city.”

Dixon said visitors spent well over \$300,000 in Topeka the weekend of the event, and the average hotel room rate surpassed \$100.

“That has a significant impact on our tourism market, especially when you pair it with other things happening in the city, like the demolition derby we had at Stormont Vail Event Center and high school wrestling and other tournaments,” Dixon said. “The track and field championship was a cherry on top of a very busy weekend. This facility is a gem for us.”

The space is put to use just as frequently in between events, not just for track and field but for all of Washburn’s outdoor teams as well. The baseball team, for example, plays its season February through May, and is able to conduct practices during the late-winter weather conditions.

“Our outfield grass is treacherous this time of year, so it’s a blessing for us to be able to use the indoor facility,” said Harley Douglas, ’02, Washburn baseball coach. “We can practice with a live game going on inside, with a pitcher throwing on the mound against live at-bats. I don’t think a lot of teams get that chance. Being a northern team, we have to go south in February to play games, and it’s always been hard going against warm-weather teams that have seen live pitching all year when we hadn’t. Now we have access to that.”

When events like the NJCAA championship are held in Topeka, the dynamic is reversed. Teams like New Mexico Junior College and South Plains College (Texas), which claimed national titles at the NJCAA meet, came north for the winter to compete in the home of a blossoming track and field program.

“Recruiting-wise, it doesn’t get much better than walking into a \$21 million facility,” Douglas said. “It shows Washburn’s commitment to athletics. Being an alum, Washburn was easy to sell to recruits anyway, but now, the chance to showcase a facility like this makes it that much easier.” 🏃



The Indoor Athletic Facility hosted eight track and field meets in 2022-23, bringing 5,543 athletes to Washburn. Among those was the NJCAA national championship, which had more than 700 participants, their coaches and fans from across the country. *Photo by Gene Cassell*

Pursuing Greatness

Alumni and fans have many ways to support Ichabod student-athletes

By Jeremy Wangler • jwangler@wualumni.org

The success of Ichabod student-athletes is directly connected to the support of fans, alumni and friends. Washburn Athletics and the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation are constantly working to improve the experience for those supporters. They recently put a renewed focus on fundraising for the general athletics fund, renaming the fund the Ichabod Athletic Fund and enhancing donor experiences year-round.

Along with the excitement at games, fans and supporters can attend events like the Alumni Association football tailgates during home games, the Athletics Kickoff Classic and the Golden Bods Awards. All are invited to these events.

“This is a great step toward improving our first-class donor and alumni experience – which ultimately provides our student-athletes ample opportunities to succeed in competition and academically,” said Matt Hutchinson, associate athletic director and development director. “Renaming the fund allows us to better tell the story of everything the fund does to support student-athletes and re-focus our efforts on letting people know the value of supporting Ichabods. Everyone’s ultimate goal is to see the student-athletes succeed and graduate.”

Gifts to the Ichabod Athletic Fund allow Washburn Athletics to best choose where to direct those funds, supporting Ichabods in ways beyond what the university budget allots such as providing extra scholarship dollars, travel for unique team trips and supporting the Bods Care program.

Washburn had its best-ever finish a year ago in the 2021-22 Learfield Directors’ Cup, finishing 21st among all NCAA Division II schools. The Directors’ Cup awards points to a school based on the NCAA postseason finish of its sports. Highlighting Washburn last season was volleyball’s runner-up finish in the

NCAA national championship and baseball making its first-ever trip to the NCAA tournament.

That success continued this year with men’s cross country making its first-ever NCAA national appearance and winning the award for having the highest team grade-point average at the meet. Women’s tennis player Sonia Smagina was national runner-up at the ITA Cup in the fall. Volleyball and football each produced an Academic All-American. Spring sports were finishing strong with all of them looking for postseason play.

“Athletically, we’ve had a lot of success the previous two years and felt it was appropriate to build on that momentum as we realigned our goals from a development perspective,” Hutchinson said.

There are several other ways to give to Washburn Athletics. Donors can support the Ichabod Athletic Scholarship Fund and directly help student-athletes achieve their academic and career goals. Donors can also support capital projects. Recently completed projects include the Indoor Athletic Facility and Gahnstrom Field in the Washburn Softball Complex. Donors can also contribute to each individual sport’s program fund or scholarship fund.

Giving to Washburn Athletics took on a fun and competitive nature during this year’s Washburn Day of Giving. The department raised \$75,748 from 269 gifts, and the football and golf teams won incentives for finishing in the top five among all Washburn University departments for having the highest number of gifts.

In total, more than 650 individuals, couples and organizations gave to Washburn Athletics during the 2021-22 season. 🏆

You can give student-athletes
a chance to pursue their athletic
and educational dreams at
wualumni.org/givetoathletics.

Contact Matt Hutchinson at
785.670.1334 to learn more about
the Ichabod Athletic Fund and
other ways to give.

Photo by Gene Cassell



Campus News

Kansas Book Festival Back at Washburn for 12th Year

The Kansas Book Festival will celebrate its 12th anniversary at Washburn University on Sept. 16 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Mabee Library. The KBF is open for guests of all ages and will include presentations by over 50 authors, outdoor performances, food trucks and exhibitor tents with publishers from around Kansas. The headliner for the 2023 KBF is Washburn Rural alumnus, Ling Ma. Last year, Ma released a collection of short stories, "Bliss Montage," which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in fiction and made the national Indie Bestseller list. Ma also published an earlier novel, "Severance," which was named a best book of the year by NPR.



Guests at the Kansas Book Festival. *Photo submitted*

Washburn Helping Seniors Prepare for College Through Upward Bound


First-generation, low-income students from Topeka High School now have another opportunity to help them pursue a college degree. With Washburn Upward Bound, through a \$1.4 million federal grant, up to 60 Topeka High students will be better prepared to enter college. Students will complete activities to

increase academic performance, educational aspiration and knowledge of the college admissions process. Students admitted into the program will receive individual advising, after-school tutoring, Saturday and summer programming as well as dual enrollment. "This federally-funded program will give dozens of Topeka High School students and their families the resources they need to achieve academically and grow personally" said Sally Riley, program director, Upward Bound.

Washburn Helping First-Generation Students Through First Scholars Network

With Washburn University's commitment to the success of first-generation students, it has been selected by the Center for First-generation Student Success to join the third of four phases of the First Scholars Network. The First Scholars Network is a four-phase approach to advance outcomes and support the education of first-generation students. Through a phased approach, First Scholars provides institutions with the opportunity to engage in student-centered, systemic transformation through various resources. Benefits of First Scholars participation include monthly workshops, expert coaching, customized improvement plans, data sharing and diagnostic tools for critical institutional insight.

Scholarships Increase for Students Transferring to Washburn

Washburn University is further investing in students by offering more scholarship dollars to transfer students. Based on grade-point average, students transferring to Washburn with at least 12 credit hours and a 3.0 GPA are eligible for awards that range from \$1,000 to \$4,000 per academic year. Awards are renewable for up to six consecutive semesters or upon receipt of a student's first bachelor's degree. "(This) is another example of seeking to increase affordability for students in an attempt to help students experience the outstanding educational opportunities available to them at Washburn" said JuliAnn Mazachek, president, Washburn University. 

Class Notes

The Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation loves to receive your news and updated information, and your former classmates are interested in what you have accomplished. Submit your news and updates online at wualumni.org/alumninotes or to Jeremy Wangler at jwangler@wualumni.org by July 31, 2023, to be included in the fall magazine.

1970s

Robert Casper, bs '79, Topeka, Kansas, retired as a Kansas state auditor in March 2021 and became pastor at Bethel Community Church in Topeka in October 2022. He continues to work on the Washburn Athletics gameday crew for football and basketball games.

Patty Dick, b ed '71, Topeka, Kansas, Basketball, Softball, received the UMBFC Charitable Foundation Lifetime Sportsman Award by WIN for KC, an organization that advocates for more sports and fitness opportunities for girls and women. Before, during and after the passing of Title IX, she fought for increased access to sports for females while coaching at Washburn Rural High School and Washburn University.

Pamela Hollie, ba '70, Gambier, Ohio, Student Council, Washburn Review, Alpha Kappa Alpha, was honored as the namesake of the Pamela G. Hollie Endowed Chair, Global Challenges at Kenyon College. The esteemed journalist has reported throughout the world and worked at Kenyon as a senior philanthropic advisor.

Ralph King, ba '77, Kansas City, Missouri, was inducted into the Topeka High School Hall of Fame in October 2022. Retired, he was founder and owner of King's Management Company, which operated 10 McDonald's restaurants in the Kansas City area for over 30 years. He remains involved in his community.

Hon. J. Thomas Marten, ba '73, jd '76, Topeka, Kansas, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Student Council, received the Judicial Recognition Award by the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers for protecting democratic principles and the fundamental rights of individuals. Martens is a retired federal district court judge who presided over the District of Kansas.

Kent Oliver, ba '77, Nashville, Tennessee, is now a senior policy fellow for the American Library Association where he will advance ALA's advocacy against book banning and censorship. He recently retired as director of the Nashville Public Library.

James Webber, ba '72, Leavenworth, Kansas, Air Force ROTC, and his wife, Suzy Webber, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. He is a retired Air Force missile operations and space systems operations officer.

Hon. John Weingart, ba '74, jd '77, Hiawatha, Kansas, Student Council, became chief judge of the 22nd Judicial District in January 2023, filling an unexpired term through the end of 2023. He has been a judge in the district since 2000.

1980s

Ivan Baker, ba '81, Coimbra, Portugal, and his wife, Mary Baker, retired and moved to the historic city of Coimbra. He worked in economic development in Illinois for many years.

Hon. Alison (Lindsay) Brookins, jd '85, Law Clinic, retired in December 2022 as chief administrative law judge from the Wichita, Kansas, Social Security Administration Office of Hearings Operations. She started in that office in 1991 as an attorney advisor and became chief judge in 2019.

Susie Hoffmann, bba '87, Topeka, Kansas, Delta Gamma, was recently promoted to senior alumni association director at the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation, and she recently received the 2023 Delta Gamma Alumna of the Year award.

Hon. Tracy (Loiacono) Mitchell, jd '83, Olympia, Washington, Delta Theta Phi, retired in December 2022 as constitutional court commissioner in Lewis County, Washington. She served for over 24 years, overseeing child dependency, divorce and family law proceedings.

Hon. Quintress Gilbert, jd '88, Macon, Georgia, Law Clinic, Black Law Student Association, Phi Delta Phi, was appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp to the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice board. She is a juvenile court judge in Bibb County.

Kyle Rank, jd '84, San Antonio, Texas, joined CATIC as senior vice president – national accounts manager. He has more than 30 years of experience in the title insurance industry.

1990s

Dina Bennett, ba '90, Overland Park, Kansas, Black Student Union, was inducted into the Topeka High School Hall of Fame in October 2022. She is deputy director of the American Jazz Museum.

Kirk Haskins, ba '93, Topeka, Kansas, Football, was elected to his first term in the Kansas House of Representatives in House District 53, located within Shawnee County.

Tony Mattivi, jd '94, Topeka, Kansas, was appointed and confirmed as director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation in February 2023. He spent 20 years as a federal prosecutor, including as an assistant U.S. attorney.

2000s

Vincent Bowhay, ba '08, Independence, Kansas, WSGA, Sigma Phi Epsilon, received the 2023 Phi Theta Kappa Paragon Award for new college presidents. He became president of Independence Community College in 2019.

Lara Crow, jd '09, Hutchinson, Kansas, Law Clinic, recently started with Lonza, a global pharmaceutical manufacturing company, as director, associate general counsel, focusing primarily on its U.S.-based small molecule manufacturing divisions.

Ryan Freed, ba '07, Alexandria, Virginia, is now climate action officer for the City of Alexandria. He was previously senior director for policy and regulatory strategy at the Institute for Market Transformation.

Hon. Blake Gibson, jd '08, Enid, Oklahoma, is now special judge for the 4th Judicial District of Oklahoma.

Maria Guzman, ba '03, bfa '03, Oakland, California, is now a manager on the training and enablement team at SiriusXM focused on instructional design and best training practices.

Amanda (Millard) Hughes, ba '00, Topeka, Kansas, was recently promoted to director of membership and outreach for the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation.

Hon. Dominic Kujawa, jd '06, Belleville, Illinois, Law Clinic, is now an associate judge on the 20th Judicial Circuit of Illinois. He was previously a circuit judge on the same circuit.

Aaron Mays, ba '02, Topeka, Kansas, was elected president of the Kansas Association of Counties. He currently serves as a member of the Shawnee County Commission.

Dawn Nachbar, bba '02, Kansas City, Missouri, Softball, is now vice president, information technology services for Compass Minerals. She has been with the company since 2010.

Adam Proffitt, bba '04, Shawnee, Kansas, was appointed secretary of administration by Gov. Laura Kelly of Kansas and approved to the position by the Senate. He previously served as Kelly's budget director.

Hon. Jared Smith, jd '00, Lutz, Kansas, Law Clinic, Christian Legal Society, was appointed to the Sixth District Court of Appeal in Florida by Gov. Ron DeSantis. He previously served as a judge on the Thirteenth Judicial District Court.

Dr. Angela (Hutfles) Stueve, bs '01, Seneca, Kansas, joined the family medicine team with Stormont Vail Health in Topeka. She previously was a family physician at Nemaha Valley Community Hospital in Seneca.

Kirk Thompson, bs '01, Topeka, Kansas, retired in January 2023 after 11 years as director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. He served while the KBI Forensic Science Center opened on Washburn's campus.

Tanner Wealand, bba '08, Hutchinson, Kansas, started in March 2023 as chief financial officer for McPherson Center for Health. He previously served throughout Kansas in financial roles for health systems in Hutchinson, Clay County and Abilene.

2010s

Courtney (Kasl) Artman, as '13, bhs '15, Manhattan, Kansas, Bod Squad, recently became a senior development officer with the Kansas State University Foundation.

Corey Ballentine, als '19, Topeka, Kansas, Football, re-signed with the NFL's Green Bay Packers as a cornerback. He will be looking to play his sixth season in the NFL this fall.

Jacob Coultis, als '17, ba '19, Old Town, Maine, is now accounting and administrative manager in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Maine. He and his partner recently welcomed the birth of their daughter.

Marissa Dake, ba '17, Columbus, Ohio, Young Life, was promoted to vice president of brand and people at DNO Produce where she will oversee communications, marketing and talent recruitment and retention.

Alicia Guerrero-Chavez, jd '12, Topeka, Kansas, is now internal investigator for the City of Topeka where she will investigate complaints related to all city departments, employees and services along with police-related matters.

Garrett Heath, jd '19, Haysville, Kansas, recently became an attorney at DeVaughn James Injury Lawyers in Wichita, Kansas.

Justin Hocking, jd '11, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Law Clinic, started in January 2023 as corporate counsel for Active Release Techniques in Colorado Springs.

Caley (Onek) Love, ba '11, Montezuma, Kansas, WSGA, College Republicans, Leadership Institute, received second place in the Kansas Farm Bureau Young Farmer & Rancher of the Year Award Program in 2023.

Freddy Mawyin, mba '17, Topeka, Kansas, started as chief financial officer for the City of Topeka in January 2023. He was previously senior economic advisor for the Greater Topeka Partnership.

Daphne (Phillips) Reynolds, ba '12, and **Austin Reynolds**, ba '12, Leavenworth, Kansas, welcomed a baby girl, Sloan, in November 2022.

Audriana (Monteith) Smith, ba '15, El Dorado, Kansas, Alpha Phi, is content marketing specialist for Twin Valley Communications.

Amanda (Hubbell) Walker, jd '13, Wichita, Kansas, was elected secretary/treasurer of the Kansas Society of CPAs board of directors. She is an associate at Bever Dye, L.C., Attorneys at Law.

Mitchell Walter, jd '12, Wichita, Kansas, is now director of the Wichita office of Gilmore & Bell, P.C. public finance law firm. He has been a public finance attorney since 2013.

2020s

Daija Coleman, b ed '22, Topeka, Kansas, was named Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2023, an award given to the top individual who is wheelchair mobile and advocates, educates and empowers people on a state level. She is currently a first-grade teacher.

Sydney Fox, ba '20, Topeka, Kansas, Zeta Tau Alpha, Leadership Institute, WSGA, is assistant director in Career Services at Washburn University. She works with students on career counseling and job search advising and coordinates career fairs.

Reece Hiebert, jd '21, Walton, Kansas, is now city attorney for Goessel, Kansas. He is also an associate attorney at Adrian and Pankratz law firm in Newton, Kansas.

Cory Hollar, ba '21, Topeka, Kansas, College Republicans, is multimedia coordinator for Shawnee County Parks and Recreation. He recently did similar work for Cumulus Media in Topeka.

Melissa King, ba '20, Lawrence, Kansas, Leadership Institute, Zeta Tau Alpha, WSGA, Young Democrats, was named director of appointments, serving under Gov. Laura Kelly of Kansas. She was previously appointments manager in the office. 

In Memory

The following information was received by the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation by March 31, 2023. Where available, name, maiden name, graduation years, Washburn affiliations, age, residence and date of death are included. Submit omissions to Jeremy Wangler at jwangler@wualumni.org.

1950s

Mark A. Caselton, bba '59, Baseball, 90, Springfield, Illinois, on Oct. 13, 2022

John C. Clements, bs '51, 94, Castle Rock, Colorado, on May 23, 2022

Collette P. (Richards) Cooper, b ed '53, 91, Overland Park, Kansas, on Aug. 3, 2022

Hon. Sam A. Crow, jd '52, h '06, Delta Theta Phi, 96, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 2, 2022

Charles F. Dean, ba '59, 89, Escondido, California, on Sept. 22, 2022

Edna M. (Metzenthin) Greene, ba '51, Delta Gamma, Choir, 93, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 8, 2023

Muriel I. (Monroe) Hanson, b ed '55, Alpha Phi, Young Republicans, 89, Lawrence, Kansas, on April 21, 2022

Lt. Col. Bruce M. Robertson, ba '55, Alpha Delta, Air Force ROTC, 88, Memphis, Tennessee, on Dec. 5, 2021

Robert T. Stephan, ba '57, jd '57, 89, Overland Park, Kansas, on Jan. 2, 2023

Clyde W. Strimple, ba '52, Football, 93, Kansas City, Kansas, on Dec. 3, 2022

Shirley J. (Curtis) Sullivan, b ed '56, Kappa Alpha Theta, 87, Tempe, Arizona, on July 20, 2022

Hon. John E. Weckel, jd '53, Delta Theta Phi, 94, Salina, Kansas, on Dec. 29, 2022

1960s

Judie K. (Atkinson) Bey, ba '68, 81, Bloomington, Illinois, on Jan. 2, 2023

C. Mark Cole, jd '68, 79, Shenandoah, Iowa, on Jan. 23, 2023

Joseph V. Copp, Jr., ba '66, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Football, 83, Rockledge, Florida, on Dec. 9, 2022

Dennis R. Craig, bba '67, 84, Topeka, Kansas, on March 10, 2023

Stephen M. Fletcher, jd '66, 80, Shawnee, Kansas, on March 1, 2021

Vicki L. (Yarrington) Groves, ba '69, Zeta Tau Alpha, 75, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 17, 2023

Col. William L. Holford, bba '66, Air Force ROTC, Kappa Alpha Psi, 79, Henderson, Nevada, on Jan. 21, 2023

Karen A. (Parry) Horner, b ed '65, 81, Lawrence, Kansas, on Feb. 28, 2023

Lawrence J. Kasberger, bba '65, 82, Olathe, Kansas, on Feb. 21, 2023

Gary J. Kershner, jd '65, 82, Tucson, Arizona, on Jan. 4, 2023

Richard E. Kingman, ba '65, Sigma Phi Epsilon, 84, Piedmont, South Carolina, Dec. 5, 2022

Dr. Ernie L. Kratina, ba '68, Sigma Phi Epsilon, 77, Rossville, Kansas, on Jan. 27, 2023

Donald R. Stewart, ba '68, Alpha Delta, Student Council, 75, Shawnee, Kansas, on Sept. 22, 2021

Stuart W. Umbarger, ba '63, 83, Lithia, Florida, on March 10, 2023

Charles W. Warren, bba '67, jd '70, Delta Sigma Pi, 77, Hiawatha, Kansas, on Dec. 15, 2022

Ava J. (Amon) White, bba '69, 77, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 26, 2023

Billie J. (Cameron) Wiksten, ba '68, Alpha Phi, Washburn Review, 78, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 20, 2023

1970s

Berneice F. Albright, bsw '75, 83, Live Oak, Texas, on Jan. 28, 2023

Jeanne L. Berg, b ed '70, 76, Topeka, Kansas, on March 23, 2023

Joan E. (Walsh) Briman, ba '73, 97, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 5, 2023

Wilma R. (Harding) Carrick, bfa '78, 94, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 2, 2023

David L. Couch, bsn '78, Air Force ROTC, 67, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 2, 2023

Jane A. (Garhan) Duffens, ba '74, 72, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 17, 2023

James H. Hagan, bba '74, 76, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 7, 2022

Barbara J. (Roberts) Haile, bba '71, 80, Shawnee, Kansas, on June 10, 2022

Margaret E. (Taylor) Hedges, b ed '73, 91, Lawrence, Kansas, on Jan. 31, 2023

Dr. Cecil B. Kohake, bs '72, Kappa Sigma, 72, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 25, 2023

Fredrick L. Lindsey, ba '77, 76, Olathe, Kansas, on June 4, 2022

Jeffery L. Longhofer, ba '77, 67, Lawrence, Kansas, on Jan. 31, 2023

Joyce L. (Ginder) Markham, bsw '72, 74, Topeka, Kansas, on March 3, 2023

John R. Mettner, ba '70, jd '74, 80, Sebring, Florida, on Dec. 14, 2022

Deanna R. (Gray) Moore, m ed '71, 81, Springdale, Arkansas, on Feb. 16, 2023

Otis W. Morrow, jd '73, 74, Arkansas City, Kansas, on Jan. 2, 2023

Barbara L. (Hutton) Norman, m ed '73, 80, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 26, 2022

Douglas W. Sprowls, ba '78, 68, San Diego, California, on June 28, 2022

Janet K. (Barton) Thompson, bba '74, 68, Waxahachie, Texas, on July 7, 2022

Monica M. Wernette, bs '74, Basketball, 71, Manhattan, Kansas, on Jan. 13, 2023

Robert D. Woodson, bs '72, Air Force ROTC, 72, Leavenworth, Kansas, on Jan. 7, 2023

1980s

Audrey E. Bolton, bs '83, aa '92, 83, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 11, 2023

Kevin J. Carpenter, ba '85, 66, Avon Lake, Ohio, on Dec. 16, 2022

Christopher L. Flattery, jd '80, Law Clinic, 68, Onaga, Kansas, on March 24, 2023

Dr. Richard A. Fitzgerald, ba '89, 60, Topeka, Kansas, on March 28, 2023

Jenny E. Howard, ba '88, 65, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 25, 2023

Bruce T. Jacobs, ba '85, 71, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 19, 2022

Terry J. Karl, jd '82, Law Clinic, 67, Medford, New York, on March 25, 2023

Susan J. (Cunningham) Krische, ba '80, 79, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 30, 2022

Michael D. Mouhourtis, bba '86, Football, 58, Tarpon Springs, Florida, on Sept. 24, 2022

Pauline W. Pruyser, bsn '86, 72, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 1, 2022

J. Luke Saltos, jd '89, Law Clinic, 69, Turlock, California, on Jan. 7, 2023

Jon. R. Wilson, jd '82, 67, Boise, Idaho, on Dec. 23, 2022

Mary E. (Duck) Wilson, bsn '81, 91, Coffeyville, Kansas, on Aug. 9, 2022

1990s

Teresa M. Bryan, aa '97, 76, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 25, 2022

Patricia M. Corona, ba '91, 77, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 28, 2022

Terry C. Curry, msw '97, Topeka, Kansas, in 2022

Robert N. Dennison, ba '93, 76, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 31, 2022

Matthew J. Dennon, bs '94, 63, Berryton, Kansas, on Dec. 12, 2022

Dudley W. Havens, bs '91, 74, Topeka, Kansas, Dec. 20, 2022

Valerie J. Maloney, ba '90, 60, Independence, Missouri, on March 2, 2023

Patricia J. Schiefelbein, bsw '91, 77, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 17, 2023

Mona M. Wilhite, aa '94, 83, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 8, 2021

2000s

Eduardo J. Ramirez Jr., bba '01, 49, Topeka, Kansas, on March 15, 2023

Emily F. Swain, bsw '05, 43, Lincoln, Nebraska, on Dec. 5, 2022

2010s

Leah E. (Shannon) Cappaletti, bs '11, 75, Topeka, Kansas, on March 25, 2023

John W. Green, c '12, c '12, 63, Topeka, Kansas, on June 16, 2022

David G. Platt, jd '17, Law Clinic, 40, Springfield, Missouri, on February 22, 2023

2020s

Zachary P. Bealer, jd '21, Law Journal, 33, Great Bend, Kansas, on Dec. 21, 2022

Friends

Derrick P. "Buck" Anderson, 63, Topeka, Kansas, on March 14, 2023

Bette L. (Schlotthauer) Bossler, 98, Topeka, Kansas, on March 3, 2023

Richard P. Donner, 73, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 24, 2023

Paul D. Marmet, 87, Holton, Kansas, on Feb. 9, 2023

Richard L. Martin, 78, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 11, 2023

Audrey L. (Stump) McConnell, 92, Grand Junction, Colorado, on Oct. 13, 2022

Marian L. (Rosenboom) Milner, 83, Topeka, Kansas, on March 12, 2023

Keith L. Olson, 79, Topeka, Kansas, on March 12, 2023

Ora M. (Nuttie) Ross, Zeta Tau Alpha, Student Council, 93, Mission, Kansas, on Feb. 13, 2023

Harold E. Russell, 89, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 5, 2023

Elton E. Spena, 82, Berryton, Kansas, on March 6, 2023

Billiee M. (Williams) Swartz, 93, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 5, 2023

Gayle L. Vernon, 92, Topeka, Kansas, on March 12, 2023



**Gary B. Forbach, Professor Emeritus,
Psychology, 75, Durham, North Carolina,
on Feb. 18, 2023**



Gary Forbach was a professor of psychology at Washburn from 1973-2015. During his time, he was chair of the psychology department from 1989-2000 and twice the interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

He was founding director of the Leadership Institute and served as its leader for eight years. He volunteered and remained active in the community throughout his 50 years in Topeka.

**Ronald R. Hein, ba '71, jd '74, Phi Delta
Theta, Phi Alpha Delta, Washburn Alumni
Association Board of Directors, 73,
Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 21, 2022**



Ron Hein served southwest Topeka in the Kansas legislature from 1975-84 and then established Hein Law Firm, which later became Hein Governmental Consulting. He served on the Washburn Alumni Association

board of directors from 1983-85 and remained a regular financial supporter of Washburn throughout his life. He supported several non-profit organizations including the Kansas and Topeka chambers of commerce, the National Kidney Foundation and American Diabetes Association.

**Mary L. Menninger-Corder, bsn '79,
Assistant Professor, Nursing, 72, Topeka,
Kansas, on Feb. 18, 2023**



Mary Menninger-Corder was an assistant professor of nursing at Washburn, teaching several certificate, undergraduate and graduate courses for the School of Nursing and the Institute of Technology. She received the

Achieving Excellence Award in 2021 from Washburn and a Teaching Excellence Award based on meritorious work for five consecutive years. She also won numerous awards from her graduating classes.

**Billie Jean Moore, b ed '66, h '99,
Gymnastics, 79, Fullerton, California, on
Dec. 14, 2022**



Billie Jean Moore was a successful women's college basketball coach, working at the highest level in the sport, winning two national titles and going 436-196 in 24 seasons. She won a national championship in

1970, her first year at California State University-Fullerton, where she coached eight years. She coached 16 years at the University of California-Los Angeles, winning a national title in 1978. She coached the first USA Olympic women's basketball team, winning silver in 1976. She is in the Naismith, Women's Basketball, UCLA and Washburn halls of fame.

**Lt. Col. Crosby "Bing" W. Powell,
Washburn Athletics Employee, 99,
Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 17, 2023**



Crosby "Bing" Powell worked for Washburn Athletics for almost 50 years as a ticket taker, manager of gate workers at football, volleyball and basketball games, and in the equipment room into his 90s. Crosby

was an Army rifleman, earning a Purple Heart in one of the longest battles in WWII. He then served in the Kansas Army National Guard for 30 years, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. He worked several decades for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad as a supervisor on the freight department.

Jack J. Swartz, bba '73, ba '74, Washburn Alumni Association Board of Directors, 90, Phoenix, Arizona, on Jan. 27, 2023



Jack Swartz served in the Army, worked for his family business – Dodge City Terminal Elevator Company – and the Kansas Jaycees. He then worked for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce for 15 years and was president

of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce for 18 years. He is in the Nebraska Business Hall of Fame, served on the Washburn Alumni Association board of directors from 1993-95 and remained a regular financial supporter of Washburn University.

James D. Van Sickle, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation Board of Trustees, 100, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 29, 2023



Jim Van Sickle grew up in Kansas and spent three years in the Navy as an instructor and 18 years as an engineer and president of Richardson Manufacturing Company in Cawker City, Kansas. He moved

to Topeka in 1963 and formed and owned Vanguard Products Corporation, a producer of precast concrete structures. He sold the business and retired in 2005. With a lifelong love of playing and listening to music and collecting art, he has financially supported those areas and others at Washburn. He served as a Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation trustee from 2000 until his death. 🏃





Alumni Travel Opportunities

SEE THE WORLD WITH FELLOW ICHABODS

New England Rails and Sails | October 8-16, 2023

Sold out - add your name to the waitlist.

Admire New England's autumn splendor, taking scenic motorcoach, train and boat tours with fellow Ichabods and friends. The trip begins and ends in Boston; during the nine-day trip, visit Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Connecticut. Among other places, visit the Freedom Trail, Kennebunkport, Casco Bay, Portland Head Light, White Mountains, Kancamagus Scenic Byway, Quechee Gorge, Plymouth Rock and whale watching at Cape Cod Bay. A local historian in Worcester, hometown of Washburn University's namesake, Ichabod Washburn, will share information about the real "Mr. Ichabod." Price is \$3,981 per person for two people sharing one room and includes airfare from Kansas City. Other departure cities available. Contact Susie Hoffmann to add your name to the waitlist.

Mexico | January 2024

Get away next winter and enjoy the sun, sugary-white sands and crystal-clear waters of the Mexican Caribbean at an all-inclusive resort. Dates and pricing will be announced in July. If you would like to receive the final details, contact Susie Hoffmann to add your name to the email list. The Alumni Association has hosted a winter trip to Mexico the past nine years, averaging nearly 150 travelers each year.



The Alumni Association's travel club is exclusive to dues-paid members of the Washburn University Alumni Association. If you are not a member of the Alumni Association, consider joining online at wualumni.org/join. Membership is open to everyone. You don't have to be a graduate of Washburn to join the Alumni Association and be a member of the travel club. Nearly all trips sell out quickly, so contact Susie Hoffmann to get your name on the list early to hold your place.

For more information about alumni travel, visit wualumni.org/alumni-travel or contact Susie Hoffmann at 785.670.1643 or susie@wualumni.org.



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OCT 23-28

For more details:
wualumni.org/events

