

WASHBURN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION — WINTER 2022

# THE CHABOD







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## On the cover:

A New Year's Day snow blanketed campus and the Memorial Union at the start of 2021. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*



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

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# From the President

I have always been a proponent of civil discourse. The ability both to speak and listen is essential in society, and it is essential for students to master this practice. Graduates must be all-around educated citizens, which means when you do not know about a subject, you do not automatically dismiss what somebody else knows about it, but you learn. You arrive at truth after you have listened enough.

Students will study the concept of truth this spring during the fourth-annual WUmester, a semester-long dive into a timely topic. We hope to engage the University community – including alumni and friends like you – in these discussions.

As I learned about the passing of alumnus Bob Dole in December, I was reminded of his ability to bring together many sides and come to a compromise. So many in the Washburn community have been personally touched by Sen. Dole's friendship, his genuine care for others and his generosity and service to Washburn. I join countless others in mourning his passing but rising to celebrate his life and pass on his spirit of service to all. Please read in this issue about his esteemed career and the impact he made at Washburn and for our nation.

We also feature alumna Pamela Hollie, a journalist, educator and philanthropist who has distinguished herself on an international level. She no doubt grappled with the truth and presented her best version of it as a journalist. Washburn helped open the door to the world for her, and we are honored she shares her story with current students as often as possible. Sadly, we lost a respected colleague here at Washburn. Rick Ellis, professor and director of the Center for Community Service, passed away. I hope you take some time to read about Rick's impact. He certainly helped students discover truths about themselves and the world. This issue also features alumnus Gary Bayens, who retired from Washburn in December after 25 years. Building a career in criminal justice, he answered many calls to lead within the School of Applied Studies, and he most recently served as dean at Washburn Tech. Technical education and applied studies both require mastering a craft, and Dean Bayens has done a great job making sure students do so. We also feature international track and field student-athletes who aspire to qualify for the 2024 Olympics. Bringing track and field back to Washburn gives us added pride as we watch Ichabods compete at the highest levels worldwide.

I end by sharing some exciting news with you. In November, just days before Veterans Day, we finished fundraising on a veterans memorial at Washburn. I had a wonderful experience serving in the Army as a drill sergeant and an instructor of drill sergeants, and my wife Susan and I made a lead gift to this project with a matching challenge. Donors met the match, and then the remaining fundraising quickly came in. I am honored to stand with veterans in our Washburn community and humbled so many people answered the call to fund this memorial. I look forward to its completion.



# Into the Sunset

Caring and accepting, Ellis always worked to bring out the best in students

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

Embarking on a life-changing journey, Daniel Martin entered Rick Ellis' office at Washburn University and the first thing to catch his attention was Ellis' footwear.

"I was like, 'Where'd you get those nice boots?'" recalled Martin, bsw '21. "And he was like, 'Ah man. I've got 150 pairs of boots.' Then he showed me the pictures, and I was like, 'This guy's a real cowboy. The real-deal McCoy cowboy.'"

When Ellis asked Martin about himself, Martin explained how he previously went to prison for eight years.

"And Rick was like, 'You survived? Well, what do you want to do with your life?'"

Martin said he wanted to help people with drug and alcohol problems.

"If you want to be a leader in the community, I'll help you do that," Martin recalled Ellis saying.

Interactions like those were common during Ellis' 30 years at Washburn. The longtime professor and director of Washburn's Center for Community and Civic Engagement died on Sept. 22, 2021. His legacy includes starting Learning in the Community and the Bonner Scholars program at Washburn to connect students with service work opportunities. LinC celebrated its 25th anniversary this year and Washburn has been a Bonner Scholar school for 20 years.

## Cowboy Persona

Ellis projected a rugged cowboy persona, almost always wearing boots and a hat. Perhaps comfort in his own skin inspired others to find their true personalities and live them.

"Rick saw people for their potential," Becca Spielman, bas '05, said. "He saw them for who they were and didn't try to change that, but also saw them for who they could be. The coolest thing in the world is to know he has left a legacy, and probably for generations to come. There might even be tall tales about Rick Ellis. He's the Paul Bunyan of Washburn."

Spielman earned a degree in human services and is now program director of the Center for Safety and Empowerment at the YWCA in Topeka. She came to Washburn from Paola, Kansas, and said she had few interactions with minorities or impoverished people growing up. LinC changed her worldview.

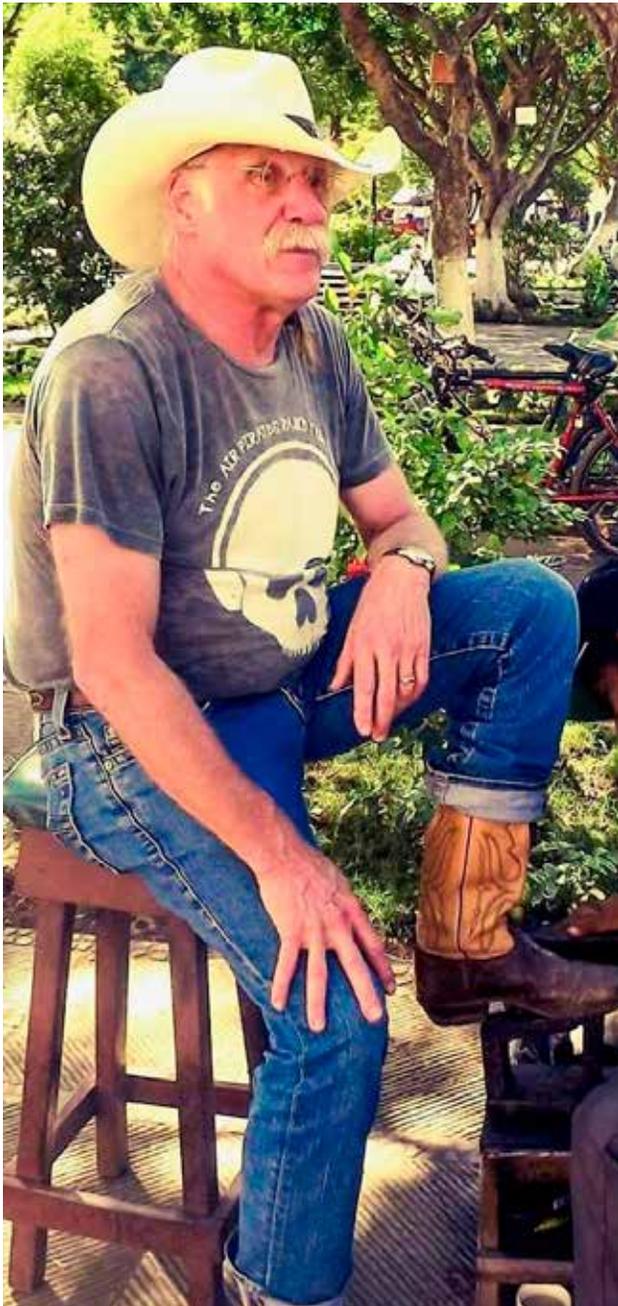
"Being immersed in communities and meeting people I've never met before and never understood before – that I had sympathy for but not empathy for – was really interesting," Spielman said.

Spielman said Ellis always provided an open door and warm heart, especially when she came out as LGBTQ.

"Rick was probably one of, if not the only person in a lot of ways in my past who I wasn't really worried about his reaction," she said. "His goal was just to care for you."



Rick Ellis (left) and Washburn students on a 2016 boat ride during a trip to Nicaragua. *Photo by Michaela Saunders*



Rick Ellis. Photo Submitted

Hayley Wynne, bsw '17, msw '18, grew up in northwest Kansas and attended Palco High School, a school of about 35 students. Extracurricular activities like community service weren't commonly available, but she had a desire to be involved in service work. She was drawn to Ellis' contagious enthusiasm during a campus tour.

"He's very passionate about service," Wynne said. "The way he talked about it, made it more attractive and interesting. My initial thought after meeting Rick was, I want to hang out with this person and learn about what he's done in his life."

She became a Bonner Scholar, earned a social work degree and is now a psychotherapist working with adolescents and adults.

"One of the valuable things about Bonner is it pushes you to consider life outside of your normative way of thinking," Wynne said. "You learn how to constructively disagree with each other, which I was not comfortable doing before college. Because Rick was so confident and assured of himself and in others, there was permission to do that, which was a breath of fresh air."

### Getting Students to Believe in Themselves

Kristine Hart, mcj '03, met Ellis as his work study student while she was in graduate school. She started working at Washburn fulltime in 2002 and became associate director of LinC and a lecturer. She became interim director of the program in October.

"Rick taught me the experiences for the students are good, but it's also having someone believe in them, be their biggest cheerleader and care about what they have to say," Hart said. "It was always the student who did the real work and deserved the kudos and accomplishments in his mind. I think that went a long way with students."

Ellis made sure the staff in the LinC office put students first. That meant putting down what you were working on and sometimes just being someone students could talk to and be comfortable around. Hart is confident they will continue offering similar opportunities.

"We're giving students experiences that will make them more conscience of what's happening in their community and their world and increase their exposure to diverse people, places and ideas," Hart said. "That makes people successful members of society."

Martin is working on his master of social work degree at Washburn. He wants to help inmates and former inmates and feels like he already made breakthroughs as a Bonner Scholar.

"I believe you build a better community one person at a time," Martin said. "I love dealing with this population, but some go back to drugs, some don't. Like Rick told me, 'As long as you can get one, you did your job.' And everybody that I impact, they feel the residual from what Rick did through me." 



Gary Bayens, ba '90. Photo by Jeremy Wangler

# End of an Era

Bayens plans retirement after rewarding 25-year career at Washburn

By Annie Flachsbarth

Although Gary Bayens, ba '90, has had a multitude of exciting jobs over his career, it's his first eight years as a Washburn University faculty member he said were the best.

"The fact that I've had a hand in the success of some of the students in the criminal justice department and they've gone on to do great things – it's one of the things I'm most proud of," Bayens said. "That's why I left being a practitioner and came to teaching – to contribute."

Bayens recently announced his retirement at the end of 2021 after 25 years at the University. He has served Washburn in several capacities, most recently as dean of Washburn University Institute of Technology. He has also been associate dean of the School of Applied Studies and chair of the criminal justice and legal studies department.

"I enjoyed engaging with students and mentoring them to help them network and be successful in their careers.

And it was particularly rewarding to help those who went down the same path as I did in law enforcement,” Bayens said. “It’s great when you see hard work pays off.”

“Dr. Bayens is well respected by faculty and staff,” JuliAnn Mazachek, vice president for academic affairs, said when he announced his retirement. “His leadership and dedication to Washburn University, its faculty, staff and students is evident in the accomplishments of the departments, programs and people he has mentored through the years.”

## A Career Built in Service

After graduating high school in Valley Station, Kentucky, in 1973, Bayens passed up college baseball scholarships to enlist and serve in the U.S. Marine Corps as a military police officer.

“I had several close cousins serving in Vietnam, and I wanted to follow in their footsteps,” Bayens said. “My time in the service established where I was going with my career – there was no better training than trying to police a bunch of Marines.”

After leaving the Marines, he came to Kansas for a job as a special agent with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. He graduated from Washburn in 1990 with a degree in criminal justice and a minor in psychology and then worked in the criminal justice field for 22 years – first as a practitioner in law enforcement for seven years and then in corrections for 15 years. Prior to joining the Washburn faculty in 1996, he served as the director of juvenile corrections and intensive supervised probation for Shawnee County.

## Guiding the Next Generation

When Bayens was offered the opportunity to teach at Washburn, he thought a lot about the future. He went back to school, got a doctorate, took a full-time position at Washburn and got to work. Through the years he’s helped a lot of students in the criminal justice field – and he attributes their success to Washburn’s partnerships and lots of hands-on work.

“Once you’ve got the book learning down, you have to go out and apply it. This is the case for criminal justice as well as many other programs in applied studies,” he said.

In fact, while it wouldn’t appear so on the surface, there are a lot of similarities to technical education

and the fields in the School of Applied Studies – making the role of dean of Washburn Tech a good fit for Bayens.

“Many fields in both areas require advanced, hands-on training and certifications to get jobs, like social work or welding,” he said.

Former student, Captain Jana Harden, bs ’98, ma ’20, of the Topeka Police Department also appreciated his guidance in the field – having worked with him on a special assignment during the downtown Topeka revitalization project.

“He had so much on his plate, but he never seemed overwhelmed. He always gives time to every person as though you’re the only person and project that matters,” Harden said. “I don’t know how a person like that ever truly retires.”

## Award-winning Career Leading to Retirement

During his career, Bayens authored nearly 30 books, journal articles and government reports. He also received multiple awards including the A. Roy Myers Excellence in Research Award, the Kansas Correctional Association Leadership Award and the Kansas Association of Law Enforcement Planners Award. In 1993, he was honored as a Washburn University Alumni Fellow.

Even with all those accomplishments, Bayens won’t be resting on his laurels in retirement. Instead, he’s taking on a full-time role as grandfather. He and his wife, Joan Bayens, bs ’80, recently moved to Lawrence, Kansas, to be closer to the grandchildren. The couple also has four adult children.

“We have a very close family, so I’m excited to have more family time in particular. Joan retired several years ago to help with the grandkids, and I’m looking forward to being able to give her a hand,” Bayens said.

And even though he’ll technically be retired, he’ll continue to teach for the criminal justice department.

“They asked me to stay on board and teach a class each semester,” he said. “I enjoy teaching immensely, and I will continue to do that for as long as I’m able to contribute.” 🦿



Lectures, exhibits, classes and more will discuss the WUmester theme of truth. *Image provided*

# Telling Your Truth

Fourth-annual WUmester will study truth as the theme

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

There is data. There is information. There are beliefs. There are opinions. Some of them are subjective. Some are not.

And then there's truth.

"There are different kinds of truth," said Louise Krug, associate professor, English. "There's factual truth – like I was born in 1982 – but then there's me saying I had a good childhood. That's more emotional truth. Good is very subjective. What's true for you might not be true for somebody else."

Washburn students, faculty and staff will be studying the theme of truth this spring during the fourth-annual WUmester, a semester-long dive into a topic

related to social justice. The goals include engaging the entire Washburn community in cross-disciplinary learning experiences and bridging what students study in the classroom and real-world debates and issues.

Krug is incorporating the theme of truth into Advanced Nonfiction Writing this spring, a class where students produce their own 30,000-word memoir and study published memoirs. She said many students begin her class thinking they don't have an interesting enough life to fill the required word count.

"I can understand why they feel that way," Krug said. "They're mostly pretty young, and most of us don't think we're that interesting. It's important that you feel safe enough and important enough to tell your story."

The world becomes a smaller place when people realize others are going through similar emotions or overcame certain difficulties. It can be as small as being a broke college student – it makes people feel better when they realize there are a lot of people out there like that.”

Other WUmester-themed classes and events will help students digest the truth claims they experience from others. Jason Miller, assistant professor, anthropology, will shape his Visual Anthropology class around understanding how the media construct notions of truth. Students will gain the tools to analyze how media create messages and how audiences receive them.

“As an anthropologist, truth is often culturally constructed,” Miller said. “Figuring out what does truth mean to different people in different contexts, that’s really interesting and I think will provide for some great conversations.”

There is no shortage of topics for students to study when it comes to truth claims, and there are plenty of venues to encounter these claims – from mainstream media to social media to anyone with a camera and internet connection.

“There’s so much information out there, and sometimes I think it’s overwhelming,” said Kelly Erby, professor, history, assistant dean, College of Arts and Sciences. “Sometimes students feel like they don’t know what to trust. They don’t know who to believe. Everything is equally discreditable. If we give them some tools to think about how you evaluate information, it can be really empowering and help them to see that they can enter into some of these debates. They don’t have to just feel like information is washing over them. Information can become a tool to make the changes they want to make or accomplish what they want to accomplish.”

All three of these professors are on the planning committee working to schedule public events including speakers, panel discussions and exhibits centered around the theme. Albert Woodfox, a person who was wrongfully convicted of murder and held for

## Key WUmester Events

*Events listed below are free, open to the public and subject to change. Visit [washburn.edu/wumester](http://washburn.edu/wumester) for a full and up-to-date schedule.*

Annual Harman Lincoln Lecture featuring Kellie Carter Jackson | Feb. 2, 2022 | 7 p.m. Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center

Speaker and Author Albert Woodfox March 1, 2022 | 6 p.m. | Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center

Mulvane Art Museum at Washburn University will feature a truth-themed exhibit | Feb. 4 - April 30, 2022

43 years in solitary confinement, will speak at Washburn on March 1 at 6 p.m. in a free event open to the public at the Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center. He wrote, “Solitary: Unbroken by Four Decades in Solitary Confinement. My Story of Transformation and Hope,” and Krug’s class will study the book and meet Woodfox.

“I hope it’s a rewarding experience for students to read the book and meet the author,” Krug said. “I just hope they realize they can do hard things, and telling the truth is hard. It’s always hard.”

Like the three previous WUmesters, one of the goals is to get students engaged in difficult conversations.

“One of the things I think is so important about not only WUmester but of liberal arts education in general is it really provides students with space to grapple with these issues and to have dedicated time to just set aside and say, how do we see this issue from lots of different sides,” Miller said. 🦋

# Soldier, Statesman

With humble beginnings in Kansas and at Washburn, Dole lived life of service

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

Washburn University joined Kansas and the United States in mourning the loss of one of its most decorated and celebrated alumni, Sen. Bob Dole, who died Dec. 5, 2021, after being diagnosed with lung cancer in February 2021. He was 98.

“Sen. Dole made America a better place for all Americans,” said Washburn University President Jerry Farley. “Like many of the students who come to Washburn today seeking an education, Bob Dole grew up in a small town in Kansas. It is our duty to pass on to future generations his importance and the impact he made from those humble beginnings here in Kansas. He truly lived Washburn’s motto of ‘Non Nobis Solum,’ ‘not for ourselves alone,’ and we are proud to call him an alumnus of Washburn and the School of Law.”

Dole, ba ’52, jd ’52, h ’69, h ’85, was born in Russell, Kansas, on July 22, 1923, and enlisted in the Army in 1942. After recovering from an injury sustained during World War II, he enrolled at Washburn. He went on to serve in the Kansas House of Representatives, as Russell County (Kansas) attorney and as a member of the United States House of Representatives before spending nearly 30 years as a U.S. senator.

He was chair of the Republican National Committee, Senate minority leader and Senate majority leader, where he set a record as the longest-serving Republican leader. Dole was President Gerald Ford’s vice-presidential running mate in 1976 and a Republican presidential candidate in both 1988 and 1996, earning the GOP nomination in 1996. He served as national chair of the World War II Memorial Campaign. In January 2018, Dole was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress’ highest civilian honor. He was given an honorary promotion to Army colonel that same year.

Dole remained committed to serving and giving back to Washburn throughout his life. Along

with his wife, Sen. Elizabeth Dole, they established and funded at Washburn the Senator Robert J. Dole Law Professorship, the Robert J. Dole Center for Law and Government and the Honorable Robert J. Dole Scholarship for Law Students with Disabilities. They also made substantial gifts to other areas on campus including the new School of Law building. He served on the School of Law board of governors and the Alumni Association and Foundation board of trustees.

“Sen. Dole’s service to Washburn and the School of Law will forever be unmatched,” said Marshall Meek, president, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation. “On behalf of all alumni and friends of Washburn University, we mourn his passing. But we also celebrate a life lived in service to so many, including his beloved alma mater. The mark he made at Washburn University through his generosity and service will forever be a part of his great legacy.”

Washburn University recognized Dole with two honorary doctor of law degrees in 1969 and 1985. A bronze statue of Dole was erected on campus in 2018 and an outdoor plaza at the new School of Law building will be named in his honor. The Washburn Alumni Association honored Dole with a Distinguished Service Award in 1966, and the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association gave him a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007.

“He built relationships throughout his life based on trust, respect and integrity,” Farley said. “From his dedication to veterans and disabled Americans, to his principled congressional leadership, he set an example every American should emulate. Washburn University joins the rest of Kansas, the United States and entire world in mourning his passing while honoring, celebrating and memorializing his amazing life.” 



Sen. Bob Dole, ba '52, jd '52, h '69, h '85 (left), speaking after a statue of him was unveiled at Washburn University in 2018. *Photo by Doug Stremel*



Sen. Bob Dole, ba '52, jd '52, h '69, h '85 (center) with Jerry and Susan Farley in the Grand Homecoming Parade in 2015. Photo by Bruce Mathews

# Washburn's Own

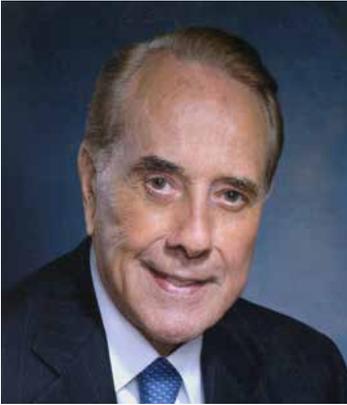
Respected worldwide, Dole was an American leader

Commentary by Bob Beatty

*Bob Beatty is professor and chair of the political science department at Washburn University. He is the director of the Kansas Political Campaign TV Ad Archive, which houses the 33 Bob Dole Kansas Senate election ads from 1968-92 that Dole donated to the Washburn political science department. The ads can be viewed at [washburn.edu/reference/cks/politics/ads.html](http://washburn.edu/reference/cks/politics/ads.html).*

Washburn alumnus and Kansas Sen. Bob Dole often named a fellow Kansan, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, as one of the most effective leaders in American history, saying Eisenhower not only did great things for his state and country, but his leadership touched the world. The same could be said for Sen. Bob Dole, ba '52, jd '52, h '69, h '85.

A personal incident struck that point home for me. In 2019 I was visiting the small, relatively new Balkan country of Kosovo. I found myself on a street corner in the capital, Pristina, and I looked up at the street sign. I was standing on Robert Dole Street! From Kansas to Kosovo and places in between, Bob Dole's impact was monumental.



Bob Dole

In an interview for a KSNT-TV special on Dole, Ambassador Sam Brownback, former Kansas senator and governor, told me a key to Dole's success was his ability to work across the aisle: "He had that sense of humor and that midwestern,

get things done, Eisenhower way of thinking, 'I don't care who gets the credit, let's get it done, is what I'm concerned about.' That really served him well in doing so many things."

To that point, Bob Dole had this to say at the unveiling of the magnificent statue of himself on the Washburn campus on Sept. 9, 2018: "I believe in bipartisanship. We don't have all the wisdom in our party, and they don't have all the wisdom in their party, but together we can work out a pretty good compromise. And we did. Time after time after time because of our friendships just with our colleagues."

Bob Dole spent 27 years in the U.S. Senate. While he worked on thousands of pieces of legislation, several stand out because of how many lives they touched and how he used his skills to make them work – the Food Stamps Reform Act of 1977, Social Security Reform in 1983 and The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

On the Food Stamp Act, Amber Dickinson, Washburn assistant professor of political science, told me, "When you look at the trajectory of Bob Dole's career, he was always concerned about this issue of hunger. This was an attempt to deal with the Food Stamp Program and make some changes to that that would make it more accessible but also would work to alleviate some of the taxpayers' concerns over some of the waste in the system. So together with Senator (George) McGovern they created this bipartisan piece of legislation."

Dickinson argues Dole fought for the ADA since the very beginning of his career. "He was a huge advocate for people with disabilities in large part because he

was a World War II veteran who had sustained injuries that had left him pretty well unable to use his right arm," she said. "So, he was always this champion for disabilities. Even though this was a major piece of civil rights legislation, people were concerned that it really was going to cost so much money. Senator Dole was really responsible for creating these conversations that encouraged people to end up voting for the bill.

"His first speech on the floor in 1968 was talking about protecting the rights of people with disabilities. He has this long-term reputation of picking things he wants to advocate for and sticking with them for the entirety of his career."

Burdett Loomis, a Bob Dole scholar, told me in that same KSNT-TV special Dole had a "real legislative soul" and he was a dealmaker who wanted to bring people together. "That's who he is," said Loomis, "Now, he's ambitious; he wanted to be president. But in the end, I think he was more comfortable in that legislative role."

Brownback echoed that point about Dole's unique talent for getting things done, saying, "Often leadership has to try to get the trains to move, so he would take some policy positions that he didn't really agree with but (thought) 'We need this for the good of the country.' And at his core he was a patriot. He believes in America and he's going to fight for America and do whatever it takes to keep this country moving forward."

I asked Brownback what his lasting memory of Dole would be. His answer speaks volumes about Dole's legacy: "He really is the embodiment of the World War II generation. That selfless, willingness to give and to sacrifice everything for the common good. That's really my lasting memory of him."

As for myself and my thoughts on the life of Bob Dole, I think it apt to use Marlene Dietrich's line and simply say, "He was some kind of a man." 🦿

[Watch the KSNT special at bit.ly/ksntdole](https://bit.ly/ksntdole)

# A Journalist's Journey

The Washburn Review led to The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times

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

In her junior year at Washburn, Pamela Hollie received a letter from The Wall Street Journal offering her a summer internship. That was the beginning of a 20-year career as a reporter, national correspondent, foreign correspondent, columnist and professor of business journalism at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism in New York City.

"But the beginning was at Washburn," she said, noting it was at the encouragement of Dorothy Greer, BA 1921, that she tried journalism. "And, it changed my life."

After her journalism career, Hollie, BA '70, MA '04, worked with non-profits, helping to address the wrongs she saw throughout the world. Retired now, she returned to Washburn University during Homecoming to share her story with mass media students and others. She has been supporting mass media students since 1985.

## A Front-page Student

Hollie grew up in Topeka and wanted to attend an Ivy League school and become a medical doctor. Racial tension in the mid-1960s thwarted that.

"My parents, for good reason, felt it would be safer for me to be closer to home and it would make more sense and they could afford it," she said.

She came to Washburn and enrolled in chemistry classes.

"My mother said to me one day, 'Do you think you can take something where the results aren't a bunch of chemical holes in your clothes?'" Hollie said.

Appeasing her mother and opening the door to her future passion, she found a one-credit journalism class taught by Greer.

"I soon realized I could get to know the campus better," Hollie said. "I also realized this was a way to meet interesting people and travel and do some good for society."

She was better at journalism than she realized, and in her junior year, she won an internship at The Wall Street Journal.

"I was basically a junior at Washburn on the front page of The Wall Street Journal, and I thought, 'I can do this, and this is really fun,'" she said. "When I finished graduate school in New York, The Wall Street Journal was standing at the door when I got my diploma and said, 'Here's a job.'"

There were few women and even fewer minorities vying for the kinds of jobs Hollie had. She became a business reporter when few women took that path. And to distinguish herself further she focused on the emerging economies of Asia after completing a Gannett Fellowship in Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii. The New York Times hired her immediately after she completed her post-graduate fellowship in Honolulu. At the Times, during a 10-year career, Hollie was a national correspondent, a foreign correspondent in Asia and the Pacific and a financial columnist.

"It is important to be prepared when an opportunity comes," she said. "I have been lucky to have had the support of friends, my community, colleagues, Topeka and Washburn. I am grateful for the confidence and encouragement this support gave me."

Feeling she had taken on every great assignment a journalist could have, Hollie left newspapers and worked in education and fundraising.

"The first half of my career was about finding out what's wrong in the world," Hollie said. "The second half was about fixing it."

## Searching for the Truth

The Washburn community will study the theme of truth this semester during the fourth annual WUemester, a deep dive into a topic related to social justice. Journalism will no doubt be a focus point.



Pamela Hollie, BA '70, PhD '04. Photo by Jeremy Wangler

“Truth is one of those words that's hard to define,” Hollie said. “I don't care what you think. I want to know what you know. We've kind of blended those two things.”

She says students and consumers of media have a lot to digest.

“We've been driven by the delivery process, which frightens me,” she said. “Just because it's out there doesn't mean it's believable, and the fact that you can communicate doesn't mean you should.”

### Back Where She Started

The Alumni Association gave her the Distinguished Service Award in 1981 and Washburn University awarded Hollie a doctor of humane letters and in 2004. She has been a Washburn University Foundation trustee since 1997. Always supporting future journalists, she created the Pamela G. Hollie Journalism Excellence Fund at Washburn in 1995, an endowment that allows funding for things like student travel and conference attendance.

“I wanted students to experience a larger world and come to know that being a woman or a minority or that coming from the Midwest is not an obstacle to success,” she said.

When she returned last fall, Hollie received the Lifetime Achievement in Mass Media Award and became an honorary member of Phi Beta Delta, the honor society for international scholars.

Hollie tells students to do what she did: define your career in a substantive way (international business reporter), figure out where you can work to make a difference (Asia) and make it count. Her accolades as a journalist, teacher and philanthropist are testament to her last point.

“She gave me the inspiration that I can do what I want to do,” said Maggie Cabrera, a junior mass media student who met Hollie during her recent visit to Washburn. “It's nice to see where our alumni go and to aspire to be like them because there's people out there who do great things. It gives you a push to want to do better.”

She's excited for future opportunities.

“I think her life story is really amazing,” Cabrera said. “As a powerful woman, if you set your mind to something and you know you want to do it, you can do anything.” 



Michael Odupitan, bs '11, in the building Omni Circle purchased to become its new headquarters and a coworking space. *Photo by Michael Snell*

# Circle of Change

Alumnus encourages development for minorities through his nonprofit

*By Angela Lutz*

When Michael Odupitan, bs '11, moved to Topeka from West Palm Beach, Florida, in 2002, he didn't know how that decision would impact the rest of his life – along with his new community as a whole. At that time, he was a wide receiver on the Washburn University football team with dreams of playing in the NFL, but he also cared deeply about helping people.

“There was a passion in Michael that he had even sitting in the classroom,” said Joan Bayens, bs '80, who was an adjunct instructor in Washburn's criminal justice department for nearly two decades

before retiring in 2017. “He wanted to learn and play football, but he also wanted to make a difference.”

Odupitan earned a degree in criminal justice with a minor in human services, and he spent the next 17 years working primarily in juvenile detention centers and correctional facilities, as well as fostering children who were considered hard to place. Still, he felt like he could be doing more. In 2015, he left Topeka for Kansas City – and six months later, he lost his mother to cancer. After that, his trajectory shifted.

“That put me on a different path in life,” Odupitan said. “I went through a bit of a depression afterward. I read a lot of books and was able to get myself out of that hole and put myself on the trajectory I’m on now – giving that information back to people to help them become the best version of themselves.”

In 2019, Odupitan moved back to Topeka and founded Omni Circle Group, a nonprofit dedicated to personal and professional development with an emphasis on minorities. Odupitan is excited for his organization’s growth – so far, Omni has served more than 150 people in the Topeka area. This local focus is important to him.

“People ask why I came back to Topeka, and it’s because I spent half my life here,” he said. “I felt like Topeka kept me out of a lot of things I could have easily gotten involved in if I’d stayed in Florida that were probably not the best for me. I always tell people I felt like Topeka saved my life.”

Through Omni Circle Group, Odupitan hopes to help people achieve their personal and professional dreams. When he works with clients, he concentrates on three phases of development which he defines as connect, collaborate and create. The first focuses on making sure basic needs are met before moving on to collaboration, which links people with opportunities, trainings and resources to help them overcome various challenges.

The final phase of Odupitan’s vision is still taking shape. Last year, Omni purchased a building in Topeka that will become a coworking space and the organization’s home base for small business development, career building and trainings to give entrepreneurs and business owners the tools they need to achieve success.

“We are all coming from a place of darkness – and sometimes when you’re in the dark you don’t know what the light looks like,” Odupitan said of his organization’s philosophy. “We want to get people from survival mode into creation. My purpose is helping other individuals learn these skills. That’s what keeps me motivated.”

In addition to helping men and women of color get to where they want to be, Omni Circle Group also promotes and encourages diversity and inclusiveness

in the community at large. Coming from West Palm Beach, Odupitan grew up in a very diverse city, but he recognizes many individuals from small Kansas towns might not have this same advantage.

“Organizations like Omni are important because they shed some light on what diversity and inclusiveness look like when you’re working with people from different walks of life,” he said. “We typically stay away from things we don’t know, but when you get comfortable and you have the confidence and competence to work with people from different backgrounds, that changes the way we interact as a whole.”

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“Early in my time at Washburn I was able to be in that leadership role, and I carried that with me into my career.. As I’ve grown as an individual, that part of me has also grown and it’s allowed me to be in the position I’m in today.” - Michael Odupitan

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Working with a variety of individuals to create and grow Omni also helped Odupitan hone his own leadership skills, which he first developed on the football field.

“Early in my time at Washburn I was able to be in that leadership role, and I carried that with me into my career,” he said. “Being a leader on a football field is tough because you have a lot of different personalities, but if you can do it on a football field you can almost do it anywhere. As I’ve grown as an individual, that part of me has also grown and it’s allowed me to be in the position I’m in today.”

“Michael has always been a change maker,” Bayens said. “If he wanted a change he didn’t wait for others to do it – he did it himself. That happened with his studies, with getting comfortable at Washburn, and now his return on investment with Topeka.” 

# Warm Hearts

World War II veteran and Washburn alumna celebrates 103 years

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

Family members, caregivers and others surrounded Fanny Hand to celebrate her 103rd birthday as she sat outside her home, bundled up with a blanket on a seasonably cool day last fall. The gift she was about to receive would literally and figuratively give her additional warmth.

Hand, b ed '68, dedicated her working years to serving others – her country as a member of the Army during World War II, children as a grade school teacher and adults as a literacy tutor. To honor her service, she was presented with a lap quilt from the Quilt of Valor organization at a party outside her home at the Topeka Veterans Administration Community Living Center.

“She was born in a time when people had no money. She’s always appreciated everything. She never took anything for granted. She’s always been real positive and never let anything life threw her set her back for too long. She went right through what life dealt her.”

- Loranda Figgs

The quilts, given around the country to those believed deserving, represent healing, hope and wellbeing for soldiers and veterans. In Hand’s case, as a VA press release said, “The quilt represents comfort and recognition from a grateful community and nation. We hope the warmth of the quilt reminds her of the warmth she shares with everybody she meets.”



Hand entered the Army on Jan. 1, 1945, and packed parachutes, worked in the secretary pool in the Pentagon and met her future husband. She said her Army years were the highlight of her life. Seventeen years later, the family,

now including three children, moved to Topeka in 1963. She started teaching grade school and worked toward a bachelor of education and a teaching certificate at Washburn University, graduating after four years.

“That was a really proud moment for all of us,” said Loranda Figgs, one of Hand’s daughters. “She loved Washburn.”

Figgs recalled that her mother potentially had undiagnosed attention deficit disorder.

“She got really good grades, but it took her so much effort,” Figgs said. “Nobody got diagnosed back then and she had to study twice as hard as anybody. It was a really huge thing for her to finish her degree.”

Hand taught first through eighth grade in Kansas communities including Topeka, Grantville and Ellis County. She especially liked the rural districts that included one-room schoolhouses. After retiring with her husband to Colorado Springs, Colorado, she started teaching illiterate adults how to read.

“That was her specialty,” Figgs said.

With very little words in response and keeping a safe distance from most attendees due to COVID-19 protocols, Hand listened as guests made remarks at the birthday party. Washburn University President



Fanny Hand, b ed '68, and her Quilt of Valor as she celebrates her 103rd birthday. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

Jerry Farley presented a card and gift to Hand and thanked her for allowing him and other Washburn officials to attend. Farley served in the Army as a drill sergeant and drill sergeant instructor.

“You and I have a lot in common,” he said to Hand during the party. “We were both in the Army. You went for training at Fort Benning, Georgia. That's where I went for training. We're both involved in Washburn University.”

Greg Schwerdt, a Topeka business owner and Washburn supporter, donates the supplies for Topeka-area Quilt of Valor quilts. Michael Scott volunteers his time to make them and was there to present this one to Hand.

“In 2010, my wife was diagnosed with cancer, and we decided we wanted something we could do together. She taught me how to sew,” Scott said.

“This is for the contributions Fanny has made for our freedoms. We're honored we can do it. A little bit of our time gives her a lot of satisfaction. It's an honor for us to do this for the veterans.”

Figgs isn't surprised her mother has lived this long. Hand has lived an active life that included skiing and water skiing, and her mother and sister lived into their middle 90s. Hand survived the Great Depression as a child and has spent her entire life with a deep appreciation for what she has had.

“She was born in a time when people had no money. She's always appreciated everything,” Figgs said. “She never took anything for granted. She's always been real positive and never let anything life threw her set her back for too long. She went right through what life dealt her.” 🧑

# A Nursing Life

Alumna finds no such thing as retirement when you have passion for your craft

By Annie Flachsbarth

Arlene Wahwasuck, bsn '76, always wanted to be a nurse. As the youngest of six children, she often felt left out and looked to her imagination to fulfill her nursing fantasies.

“I didn’t have anyone to play with except mean brothers, and they wouldn’t play ‘girl’ games with me,” Wahwasuck said. “Luckily, my mother always had chickens, cats and dogs. I mixed up salt water as pretend medicine and put bandages on them like they were people. They were my first playmates and patients.”

Eventually, Wahwasuck’s nursing dreams became a reality, and she’s spent the past 67 years nursing and educating fellow Native Americans – proving that if you love what you do, you’ll never work a day in your life.

Wahwasuck graduated as a registered nurse from St. Margaret Hospital School of Nursing in Kansas City, Kansas, in 1954. Not only was she the school’s first nursing student graduate, but she was also the first Native American graduate. She worked in several hospitals in northeast Kansas as a staff nurse for 15 years before starting her career as a clinic nurse with Indian Health Services in Holton, Kansas, in 1969.

While at IHS, she earned a degree from Washburn University in 1976 – becoming one of the University’s first bachelor of science in nursing graduates – and then took a role in public health nursing at Holton and Haskell IHS. Part of Wahwasuck’s responsibilities focused on cancer detection, including assisting with a mobile health center to provide breast and cervical cancer education to the Native American community.

“I talked to women about how to take care of themselves and how to do breast self examinations,” Wahwasuck said. “A lot of women were scared to get mammograms – so I would try to reassure and encourage them by explaining the procedure.”

She continued to grow and earned a master of science in nursing at the University of Kansas. She served as a nurse officer with the U.S. Public Health Service and



Arlene Wahwasuck, bsn '76. Photo by Michael Snell

went on to serve as the area nurse consultant at the Nashville, Tennessee, IHS office, and then as the public health consultant and community health representative coordinator at the Sacramento, California, IHS office.

“As nurse officer, I advocated, educated and promoted health and wellness among Native Americans,” she said. “I loved helping educate people to be healthier and assisting nursing staff to deliver quality nursing care.”

Her many years of service earned her multiple awards for her outstanding contributions in raising the health of Native Americans. She was honored as a Washburn Alumni Fellow in 2002.

Even after retiring, Wahwasuck’s passion has kept her going. She’s now the chair of the Social Services Advisory Board for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation – with the goal of helping develop a healthier community.

“We’re training people about problems like substance abuse and trauma,” Wahwasuck said. “I’m coordinating all of the groups within the tribe that have anything to do with health – and it’s an honor to be involved with helping my tribe be healthier.” 

# Alumni Fellows

Eight people were honored by the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation on Aug. 7, 2021, for their service to their community and Washburn University.

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## Laura Sidlinger, bsn '93, msn '07, certificate '14 | School of Nursing



Laura Sidlinger was born in Independence, Kansas, and resides in Topeka where she is director of medical services at Valeo Behavioral Health Care. She supervises the prescribers and nursing team members, has a small caseload

of patients and directs agency COVID-19 infection control practices, testing and response. She started at Valeo in 2014 and has been in her current role since 2016. Sidlinger taught from 2006-14 in the Washburn University School of Nursing. She was the Jan Ogen Distinguished Nurse of the Year with the local American Red Cross in 2003. Sidlinger has volunteered at the Topeka Correctional Facility for Women and has been

board president of the Kansas State Nurses Association and Ronald McDonald House of Northeast Kansas.

### **What is your favorite memory of Washburn:**

Although I didn't know it until after my mother passed from a stage four brain tumor, I discovered that she had not finished high school. It certainly explained her pride when I graduated with my BSN and how thrilled she was when I had been accepted into the first master's class at Washburn. She was able to be present when I received my hood, but she was significantly impacted by the disease. Mom struggled to maintain consciousness throughout the ceremony, but when it was over, I was able to kneel down and tell her, "We did it."

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## Jessica Lehnherr, ba '02, msw '05 | School of Applied Studies



Jessica Lehnherr grew up and resides in Topeka where she is CEO and president of United Way of Greater Topeka. She works to create a network of support for a strong, healthy and equitable community.

She started in that role in 2017 after gaining over 15 years of child welfare leadership experience as a mental health practitioner at Kansas Children's Service League, KVC Health Systems and Family Service and Guidance Center, and as executive director of CASA of Shawnee County. She volunteers on the Washburn University Leadership Institute advisory board, as president-elect of Topeka South Rotary and as United Ways of Kansas chair. She was a Topeka's Top

20 Under 40 honoree in 2016 and a YWCA Women of Excellence honoree in 2021.

**What is your favorite memory of Washburn:** During my last year as an undergrad, I vividly remember sitting in an Introduction to Social Work course. On the second day, there was an overview of social work, and it was like a lightbulb just turned on! The motivation and excitement of social work really ignited a fire in me. The next three years in the master's program were the best! Every day, I lean on the lessons learned, connections with professors and the lifelong friendships. And you don't stop being an Ichabod when you graduate. Washburn provides so many opportunities for me to stay connected through mentoring students.

## Molly Howey, certificate '02, ba '08 | Washburn University Institute of Technology



Molly Howey grew up in Overbrook, Kansas, and resides in Silver Lake, Kansas, while serving as president of GO Topeka. As a part of the Greater Topeka Partnership, the team she leads carries out the economic development strategy for Topeka and Shawnee County. She has professional credentials as a certified economic developer from the International Economic Development Council and currently sits on the IEDC board of directors. She started at GO Topeka in 2011 and has been involved in several national companies locating or expanding operations in Shawnee County,

including Mars Chocolate, FHLBank and Walmart. Prior to working for GO Topeka, she spent six years with a marketing firm. Howey is a board member for TARC, a 2019 40 Under 40 honoree from Development Consultants International, a 2020 Topeka 20 Under 40 honoree and a 2018 YWCA Women of Excellence honoree.

**How has Washburn contributed to your life or career:** Washburn Tech and Washburn provided me a well-rounded education that served as a solid foundation for my career. The high standards and real-world experiences I gained at both Tech and the University helped me hone my skills and build my knowledge to find the career path that led me to economic development – a career I genuinely love.

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## Denise Walsh, bba '94 | School of Business



Denise Walsh grew up in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and currently lives in Topeka where she is vice president of global tax for Revlon, Inc. She is responsible for Revlon's global tax function and interacts with other senior leaders, tax authorities and accounting firms. Prior to that, she worked nearly 20 years for Colgate-Palmolive, most recently as controller and previously as a director of global tax for the Hill's division. Walsh is a CPA and has served on the boards of organizations including the Topeka American Red Cross, the Topeka Community

Foundation Investment Committee and the Topeka Credit Counseling Agency. She was a member of the Topeka South Rotary and the Leadership Kansas class of 2003. She won the National Hispanic Corporate Achievement Award and was a YWCA Women of Excellence honoree.

**How has Washburn contributed to your life or career:** Washburn University gave me the skills and the confidence to believe I could succeed at anything I set my mind to in my career. My professors were approachable and always willing to help and guide even when I would present them with challenges far from the current subjects we were studying. They helped me know how to handle real-world challenges.

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## The Hon. Gwynne Birzer, bs '89, jd '92 | School of Law



The Honorable Gwynne Birzer grew up in Kansas City, Kansas, and resides in Wichita where she is a magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas. She manages an average docket of 200 cases during the discovery and pretrial phases of criminal and civil litigation and handles numerous consent to trial by magistrate judge cases. Birzer was appointed to the bench in 2015. She previously practiced law in the public and private sector, including as an assistant district attorney, assistant attorney general and in her own firm in Topeka and Shawnee County. Relocating to Wichita, she practiced as a public defender and then as a partner at Hite, Fanning & Honeyman, LLP. She currently

serves as a Federal Magistrate Judges Association 10th Circuit Representative and a member of the Hon. Wesley E. Brown Inn of Court board of governors. She volunteers with the Wichita Arts Council, Music Theater Wichita and Stepstone and Dear Neighbor Ministries.

**What is your favorite memory of Washburn:** I was sitting in "The Pit" because I had about an hour before my next class. I vividly remember looking around. Nothing special happened. It was just the hustle and bustle of all the students going to class and going about their way. I never imagined I would be there. I didn't think I had what it took. But there I was. It was at that very moment I really and truly believed I belonged, and I was a part of the Washburn family, I could succeed, and I could make it and make Washburn proud for investing in me.

## James Clarke, ba '97 | College of Arts & Sciences



James Clarke was born in Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, and resides in Kansas City, Missouri, while serving as senior vice president for investments and treasurer of KU Endowment, overseeing the University of Kansas' sizable investment portfolio. He previously worked as a partner with Fiduciary Research & Consulting in San Francisco, and managed investments at the Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City, Missouri. Clarke has served on the board of a shelter for homeless women and their

children, his church's investment committee and the Topeka Phi Delta Theta Alumni Club. He is a trustee of the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation and serves on the board of directors.

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

I grew up as a nomadic Army brat. Seemingly every few years, we packed up and moved to a new post. The four years I spent at Washburn was the longest continuous period I spent with one group of friends in one place. Washburn became my home. In the 25 years since I graduated, I have continued to come back. I hope to keep coming home to Washburn for decades to come.

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## Aaron Doonan, bs '00 | College of Arts & Sciences



Dr. Aaron Doonan grew up in Hoisington, Kansas, and resides in Overland Park, Kansas, where he has worked in multiple roles as an interventional cardiologist. He is currently medical director at the cardiac catheterization lab at Research Medical Center with HCA Midwest Health. After medical school, he did his residency at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and then fellowships at the University of Minnesota. Doonan is a fellow and a member of the Society of Cardiac Angiography and Interventions and of the American College of Cardiology. He belongs to the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization and the

American Heart Association. He was an Academic All-American while on the Washburn football team and he earned a Burger King Scholar Athlete award that he used to establish a scholarship at Washburn in his name. He has been published in several publications and volunteers with Under the Radar, Foundation for Exceptional Warriors.

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

I came to Washburn for an \$800 football scholarship. At the time, I knew nothing about Washburn, but it was the perfect fit for an ignorant kid from the middle of Kansas. Washburn was where my entire medical career began. My professors were supportive but tough, laying the foundation for me to build on in the remainder of my training.

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## Kelli Netson-Amore, ba '01 | College of Arts & Sciences



Kelli Netson-Amore grew up in Manhattan, Kansas, and resides in Wichita, Kansas, where she is an associate professor in psychiatry and behavioral science at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita. She serves as the director of the neuropsychology clinic, specializing in pediatric neuropsychology and evaluating children with complex neurological, medical and developmental problems that affect their cognition, behavior and emotions. Netson conducts clinical research and supervises student researchers with recent collaborations examining cognitive profiles of children prenatally exposed to alcohol and drugs of abuse, and children who have experienced various forms

of maltreatment. She is involved in statewide efforts to improve health and well-being in children and adolescents, especially those related to mental health and COVID-19.

**What are your favorite Washburn memories:** Most are centered around the Zeta house or the psychology department. I often think about wine and cheese parties at the Alpha Delta house or building homecoming floats with different fraternities. Washburn taught me how to balance hard work with fun. I learned what it looks like when professors advocate for their students, and I learned how to foster professional and personal relationships that add meaning to the daily grind. From the first time I met with Barb Bowman on my campus visit to the moment I walked across the stage at graduation, I was confident Washburn provided exactly what I needed. 🦋

# Digging Every Minute

Volleyball player Rottinghaus finishes senior year strong

By Shayndel Jones

Kinesiology major and volleyball libero Faith Rottinghaus came to Washburn University because of its winning culture.

She knew the University had a great volleyball program, and she was excited when she received an offer to attend. Another perk for the Berryton, Kansas, native and Shawnee Heights High School graduate was it allowed her to be close to home and her family could attend every home game.

She wrapped up her time at Washburn University, graduating this December after the team finished second in the nation and played in the national championship match. It was the furthest the team had ever advanced in the NCAA tournament. Rottinghaus studied kinesiology with an emphasis in exercise science and rehabilitation and was heavily honored both as a student and an athlete. She was a four-time all-MIAA player, an All-American this year and a two-time Academic All-American. She won the NCAA Elite 90 award this year, presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average competing at each national championship site.

She decided to pursue kinesiology as she found it most interesting after studying biology for a short time. She said while she still had to take some of those science classes, she only had to take the ones she needed instead of all of them.

“In kinesiology, the people and professors really care about you and your success,” she said. “They are very involved, especially in athletics, and they are very supportive.”

Rottinghaus became interested in volleyball at a young age, playing recreational volleyball until seventh grade then playing more competitive volleyball ever since. She played softball and basketball in grade school as well, but volleyball was the sport she had the most fun playing.



Faith Rottinghaus. Photo by Joy Smith

“I was able to laugh a lot and not put pressure on myself, which was a big draw for me when I came to college. I was able to enjoy it and have fun,” she said. “To be a college athlete, you need to have that. You have to love the sport you play.”

One of the team’s biggest achievements for Rottinghaus was making it to the NCAA national semifinal in 2018. She said that was a memorable year for the team.

“We really loved playing with each other and we really didn’t want it to end,” she said. “That was so much fun.”

She was excited about the current season and glad to have a lot of fun and play with the people she loves to be around every single day one last time. As she finished her senior year, Rottinghaus said it was bittersweet as she was recently accepted into the doctor of physical therapy program at the University of Kansas Medical Center. She encouraged her teammates to find something to play for each game.

“Remember you’re not guaranteed to play forever, so you have to take every single point, play as if it is your last point and support each other,” she said. 🏐



The 2021 Washburn volleyball team (above, *photo by Andrew Mather*) celebrates after winning the NCAA Central Region tournament. Faith Rottinghaus (below, left, *photo by Joy Smith*) celebrates with her teammates during the 2021 NCAA national tournament in Tampa, Florida. Washburn finished second in the nation.

# Leap of Faith

Move to Washburn brings two high-flying Ichabods closer to international goals

By Chris Marshall

Proving they were among the country's best wasn't enough to satisfy two members of Washburn University's track and field team. After earning All-America status at last year's NCAA Division II outdoor championships, the two student-athletes followed up the 2020-21 collegiate season by returning to their native countries to compete on an international stage.

Fresh off her second-place finish in the pole vault at the NCAA national championships, Virgi Scardanzan, 21, made the podium once again at the Italian national championships. The current master of business administration student from Preganziol, Italy, cleared 4.30 meters – 14 feet – on her first attempt before bowing out at 4.35 meters to finish as runner-up in the June competition.

"I'm extremely excited to get second," Scardanzan said. "That was a huge accomplishment for me, 'the cherry on the cake,' as they say in Italy. It was a great ending to an amazing season I started in America and continued back in Italy."

The same weekend, Romain Henry finished 11th in the 400-meter hurdle preliminaries of the French national championships with a time of 53.56 seconds, missing the event's finals by one second. The MBA student from Aix en Provence, France, also competed in the 110-meter hurdle event but was disqualified. Henry holds the Washburn record in the 400-meter hurdles (51.97 seconds) and 110-meter hurdles (13.86 seconds), both of which would have been fast enough to make the event finals in France.

Scardanzan and Henry both hope to compete in the European and world outdoor track championships in summer 2022, with the ultimate goal of earning a spot in the 2024 Olympics.

"My short-term goal is to make the French national team," Henry said. "That's my biggest motivation

for doing track. I want to try to reach the team this summer, with the final goal to do the Olympics in 2024. Since it's in France, it's even more exciting. I really think I can do it."

Scardanzan said Italy can only send three pole vaulters to the Olympics, which will make qualification difficult. Finishing among the top three at the country's national championships was a good start, but unlike the United States, she said Italy's selections aren't made based on one meet. In the years leading up to 2024, vaults at any official meet can count toward Olympic qualification, including NCAA competition. That brings some added excitement to the upcoming indoor track and field season.

"Let's say the road has begun," Scardanzan said. "Definitely, the goal is 2024 Paris, and there are a few more great opportunities and great competitions in the next three years."

For both international leapers, the University's state-of-the-art Indoor Athletic Facility was a major reason why they decided to become Ichabods. Now, it provides advantages that could help them accomplish dreams in their home countries.

"When I left France, they were building a facility next to my place that was one of the biggest in Europe," Henry said. "When I compare it to Washburn's, we have everything we need here. We can walk across campus and be in one of best facilities in the U.S. The team has improved so much because of the indoor facility. It's the best tool ever."

Scardanzan believes the venue's engineering and other outside factors could help her surpass the personal- and school-best 4.35-meter vault she recorded in the 2021 NCAA outdoor season.



Virgi Scardanzan, bs '21, and Romain Henry in Washburn's Indoor Athletic Facility. *Photo by Michael Snell*

“It’s one of the nicest indoor facilities in the nation,” she said. “It has great runways, a great pit and a great atmosphere to jump really high. And I’m hoping this year we can bring in spectators for the first time, which would help even more to have people cheering us on.”

Washburn’s coaches, who developed the track and field team into a conference and national contender in just five years’ time, have also provided Henry and Scardanzan the one-on-one guidance the University is so often lauded for.

Henry, who was on the verge of quitting hurdling before a long-distance recruitment call with Cameron Babb, credits the head coach for renewing his

excitement in the sport. With the addition of assistant coach Marshall O’Brien this season, Henry said it’s the best coached team he’s ever been a part of thus far.

Another assistant coach, Rick Attig, recruited Scardanzan from Division I program Cal State Northridge three years ago, and is now carefully planning her competitions in Topeka and abroad to maximize her chances of Olympic qualification.

“I’m extremely happy with Coach Attig and the leap of faith he had when he started recruiting me here,” Scardanzan said. “It’s a smaller school, and there are a lot of people you know because it’s smaller, like a little family. It’s been great, and it’s given me many opportunities I wouldn’t have had if I was in Italy.” 

# Change to Legacy Waiver Can Help Washburn Students Save on Tuition

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Washburn University will begin offering its legacy waiver to students whose grandparents are alumni of Washburn. The legacy waiver allows students to receive a resident tuition rate even if they aren't residents of Kansas or don't qualify for a different waiver. The previous legacy waiver policy only allowed the waiver to students whose parents are alumni.

"We hope all alumni will consider their alma mater when their child or grandchild is searching

for the right college," said Richard Liedtke, executive director, enrollment management. "Washburn has an outstanding reputation in providing a quality education, which our alumni have experienced. We are optimistic alumni will want to pass the torch to the next generation, and we trust the legacy waiver for resident tuition, no matter where you live, will assist in growing the Ichabod family." 🦿

# Vice President for Student Life Earns Recognition for Work in Student Affairs

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NASPA, an international organization for student affairs professionals, has recognized Washburn University's Eric Gropitch, vice president for student life, as a 2022 Pillars of the Profession. This is one of the foundation's highest honors and recognizes Gropitch's outstanding contributions to student affairs and higher education. Gropitch has provided significant service to NASPA through regional and national leadership roles. He has made significant contributions to the institutions where he has worked, and he has demonstrated sustained, lifetime professional distinction in the field of student



affairs and higher education.

"Eric works tirelessly on behalf of our students to provide a welcoming, inclusive, safe and fun campus community," said Jerry Farley, president, Washburn

University. "He has been a great asset to Washburn University since he joined us in 2016." 🦿





# Class Notes

The Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation loves to receive your news and updated information, and your former classmates are interested in what you have accomplished. Submit your news and updates online at [wualumni.org/alumninotes](http://wualumni.org/alumninotes) or to Brooke Donaldson at [bdonaldson@wualumni.org](mailto:bdonaldson@wualumni.org) by March 25, 2022, to be included in the spring magazine.

## 1950s

**Richard McConnell**, ba '53, Tucson, Arizona, Basketball, Kappa Sigma, was named the 12th top influencer in Tucson Sports in the Tucson newspaper.

## 1960s

**Mary Ka (Estes) Cotter**, bs '65, Dallas, Texas, Delta Gamma, was The Staubach Company's top revenue-producing broker for 10 consecutive years and served on the committee to build the Perot Museum and chaired the boards of UTD Center for Brain Health and YWCA/WiNGS.

**Daniel Forker**, jd '66, Haven, Kansas, Phi Alpha Delta Law, was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy as part of its 31st class.

## 1970s

**Glenda (Kearney) DuBoise**, ba '77, Topeka, Kansas, Alpha Kappa Alpha, was selected by AARP to serve as the new Kansas state director.

**Robert Hartsook**, jd '79, Kansas City, Missouri, Law Journal, was inducted into the Colby Community College Alumni Hall of Fame in 2021.

**John Kemp**, jd '74, Birmingham, Alabama, God's Bods, retired as CEO of The Viscardi Center and is now president and CEO of The Lakeshore Foundation in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Randall McGrath**, jd '75, Lawrence, Kansas, published his second book, "From the Bench and Beyond," about his experiences as a judge and lawyer in Kansas.

**David Urbom**, jd '77, Arapahoe, Nebraska, Law Clinic, Phi Delta Phi, retired in the summer of 2021 as judge for the 11th Judicial District.

**Gregory Waller**, jd '72, Topeka, Kansas, Law Clinic, was inducted into the Hutchinson High School Wall of Honor.

## 1980s

**Richard Anderson**, jd '80, Topeka, Kansas, received the Judicial Excellence Award from the Kansas District Judges Association. Anderson also retired this December as a district court judge for Shawnee County.

**Tony Barry**, jd '89, Topeka, Kansas, was inducted into the Topeka West Athletics Hall of Fame.

**Thomas Browne, Jr.**, bba '82, Topeka, Kansas, was appointed by Gov. Laura Kelly and confirmed by the Kansas Senate to fulfill the unexpired term on the State Board of Tax Appeals in June 2020. He was re-appointed in January of 2021 by Kelly and confirmed by the Senate to a second four-year term. Browne also served as chair of the State Board of Tax Appeals from April 9, 2021, to July 1, 2021.

**Matthew Cahil**, bs '83, Golden, Colorado, Football, was inducted into the 2021 Washburn Athletics Hall of Fame. He was the all-time leader in total tackles and assisted tackles in school history.

**Marty "Joe" Dickinson**, jd '82, Newton, Kansas, has retired from the 9th Judicial District after seven years as chief judge.

**Timothy Durst**, ba '84, Dallas Texas, Washburn Review, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Kappa Delta, was hired as part of the general litigation and intellectual property and technology groups at O'Melveny & Myers LLP.

**Jeannine (Lardner) Fairchild**, b ed '83, Topeka, Kansas, Gymnastics, retired from Auburn Washburn USD 437 in May of 2021 after 38 years of teaching.

**Greg Greenwood**, bba '88, Topeka, Kansas, Baseball, Sagamore Society, was named executive vice president and chief strategy officer at Evergy, leading the company's Enterprise Analytics and Continuous Improvement departments.

**Randall Grisell**, jd '80, Garden City, Kansas, retired as the city attorney after 41 years of practicing law and 33 of those years serving his city.

**Christian "Kyle" Haelele**, ba '89, Lincoln, Nebraska, Tennis, has been hired by Lincoln Family Wellness, P.C., as a new provider.

**Norman Hope**, jd '80, Dallas, Texas, was elected secretary and treasurer for the Kansas Society of Certified Public Accountants for the 2021-22 year.

**Steve Johnson**, jd '85, Great Bend, Kansas, sat with the Kansas Supreme Court to hear and help decide a case, along with aiding in deliberations and decision drafting.

**Cally (Kirby) Krallman**, bfa '81, Topeka, Kansas, Washburn Review, received the Women in the Arts National Award at the Kansas Society Daughters of the American Revolution state meeting in September of 2021.

**Susan (Hoffman) Robson**, jd '90, Marion, Kansas, was appointed by Gov. Laura Kelly as a judge to the 8th Judicial District.

**Benjamin Sexton**, jd '86, Abilene, Kansas, has been named the new chief judge of the 8th Judicial District.

**Ann (Peckenschneider) Shelton**, bba '84, Topeka, Kansas, Alpha Phi, Accounting Society, was a recipient of one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

## 1990s

**Blair Anderson**, b music '99, Topeka, Kansas, Choir, Marching Band, Orchestra, is a finalist for the 2021 Cisco Advocate Awards and is being recognized as a Cybersecurity Defender of the Year nominee.

**Ashley (Howard) Charest**, ba '99, Topeka, Kansas, Washburn Review, Kappa Alpha Theta, was a recipient of one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

**Margaret (Schroll) Galvez**, ba '90, bs '95, bsn '05, Corpus Christi, Texas, accepted tenure track full-time faculty as the assistant professor of nursing at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi. She was awarded Doctor of Nurse Practice in Healthcare Systems Leadership in 2019, has a doctoral QI project published online entitled "Improving Safety and Efficiency for Child Vaccinations in an Urban Pediatric Clinic."

**Phelica (Claiborne) Glass**, bsw '99, Topeka, Kansas, was a recipient of one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

**Craig Henderson**, jd '94, Fruita, Colorado, was recognized by McPherson College for his accomplishments and received a Young Alumni Award.

**Amy (Gooderl) Klotz**, bba '99, Hoyt, Kansas, Accounting Society, is the chief financial officer at Advisors Excel and included in The Top 100 Women Leaders in Finance, number 44, of 2021.

**Rebecca (Albert) Kramer**, b ed '96, was a recipient of one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

**Timothy Shultz**, jd '93, Topeka, Kansas, Phi Delta Theta, has joined Stormont Vail Health as associate general counsel, risk and safety.

**Laura Sidlinger**, bsn '93, Topeka, Kansas, was a recipient of one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

**Brendan Sneegas**, bsw '92, Merriam, Kansas, Marching Band, Alpha Delta, accepted a promotion to CEO/executive director of Angel Flight Central, Inc.

**Ryan White**, bba '95, Overland Park, Kansas, Football, was hired as vice president of business development at Strategic Wireless Infrastructure Funds Management, the wireless infrastructure division of Strategic Capital Fund Management.

## 2000s

**Lacey (Deiter) Bisnett**, ba '09, Topeka, Kansas, Mortar Board, was a recipient of Topeka's Top "20 Under 40" award in 2021. She also received one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

**Julie Boggs**, ba '06, Knoxville, Tennessee, Cheer, Dance, started a new position as vice president of membership development of ConnexFM in the summer of 2021.

**Linda Bridges**, bba '05, Tulsa, Oklahoma, was promoted to executive vice president and chief financial officer at NGL Energy Partners LP.

**Jennifer (Fenton) Cocking**, ba '04, jd '12, Topeka, Kansas, Law Journal, was a recipient of Topeka's Top "20 Under 40" award in 2021.

**John "Trey" Cocking**, bs '02, Topeka, Kansas, Sagamore Society, Washburn Student Association, Kappa Sigma, has been named the new city manager of Emporia, Kansas, by the city commission.

**Danielle (Wherrell) Hall**, ba '06, jd '09, Topeka, Kansas, Law Clinic, was a recipient of Topeka's Top "20 Under 40" award in 2021. She was also a recipient of one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

**Joseph Hastings**, bba '09, Whitestown, Indiana, Football, was inducted into the 2021 Washburn Athletics Hall of Fame. He set Washburn's all-time single season catch record in 2010 with 87.

**Lesleigh (Latham) Hodam**, aa '03, Topeka, Kansas, was a recipient of one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

**Brenda Kolbaba**, bsn '06, Topeka, Kansas, was promoted to Childcare Health Network - nurse consultant, at Childcare Aware of Kansas.

**Maegan Leavendusky**, bsn '00, Mayetta, Kansas, was admitted to the Global Field Program at Miami University and was able to travel to Belize to study the wildlife there.

**Jessica (Williams) Lehnherr**, ba '02, Topeka, Kansas, was a recipient of one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

**Linda Merillat**, m ed '02, Kansas City, Missouri, was recently awarded one of the Online Learning Consortium's Effective Practice Awards for 2021. She is currently working for the School of Nursing as a lecture/instructional designer.

**Brad Miller**, bba '08, Topeka, Kansas, joined First Security Bank as chief financial officer.

**Molly (Shea) Pierson**, ba '07, Overland Park, Kansas, God's Bods, Student Government Association, has been named the director of residential living and assistant dean of students at Washburn University.

**Alison (St. Clair) Pollock**, ba '08, jd '12, Topeka, Kansas, Law Journal, was a recipient of one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

**Sam Sissom**, ba '08, Kansas City, Missouri, Baseball, Football, was inducted into the 2021 Washburn Athletics Hall of Fame. In football, he is the all-time leader in receptions, receiving yards and touchdowns. In baseball, he was a four-time all-MIAA selection.

**Zachary Watkins**, bba '09, Lawrence, Kansas, Football, was inducted into the 2021 Washburn Athletics Hall of Fame.

**Nicholas Woolery**, bpa '08, Baytown, Texas, WU Bigs, was named an assistant city manager of Georgetown, Texas.

**Angel Zimmerman**, jd '06, Topeka, Kansas, was a recipient of one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

## 2010s

**Benjamin Albertson**, bba '18, Overland Park, Kansas, Bod Squad, College Republicans, Kappa Sigma, Mortar Board, was transferred from the billing team to the stock trading team at Mariner Wealth Advisors and was recently appointed as the alumnus advisor for the new Kappa Sigma colony at University of Missouri at Kansas City.

**Sherrita (Nard Smith-Camp) Camp**, ba '10, Topeka, Kansas, Phi Alpha Theta, was a recipient of one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

**Kasey Clark**, bas '13, mba '21, Topeka, Kansas, Delta Chi, Washburn Review, was a recipient of Topeka's Top "20 Under 40" award in 2021.

**Marissa Dake**, ba '17, Columbus, Ohio, serves as the director of communications and public affairs at DNO Produce. This is a family-owned company that provides fresh fruits and vegetables for USDA Child Nutrition Programs across the upper Midwest.

**Derik Flerlage**, as '18, ba '18, Topeka, Kansas, was a recipient of Topeka's Top "20 Under 40" award in 2021.

**Katelyn Hampson**, ba '11, Fort Collins, Colorado, Volleyball, Student Media, Alpha Lambda Delta, was inducted into the 2021 Washburn Athletics Hall of Fame. She was the fourth player in school history to earn multiple All-American awards.

**Brianne Johnson**, mba '16, Topeka, Kansas, was a recipient of one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

**Kyle Kelly**, ba '12, Topeka, Kansas, welcomed a baby boy with his wife, **Hazel (Hornbostel) Kelly**, bba '17, on Sept. 17.

**Jeremy Lickteig**, bs '17, Bel Aire, Kansas, Basketball, completed medical school at the University of Kansas School of Medicine - Wichita and has started residency at the University of Kansas School of Medicine - Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at Ascension Via Christi Hospitals in Wichita, Kansas.

**Jennie Loucks**, ba '11, Emporia, Kansas, Alpha Lambda Delta, Mortar Board, was hired by Chinowth and Cohen Realtors in its Broken Arrow office.

**Bryan Lunzmann**, bba '14, Garden City, Kansas, Young Americans for Liberty, opened his own local game store, Champion's Archive.

**Keegan McElroy**, jd '19, Topeka, Kansas, was a recipient of Topeka's Top "20 Under 40" award in 2021.

**Chris Mitchell**, ba '15, Las Cruces, New Mexico, is a patent holder for diagnosis through motion detection.

**Stephen Moll**, bs '14, Smith Center, Kansas, Alpha Lambda Delta, completed his residency training at the University of Kansas School of Medicine - Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at Smoky Hill-Salina. He is now practicing with Smith County Family Practice in Smith Center, Kansas.

**LeTiffany Obozele**, jd '12, Topeka, Kansas, Washburn Student Bar Association, was a recipient of Topeka's Top "20 Under 40" award in 2021. She was also a recipient of one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

**Abraham Pfannenstiel**, aa '17, Wakeeney, Kansas, College Republicans, Alpha Lambda Delta, Leadership Institute, was hired as an attorney and lobbyist by Kearney and Associates, Inc.

**Mallory Riley**, jd '19, Powell, Wyoming, Law Democrats, opened her own clothing store, The HumbleBee Shop, in the summer of 2021.

**Joshua Ruoff**, bsw '18, Topeka, Kansas, became the lead consultant of the archdiocesan office this year at Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish.

**Seth Young**, jd '19, Bel Aire, Kansas, was promoted to corporate counsel at Daland Corporation.

**Andrew Singleton**, b ed '14, Topeka, Kansas, graduated with a master of science in educational administration from Emporia State University in the spring of 2021 and is currently serving as the instructional coach of Tecumseh South Elementary in USD 450. He and his wife, **Hannah Singleton**, b ed '14, welcomed their second son Logan Allen Singleton on March 24, 2021.

**Kelly St. John**, aa '14, Olathe, Kansas, started as an attorney at Dipasquale Moore, LLC, this year.

**Logan Stutz**, bis '13, Basketball, was inducted into the 2021 Washburn Athletics Hall of Fame. He is currently working as part of the Boston College men's basketball staff.

**Phillip Watson**, b music '15, Topeka, Kansas, Opera, Symphony Orchestra, Association of Vocalists, was a recipient of Topeka's Top "20 Under 40" award in 2021.

**Miranda Wilson**, ma '19, Topeka, Kansas, GAPS, was hired as a behavior learning advisor for Clarinda Community School District for the 2021-22 school year.

**Amanda Wilwert**, jd '11, Lawrence, Kansas, Law Journal, was a recipient of one of the 2021 YWCA Women of Excellence awards.

## 2020s

**Daniel Albertson**, b music '21, Newark, Delaware, is attending the University of Delaware for a master's degree in percussion performance and is a graduate teaching assistant.

**Reece Hiebert**, jd '21, Walton, Kansas, joined Adrian and Pankratz, P.A. as an associate attorney.

**Brigid Markey**, jd '21, Topeka, Kansas, Law Clinic, Law Journal, was hired as an associate attorney at Sloan, Eisenbarth, Glassman, McEntire & Jarboe, L.L.C. 



# In Memory

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

## 1940s

**Albert M. Evans**, bba '49, 95, Osage City, Kansas, on June 12, 2021

**Marilyn J. (Hale) Gustin**, ba '45, 97, Lenexa, Kansas, Choir, Delta Gamma, on Sept. 21, 2021

**Mary E. (Knox) Knight**, ba '46, 96, New Orleans, Louisiana, Zeta Tau Alpha, on March 12, 2021

**Betty J. (Selover) Penney**, ba '48, 95, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 18, 2021

**Doris J. (Cohn) Pirotte**, ba '46, 95, Wichita, Kansas, Phi Kappa Phi, Kappa Alpha Theta, on Oct. 3, 2020

**Robert C. Rogan**, ba '48, 98, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 7, 2020

**Richard W. Ryan**, ba '49, 95, Topeka, Kansas, Phi Kappa Phi, on Oct. 19, 2021

**Monna L. (Hutchison) Trusdale**, ba '49, ms '71, 93, Kansas City, Kansas, Sigma Alpha Iota Int'l Music, on Aug. 11, 2021

## 1950s

**Paula J. (Stuenkel) Bliss**, ba '52, 91, Topeka, Kansas, Choir, Kaw, on Sept. 2, 2021

**Gary A. Ernest**, bba '59, 85, Akron, Ohio, Association of Business Students, Young Republicans, Phi Delta Theta, on Aug. 19, 2021

**William "Bill" A. Eichkorn**, bba '58, 88, Wichita, Kansas, on Sept. 22, 2021

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

**Glenda A. (Jasperson) Reid Harrison**, b ed '59, 83, Overbrook, Kansas, Angel Flight, Kappa Alpha Theta, on Aug. 25, 2021

**Billy D. "Bill" Kennett**, bba '59, 89, Overland Park, Kansas, on Sept. 4, 2021

**James L. Kirk**, ba '51, 95, Kansas, Washburn Review, Alpha Delta, on Jan. 1, 2021

**Burney L. (Bailey) Mendenhall**, ba '50, 93, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 2, 2021

**Robert T. Pattie**, ba '53, 89, Williamsburg, Kansas, on May 3, 2020

**Doris W. (Mellenbruch) Peterson**, b ed '50, m ed '63, 102, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 8, 2021

**James L. "Jim" Scott**, b ed '57, 86, Granbury, Texas, Air Force ROTC, Basketball, Track, on June 15, 2021

**Eldon E. Soudek**, bfa '59, 85, Topeka, Kansas, Young Democrats, on Nov. 19, 2021

**Fred R. Vague**, ba '50, jd '51, 96, Wichita, Kansas, Phi Alpha Delta, on Aug. 1, 2021

**Dorothy A. (Dean) Woodburn**, ba '50, 93, Escondido, California, on Aug. 24, 2021

## 1960s

**Lezlie A. (Rollin) Brillhart**, ba '62, 80, Kansas City, Kansas, Alpha Phi, on Sept. 4, 2021

**Larry V. Brown**, b ed '68, 77, Greer, South Carolina, on Sept. 13, 2020

**Ronald R. Brown**, bs '64, 79, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Sagamore Society, Sigma Pi Sigma, Air Force ROTC, Arnold Air Society, Kappa Sigma, on Sept. 5, 2021

**Ronald W. Champlin**, ba '62, 82, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, Track, Kappa Sigma, on July 16, 2021

**Fred C. Eberhart**, ba '67, 76, Kansas City, Missouri, Phi Delta Theta, Washburn Singers, Sagamore Society, Phi Kappa Phi, Basketball, on Nov. 1, 2021

**Kenneth J. Esposito**, bba '64, 82, Easton, Connecticut, Football, on March 25, 2021

**Roseann C. (Sams) Gish**, b ed '66, 76, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 2, 2021

**Patricia A. Gregg**, b music '69, 76, Toledo, Ohio, on July 16, 2021

**Richard K. Holt**, bs '69, 76, Augusta, Georgia, on Aug. 8, 2021

**Anthony D. Huber**, ba '68, 74, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 27, 2021

**Basil "Peter" Hwoschinsky, Jr.**, ba '65, 90, Orange, Connecticut, on June 20, 2021

**Norma L. (Dudley) Irwin**, b music '61, 95, Kansas, Washburn Singers, Sigma Alpha Iota International Music, on Feb. 15, 2021

**Kenneth L. Kerns**, jd '68, 77, Butler County, Kansas, on May 22, 2021

**Leo V. Kerwin**, ba '60, 88, Hamilton, Kansas, on Aug. 25, 2021

**Claude LaRue Lee**, jd '62, 85, Wichita, Kansas, on Aug. 23, 2021

**Rodney L. Lesh**, bba '64, 83, Pratt, Kansas, on June 13, 2021

**Gordon K. (Kem) Lowry, Jr.**, ba '64, 79, Honolulu, Hawaii, Phi Delta Theta, on Aug. 17, 2021

**Kevin E. Manning**, bfa '67, 79, Lawrence, Kansas, on Nov. 13, 2021

**Edward D. Marchant Jr.**, ba '67, 78, Topeka, Kansas, Kappa Sigma, on Aug. 7, 2021

**Marilyn S. Miller**, ba '69, 74, Topeka, Kansas, Delta Gamma, on Sept. 2, 2021

**James M. Milliken**, ba '66, jd '69, 78, Saint Francis, Kansas, on May 15, 2021

**Linda M. Popp**, bsw '68, 78, Wichita, Kansas, on May 19, 2021

**Rene P. Poort**, b ed '67, 77, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 21, 2021

**Janet E. (Beers) Pugh**, bfa '62, Zeta Tau Alpha

**Melvin J. Quinn**, bba '61, 89, Shawnee, Kansas, Kappa Sigma, on June 19, 2021

**Richard L. Schroder**, bs '68, 76, Lenexa, Kansas, Air Force ROTC, Arnold Air Society, on Nov. 19, 2021

**Charles R. "Charlie" Swyers**, bba '61, 84, Topeka, Kansas, on May 27, 2021

**Terry A. Thomas**, bba '64, 84, Waterville, Kansas, Air Force ROTC, Sigma Phi Epsilon, on Oct. 10, 2021

**Michael L. Worswick**, bba '68, 75, Topeka, Kansas, Delta Sigma Pi, Alpha Delta, Phi Kappa Phi, Sagamore Society, Kaw, Washburn Review, on Aug. 10, 2021

## 1970s

**Walter D. Adams Jr.**, bba '78, 67, Jacksonville, Florida, on Aug. 23, 2021

**Carl M. Anderson**, jd '72, 84, Leawood, Kansas, on Oct. 1, 2021

**Kathie A. Berveiler**, jd '78, 71, Leavenworth, Kansas, on July 6, 2021

**Robert L. "Bob" Campos**, ba '79, 73, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 15, 2021

**James P. Corfman**, ba '70, 74, Deerfield, Ohio, Football, Young Republicans, on Sept. 11, 2021

**Arden R. Cowherd**, ba '74, 84, Topeka, Kansas, on July 31, 2021

**Phyllis P. (Curtis) Evans**, m ed '71, 82, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 16, 2021

**Richard L. Hathaway**, ba '70, jd '73, 73, Topeka, Kansas, Law Clinic, Kappa Sigma, on Oct. 9, 2021

**Doris J. (Heck) Hedberg**, b ed '72, 96, Topeka, Kansas, Choir, Zeta Tau Alpha, Sigma Alpha Iota, on Aug. 23, 2021

**Bickley B. "Bick" Holmes**, bfa '75, 84, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 30, 2021

**Mary F. (Maloney) Houglan**d, bba '70, 86, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 16, 2021

**Stephen L. Johns**, ba '76, 80, Wichita, Kansas, Phi Kappa Phi, on Aug. 30, 2021

**Gerald E. "Jerry" Kern**, bba '74, 72, Overland Park, Kansas, on July 24, 2021

**Brenda A. (Glidewell) Koehn**, ba '71, 72, Wichita, Kansas, on June 2, 2021

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

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

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

**Gerald W. Marcell**, ba '79, 74, Branson, Missouri, on Feb. 24, 2021

**Terrence "John" Martin**, bs '78, 71, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 27, 2021

**John Ronald "Ron" Miller**, bs '75, 71, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 4, 2021

**Dennis W. Moore**, jd '70, 75, Overland Park, Kansas, on Nov. 2, 2021

**Donald R. Noland**, jd '76, 69, Chanute, Kansas, Law Clinic, on July 3, 2021

**Johnette L. "Johnny" (Hensley) Pendergast**, ba '70, 75, Windsor, Colorado, Delta Gamma, on Feb. 1, 2021

**Jason N. Phelps**, ba '79, 78, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 27, 2021

**David E. Pitt**, ba '77, 69, Salina, Kansas, on Sept. 8, 2021

**Robert R. "Bob" Radefeld**, bba '73, 76, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 19, 2021

**Karen K. (Conard) Tappan**, ba '75, 84, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 26, 2021

**Peggy A. Tassett**, bsw '73, 69, Santa Fe, New Mexico, on June 5, 2021

**John M. "Jack" Waugh**, ba '71, 77, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 13, 2021

**Dorothy M. (Towle) Weir**, bba '72, 90, Topeka, Kansas, Zeta Tau Alpha, on Aug. 26, 2021

**Larry S. Wilson**, ba '71, 71, Topeka, Kansas, on March 28, 2021

## 1980s

**Richard M. Blackwell**, jd '80, 66, Kansas City, Kansas, Moot Court Council, Phi Delta Phi - Law, on Aug. 30, 2021

**Robert M Borgren**, bsw '80, 68, Orange City, Florida, on Oct. 14, 2021

**Margaret J. (Cindrich) Bradshaw**, bs '89, 86, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 10, 2021

**Iola G. A. (Eberhardt) Crandall**, bba '86, 78, Aurora, Colorado, on Dec. 25, 2020

**Carmela F. (Luzzi) Denton**, bs '80, 96, Lawrence, Kansas, on May 6, 2021

**Mary Ann (Redman) Gabel**, bba '80, 78, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 1, 2021

**Delores A. (Nicklaus) Haag**, m ed '88, 83, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 2, 2021

**Don M. Haggerty**, jd '88, 76, Durant, Oklahoma, Law Clinic, on April 13, 2021

**Kelly J. (Porter) Hull**, b ed '81, 60, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 24, 2021

**John D. Ippert**, bba '89, 77, Phi Delta Theta, on Oct. 29, 2021

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

**Jeffrey L. Lauersdorf**, jd '81, 65, Shawnee, Kansas, Law Clinic, on Sept. 3, 2021

**Ruffin B. McDaniel**, b ed '89, 57, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 13, 2021

**Paula J. Perkins-Clanton**, certificate '89, aa '89, bsw '91, 55, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 13, 2021

**Danny M. Thibault**, bsn '87, 71, Rowe, New Mexico, on June 20, 2021

**Rojene E. (Conwell) Willard**, b ed '89, 69, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 20, 2021

## 1990s

**Jeffrey A. Barkhurst**, bba '96, 59, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 5, 2021

**Judith "Judy" A. (Griggs) Bizoe**, as '93, 73, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 9, 2021

**Gretchen R. (Hutzell) Cabrera**, aa '99, bba '06, 42, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 17, 2021

**Regis E. Campbell III**, bba '97, 56, Topeka, Kansas, Accounting Society, on Oct. 7, 2021

**Lockie A. (Carver) Griffin**, bba '93, 74, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 8, 2021

**David A. Meysenburg**, ba '98, be '01, 47, Salina, Kansas, Phi Delta Theta, on May 5, 2021

**Matthew S. Miltz**, bs '99, 49, Highland Village, Texas, on Aug. 15, 2021

**Janine M. Mohan**, ba '91, 53, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 17, 2021

**Philippe Q. Ragusa**, bba '95, 50, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Phi Delta Theta, on Feb. 13, 2021

**Mark D. Reddy**, ba '96, 67, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 19, 2021

**Peggy (Linville) Snider**, bsw '90, 82, Eureka, Kansas, on March 16, 2021

## 2000s

**Teddy R. "Ted" Griffith**, jd '01, 59, Park City, Kansas, Law Clinic, on Feb. 8, 2021

**Lori L. Lalouette**, jd '09, 50, Newton, Kansas, Law Clinic, on Oct. 29, 2021

**Floyd A. Lee**, ba '04, 62, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 8, 2021

**Suzanne M. Sawyer-Burris**, bba '00, 57, Wichita, Kansas, on Aug. 8, 2021

**Kyle R. Stueven**, bs '08, msw '21, 56, Topeka, Kansas, Biology Club, Beta Beta Beta, on Nov. 21, 2021

## 2010s

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

**Lenora M. (McCuen) Douglas**, certificate '14, 66, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 19, 2021

**Jason T. Holloway**, bba '11, 47, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 27, 2021

**Bryce P. Nigus**, bba '11, 32, Hiawatha, Kansas, on Aug. 6, 2021

**Anthony "Tony" R. Parsons**, msw '10, 71, Wichita, Kansas, on Nov. 5, 2021

**Chelsie F. Randel**, certificate '19, 19, Leavenworth County, Kansas, on Aug. 24, 2021

## Friends

**Glenn W. Anschutz**, 96, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 23, 2021

**Margorie A. (Barron) Barry**, 81, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 5, 2021

**Betty L. (Eye) Craig**, 95, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 20, 2021

**Toni Jo Cripps**, 69, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 23, 2021

**Richard Bernhardt Ellis**, 72, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 22, 2021

**Jacqueline "Jackie" J. (Anderson) Fink**, 87, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 8, 2021

**Jerry W. Haag**, 86, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 20, 2021

**Ralph E. "R.E." Henley**, 84, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 2, 2021

**Sara J. Hischke**, 76, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 11, 2021

**Ruth M. (Coleman) Kennedy**, 101, Ottawa, Kansas, on Aug. 2, 2021

**Patty M. (Davis) Mason**, 85, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 24, 2021

**Shirley A. (Wilkie) Sager**, 89, Albuquerque, New Mexico, on Sept. 19, 2021

**Nancy L. (Hanks) Shermoen**, 89, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 27, 2021

**Wanda L. (Roach) Sorber**, 95, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 8, 2021

**Charlene R. (Johnson) Swanson**, 85, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 19, 2021

**Glenn Swogger**, 86, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 7, 2021

**Kay H. Welchhans**, 72, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 1, 2021

**Janis E. (Richwine) Williams**, 79, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 13, 2021

**Cooper C. Woodring**, 84, Providence, Rhode Island, on Sept. 21, 2021

**Judy K. (Stone) Wunder**, 80, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 27, 2021

## Correction

The following was printed incorrectly in the fall 2021 issue.

**Ruth Ann (Platz) Pile**, ba '67, bs '76, 96, Overland Park, Kansas, on May 12, 2021

**Mary Lou Johnson, b music '47, Washburn Alumni Association Board of Directors, 95, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 20, 2021**



Kappa Alpha Theta, Nonoso  
Mary Lou Johnson earned her bachelor's degree in music from Washburn University, where she graduated Summa

Cum Laude. She was an active member of the Washburn and Topeka communities, participating in Junior League, the Red Cross, Theta alumnae gatherings, church choir, Topeka Civic Symphony Chorus and more.

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**Patricia A. (Patterson) Mahoney, ba '60, Washburn Alumni Association Board of Directors, 83, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 26, 2021**



Alpha Phi, Young Republicans, Association of Business Students  
Patricia Mahoney taught for 41 years including at Atchison/Jefferson County Co-op in

special education and third grade at Jefferson West Elementary School. In addition to her Washburn degree, she earned two master's degrees. After retirement, she volunteered for CASA, Kansas Children's Discovery Center and as a master gardener.

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**The Honorable Joseph W. Morris, ba '43, jd '47, Washburn University Foundation Trustee, Washburn Alumni Association Board of Directors, 99, Tulsa, Oklahoma, on Nov. 11, 2021**



Joseph Morris earned his bachelor's degree from Washburn in 1943 before entering the Navy to serve in World War II. After the war, he returned to Washburn and earned his law degree and

graduated first in his class. He was listed in The Best Lawyers in America in Alternative Dispute Resolution and in Natural Resources Law publication and was a member of the Tulsa Hall of Fame. He gave generously to Washburn, including to an endowment in his name to meet immediate needs at the School of Law.

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**Frank C. Sabatini, honorary degree '06, 89, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 24, 2021**



Frank Sabatini earned his bachelor's and law degree at the University of Kansas before serving in the Kansas Legislature from 1970-71 and being appointed chair in 1994 for the Kansas Board

of Regents. He purchased Capital City Bank & Trust in 1979 and added 11 regional locations before merging with Capital Federal Bank in 2018. He supported Washburn University and the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library to encourage educational opportunities in the community.

**Andrew J. Svedlow, Former Director of the Mulvane Art Museum, 65, Denver, Colorado, on Nov. 24, 2021**



Andrew Svedlow was the director of the Mulvane Art Museum at Washburn University from 1986-89. One of his biggest accomplishments was the accreditation of the Mulvane, which brought the museum to a

high level of excellence in less than three years. He improved many aspects of organization within the museum, including adding high-tech archival flat files and racks in collection storage. He shared his knowledge of professional cataloging and how to care for every work of art in a collection of almost 2,000 pieces.

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**Arlene A. (Euwer) Vickers, Washburn Alumni Association Board of Directors, 94, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 12, 2021**



Arlene Vickers attended Washburn and was a member of Delta Gamma. In her career, she worked at the Topeka Allergy Clinic, as a realtor with Kirk

and Cobb and became the director of volunteer services at St Francis hospital until her retirement in 1985. She performed with the Shawnee Choral Society and the First United Methodist Church choir.

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**Scott C. Williams, Eminentes Universitatis, 61, Kansas City, Missouri, on Oct. 3, 2021**



Scott Williams worked at KTWU on the Washburn University campus as a team member for the PBS program Sunflower Journeys after a 10-year career

as a photojournalist for The Salina Journal. He produced program segments and shows here for 21 years and enjoyed photography, videography and documenting life whenever he could.

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**Don C. Wright, Professor Emeritus, School of Business, 98, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 22, 2021**



Don Wright served in the Navy in 1942, a year after he graduated high school. While in the Navy, he worked as an electrician's mate on the USS Bray and attended multiple colleges. He

began his career as at Washburn in 1949 and retired as professor in the School of Business in 1984. During his time at Washburn, he received Washburn's Faculty Certificate of Merit Award in 1981 and belonged to many academic honor societies.

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**M. Lee Wright, Eminentes Universitatis, 85, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 18, 2021**



Lee Wright worked for KTWU on the Washburn University campus for 32 years, using his writing, photography and singing skills to share messages and inspire those around him. Before

working at Washburn, he acquired his love for the environment through his 25-year career with Kansas Water Resources Board. He used his two careers to care for the environment and to care for people. 🚶



## *Alumni Travel Opportunities*

SEE THE WORLD WITH FELLOW ICHABODS

### **Portugal and the Douro River** | April 6-16, 2022 | **SOLD OUT** (*Ask to be put on waitlist*)

Join Washburn President Jerry Farley and his wife, Susan, on this fabulous river cruise aboard the MS Emerald Radiance. Spend two days in Lisbon before boarding the ship in Porto and visiting the following ports of call: Pinhao, Vega de Terron, Salamanca, Pocinho and Regua. Pricing begins at \$4,499 per person double occupancy and includes roundtrip airfare, cruise, sightseeing, 22 meals and more.

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

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



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

**For more information, contact Susie Hoffmann**  
**785.670.1643 | [susie@wualumni.org](mailto:susie@wualumni.org) | [wualumni.org/alumni-travel](http://wualumni.org/alumni-travel)**



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# SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, Feb. 3, 2022

[washburngivingday.org](http://washburngivingday.org)

