

WASHBURN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION — WINTER 2024

THE ICHABOD







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WINTER ISSUE 2024

On the cover:

Kuehne Bell Tower rises over a fresh blanket of snow on campus. 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,

We enter the new year energized and excited for what the future holds. As I reflect on all we did my first year serving as president of the place I dearly love, I cannot help being excited for the future of Washburn and the students we serve.

As you will read in this issue, we welcomed our largest incoming class in school history this fall. I'm proud of the work everyone, including alumni and friends like you, does to show prospective students why Washburn is so special. I know we have students here today who did not think college was a possibility until they learned Washburn is an affordable place where they can fulfill their educational dreams. That is so exciting!

You will also read about how we are educating the leaders, dreamers and builders of the future. Our Leadership Institute and Learning in the Community programs are combining into one organization this year. We know when students have experiential learning, it transforms them, and the joining together of these two programs will enhance our focus on building leaders who serve. To answer the call of Shawnee County's need for a well-trained workforce, a registered apprenticeship program is underway at the Washburn Institute of Technology. This program will strengthen the partnership between industry and education in our community. And speaking of serving the community, our School of Nursing celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. How visionary of those trailblazers to start this program back when training was beginning to shift from hospitals to universities. I often tell people one reason Topeka thrives is because of our outstanding health care professionals and facilities. Our School of Nursing is a major part of making that happen.

You'll read about the men's tennis doubles team winning a national championship this fall and the soccer team finishing as NCAA runners-up. Our student-athletes do outstanding work and represent Washburn so well in competition and in the classroom. I am so proud of their accomplishments.

We also have two stories of alumni who are making a difference as teachers. Von Hansen, a music professor and percussionist, loved his Washburn experience so much he's come back to teach and is having tremendous success with his students and his own music. Education graduate Daija Coleman is the reigning Ms. Wheelchair Kansas and first runner-up in the national competition. As a student, she brought her positive and proactive voice forward and advocated to make the education department a more accessible place. I have no doubt she's an inspiring role model as a fifth-grade teacher too.

There is so much to make us excited, thankful and proud. It's a great day to be an Ichabod!

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





Engaging faculty and small class sizes are part of what draws students to Washburn. Bob Beatty, professor and chair, political science, said the number of political science and public administration majors increased 28% this year. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

A Big Boost

Campus-wide efforts lead to enrollment increases and record freshman class

By Jeremy Wangler • jwangler@wualumni.org

Thanks to the largest incoming freshman class ever – 942 Ichabods – Washburn University reported its first enrollment growth in a decade this fall.

“Affordability and academic excellence are always a winning combination,” said Alan Bearman, vice president for strategic enrollment management and student success and dean of libraries. “We’re telling people Washburn is special, we are here to help you pursue your dreams.”

Washburn’s full-time equivalency climbed by 5.5% from a year ago. First-time freshmen increased by 20% and transfer students increased by 23%.

With growth and retention as their goals, Bearman and his team kept showing students why Washburn

is a great choice. President JuliAnn Mazachek announcing the Together We Thrive financial aid package last spring may have been the game-changer.

“When I saw Dr. Mazachek announce those scholarships, I knew we were going to win because she is a visionary leader,” said Sean Bird, ba ’91, senior associate dean, Mabee Library. “She is critically aware that for us to succeed, we can’t just talk about it, we have to do something.”

“She is encouraging us to push and chase these goals, and she’s willing to give us the resources we need,” Bearman said.

Washburn staff recently reworked the merit and transfer scholarship grids. They also made

ScholarshipUniverse available, an application that presents students with vetted third-party scholarships.

“We not only expanded scholarships, but we simplified the process, making it easier for students to understand,” said Andy Fogel, director, student financial aid. “They can project earlier in the process what scholarships they might receive.”

Brett Johnson, aa '14, ba '14, ma '22, associate director, undergraduate recruitment and admissions, said the scholarship strategy awards those with financial need and makes it easier to recruit high-achieving students who received merit scholarship offers from other schools.

“This helps set us apart, and it helps improve someone’s ability to select Washburn when they’re looking at college choice,” he said.

Bearman’s division also oversees marketing to potential students, another part of the recent success.

“The marketing team instinctively understood what the financial aid and recruiting teams were doing – changing the conversation around affordability as a way to open doors to talk about Washburn,” Bearman said. “They built a marketing package around that, and people are paying attention in a way they haven’t in a long time.”

Retaining current students is also part of the success. Jennifer Wiard, ba '09, associate dean of student success, Center for Student Success and Retention, said the CSSR has launched 37 retention initiatives since March 2023. These include re-enrollment campaigns, retention grants and helping students remove holds from their accounts.



Students taking advantage of the many spaces in Robert J. Dole Hall, the new home of the School of Law. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

“President Mazachek and Dr. Bearman’s retention goals introduced a lot of excitement and energy into our initiatives, especially as we watched the numbers climb,” Wiard said. “Positively impacting enrollment involves all of us helping students solve problems, succeed in their classes and reach their goals. Our outstanding faculty’s relationships with students and their commitment to student success are the most powerful drivers of retention. Everyone on campus has a role to play in helping our students retain and graduate.”

This year’s growth needs to be just the beginning. Washburn is a vital part of the statewide necessity to increase the number of higher-education graduates. A University of Kansas study said the state must produce 34,000 more degrees than projected to meet workforce demand by 2030.

“That’s six years from now,” Bird said. “What’s our part in that? How are we going to meet people where they are and get them to those jobs?”

Bearman said it’s more than just competing for students. It’s a collective effort to increase the college-going rate in the state and region.

“People are hearing college is all about debt or college isn’t necessary,” Bearman said. “We’re presenting them with different information and we’re gaining momentum. We’re helping people envision themselves as a college graduate.”

The enrollment numbers are a testament to everyone’s hard work and cause for excitement.

“We feel the energy students are bringing in,” Bird said. “We know there’s a concerted effort to all be moving in the same direction. And that always ends in students walking across the stage in Lee Arena.”

“The reason people work and teach at Washburn is because they love pouring themselves into students,” Bearman said. “Having more students here is something they want. They’re happy about it and excited about what comes next.” 🏃



Lauren Edelman, ba '11 (foreground), listens to a student presentation during the Leadership Skills Development class she teaches. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

Linking Leaders

Merging popular programs ignites new era of leadership, community engagement

By Annie Flachsbarth

From the start of his college career, Washburn junior George Burdick knew he wanted to embrace leadership head-on. So, in his first year on campus, he did what any emerging leader would do: He jumped right in and got involved with two of the most leadership-oriented groups on campus – the Leadership Institute and Learning in the Community.

Thanks to a planned merger of those two organizations, students like Burdick will have increased access to their resources.

As a student double-majoring in political science and philosophy and double-minoring in leadership studies and economics with plans to attend law school, Burdick said the experience with these groups has been incredibly valuable.

"They've helped me better understand the issues facing the state, the community and the country," Burdick said. "It's opened my eyes to everything I can do with my education."

While the Leadership Institute focuses on training the leaders of tomorrow through certificates, bachelor's and master's degrees, LinC focuses on the community side of leadership by engaging students in experiences that enhance academic learning and improve the community. In August, the organizations announced a merger into the Aleshire Center for Leadership and Community Engagement – all thanks to a \$2 million gift from Joe and Janet Aleshire.

Making Moves

Kristine Hart, mcj '03, director, LinC, is excited about the impact the Aleshire Center will have on both the students and the community.

"Our combined programs will work to bring in community leaders as partners, creating opportunities for student engagement and meaningful community work," Hart said. "We're going to have more resources, more collaboration and, ultimately, more impact. It's a win-win situation for everyone involved."



Kristine Hart, mcj '03 (right), leads a meeting of Bonner Scholars. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

As someone who's seen the impact both organizations can have firsthand, Burdick is ecstatic.

"This merger means we'll be able to do even more for our community," he said. "It's combining the best of both worlds."

With the merger set to be complete by fall 2024, the two organizations are working closely to determine the best way to integrate – including faculty needs, new programming and moving together into a space in the former home of the School of Law.

Lauren Edelman, ba '11, director, Leadership Institute, believes the merger will amplify their efforts and provide even more opportunities for students like Burdick.

"We will still do a lot of our traditional programming, but we will bolster those leadership experience opportunities with community engagement," Edelman said. "Ultimately, we'll work to make leadership development as robust of a learning experience as possible with a foundation of in-classroom learning and lots of opportunity for real-world practice."

Alumni from these groups have gone into helping professions like health care, social work and criminal justice. The conversation is diverse, depending on whatever lens they're coming from academically.

"Regardless of their path, students benefit greatly from working closely with the community," Hart said. "If you don't understand your community or the issues your community faces, it's hard to do your job as a leader."

One area the Aleshire Center will aim to invest more into is the LinC Bonner Scholars Program. College students in the program commit to serving 1,000 hours in the community during their four years at Washburn.

"Although these students are getting hands-on training and leadership development, very few receive a scholarship," Edelman said. "We'd love to see more scholarship support and investing in students who give back to their community."

The Aleshire Legacy

Although the Aleshires didn't graduate from Washburn, they aren't strangers to the campus. They've been connected to the Leadership Institute since Joe's days working at Capitol Federal in Topeka, and they often drop by to share leadership lessons with students and support various educational initiatives.

"In addition to helping develop others to become leaders, the Aleshires don't believe you can be a leader if you're not also working to make the world and community a better place," Hart said.

"We're extremely grateful to the Aleshires for their continued support," said Edelman. "Their gift and this merger brought new energy to both of our programs."

The Aleshire Center isn't just a merger of two organizations on campus – it's students and community members coming together to make a difference.

Or, as Burdick put it, "This is just the beginning." 



Amy White, assistant professor and director of simulation, directs students during a simulation of a patient in an emergency situation. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

Generations of Care

School of Nursing celebrates 50th anniversary in 2024

By Angela Lutz

During his 40-year nursing career, Dennis Heusted, bsn '92, always found the interactions with colleagues and patients most rewarding.

“When I first started, I would walk out of work and just be vibrating with energy from having all of that

connection with other people,” he said. “There’s no other job in the world that can give you that. That’s what made me realize this was what I was destined and designed to do. Washburn gave me that opportunity and made me who I am today – I would not be the man or the nurse I am without it, and I will be forever grateful for that.”

Most nurses are drawn to the profession due to an intense desire to help people – or, as Heusted put it, to foster a human connection. He began as a nursing assistant at Topeka Veterans Affairs Medical Center before earning his degree and working as a bedside nurse in hospitals across the country. He has seen the profession undergo massive transformation, but the desire to help people has remained.

Just like the nursing profession itself, the Washburn University School of Nursing has experienced dramatic changes to help the institution better serve the needs of students and patients. The school



Doctor of nursing practice students participating in an On Campus Experience day this fall. *Photo submitted*

celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2024. Since the bachelor of science in nursing program began in 1974, it has seen significant growth. There were only 23 students in the graduating class of Cynthia Hornberger, bsn '78, adjunct instructor, professor emeritus and former dean. Today, graduating classes average between 70 to 80 students per semester, due largely to increased demand for nurses in Kansas and across the country.

"The vision was to prepare professional nurses for the area, and we've done an excellent job of that," Hornberger said. "We are still one of the largest baccalaureate programs in Kansas, and it's had a tremendous impact on the health care of individuals within Topeka and the region."

"Our graduates are highly sought after, not only because facilities need nurses but because our program has a strong reputation for producing nurses who provide quality care," added current dean Jane Carpenter, bsn '80. "We are developing leaders. It's exciting to see our graduates serving in leadership roles in different institutions across the state and the country."

Among nursing schools, Washburn was early to recognize the need for a four-year program, and the school has continued to expand its offerings to remain a leader in nursing education by adding graduate education with the doctor of nursing practice degree



Photo by Jeremy Wangler

Celebrate the Washburn University School of Nursing 50th Anniversary

Friday, May 3, 2024

School of Nursing Open House
& Showcase

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024

50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

and the post-graduate psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner certificate. To keep up with how students learn, certain programs are taught entirely online. This attracts many diverse students from all over the United States, which is essential at a time when nurses are in such high demand.

"It's a time of fairly significant disruption in traditional higher education methods, certainly accelerated by the pandemic. It has challenged our thinking in terms of the best ways to teach and learn," Hornberger said. "We are experiencing a nursing shortage, so the pressure is high for us to continue doing a good job to flexibly meet the needs of students so we can produce the number of nurses needed to provide a premier health care system."

To give students a greater breadth of experience, Washburn has expanded its clinical site offerings beyond Topeka to include multiple locations across the state, as well as implemented state-of-the-art simulations in the classroom to develop clinical judgement and nursing skills. Students can also staff the school's mobile health clinic, which provides patient care at different community locations. Students can also participate in international experiences. Upcoming trips are planned for Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and Japan.

"Health care is lifelong learning," Carpenter said. "We have to adapt and innovate. We want our nurses to be able to provide safe, effective, high-quality care. We aim to expose students to a wide variety of experiences so they can choose their own path. I'm really proud of the education we provide here – we have a really creative, innovative team." 🦋



Justin Powell, c '05 (left), and Chris Thoreson pose inside HF Mixing Group. Powell is plant manager and Thoreson began this fall as an apprentice, working full-time in the plant and taking classes at Washburn Tech toward a machine/tool technology certificate and apprenticeship certificate. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

Building Careers

Registered apprenticeship program underway at Washburn Tech

By Jeremy Wangler • jwangler@wualumni.org

Chris Thoreson was looking for a new career that would provide excitement, solid pay and chances for growth. After hearing about the new registered apprenticeship program at Washburn Institute of Technology, he knew he found a fitting opportunity.

“I had been working retail and I wanted to move on and do something completely different,” he said. “I decided machine work sounded interesting and I was really interested in the apprenticeship. I thought it would be a good opportunity to work while I learn.”

The Kansas Office of Registered Apprenticeship opened in September 2022. Just a few weeks later, Washburn



Courtenay Wills

Tech started its own program and hired Courtenay Wills as associate director of apprenticeships and custom training to develop the program and bring area employers onboard. When registered, employers provide apprentices 2,000 hours a year of on-the-job training and 144 hours of paid education toward a Washburn Tech certificate related to their field.

Thoreson started as an apprentice this fall at HF Mixing Group and enrolled in the machine/tool technology program at Washburn Tech. In 2025, he'll graduate with a program certificate and an apprenticeship certificate, which is recognized nationwide.

"We got lucky with our first candidate, Chris," said plant manager Justin Powell, c '05. "He's working on programming on a mill, which is a pretty big step for us. We didn't expect to be here this soon."

Powell hopes their first apprenticeship is the start of something big for his company that makes rubber mixing equipment for clients including major tire companies.

"We're seeing a decline in trades, not just machine, but all trades everywhere," Powell said. "This is taking a step to ensure our succession planning internally and to be a contributing factor in the industry here in northeast Kansas. It's moving employees along, taking the skillset they learn at Tech or in the field, building on that and improving on that. You can't move forward if you're not looking forward."

The apprenticeship program offers an attractive and competitive choice for potential employees.

"A lot of people want to go into the field, but they have to work," Wills said. "This is a way to get your career



Chris Thoreson programs a computer on a mill that makes rubber mixing equipment. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

started, get an education without debt and be fully employed the entire time."

It also gives employers a recruitment tool by showing potential hires how far they can go in their company. A U.S. Department of Labor report said 94% of apprentices stay with their company after the program.

"Because you invested in them, they will stay," she said.

Shawna Loh, human resources manager at HF Mixing Group, hopes apprentices become ambassadors to the trade and her company.

"They get first-hand experience, go back into the classroom and talk to students and machinists from other companies and say, 'There is work, good pay, good benefits and opportunities in this field,'" Loh said.

Wills, who has worked in technical training and workforce development throughout her career, said Washburn Tech is well positioned to meet the region's workforce demands. They offer a wide range of certificates, and several area employers are hiring in these fields.


Also, Washburn Tech trains high school students as they begin their career and explore post-secondary education options. Thirty-two school districts bus high school students to the campus daily, and early childhood education is a popular program for high schoolers, and now, a popular apprenticeship option.

"There's a huge childcare shortage," Wills said. "If parents don't have childcare, they can't work. And then we have another problem."

Wills spent her first months creating application and certification processes and building relationships with community members. Now, HF Mixing Group, Frito Lay, Mars, Community Care Network of Kansas and about 12 daycare centers are on board, and Wills hopes other companies will follow.

"We want to make sure employers' needs are being met," Wills said. "It's all about getting them what they need and getting the apprentices the training they need."

She finds the work rewarding and is encouraged by the early success.

"Anytime I can do something to help a student come out debt free with a degree or a certificate, that's a great feeling," she said. "And being able to help the community I work in is a really good feeling." 



"Today, and for years to come, we and others will stop and pause to honor current and former students and teachers who are serving or have served in our military," said Sen. Roger Marshall at the dedication of the Washburn Veterans Memorial on Nov. 10. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

Display of Gratitude

New veterans memorial at Washburn a chance to contemplate, commemorate

By Angela Lutz

From the beginning, Washburn had a student veteran. When the school was founded in 1865 as Lincoln College, one early scholar had fought for the Union during the Civil War. Today, many veterans are represented at Washburn, walking the same hallways as previous generations who answered the call to serve. To honor the individuals who dedicated their time – and sometimes their lives – to military service, Washburn dedicated its new veterans memorial Nov. 10, marking a fitting Veterans Day tribute.

"It's all about representing the sacrifices made by our veterans throughout history and making sure current veterans feel comfortable and welcomed and desire to come to Washburn," said Chris Bowers, ba '17, ma '21, Washburn military transition coordinator and advocate, who chaired the memorial planning

committee. "It's just one more way to demonstrate to the public our dedication to serving those who serve the nation."

Completed this summer, the idea for the memorial came about nearly eight years ago. After planning and collaboration was underway, fundraising went quickly to replace the weathered and damaged stone that served for 30 years as Washburn's Vietnam memorial. Lead gifts from John, ba '73, jd '84, and Kristina, ba '91, Dietrick, and President Emeritus Jerry and Susan, h '23, Farley helped spur gifts from dozens of others to fund the project.

The new memorial, on the northeast corner of the Memorial Union lawn, centers on a bronze sculpture representing a fallen service member and a seven-foot-

tall piece of black granite engraved with the names of the 47 Washburn students who died in Vietnam. Seven additional stones surround the perimeter in honor of each of the six branches of the military, along with a stone recognizing the many nurses who served. Bowers said the memorial's broad reach was a focal point for the planning committee.

"The memorial represents dedication on the part of Washburn to recognize that we all have unique experiences in life, and one of the biggest strengths all veterans share is the broad diversity of people who make up the armed forces," said Bowers, who served in the Army for 13 years and joined Washburn's staff in 2017. "This will demonstrate to the community our commitment not only to our veterans but to the inclusion of everyone."

The memorial is also meaningful to student veterans, as it publicly signals a commitment to serving those who have served and bolsters Washburn's status as a Purple Heart University, as many veterans face challenges when transitioning back to civilian life and need extra guidance. Washburn also receives high rankings for creating opportunities for veterans and has been recognized as the top public regional university in Kansas for veterans. For Washburn industrial engineering student Philip Klaske, who served as a nuclear electrician in the U.S. Navy from 2009-14, the memorial also offers an important chance for passersby to reflect upon its true meaning.

"Memorials are reminders to anybody who walks past and chooses to notice it that freedom is not free," Klaske said. "There are people who commit their lives



Attendees at the dedication read the stone honoring Washburn students who died in the Vietnam War.

Photo by Jeremy Wangler

to its protection. These memorials honor people who have given their lives in defense of freedom."

Klaske is aware that many students will rush past the memorial on their way to class, but he hopes once in a while they pause and spend time in the open-air plaza, which also features United States, Kansas, and POW/MIA flags. The memorial was designed to invite interaction and reflection, and Klaske tries to nurture a sense of appreciation when he sees it.

"With memorials, it's important to have the mindset they are displays of gratitude from a current generation to a previous generation," Klaske said. "Don't just visit it but contemplate. If you take five minutes to observe and think about it, you realize that every name on there is a person who is very much like you, and you can cultivate a sense of gratitude."

Bowers has gotten a positive response from veterans on campus and in the community, with one committee member telling him the finished product exceeded his expectations. He's also proud of the way veterans and alumni provided funds to build the memorial, as well as everyone who put their time and energy into creating what he hopes will be a community gathering place for many Veterans Days to come.

"Our motto, 'not for ourselves alone,' certainly rang true in this case, because it was not me doing it or any individual, it was all of us together," Bowers said. 🙏



JuliAnn Mazachek, president, Washburn, speaks at the memorial dedication. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*



Daija Coleman, b ed '22, won the Ms. Wheelchair Kansas competition last spring and finished as first runner-up in the national competition. *Photo submitted*

Shining Example

Ms. Wheelchair Kansas breaking down stereotypes, showing capabilities of all in her classroom

By Angela Lutz

When Daija Coleman, b ed '22, was a kid, she didn't have any role models who looked like her. Born with cerebral palsy, Coleman has always relied on an electric wheelchair to get around, but her disability hasn't slowed her down. Growing up in Atchison, Kansas, she excelled in school and participated in theater and show choir. In high school, she learned about the history

of the disability community and the importance of advocacy – and that's when she decided to become the role model she longed to see.

She comes from a family of teachers – her mom, aunt, great-grandma and cousin have all taught at various levels. She has known working with kids was her passion from an early age, and she embraces the opportunity to help her students overcome their own

insecurities and limitations. It's no surprise she now teaches fifth grade at Atchison Elementary School.

"I like being able to break down any stereotypes (my students) might have had about themselves and what their abilities are," Coleman said. "To see me have a successful career and do the things I need to do every day, I think that internally shapes their perceptions of what they're capable of and what they can do. You never know what kinds of experiences someone comes to your classroom with. I can be a role model for them."

This year, Coleman took her message to a national stage when she earned the title of Ms. Wheelchair Kansas and was later named first runner-up in the national competition. She said Ms. Wheelchair isn't like a typical pageant but rather highlights the accomplishments and advocacy work of women who are wheelchair mobile. For her platform, Coleman focused on the importance of everybody being a disability advocate and using their privilege to amplify marginalized voices. She also gained several new platforms – and a lot of new friends.

"They say you show up at nationals with one platform and leave with countless more, and I agree with that," she said. "You also leave with a bunch of friends who get what it's like. None of us are the same, but we all understand each other in a way that nobody else ever will. That was really empowering and eye-opening for me as well, because I didn't have a lot of friends who used wheelchairs growing up."

Coleman's platform was largely born out of her time at Washburn, where her senior capstone project focused on making the education department accessible for individuals with disabilities. No one like Coleman had taken the lead before to increase accessibility in Carnegie Hall, a 120-year-old building on the national register of historic places that was the home of Washburn's education department. With the help of her classmates, she gathered the necessary documentation, scheduled meetings and outlined what needed to be done – and people listened. With no viable option to transform Carnegie, the education department is now in the building that formerly housed the School of Law as a direct result of Coleman's efforts.

"I started thinking about the legacy I was going to leave behind and my story while I was at Washburn," Coleman said. "I started wondering how many others were deterred who could have been great educators. I knew the problem probably wouldn't be solved during



Daija Coleman shows off her first runner-up certificate from the Ms. Wheelchair America competition. *Photo submitted*

my time there, but it wasn't about me. It was about all the people who would go through the program after me."

One of Coleman's cheerleaders in the education department was Tracie Lutz, m ed '95, literacy block lecturer, who urged her to pursue her ambitious project full steam ahead. Lutz has always been impressed by Coleman's leadership, empathy and communication skills, and she believed in her student's ability to affect meaningful and lasting change on campus.

"She is a calm and loving presence that entices you to embrace what she's sharing and thinking about," Lutz said. "She's made a difference at Washburn, and she did so in a manner that created a movement. Now we are in a building all students can come to with no limitations, and that's because of her advocacy."

Coleman is also cementing her legacy as a compassionate leader through her work with her students, who are learning important lessons about inclusiveness she hopes they will use to make the world a more equitable place.

"My hope is when my students are older, I will have created however many new advocates who will make the world a better place because they spent nine months in my classroom," she said. "It makes them a little bit more cognizant, and it's obvious I'm different but that's never really bothered me. I just take it as an opportunity to show people what I'm capable of, and that's something I get to do every day when I go to work." ♿



Von Hansen, b music '08 (right), works with percussion student Cameron Arnold. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

A Masterful Rhythm

Assistant professor hits the right beat with next generation of music students

By Annie Flachsbarth

With a passion for both the academic and musical spheres, Von Hansen, b music '08, has composed a symphonic career of success. As a Washburn percussion student, he laid the foundation for his future career. Now, as an assistant professor of percussion and a composer, he credits Washburn for helping him shape the future of music – by nurturing budding talents in an institution that once encouraged him.

The Tempo of Success

As an accomplished composer, Hansen has penned around 20 pieces thus far. One of his compositions, “Mortal Coil,” written after the death of his father, was selected for production at the prestigious Percussive

Arts Society international convention and was the topic of a recent interview with Hansen on NPR. He is also recording a full-length album of his music – set to be released in vinyl, CD and digital formats. Funded by a grant from Washburn, the album will feature three original percussion ensembles and three solo pieces.

“We’re recording with professional recording artists and friends I know who are amazing players, so it’s going to be a top-level recording,” Hansen said. “I’m really excited to get my music recorded at that level.”

Yet, it’s not just his own success that excites Hansen. He takes pride in seeing his students go out and make their own marks in the world of music.

“I strive to see them do better than I have, to see them go out and excel at whatever they wish to pursue,” Hansen said. “Whether they start as music students and then pivot into mass media or impress at the Topeka Symphony, my aim is to provide them with everything they need for success. Witnessing them achieve great things is more than rewarding. It’s absolutely awesome.”

The inspiration Hansen gives percussion students is also what drives them to come to Washburn. Cameron Arnold said it was Hansen who solidified his reason to attend Washburn over other schools.

“Von is not just a great teacher, but an all-around good musician and mentor. Even more importantly, he’s a good human being. He makes the effort to understand us on a personal level, beyond just music,” Arnold said. “His teaching style is versatile, blending different learning approaches to serve us better. With him, I’ve seen myself grow not just as a musician, but as an individual with boosted confidence.”

“I strive to see them do better than I have, to see them go out and excel at whatever they wish to pursue,”

—Von Hansen

In fact, one of Hansen’s former percussion students, Daniel Albertson, b music ’21 – a fifth through 12th grade band and middle school choir instructor in Ellinwood, Kansas, and an adjunct percussion professor at Kansas Wesleyan University who was recently named coordinator for the Sunflower Music Festival – credits Hansen with much of his own success.

“He is a very forward-thinking teacher who has always pushed me to reach my potential,” Albertson said. “He encouraged me to grow. In fact, I don’t think I would have gone on to grad school if I hadn’t had him as a teacher.”

Setting the Beat

Hansen began teaching at Washburn in 2019 after earning master’s and doctoral degrees. At Washburn, Tom Morgan, professor emeritus, and Kirt Saville, retired professor and chair, provided invaluable lessons



Von Hansen (left) keeps beat during a percussion ensemble rehearsal. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

in professionalism and setting high standards for his music and influenced his approach to teaching. The inspiration from these professors continues to encourage Hansen to thrive in his musical career.

As Hansen looks toward the future, he is committed to continuing to elevate the music program at Washburn. With a belief in recruiting high-quality students, providing them with opportunities to excel and pushing them to new limits, he’s doing just that. At the 2023 Kansas Percussive Arts Society competition in April, Hansen’s students won first place in the collegiate ensemble category.

“I had them play professional-level music, which was the hardest thing I’ve ever had them play,” Hansen said. “We had some great students who worked really hard on the piece, and they played it really well.”

Ultimately, Hansen feels privileged to continue advancing music education at Washburn.

“It’s an honor to return to the school that gave me so much,” Hansen said. “Building on all the good things we have here is truly satisfying.”

Hansen and his wife, Ashley Hansen, bsn ’08, live in Topeka with their French horn-playing son, Cage, and their clarinet-loving daughter, Rallie. 🏃

Learn more about Von Hansen and hear his music at vonhansenmusic.com

Adopting Hope

Social work alumnae leads national adoption program

By Annie Flachsbarth

As national project director for AdoptUSKids, Melinda Kline, bsw '05, msw '08, has witnessed the importance and impact adoption can have on families. Although many people have connections to adoption and foster care, for Kline, the connection is deeply personal.

Before Kline was born, her mother – driven by circumstances beyond her control – placed two children for adoption. Kline didn't learn about her adopted siblings until after her mother died years later, and she eventually found and built relationships with them. She was already working as a social worker, but the experience further solidified her as a passionate adoption advocate.

Early in her career, Kline received a bachelor's degree from Ottawa University in human services and went to work at the Kansas Department for Children and Families, assisting with the benefits and eligibility side of the agency. She decided she wanted to be a social worker, and the state invested in her to go to Washburn.

"The social work department at Washburn is pretty phenomenal," Kline said. "The classes were small, and there are a lot of non-traditional students – especially in human services and social work departments – so I always felt like I fit right in."

She worked for the Kansas Children's Service League as a licensed social worker while obtaining her master's and clinical license. She served as a Washburn adjunct faculty member from 2010-18.

"I always told students to pay attention to who you're in class with. You never know when you might need to reach out to part of your Washburn network to help a family get services they need," Kline said.

While at KCSL, she had the opportunity to supervise the Adopt Kansas Kids program. There she helped in child welfare, infant adoption and foster families.

"I discovered that adoptions were my love – especially adoption from foster care."



Melinda Kline, bsw '05, msw '08, poses in front of Benton Hall. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

In 2018, she became the deputy director of permanency at the Kansas Department for Children and Families.

"At that point, I quit all my side gigs – no more therapy on the side, no more Washburn teaching – because working in DCF and being over foster care and adoption in Kansas just needed all my attention," Kline said.

In 2023, fueled by her passion for helping children find permanent homes, Kline accepted the role with AdoptUSKids, a federally funded cooperative agreement between the Children's Bureau and the National Adoption Association. She works to raise awareness at a national level about the need for adoptive families – particularly advocating for the often-overlooked teenagers in foster care.

In addition to her personal connection with adoption, Kline also knows how life-changing a permanent connection can make in a child's life. Before having her own children, she took in her teenage nephew and raised him through graduation and adulthood.

"Part of my Cherokee culture is to take care of family and extended family," Kline said. "But I also saw what can happen to kids when they don't have permanent families. We are never too old to need our family." 🦋

Career-Ready

McAnally reflects on 17 years of helping Ichabods break into chosen fields

By Jeremy Wangler • jwangler@wualumni.org

As director of Washburn Career Services the last 17 years, Kent McAnally told people the keys to the job they want are networking and getting experience in the field while a student. He also recommended mock interviews through his office.

Retiring in January, McAnally reflected on serving Washburn students and alumni since 2006.

“It is still true that making connections is most important,” McAnally said. “Everybody says, ‘It’s not what you know, it’s who you know.’ But the reality is, it’s who knows you.”

Work experience can come from an internship, clinicals, a graduate assistantship or some other way to get into the field while getting a degree.

“It’s getting experience in a real workplace,” he said. “It’s doing real work. That’s the best qualification.”



Kent McAnally retired in January after 17 years as Washburn’s director of Career Services. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

Madi Steinbrock, ba '19, was in the final year of her kinesiology degree when Roy Wohl, professor and chair of kinesiology, required students to prepare a resume and do a mock interview at Career Services. Steinbrock wanted to get into a graduate program, so she took her resume to McAnally and asked for help beyond her class requirements. She had her sights set on a master’s program at the University of Kansas studying higher education administration with a graduate assistantship in student-athlete support services.

“Kent went over my resume and did extensive research about working in student-athlete support services,” she said. “He went above and beyond in preparing me for that interview and helping me know what I wanted to say. He told me I did a really good job and was prepared. That helped me relax and feel confident.”

Steinbrock got in the program, graduated and is now a learning specialist in the Kansas State University athletics department. She tries to emulate the characteristics she saw in McAnally and others at Washburn.

“A lot of people at Washburn were willing to help me and go the extra mile like Kent was,” she said. “I wanted to go into higher education because there are so many people like him at Washburn going above and beyond.”

Retired now after 24 years in career services, 13 years teaching music in public schools and four years doing both as a graduate student, McAnally hopes more students will use Career Services earlier in their education and everyone will remember the services are free not just to students, but also alumni.

“It’s rewarding when a student or alumni seeks assistance or just wants to run some things by us, and then we find out they got a position they really wanted,” McAnally said. “I just can’t say enough about how that has worked here at Washburn and how it’s what’s driven me.” 🙌

Alumni Fellows

Eight people were honored by the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation on Nov. 3, 2023, for their service to their profession, community and Washburn University



Beffort



Bradbury



Ice



Kent



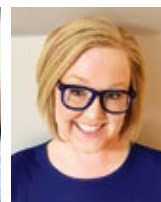
New



Patzel



Robertson



Watkins

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Mark Beffort, bba '85 | Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Mark Beffort serves as CEO of Robinson Park and Newmark Robinson Park and chief operating officer and portfolio manager of Square Deal Investments. After several years as a successful commercial real estate broker, Beffort began building a personal investment portfolio in addition to assisting several private and public entities build a strategic partnership. For nearly 40 years he's built a reputation as a trusted partner and community leader. His portfolio is valued at over \$2 billion and spans 15 million square feet across nine markets from Oklahoma City to New York City. The portfolio started with a high-rise office strategy and has since grown and diversified through hospitality, multi-family, industrial and storage investments. Between Newmark Robinson Park and Square Deal Investments, Beffort employs over 200 individuals with jobs that provide competitive compensation, benefits and strong company culture. Beffort's professional and community involvement includes serving as trustee for the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation and Casady School. He is chair of the Council of Bond Oversight for the state of Oklahoma and serves on the boards of directors for Myriad Gardens Foundation and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber.

How has Washburn contributed to your life and career: Washburn gave me the confidence that I

belonged, from the football field, through the Sig Ep house and most importantly, to Henderson Hall where I gained the base to build on in my business career.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Emily Bradbury, ba '00 | Wellsville, Kansas

Emily Bradbury became executive director of the Kansas Press Association in 2018, an organization that advocates for Kansas media outlets, sponsors the KPA Awards of Excellence, hosts an annual convention, connects advertisers with newspapers and provides other services. She became executive assistant to Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh after graduation before moving to KPA in 2002. Bradbury became KPA assistant director in 2015 and has also served as director of member services. She was executive director of Kids Voting Kansas from 2002-08 and from 2011-15 and co-founded the Kansas Civics Games in 2020. Bradbury was named one of Topeka's 30 Under 30 in 2005. She serves on the board of directors of the national Newspaper Association Managers, Kansas Historical Society, Northeast Kansas Library System Foundation, the Kansas Coalition for Open Government and the Wellsville Community Library. She serves on the Kansas Bar Association's media-bar committee and is a member of PEO International and Franklin County Optimists.

How has Washburn contributed to your life and career: I owe so much of my unique opportunities

to the academic community at Washburn. The College of Arts and Sciences, particularly the history department, made sure we were challenged, supported and encouraged to reach out to our professors and other community experts. We were expected to ask questions, dig deep into many topics and ask the "big whys." These skills have served me well, and all were honed during my time at Washburn. I will be forever grateful for my experience.

SCHOOL OF LAW

Laura Ice, jd '84 | Wichita, Kansas

Laura Ice retired this fall as senior vice president and general counsel at Textron Financial Corporation. She had been with the company for nearly 26 years, starting in 1997. The company provides financing for customers purchasing Textron products, primarily Bell and Textron Aviation - Cessna, Beechcraft and Hawker - aircraft. Ice worked with clients to structure a loan or lease that complies with legal standards and protects the company's interests. Her law career began as an associate and later a partner at Adams & Jones Chartered from 1984-97. The Wichita Business Journal named Ice to the 2017 Wichita Women in Business list. She won the Kansas Bar Association's Professionalism Award and the Wichita Bar Association's Howard C. Kline Distinguished Service Award in 2014. The Kansas Supreme Court appointed her to the Kansas board of law examiners from 2014-20 to help administer the bar exam and admission to the Kansas bar. She currently serves as president of the Kansas Bar Association.

How has Washburn contributed to your life and

career: I am thankful that Washburn School of Law opened the door to a law career for me. It was a leap to go from high school English teacher to law school, but it was the best decision of my life. I will always be very grateful to Washburn. My fondest memory is being surprised by the personal attention given to students by the professors; it made a great impact on our success.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Kevin Kent, ba '06, bs '06 | Kansas City, Missouri

Kevin Kent is a bioprocess research and innovation senior scientist at Boehringer Ingelheim, a pharmaceutical, biopharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturer. He started with the company in 2017 as a scientist, became a senior scientist in 2020 and moved to his current role in 2021. Kent earned a doctorate in biophysical chemistry from Stanford University in 2011 and has a professional certificate in data science from IBM. He specializes in research and development, data visualization and modeling. Kent worked for Dow Chemical Company, MilliporeSigma and Waters Corporation before starting at Boehringer Ingelheim. He volunteers with the Girl Scouts of NE Kansas and NW Missouri as a troop co-leader and specializes in designing and teaching coding and STEM classes and demonstrations. He has had research published several times including in the Journal of Pharmaceutical Analysis and the Journal of the American Chemical Society.

What are your favorite memories of Washburn: My most fond Washburn memories are having fun studying in groups to prepare for various science classes. Working with professors and other students to make sure we were getting the concepts was challenging and fun. Washburn prepared me well for graduate studies with a sound fundamental understanding of chemistry, physics and mathematics. I really benefited from learning science in small groups and class sizes with lots of attention and care from excellent faculty.

SCHOOL OF APPLIED STUDIES

Beryl New, ba '88, m ed '02 | Topeka, Kansas

Beryl New retired this summer as Topeka Public School's director of certified personnel and the director of equity – positions she held since 2017. She had a 35-year career in education, mostly with TPS, that included working as a teacher, counselor and principal. She became the first female, African American head principal when she took the helm at Highland Park High School in 2010. Prior to that, she was an

assistant principal at HPHS and assistant and associate principal at Lawrence High School as she earned master's and doctorate degrees in education. Her career began in 1988 teaching English at Topeka High School. Realizing she had a penchant for advising students, she then started teaching and counseling as she transitioned into administrative roles. New currently serves on the Kansas African American Affairs Commission and the Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. She serves on the board of directors for Midland Care, SENT Topeka, the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice, the Brown v. Board Sumner Legacy Trust and Keys for Networking.

How has Washburn contributed to your life and career: Washburn is large enough to provide a quality university experience, yet small enough to make each student feel that they are a valued member of the family. Every time I walk across the campus, I relive treasured memories from nearly 40 years ago. This is the beauty of Washburn, and I am honored to be part of such a welcoming, nurturing family!

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Brenda Patzel, bsn '88 | Lawrence, Kansas

Brenda Patzel retired from the Washburn University School of Nursing in 2018 and is an associate professor emeritus. In 2019 she opened Patzel Psychiatric Services, a private psychiatric mental health practice in Lawrence, Kansas, providing psychopharmacological medications and psychotherapy to individuals with psychiatric mental health illness. She is a board-certified psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner and her clinical practice spans 39 years in a variety of settings including in-patient, out-patient and community mental health. In her 28-years as a nurse educator she taught in both undergraduate and graduate programs. In 2013 she developed and directed the School of Nursing's post-graduate psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program as well as the curriculum for the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner track for the doctor of nursing practice degree.

How has Washburn contributed to your success:

Having graduated as a diploma nurse from Stormont Vail, I had clinical experience and general nursing knowledge, but what I didn't have was the benefit of a broader educational exposure that comes with a bachelor of science in nursing degree. The completion of my BSN from Washburn University provided the groundwork for a new perspective and expanded understanding of the world. The degree also promoted my desire for learning that would take me through completion of both master's and doctorate degrees in nursing. I am certain it was my time at Washburn that provided the foundation for the success in my profession.

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Heath Robertson, c '13, as '13 | Lawrence, Kansas

Heath Robertson is the founder and president of VDC Specialists, a company that provides building information modeling services for mechanical, electrical and plumbing contractors nationwide to enable prefabrication and more efficient construction workflows. While studying technical drafting and earning an associate's degree at Washburn, Robertson worked for Kansas Electric Power Cooperative as an engineering technician from 2011-13. He then worked for Torgeson Electric Company from 2013-16 and Hoss & Brown Engineers from 2016-18 until starting VDC Specialists in 2018, a company that now has offices in Lawrence and Dallas Texas. Major projects he's worked on include millions of square feet of data centers and corporate offices for multiple Fortune 50 companies, the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan, Kansas, and the Lawrence Memorial Hospital West Campus. In Topeka, he's worked on Washburn's Lincoln Hall, Washburn Rural High School and the Topeka Mars Wrigley plant. Robertson has volunteered with Shriners Hospital for Children, Team Rubicon and the Lawrence Humane Society.

How has Washburn contributed to your life and

your career: With the correlation between schooling and a career being so clear under Gordon Wade's direction at Washburn Tech, it was incredibly easy to stay engaged throughout the coursework. These lessons

still form the foundation that continues to propel my career and opens opportunities for my entire team.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Janice Watkins, ba '05 | Topeka, Kansas

Janice Watkins has been the CEO of Topeka Habitat for Humanity since 2016. During her leadership, Habitat for Humanity changed locations of its headquarters and ReStore retail operation, expanded neighborhood revitalization and improved the Aging in Place program. In 2021, Watkins spearheaded the launch of the House to Home program, an inaugural nationwide program converting predatory contract for deed agreements into stable, affordable mortgages. Prior to that, Watkins worked at Kansas Legal Services in children and family advocacy. A former WWA scholarships recipient, Watkins joined the WWA board in 2019 and has served as president and on the scholarship committee, distributing scholarships to single parents at Washburn. Watkins is vice president of the Kansas Habitat for Humanity Affiliate Support Organization. She volunteers with the Shawnee

County Advocacy Council on Aging, the Topeka Center for Advanced Learning & Careers, Capital City High School construction and trades pathway committee and the City of Topeka's homelessness innovation team. She has been a Topeka 20 Under 40 honoree and a YWCA Woman of Excellence.

What is your favorite Washburn memory: One day, daycare was closed, and I took my infant son, Gabe, with me to campus. When I went to class, the English department chair and secretary (Robert Stein and Karen Simpson, ba '71) offered to babysit. After class, I searched high and low for Gabe and finally located him on the hip of Dr. Stein, who was lecturing to a 300-level class just bouncing my baby along while giving an intimidating grammar lesson to his students. They both smiled at me and just kept on teaching together. 🏃





Tim Hammes (left) and Santiago Rendon won the ITA Cup national championship as a doubles team this fall.

Photo by ITA

Winning it All

Men's tennis doubles team earns ITA Cup national championship this fall

By Jeremy Wangler • jwangler@washburn.edu

They may have been 800 miles away from Topeka, but Tim Hammes and Santiago Rendon felt at home as they defeated two teams from their region to win the ITA Cup national championship this fall. They were the men's tennis doubles champions in the Division II tournament played in Mount Berry, Georgia, in October.

The win felt especially good after they hosted and lost in the ITA regional a month earlier, missing an automatic bid to the ITA Cup. The duo earned a wildcard bid and proved they belonged by winning Washburn's first national championship in any sport since Madeline Hill won the ITA Cup women's singles tournament in 2016.

After facing match point and elimination in the quarterfinal of the ITA Cup, Hammes and Rendon won in the tiebreaker and moved to the semifinal. The four remaining teams were all from the Central Region.

"We knew all of the teams and we'd seen and played them many times," Hammes said. "We knew we would have a chance if we played well."



Kirby Ronning

"The biggest difference between Tim and Santi and their opponents is how fearless they were in the big moments," said Kirby Ronning, head coach, men's and women's tennis. "When they got into pressure

moments, they played freely and aggressively and went for it.”

The two didn’t lose a set in the final two matches of the tournament.

“I wanted it so much,” Rendon said. “When we started the run and realized we could win the tournament, I just wanted it more. We had confidence and we played very well, very aggressively in the key moments of the matches.”

Ronning was busy coaching three players in singles and two doubles teams at the tournament. Match timing allowed him to be there for Hammes and Rendon during their championship run, but Ronning knew it was best to let them do their thing.

“There’s not a lot of coaching at that point,” he said. “It’s just giving them energy and helping them maintain their level. They know what they’re good at and they’re pretty good at dissecting what their opponents aren’t necessarily good at.”

Ronning’s biggest coaching decision leading to the duo’s success may have come a year ago when he decided to pair them as a doubles team mid-season.

“We were looking at what might work and what might not work,” Ronning said. “Looking at what Tim and Santi do well, how they can complement each other and their chemistry as players, we put them together and they started winning a lot.”

The two went 19-4 last year as Washburn won the conference postseason tournament. They hosted and won a round of the NCAA Central Region tournament and advanced to the NCAA round of 16.

“Tim and I were very good friends, but we had to work at how we were going to understand each other on the court,” Rendon said. “Tim is a solid baseliner. I can move better at the net than he does. So, we try to complement each other and find the best position for both of us to win the points.”

The women’s team nearly mirrored the men’s success last year as they also won the MIAA postseason tournament and hosted and won a match in the NCAA Central Region tournament. They made it one step closer in the NCAA national tournament, advancing to the quarterfinals. This year, senior Maja



Tim Hammes (left) and Santiago Rendon pose with their trophies after winning the national championship.
Photo by ITA

Lung advanced to the ITA Cup semifinal, one round away from playing for a national championship.

“Our women know there’s a target on their back,” Ronning said. “If we’re going to be successful in the spring, it’s going to be because we worked really hard throughout the year.”

Hammes and Rendon got a taste of winning it all this fall. They’ll have one more chance as a doubles team as Rendon graduates with a business degree this spring and Hammes will graduate with a business degree next year. They both hope to earn MBAs and be graduate assistant coaches at Washburn.

“In the moment, we were just really happy and smiling at each other and hugging each other,” Hammes said of the national championship. “I was overwhelmed because it felt a little bit unreal.”

The recent success can lead to even better things this spring for the men and women.

“Hopefully we’re playing our best tennis in April at the conference tournament, peaking in the national tournament in May,” Ronning said. 🏆

Dream Season

Washburn soccer finishes as NCAA runner-up, claiming conference and regional titles along the way

By Jeremy Wangler • jwangler@washburn.edu

The Washburn soccer team had already set school records for win totals and highest national ranking before making it to the NCAA tournament this season as the top seed in the Central Region. When it all wrapped up on Dec. 9, the Ichabods finished second in the nation, falling just short of a national championship.

After winning their second MIAA championship in school history, Washburn received the top seed in the NCAA Central Region and hosted the first two rounds. The journey to the title game featured two overtime games and nothing but one-goal games, including two won by freshman goal scorers.

Head Coach Davy Phillips said recognizing anyone can lead is why they made it this far and why younger players could shine in big moments.

“You never know who is going to step up or when they’re needed,” he said. “To have that belief to know that the strength is truly in the collective and anyone can do the job is a powerful thing.”

Junior All-American Khloe Schuckman scored the game-winner in overtime of the first round. Sophomore Aubrey Tanksley scored a game-tying goal with two seconds left in regulation to send the second round into overtime. Schuckman then scored her second goal of the game to win it. Schuckman scored two more times against Emporia State to win the regional for the first time in program history. In the national quarterfinal, freshman Grace Peterson scored her first career goal, the only of the game. MIAA Freshman of the Year Mackinly Rohn was the hero in another 1-0 win for Washburn in the semifinal against Adelphi, sending the Ichabods to the national championship game.

“Our culture allows anyone to step up and be the person we need in the moment,” said senior forward Riley Painter. “Everyone’s really stepped into a role that’s cultivated success for everyone, no matter what that looks like.”



The Ichabods celebrate with the NCAA Central Region trophy after beating Emporia State, 2-1. Washburn advanced to the national championship game during their historic season. *Photo by Ben Nichols*

In the championship game, Point Loma scored seven minutes into the second half to win the title, 1-0. Despite the tough ending, the Ichabods added three trophies to the case this season – the MIAA and Central Region trophies and NCAA runner-up trophy. They finished the year 21-4-1, setting a school record for wins and goals.

Junior Jordan Tenpas, an All-American and the MIAA Defensive Player of the Year, helped Washburn to a school-record 14 shutouts.

“The collectiveness of our team just carries us – and has carried us throughout the entire season and this postseason,” she said. “Knowing that I have my team to back me up, that’s all that matters.”

Senior MIAA Goalkeeper of the Year Raegan Wells finished her career as the school leader in wins and saves.

“This is something you can only dream of,” she said. “Coming back for my fifth year and we end up in the championship, I’m so happy and happy for the girls and everyone on the team.” 🦋





Will McNeill speaking at the Washburn Athletics Hall of Fame ceremony in the fall. *Photo by Kyle Manthe*

Sticking to It

Washburn basketball steals leader pounces on NBA job opportunity

By Chris Marshall

The official hashtag of the Utah Jazz is #TakeNote, a play on the organization's music-themed team name and logo.

For Will McNeill, bba '13, mba '15, a basketball operations generalist for the NBA franchise, the motto has added meaning. When the Ichabod men's basketball All-American was inducted into the Washburn University Athletics Hall of Fame this year, a little-known motivational tactic was revealed.

"He'd put Post-it notes on the mirror in the bathroom of his goals and different things he wanted to accomplish," said Joe Smith, McNeill's former Washburn teammate and roommate who spoke at the Oct. 7 induction ceremony.

The Alexandria, Louisiana, native finished his career as Washburn's all-time leader in steals, with nearly

100 more than anyone else in school history. It's little wonder the 6-foot-1 guard had such sticky fingers, given the number of Post-its he added and removed while surpassing his goals.

McNeill ranks No. 5 on the Ichabods' all-time scoring list, top 20 in rebounds, second in free throws made and remains the all-time steals record-holder.

"Looking back on it when I was writing my speech," Smith said. "Everything he set his mind to, he accomplished."

Bucket List

A collegiate career that ended with second-team All-American honors and the 2012-13 MIAA MVP award was just the beginning. McNeill has been checking off items on his goal list since graduating.

In the 10 years since McNeill last suited up as an Ichabod, the four-time MIAA Scholar Athlete got his MBA at Washburn (check); married his college girlfriend, former Washburn women's basketball player Amanda Fessenden, ba '12 (check); played professional basketball (check); and joined a collegiate coaching staff (check) before working his way up to the sport's highest level.

His current role makes use of both his business and basketball expertise. Since joining the Jazz in April 2021, McNeill has scouted hundreds of high school, college and professional players.

"People ask me all the time, 'How was work today?' and I'm like, 'It's basketball,'" McNeill said. "I talk basketball, I watch basketball. To be able to do that at this level, I'm so fortunate."

The twists and turns that led McNeill to an NBA team's front office make him uniquely qualified for the job.

Journey to the Jazz

McNeill's MBA was put to immediate use as a business distribution analyst at Payless ShoeSource headquarters in Topeka.

"Academically and business-wise, I felt like graduating from Washburn put me ahead of my peers," he said. "The biggest thing Washburn helped teach me was how to communicate with different people. When I got to Washburn, it was completely different from what I knew. It helped me learn to talk and grow relationships with people."

McNeill initially felt content with a full-time career in finances, but when the opportunity arose to play professionally in Australia, he happily returned to his natural position as a point guard. From there, the connections he formed at Washburn came in handy. Following his stint overseas, he was hired onto the University of Oklahoma coaching staff in 2019. His Washburn coach, Bob Chipman, was college roommates with Oklahoma's coach at the time, Lon Kruger.

"I was there for a few years, then COVID happened, and it eliminated the position I was about to get," McNeill said. "I went to Sunrise Christian Academy in Wichita, Kansas, for eight or nine months, and then the Jazz called me."



Will McNeill is Washburn's all-time leader in steals and is fifth in scoring. *Photo by Gene Cassell*

Living the Dream

His playing days may be over, but the mileage McNeill racks up on scouting trips is on par with the players of Utah's roster.

"I travel a lot. A whole lot. My wife doesn't necessarily like that part of it as much," McNeill said with a laugh.

Ironically, basketball travels are how the couple first met. On conference road trips, the Washburn men's and women's basketball teams shared a bus, giving McNeill and his now wife hours to talk on drives across the Midwest.

"It was my sophomore year in college, and we were on the team bus traveling together a lot that season," McNeill said. "One day, I asked her out. Thirteen years later, we're still together."

The couple has two daughters, Paxson, 4, and Phoenix, 2.

"I try to take Paxson to every game. She goes on the court pre-game and everyone around the organization knows her," McNeill said. "She'll say, 'Daddy, let's go to a basketball game.'"

Personally and professionally, McNeill is living the dream. But that's not stopping him from jotting down future goals, which now include becoming a general manager.

"I want to run a team someday," he said. "I think I have the personality and the basketball acumen."

If the past is any indication, now that he's in the NBA, there's no doubt he'll stick around. 🏀



Campus News

State Workforce Development Specialist Named Dean of Washburn Tech



Scott Smathers started as dean of Washburn Institute of Technology Dec. 1 after previously working as vice president of workforce development for the Kansas Board of Regents.

Scott Smathers

“This is a win for Washburn, Topeka and Shawnee County,” said JuliAnn Mazachek, president, Washburn. “He brings vast experience in both the academic and economic development fields, plus he has created valuable connections and relationships in our community.”

“Technical education opens the doors of opportunity and transforms lives,” Smathers said. “I look forward to working with the talented team at Washburn Tech and Washburn University as well as our educational and business partners to meet the needs of students and the workforce.”

Together We Thrive Scholarship Program Expanded to Northeast Kansas

Washburn expanded its Together We Thrive program to residents of northeast Kansas. The Northeast Kansas Advantage Scholarship ensures eligible full-time students from certain counties can receive a tuition-free college education from Washburn. The Northeast Kansas Advantage Scholarship is available for full-time students who have a 3.0 GPA in high school, are Pell Grant eligible or have a household income of \$75,000 or less. Eligible counties are Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Douglas, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Leavenworth, Marshall, Miami, Nemaha, Osage, Pottawatomie, Wabaunsee and Wyandotte. Learn more at washburn.edu/neksadvantage.

James Hurd Provides Naming Gift for New Recital Hall



James Hurd

Washburn announced Nov. 27 the naming gift for its new recital hall from James Hurd, b music '67. Construction on the space, east of the Rita Blitt Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden, will begin in 2024. The 175-seat and 9,100-square foot hall will provide a transformable space and leading-edge technology. Since 1973, Hurd was a professor of piano, organ and music appreciation at El Camino College. He retired in December after 50 years. He has performed as an organ soloist in cathedrals and churches worldwide.

“I wanted to do the exact same thing Professor (Max) Elsberry was doing – teaching on a college campus, giving organ lessons and performing concerts,” Hurd said. “That’s what I have found myself doing, and it has brought a lot of joy to me. I thought it would be nice to return some thanks by giving this gift.”

Anonymous Gift from Retired Professor Will Enhance Outdoor Areas of Campus

Washburn announced on Sept. 15 an anonymous \$3.5 million gift from a retired professor to enhance outdoor areas of campus, including the creation of a music and entertainment area. Washburn is developing a 10-year master plan for campus enhancements that includes an increase in outdoor gathering spaces in the center of campus.

“Washburn faculty and staff have a reputation of going above and beyond for their students and for our University. This gift is a stunning example of the passion that so many of our faculty and staff have for Washburn,” said Marshall Meek, mba '17, president, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation. 🙌

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 March 31, 2024, to be included in the spring magazine.

1960s

Robert Oshel, ba '69, Silver Spring, Maryland, is co-author of a recent Public Citizen report ranking state medical licensing boards based on disciplinary actions taken to protect the public from incompetent or miscreant physicians. Since retiring from the National Practitioner Data Bank, Oshel has been interviewed and quoted as an expert on medical malpractice and medical discipline by media outlets including by CBS Mornings.

1970s

Billie (Gibson) Hall, ba '73, Topeka, Kansas, will retire in early 2024 as CEO of Sunflower Foundation after spending more than 22 years with the organization.

1980s

Robert Anderson, Sr., jd '85, Ellinwood, Kansas, published "Justice for Baby Roston," a book about the death of Roston Hanson and the father, who was tried and found not guilty in the death.

Brian Boos, jd '88, Law Clinic, Olathe, Kansas, joined Foulston Siefkin as a litigator. He has 35 years experience in insurance and commercial litigation.

Hon. Glenn Braun, jd '81, Law Clinic, Hays, Kansas, received the Distinguished Service Award by the Kansas Bar Association. Braun is chief judge of the 23rd Judicial District.

Bill Ekey, jd '81, Law Clinic, Odessa, Missouri, was appointed by Gov. Mike Parson to the Health and Educational Facilities Authority of the State of Missouri. Ekey retired as senior vice president and senior corporate trust advisor for UMB Financial Corporation in 2020.

Hon. Quintress Gilbert, jd '89, Law Clinic, Macon, Georgia, retired in September 2023 as a juvenile court judge. She was Macon-Bibb County's first female Black judge.

Tom Meier, bba '88, Men's Basketball, Topeka, Kansas, was named to the 2023 Hayden High School Hall of Fame for student athletic/activity achievement. He is second in career scoring at Washburn, a two-time All-American and a member of the 1986-87 national championship team.

Hon. Michael Wright, jd '85, Warrenton, Missouri, was appointed to the Missouri Court of Appeals for the Eastern District in September 2023 by Gov. Mike Parson.

1990s

Pete DiDio, bba '91, Topeka, Kansas, was promoted to associate vice president, controller, at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas, where he will lead the accounting department.

Lisa Fleming, bas '91, Kansas City, Missouri, was named to the 20 to Know list for nonprofits leaders in 2023 in the Kansas City Business Journal. She is CEO of Rose Brooks Center.

Kristen Heck, jd '94, Law Clinic, Salina, Kansas, received the 2023 One Another Award from Oklahoma Wesleyan University. The award recognizes an alumnus who has actively served others in some capacity for at least five years, advancing the school's Christian mission.

Terence O'Malley, jd '95, Kansas City, Missouri, wrote, directed and produced the movie, "Nelly Don – the Musical Movie," a story of his great-great aunt, Nell Donnelly, a fashion designer in Kansas City. O'Malley previously made a documentary, wrote a book and created a stage musical about her story.

2000s

Jacqueline Becks, ba '05, Lawrence, Kansas, started as a research assistant for the Kansas Legislative Research Department in November 2023.

Julie (Gibbs) Brooks, bfa '03, Escondido, California, participated in the 71st Fine Art Open Annual at the North Coastal Art Gallery in Carlsbad, California. Her piece, Solar Power Nap, received first place in sculpture.

Shawn Jurgensen, jd '08, Lawrence, Kansas, is chief public policy officer and director of the CSG Center of Innovation with the Council of State Governments in Lexington, Kentucky.

Jeff Maxon, bs '09, Baseball, became chief information technology officer for the State of Kansas in October, leading the Office of Information Technology Services. He had been interim chief since January 2023 and has been with the State of Kansas since 2009.

Chris McGee, bba '00, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Delta Sigma Pi, Topeka, Kansas, received the Distinguished Partner in Philanthropy Award by the Topeka Community Foundation in September 2023.

Quentin Rials, jd '07, Lawrence, Kansas, was named principal of Lawrence High School this fall after serving as interim principal.

Hon. Brooks (Kancel) Severson, jd '05, Law Journal, Wichita, Kansas, was sworn in as U.S. magistrate judge for the District of Kansas in August 2023.

Michelle Scott, bba '08, published a book of poetry, "Tragedies of Love," in 2023.

2010s

Eddie Aldrine II, ba '12, WU Model United Nations, Seneca, Kansas, received the 2023 Outstanding New Emergency Management Professional Award at the Kansas Emergency Management Association Conference. He serves as the director of emergency management for Nemaha County.

Cameron Bernard, jd '19, Lawrence, Kansas, is an associate attorney with Foulston Siefkin's litigation and employment practice group in the Kansas City office.

Andy Brown, bas '10, Washburn Players, Lawrence, Kansas, is now deputy secretary for programs at the Kansas Department of Aging & Disability Services. He received the 2023 Hope Humanitarian Award from Valeo Behavioral Health Care and the 2022 Wes Cole Public Servant of the Year Award from the Association of CMHCs of Kansas.

Steven Dudley, bba '11, mba '12, Football, Hays, Kansas, is an assistant coach at William Woods University as the school will debut its football team in 2024.

Shea Kirsop, bba '13, Leadership Institute, Topeka, Kansas, is now director of customer strategy at KBS, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Kansas Association of School Boards.

Shirley Magee, msn '10, is now a nursing lecturer in the Gonzaga University School of Health Sciences.

Chanté Martin, ba '15, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Phoenix, Arizona, received an inaugural Emerging Leaders award by the University of Kansas Alumni Association's Black Alumni Network this fall. She directs strategic partnerships for Polco, a company focused on elevating the voice of community members in government decision-making.

Nicole Rodriguez, ba '17, jd '20, WSGA, Law Journal, Kansas City, Missouri, is a litigation associate in the Kansas City office of Stinson.

Andrew Singleton, b ed '14, was promoted to assistant principal at Shawnee Heights Elementary School in July 2023. He was previously employed as an instructional coach at Tecumseh South Elementary School.

Rebecca Silvermintz, jd '17, started as assistant attorney general in the Kansas Office of the Attorney General in December of 2022 and works in the criminal division focusing on economic crimes. She was previously a prosecutor in Miami County.

Allyson Young-Samples, bba '13, Atlanta, Georgia, started working for Dillons while in high school and has advanced through The Kroger Company as she transferred to Atlanta. She is now a store leader with plans to advance in the company.

Crystal Roberts, aa '10, ba '11, Topeka, Kansas, started in January 2023 as associate director for workforce development at the Kansas Board of Regents.

2020s

Kristi Roush, bhs '21, Holton, Kansas, was honored by the Kansas Hospital Association with a 2023 Health Care Worker of the Year Award. She is director of ancillary services at Holton Community Hospital.

Braydon Schmidt, bsn '22, Topeka, Kansas, is an acute care nurse at Stormont Vail Health.

Andrew Wiederholt, jd '23, Topeka, Kansas, is now an associate attorney at the Foulston Siefkin office in Topeka. A former engineer for Bartlett & West, he advises clients on construction and engineering.

Jack Williamson, ba '20, Topeka, Kansas, recently competed in three prestigious bagpiping contests in Scotland. He placed fifth in the bronze medal contest in Glasgow and second in the B grade hornpipe/jig event at the Northern Meeting. In both events, he was the highest-placing American competitor.



In Memory

The following information was received by the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation by Nov. 30, 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

Eldon K. Eisenhower, ba '59, Kappa Sigma, Delta Theta Phi, 90, El Dorado, Kansas, on Sept. 23, 2023

Russ Goss, bs '58, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Washburn Football, 90, Palm Bay, Florida, on July 25, 2023

Betty G. (Carmean) Jury, ba '54, 91, Overland Park, Kansas, on Sept. 24, 2023

Leo R. Langois, bba '59, 93, Lawrence, Kansas, on Oct. 7, 2023

Thomas C. Pickering, ba '54, 94, Los Osos, California, on April 25, 2022

Melvyn E. Post, ba '52, 92, Waco, Texas, on July 29, 2023

Donna C. (Hug) Tinsley, ba '51, 92, Lake Forest, Illinois, on Oct. 20, 2022

Robert F. Willis, ba '55, Football, Golf, 90, Gallatin, Tennessee, on Sept. 19, 2023

1960s

Rawlin D. Ashwill, bba '66, 80, Wakarusa, Kansas, on Aug. 5, 2023

William L. Beeman, bba '69, 77, Lincoln, Nebraska, on Aug. 17, 2023

Barry P. Billington, jd '67, Phi Alpha Delta, 80, Boca Raton, Florida, on Nov. 5, 2023

Dr. William J. Ciskey, bs '69, 76, Hutchinson, Kansas, on Aug. 25, 2023

Joyce Y. Dryden-Damron, b ed '63, m ed '72, Kaw Yearbook, Washburn Review, 86, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 26, 2023

Carolyn A. (Secord) Frye, ba '64, 81, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 12, 2023

Mark A. Johnson, ba '68, 78, Lawrence, Kansas, on Oct. 30, 2023

Bill V. Quick, b ed '62, Kappa Sigma, Men's Basketball, 83, Gilbert, Arizona, on Nov. 21, 2023

Charlotte J. (Boring) Ratliff, bs '67, Zeta Tau Alpha, Young Republicans, 77, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 19, 2023

Jim P. Reilly, bba '68, 82, Wichita, Kansas, on Aug. 11, 2023

Gary L. Schaefer, ba '62, 84, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 3, 2023

Larry F. Smith, bba '68, 78, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 10, 2023

Fredrick W. Twichell II, bba '66, Delta Sigma Pi, 83, Washington, Missouri, on Feb. 24, 2023

1970s

Earlene K. (Frickey) Albrow, ba '74, Independent Student Association, 70, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 14, 2023

Russell K. Ash, jd '72, 77, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 10, 2023

Orval F. Baldwin II, ba '76, 68, Oro Valley, Arizona, on Aug. 15, 2023

O.J. Connell III, jd '74, 80, Louisville, Kentucky, on Aug. 10, 2023

William R. Cox, bba '71, 88, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 15, 2023

Arthur D. DeBacker Jr., ba '73, 80, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 5, 2023

Michiel N. Ford, ba '79, Air Force ROTC, Kaw Yearbook, 69, Holton, Kansas, on Sept. 18, 2023

Steven J. Gatton, ba '71, Alpha Delta, Longview, Texas, on Oct. 30, 2023

Betsy R. (Lyon) Hamm, ba '71, m ed '89, 84, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 18, 2023

J. Mike Kennalley, jd '76, Law Journal, 72, Wichita, Kansas, on Oct. 7, 2023

John A. Konrade, bba '76, 74, St. Petersburg, Florida, on Aug. 7, 2023

Ulvesta K. (Levings) Ludvick, b ed '71, God's Bods, 74, Holton, Kansas, on Oct. 31, 2023

Hon. Bill Malcolm, jd '74, 74, Clay Center, Kansas, on Oct. 15, 2023

Nadine M. (McClelland) Manley, m ed '75, 88, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 9, 2023

Doris M. Oxandale, b ed '73, 89, Wetmore, Kansas, on Sept. 14, 2023

Dan H. Phillips, ba '75, jd '78, 71, Wichita, Kansas, on Dec. 27, 2022

Juanita M. (Lovorn) Powell, b ed '70, m ed '83, 83, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 22, 2023

Randy W. Rahberg, bba '71, Delta Sigma Pi, 73, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 12, 2023

Tony Ramos, aa '78, 92, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 25, 2023

William P. Reynolds, ba '71, Lawrence, Kansas, on Oct. 3, 2023

David A. Ross, ba '74, 70, Topeka, Kansas, on June 23, 2023

Lt. Col. Walter H. Ross, jd '77, Delta Theta Phi, 71, Smithfield, Virginia, on Oct. 1, 2023

Gary W. Showalter, bba '74, Football, Delta Sigma Pi, 76, Yuma, Arizona, on May 9, 2023

Thompson G. Twichell, bba '71, Delta Sigma Pi, 74, Houston, Texas, on Nov. 21, 2022

Bill N. Weidner, bfa '71, 80, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 26, 2023

1980s

Helen L. (Bledsoe) Bowser, m ed '82, 90, Holton, Kansas, on Oct. 23, 2023

Patricia A. Bugg, bsn '80, 82, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 5, 2023

Linda L. (Chamber) Cook, aa '85, Beta Sigma Phi, 76, Meriden, Kansas, on Oct. 10, 2023

Margaret "Peggy" J. Donnelly, bsn '86, 76, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 9, 2023

Alyce J. Gannaway, b ed '81, m ed '89, 88, Topeka, Kansas, on July 30, 2023

Connie S. Locke, ba '89, 75, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 21, 2023

Albert L. Nocktonick, bs '84, 82, Holton, Kansas, on Sept. 6, 2023

Richard J. Sanborn, jd '81, 69, Wichita, Kansas, on Aug. 15, 2023

1990s

Michael H. Davis, aas '96, 56, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 16, 2023

Richard L. Pearce, jd '91, Law Clinic, 76, Centralia, Kansas, on Sept. 25, 2023

Jennifer Y. Ralston, bsw '93, 53, Kansas City, Missouri, on Aug. 27, 2023

Kevin W. Swain, jd '96, Law Journal, 59, Torrance, California, on Oct. 19, 2023

2000s

Dustin L. Carr, bs '06, Rossville, Kansas, on Oct. 23, 2023

Ben F. Gockel, aas '05, bas '05, msw '10, 48, Manhattan, Kansas, on Aug. 28, 2023

Catherine L. (Neiswender) Llamas, aa '03, 74, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 18, 2023

Karen L. (Butterfield) Madison, aa '09, 62, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 16, 2023

Amber C. (Stroud) Mertel, ba '06, 42, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 19, 2023

2010s

Jackson E. Danner, c '18, 23, Holton, Kansas, on Oct. 15, 2023

Troy C. Williams, c '15, aas '15, 61, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 8, 2023

Hannah L. Woofter, jd '18, Law Journal, 34, Kansas City, Missouri, on Oct. 29, 2023

Friends

Coah M. Dull, 57, Olathe, Kansas, on Sept. 12, 2023

Chuck W. Holle, 84, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 27, 2023

Norma L. (Mackey) Kohler, 88, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 22, 2023

Jim A. McHenry, 79, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 13, 2023

Robin E. Shrimplin, 61, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 8, 2023

Daniel D. Holt, ba '63, Baseball, Washburn Review, Washburn Players, Washburn Alumni Association Board of Directors, 86, Abilene, Kansas, on Nov. 17, 2023



Daniel Holt worked as a historian, specializing in American military history. In 1990, he became director of the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum & Boyhood Home. Holt also worked with the Illinois State

Library; directed the World War I Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri; and directed the National Frontier Trails Museum in Independence, Missouri. His museum and archives career began at the Kansas State Historical Society. Holt served on the Washburn Alumni Association board of directors from 1995-2000 and remained active as an alumnus. He attended the Golden Reunion events in May 2023 to celebrate his 60th reunion.

Ambassador Delano E. Lewis, jd '63, h '00, 84, Las Cruces, New Mexico, on Aug. 2, 2023



Ambassador Delano Lewis' early work brought him to Washington, D.C., as he worked as an attorney in the Department of Justice and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and later became legislative assistant

to Sen. Edward Brooke, the first Black man elected to the Senate. Lewis later became CEO of Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company from 1990-93 and of National Public Radio from 1993-98. President Bill Clinton appointed him ambassador to the Republic of South Africa,

a position he served from 1999-2001 before retiring. Eight universities conferred honorary degrees on Lewis, including Washburn in 2000. He and his wife, Gayle Lewis, have supported Washburn with gifts creating an endowed law scholarship and to the Brown v. Board Legacy Fund.

Lois J. (Levett) Lykins, Eminentes Universitatis Nurse, Washburn Student Health Services, 95, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 7, 2023



Lois Lykins served for 24 years as a nurse in Washburn Student Health Services, retiring and earning eminentes universitatis status in 2002. She earned her registered nurse certificate from Stormont School of Nursing and

worked for Stormont Vail as an emergency room nurse for 17 years before coming to Washburn.

Charlene L. (Hennessey) Proper, Eminentes Universitatis Administrative Assistant, 92, Tecumseh, Kansas, on Oct. 9, 2023



Charlene Proper worked as an administrative assistant at Washburn, retiring with eminentes universitatis status. She was office secretary to the Memorial Union director. She also worked as a secretary at

Tecumseh North Grade School and was a clerk stenographer at the Kansas Department of Social Welfare.

Kyle J. Riggles, Automotive Mechanic,
Washburn University, 60, Mayetta, Kansas,
on Aug. 14, 2023



road truck driver.

Kyle Riggles worked for 35 years as an automotive mechanic in the facilities department at Washburn, starting in 1987. Before that, he managed a Clark Oil Company gas station in Topeka and was an over-the-

Kent P. Smith, jd '66, Law Journal, 82,
Atlanta, Georgia, on Oct. 19, 2023



Kent Smith served as a law clerk to Hon. Delmas Hill, jd '29, h '58, on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit. After that, he was an attorney for the Atomic Energy Commission and then the law firm of Smith, Currie

and Hancock before founding Smith & Fleming. He was recognized nationally and earned several awards for his work in construction law. Smith was an Alumni Fellow in 1992 and served on the School of Law Alumni Association board of governors. He and his wife, Karen Smith, made a gift to the new School of Law building, honoring Hill by naming the Hon. Delmas Hill Reading Room in the library.

Ann Marie (Franzese) Snook, Chair and
Professor Emeritus, Music, 70, St. Charles,
Illinois, on Sept. 28, 2023



Ann Marie Snook taught music at Washburn from 1991-2018, serving as department chair from 2008 until her retirement. She was a National Association of Teachers of Singing artist award winner and recipient of a Metropolitan Opera National Council district award. She appeared in vocal performances with the Pone Ensemble for New Music, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Grant Park Symphony and others. Her critically-acclaimed performances include Buttercup in "H.M.S. Pinafore," Meg Page in "The Merry Wives of Windsor," and mezzo-soprano soloist in Verdi's "Requiem." She and her husband, Lee Snook, professor emeritus, music, have supported Washburn, including creating the Dr. Lee Snook Scholarship Fund.

Tom M. Wolf, Professor Emeritus, Biology,
80, Roseville, California, on Oct. 18, 2023



Tom Wolf spent 34 years on the Washburn biology faculty from 1971-2006. He chaired the department from 1992-95 and chaired the natural sciences, mathematics and computer information services division from 1983-89. His expertise was genetics and immunology, and he was an inaugural recipient of the A. Roy Myers Excellence in Research Award.





Alumni Travel Opportunities

SEE THE WORLD WITH FELLOW ICHABODS

England and Wales | April 8-19, 2024

Make a trip “across the pond” and spend three nights in London, two nights each in Cardiff and Conwy and three nights in Liverpool. Cost per person is \$4,975 and includes airfare from Kansas City (other departure cities available, but pricing may vary), to London and return from Manchester, 10 nights hotel accommodations, 13 meals, London tour, visits to Bath, Stonehenge, Cardiff Castle, Tintern Abbey, Brecon Beacons National Park, Snowdonia, Beatles Museum and more.

Egypt | Sept. 19-28, 2024 (Sold Out)

Fly to Cairo and spend three nights in one of the world’s most ancient cities. Enjoy a private Cairo tour, visit the Saladin Citadel, Muhammad Ali Mosque, Grand Egyptian Museum, Giza Plateau and Great Sphinx. Fly to Luxor and visit the Temple Complex and Valley of the Kings. Relax onboard the Jaz Regent for a four-night Nile River cruise visiting Edfu, Kom Ombo and Aswan. Fly to Abu Simbel to visit the Nubian Monuments, then fly to Cairo for one night before returning home. This trip costs \$5,528 per person for two people sharing one room and includes round trip airfare between Kansas City and Cairo (other departure cities available, but pricing may vary), flights between Cairo, Luxor and Abu Simbel, 21 meals, four nights hotel accommodations in Cairo, four-night Nile River cruise and more. Contact Susie Hoffmann to add your name to the wait list.



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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