

WASHBURN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION — WINTER 2023

THE ICHABOD





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A February 2022 snowfall starts to cover the Mr. Ichabod bench statue outside the west entrance of Morgan Hall. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*



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

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From the President

I don't know what it was, but this fall, the Washburn stories seemed to come pouring in. They are welcome and heartwarming tales shared as I serve as interim president. They are the stories we hear at the Alumni Association and Foundation as we meet alumni all over the world. They are individuals sharing their story at our events and award ceremonies.

There was the single parent who made it through Washburn thanks to scholarships and accommodating professors – including one who held her baby while teaching. There was the student who spent years trying to pass basic college math – a nationwide problem – until she discovered Washburn's new approach to this dilemma and was on track to pass in December. There was the graduate who failed out of community college. When he was ready to try again, a public university in our state wouldn't accept him but Washburn did. He kept a 4.0 GPA while earning three degrees as an Ichabod, all because we gave him a welcoming opportunity to pursue his goals.

These stories help us share with potential students why Washburn is a great choice. Some recent news we received is also helping amplify the Washburn story. The U.S. News and World Report selected us as the top public, regional university in Kansas, and in our category, we are fifth in the entire Midwest Region for lowest student debt at graduation. We lead the state for lowest debt for the typical student and for service to student veterans. Scholarships, a commitment to veterans as a Purple Heart University and a focus on dedicated faculty teaching worthwhile academic programs in modern spaces are why we earned these high rankings. Students are the focus in every decision we make.

All these ingredients come together to make a Washburn education a tremendous value that opens doors to future success. We hear this from alumni all the time, and you will read examples in this issue of *The Ichabod*. We hope you agree and share with others why you think Washburn is a great choice. So many stories are out there waiting to be told, and I can't wait to hear yours.

Thank you for all you do for Washburn,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marshall Meek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marshall Meek
Interim President, Washburn University
President, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation



High Value

Among similar schools, Washburn leads the state in latest U.S. News rankings

By Jeremy Wangler • jwangler@wualumni.org

Zach Frank, dean of the Washburn University School of Applied Studies, was having dinner this fall with someone who had multiple children attend Washburn and go to graduate school. The dinner guest delivered news Frank and others at Washburn often hear.

“He told me, ‘Washburn’s the best kept secret out there. You get a great education at a great price,’” Frank said.

Washburn is shifting its external focus to quelling the notion of secrecy and amplifying the message of its great value. The U.S. News & World Report helped that effort this fall by ranking Washburn the top choice among public regional universities in Kansas. Washburn also led the state for veteran assistance and for having the lowest typical student loan debt.

U.S. News ranks schools based on several factors and releases its list each year. Schools in the public regional

categorization offer a full range of undergraduate programs, some master’s programs and few doctoral programs. Washburn is the 14th-ranked such school in the Midwest Region. In the lowest debt category, Washburn is fifth in the region.

“The rankings are a big deal because that’s our story – high quality education at a good price with low debt,” said Alan Bearman, interim executive director of enrollment management. “And we will try to drive this message every time we can.”

In Bearman’s role managing Washburn’s recruitment and admissions efforts, he’s seen recent research saying parents are more important than ever in the admissions process for their children.

“Parents are looking to keep their children a little closer to home,” Bearman said. “It is a big deal to be able to tell families from Topeka and northeast Kansas



Associate Professor Chris Jones teaches a religious studies class. *Photo by Doug Stremel*

we have a high quality and affordable education. They want to know they're going to a university recognized by its peers as a high performing university.”

Frank oversees the five academic departments in the School of Applied Studies and represents them on several committees.

“What I see in meetings is decision-making revolves around what's best for students and what we can do to keep costs down,” he said. “The best thing we're doing is keeping students at the heart of every decision we make.”

Keeping costs down is especially important in today's environment.

“You see all these national reports of graduates saddled with college debt and the negative impact it has on them and their careers – people working two jobs to pay off their debt,” Frank said. “That's not the quality of life people are looking for these days.”

Adding to the great value, students also have several options to get degrees high in demand.

“We've maintained our commitment to really great academic programs,” Bearman said. “Other universities are walking away from academic programs; we're saying we can provide the programs you need and want, and the degrees employers want. Washburn has positioned itself for success, now we must take advantage of our positioning and go out there and tell our story.”

Washburn has made many efforts to keep down not only tuition but overall cost of attendance, including the new Zero Textbook Cost initiative. ZTC encourages faculty to assign free materials like open education resources instead of costly textbooks.

“We found we had a staggering number of low-income students who had to choose between buying textbooks and eating,” Bearman said. “With ZTC, on day one everyone in the class has equal access to the learning materials. If our goal is equitable outcomes toward graduation, you need equitable access to learning materials.”

Along with overall ranking and low student debt, Washburn ranked first in Kansas for veteran assistance. Chris Bowers, military transitions coordinator, Student



Photo by Jeremy Wangler

Life, said Washburn has progressed since he graduated in 2017 after serving in the Army.

“I would say we have outdone military friendly. We are now military inclusive,” said Bowers, BA '17, MA '21. “Military friendly means we honor everything the military asks for as far as the Department of Defense. Military inclusive means we recognize veterans and military-connected students have a uniqueness, and we are a way forward for them.”

With his role in the Military-Student Success Center in Mabee Library, Bowers can put students in touch with the campus resources they need.

“I am not leaving this veteran or military-connected student until I know they're taken care of,” Bowers said. “Help is a phone call away. I hope a lot of student veterans and military-connected students realize there is a place right here at Washburn University that will welcome them and help them get from wherever they are to graduation.”

The rankings help tell the story of Washburn – a great education, a valuable degree and a commitment to get students to graduation wherever they come from.

“For a school like Washburn, the rankings are important because we need people to realize what a high-quality education we provide at such a good price,” Bearman said. “To get external affirmation is really important for us.” 



School of Nursing faculty Amy White, msn '14 (left), and Belinda Eckert, bsn '86, stand with mannequins and equipment used to provide PEARs training. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

Improved Care

New training lets nursing students better treat child patients in danger

By Angela Lutz

Working as a nurse requires quick thinking and immediate action – particularly when pediatric patients are involved. For Washburn University School of Nursing student Corinn Searcy, receiving PEARs – pediatric emergency assessment, recognition and stabilization – training as part of her nursing school curriculum has already proven beneficial. She had a kid code – go into cardiac arrest – during a clinical.

“To be able to go through the PEARs training beforehand was helpful because we had never worked

in pediatrics before,” Searcy said. “It set us up for success with knowing what to do and what to expect.”

Washburn began teaching PEARs concepts as part of their pediatric course in 2021 after receiving grant funding from Washburn Women’s Venture Partners. Amy White, msn '14, assistant professor and director of simulation, wrote the grant proposal for PEARs after noticing some gaps in her students’ knowledge.

“I recognized during pediatric simulations with the students we were missing some key concepts related to emergencies, like how to recognize when a child is in danger,” White said. “Kids are very poor communicators, and they won’t tell you, ‘I feel funny. I can’t breathe’ – they’ll just stop breathing. This class helps people recognize some of those symptoms.”

Working with Assistant Professors Caren Dick, bsn '84, and Belinda Eckert, bsn '86, White utilized her knowledge as a certified PEARS instructor at the University of Kansas Health System St. Francis Campus to create an abbreviated version of the course for Washburn students. The training comprises a full day, with lectures in the morning and hands-on demonstrations and simulations in the afternoons. Content focuses on how to immediately assess a pediatric patient’s status and take appropriate action if they are in distress.

“It’s a nursing life skill that’s going to benefit them down the road,” White said. “When these new graduate nurses are at the hospital, they are thrown into all kinds of situations, and it can be overwhelming. Introducing these concepts in nursing school makes some of these situations less scary and intimidating.”

The hands-on portion of the training has been particularly well received by students. Eckert said simulations have become an essential part of nursing education, so students have embraced the opportunity to apply their academic knowledge in practical ways.

“PEARS training makes students stronger nurses because they’ve had exposure to the content and they’ve been able to practice the physical skills that go along with that,” Eckert said. “They know what a child in distress looks like, so in the real world they don’t have to think so hard about what they’re going to do, they can jump right into action.”

For the simulations in particular, White said grant funding has been vital, as this is where the concepts students learned in class begin to make sense in a real-world context.

“Without the funding we would not have been able to do any of the simulations,” she said. “It allowed us to implement the hands-on portion – which given what we know from the pedagogy of learning and nursing, simulations are where the students put it all together. Without the hands-on portion, we doubt it would have

been as effective as it has been in helping the students understand these concepts.”

The PEARS training also helps future nurses feel more self-assured and ready to act in emergency situations. Searcy recently completed her capstone rotations at Children’s Mercy Kansas City, and after her graduation in December she will begin working as a nurse in the mother-baby unit at the University of Kansas Medical Center. She said the PEARS training has given her a different perspective she will carry with her into her future career.

“Knowing what signs to look for beforehand is very helpful so you’re not freaking out in the situation,” she said. “It has given me a different mindset to notice if something with a patient is changing or escalating.”

The timing of the training is also intentional, with students receiving PEARS instruction the semester before they graduate, even if they aren’t planning to become a pediatric nurse. While the chances of them needing to intervene in an emergency as student nurses is not as high, they will need to be ready to take swift, decisive action in their nursing careers.

“We get them right before graduation. It’s their last semester,” Eckert said. “Within several months of having the training, many of those students are out there working as nurses, and this training helps them feel more confident and prepared.”

“Most nursing students wanted to be nurses to help people,” White said. “This is one more way for them to do that.” 🏃



Students in PEARS training. Photo by Louisa Schurig

Health and Healing

WUmester theme looks at all aspects of bettering each other and community

By Jeremy Wangler • jwangler@wualumni.org

The words health and healing come from the word "hale," meaning to be whole, sound or well. The Washburn community will study the theme of health and healing from a wide range of disciplines during this year's WUmester.

WUmester occurs each spring semester to create a cross-disciplinary learning experience on timely subjects and help students see the connections between what they study in the classroom and real-world debates and problems. Public events with speakers and panelists will discuss the theme, and faculty are encouraged to explore the theme in their classes.



Lindsey Ibañez

Lindsey Ibañez, assistant professor, sociology, will incorporate the theme in the Sociology of Mental Health class she's teaching this semester. The course explores the social construction of mental illness and how it changes culturally and historically over time. She said one in five adults suffer

from mental health issues and the amount is higher for adolescents. The class looks further at those numbers, considering age, gender, race and more.

"What we argue as sociologists is whatever is going on physiologically in mental illness is reflected through a lens of society," she said. "Cultural assumptions go into what kind of behavior we expect from people. If a student is performing well in school, we don't necessarily notice if they have something like anxiety, depression or ADHD. It's often when students are struggling with grades that their parents and teachers become aware there might be a problem."

Shifting models in elementary and secondary education now identify and treat mental illness instead of punishing a child's behavior, Ibañez said. Universities are also changing how they help students navigate mental health.

"There wasn't a conversation about any of this when I was in college," she said. "Now, it's encouraging to see students talk openly about it and be aware of resources out there for them."



Chloe Chaffin

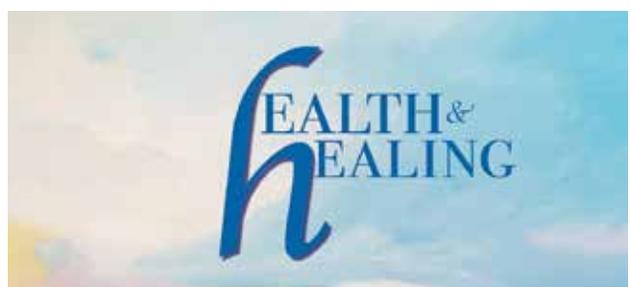
Chloe Chaffin, a junior studying English education and political science, is the health and wellness director on the executive staff of Washburn Student Government Association. She works to improve and increase the resources available for all aspects of student health and wellness.

Examples include supplying Washburn bathrooms with free menstruation products, supporting the Bods Feeding Bods food pantry for anyone on campus experiencing food insecurities and promoting resources available from Counseling Services.

"We're working to get the word out to students about those initiatives either with our own planning or by supporting existing campus partners," Chaffin said. "It's perfect the theme for WUmester is health and healing in the first year of this cabinet position."

WUmester will explore subtopics like mental health, the health and healing of national discourse, financial health and healing amidst an epidemic of student loan debt and environmental health and healing.

"I hope students get a chance to think big, think broadly, connect larger issues to their own lives and see areas where they might make an impact," Ibañez said. 





MVLVANE APT AV



Blanche Parks, b ed '71, m ed '76, poses at Ichabod Plaza outside Morgan Hall. The remodeling of Morgan Hall is among the endeavors Parks is most proud of during her 29 years as a regent. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

Extraordinary Service

Alumna ends historic 29-year tenure on Washburn University board of regents

by Annie Flachsbarth

This summer, Blanche Parks ended her tenure as the longest-serving member of Washburn University's board of regents. During that time, she saw significant changes and helped Washburn grow to what it is today – and even became part of Washburn's history. But if you ask Parks, b ed '71, m ed '76, it was business as usual.

"I wasn't trying to make history, I was just trying to do the job," Parks said.

First appointed under former Topeka Mayor Butch Felker, ba '67, jd '72, in 1993 to represent the 19th senatorial district on the board, she held the esteemed position for a total of 29 years, before moving out of the district (under state law, mayoral appointees must reside in the district they represent).

Building a Legacy

As the governing body of the university, the nine-member board of regents oversees and approves

academic programs, building plans, as well as the university's calendar and budget. In 1997, Parks was part of the nationwide search committee that hired Jerry Farley as the new university president and was the chair of the board during Farley's first two years as president.

"It was an honor to work with President Farley, and I truly enjoyed taking part in the decisions to grow Washburn," Parks said.

In her time on the board, Parks helped make decisions about major campus renovations and building projects, including the KBI building, Washburn University Institute of Technology, Morgan Hall and the Indoor Athletic Facility.

One of the first major changes she remembers was the decision to remove the married student housing on the southeast corner of campus near 21st and Washburn Ave.

"It was painful to see the married student housing being torn down – and it was also sentimental because I had actually lived there," Parks said. "But it needed to be torn down to move things forward. That was the beginning of our campus growing and becoming more modern."

According to Parks, the toughest part of the job was ensuring any decision fit in line with the university vision and strategic plan.

"We had to prioritize projects and programs to make sure we were doing things at the best time in the most cost-effective way. We had to decide whether we had the money to pay to have the buildings built or if it we needed to raise funds." Parks said. "More than anything, we want to make sure we meet the needs of the students and continue to have excellent academic programs."

"Blanche has been an outstanding contributor to the board and to the university," said former Washburn President Jerry Farley after her retirement. "She has brought a strong sense of the mission of Washburn to the task and has helped us grow the university into the institution that it is today. We were fortunate to have her service for so many years."

Rooted in Dedication

Parks is part of a family with deep roots in the community and in Washburn. In fact, she is one of eight members of the Parks family who claim Washburn University as their alma mater. The line began with the Hon. Sherman Parks, Sr., bba '49, jd '55, h '90, the first African American appellate judge in Kansas. His twin brother Sheridan Parks, bba '49, and his son Sherman Parks, Jr., ba '72, jd '75, h '90 – Blanche Parks' late husband – were also alumni. Blanche earned her degrees in education. In 2021, the Parks family received the Washburn University School of Law Legacy Family award.

No stranger to hard work, Parks held a successful career in public service – holding multiple management positions at the State of Kansas Treasurer's Office and other state agencies before retiring in 2011. At the treasurer's, she created and directed the Kansas tuition savings program Learning Quest, which finance media outlet Money ranked a top five such program in the nation.

Parks volunteered with multiple organizations over the past 50 years. Most notably, she was the governor of the Kansas Rotary and was the first Kansan on the YWCA USA national board of directors.

As a lifelong volunteer and a teacher by trade, Parks brought a viewpoint to the board perhaps other regents didn't have. And although the position was unpaid, Parks felt it was an honor to serve.

"Seeing the accomplishments of our work through the students was more than enough payment," Parks said. "No amount of money could have given me the pride I had seeing the students at graduation – that was by far my biggest thrill and favorite part of the job."

In fact, Parks attended every graduation in her 29 years on the job.

Now in retirement, Parks plans to do a lot of traveling across the country and the world.

"I have had a valuable and unforgettable experience working with wonderful people. Thanks for the memories," Parks said. 

America's Drummer

Washburn graduate took a chance in LA, landed 41-year career with America

By Jeremy Wangler • jwangler@wualumni.org

About the time Wil Leacox finished his music education degree at Washburn University, the band America was forming. A year later, America recorded “A Horse with No Name,” and in 1972, they moved to Los Angeles, California, amid their early success. Leacox, b music '70, was in LA at the time, making a living with studio work and gigs, but he wanted to land with a band.

“He wanted to see if he could make it,” Jim Leacox, b music '72, said of his brother. “He packed his pickup with everything he could and moved out there.”

“That was where the music scene was,” said Charles Smrha, bba '70. “He knew it was the place to be.”

America announced an audition for a drummer in 1973, and Wil was first in line.

“He bought every record they had and learned every riff their drummer did,” Smrha said. “At the end of his

session, they canceled the audition and knew they wanted him.”

That turned into a 41-year career for Leacox with the multi-platinum band known for its acoustic guitars and harmonizing vocals that blend soft rock, folk and pop. Before retiring in 2014, he helped produce seven platinum or gold albums and several top-10 singles, played in more than 150 countries and performed at Radio City Music Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Tonight Show and the Late Show.

He died on Feb. 1, 2022, in Stockton, California, at the age of 74, and Jim said memories and kind tributes to his brother poured in.

Musical Roots in Little Nashville

On the day Wil landed with America, Jim was hired as the band teacher at Meadowbrook Junior High School in Prairie Village, Kansas, bringing jubilation to their family back in Shenandoah, Iowa, where they grew up immersed in music.

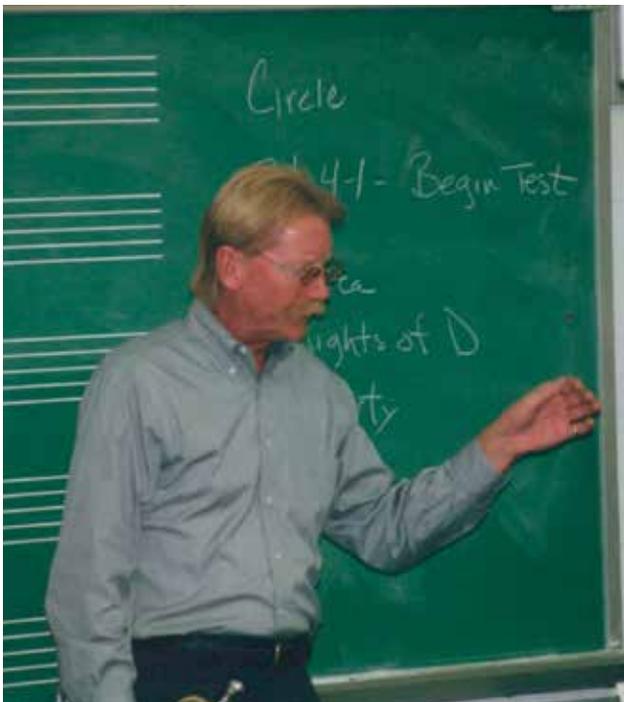
The Leacox family included Jim and Wil's dad and uncle in big bands, their mother singing and playing piano and violin and their sister playing piano. Jim said Shenandoah was called Little Nashville because many years ago, radio entertainment was produced live on the air, and the city had two radio stations with a wide broadcast reach.

“All these celebrities came through on their way to stardom,” Jim said.

Situated in southwest Iowa, Shenandoah is closer to Topeka than to Iowa's major universities. Washburn was the choice for Wil to continue his musical journey, and Jim joined him three years later.

Making Music at Washburn

“We chose Washburn because it was smaller and we'd have more personal time with the professors,” Jim said. “There was a good lineup of music professors, and I



Jim Leacox, b music '72, teaching music in 2000. He has since retired. *Photo submitted*



Wil Leacox, b music '70, became the drummer for rock and roll band America in 1973 and was with them until his retirement in 2014. America's bassist took this photo in Zacatecas, Mexico, in 2010. *Photo by Rich Campbell*

think there still is. Plus, I wanted to spend some time with my brother and play together before he moved on.”

As he had done since sixth grade, Wil played in rock and roll bands while at Washburn, including Kansas Music Hall of Fame bands The Jerms and the Young Raiders.

Two obstacles got in his way while at Washburn but didn't stop him. His drum set was destroyed in the June 8, 1966, tornado. And then as a senior he was injured in a car crash and spent months recovering. He returned and graduated.

“I think Washburn had a very positive impact on him and he always spoke highly of it,” said Smrha, a retired insurance agent who played in Washburn bands with the brothers and was in Kappa Sigma with Jim. “His natural gifts and his Washburn education let Willie share his musical talents with audiences around the world.”

Coming Home and Giving Back

Friendly, memorable and a good storyteller, Wil enjoyed meeting fans and musicians from all over the world, but he always returned to the Midwest during tour breaks.

“We'd hang out with the Washburn percussion camp in the summer because we both hold Washburn

dear in our hearts,” said Jim, who taught 10 years in the Shawnee Mission School District and 30 years at Leawood Middle School in Leawood, Kansas. “I always had a student assembly concert on the last day before winter break. Wil would work with my drum kids. We'd knock 'em down, wake everybody up and send them on their way to vacation. I still have students tell me they will never forget having Wil there.”

After retiring, the brothers created the Leacox Family Music Scholarship for music education students at Washburn. Several people donated in Wil's memory upon his death. Jim and his wife, Karin Leacox, created an additional scholarship in their name.

“When I was at Washburn, I needed help. I either had to borrow money or get a scholarship,” Jim said. “Wil and I thought this was one way we can support music education.”

From leaving home for Washburn to his bold move to LA, Wil's choices paid off. A quote from him, which he compiled from other sources, sums up his journey:

“You never know until you go, and even then, you never can tell. So, I just go with the flow, play the notes I know and keep my best lick in my pocket.” 🎸

A Fairytale Life

Alumna's musical debuted during Copenhagen study abroad reunion

by Annie Flachsbarth

In October 2022, the musical “Andersen: A Fairytale Life” debuted at Neese Gray Theatre on Washburn University’s campus. The musical, written by Washburn alumna June McCarty Clair, b music ’66, portrays the story of Danish author Hans Christian Andersen and his journey and personal struggles to write his way to success.

Setting the Stage

While attending Washburn, Clair spent a semester abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark. That trip, which included 12 students from Washburn and 18 from other U.S. schools, was the first study abroad program to Denmark for the university. While in Denmark, Clair learned about Danish culture and, of course, Hans Christian Andersen.

“Studying in Copenhagen was one of the high points of my life. Living in Europe while studying its history gave me a whole new perspective and really made it



June McCarty Clair, b music ’66 (left), and David Woods, b music ’65, were part of the first group of Washburn students to study abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

come alive,” Clair said. “I was placed with a wonderful family of very learned people – my Danish mother spoke six languages – I learned as much from them as I did in my classes. They were very proud of Denmark and were happy to share its history and culture with me. My time there helped me develop self-confidence and public speaking skills. The experience in Denmark has really made a lasting imprint on my whole life.”

After graduating, Clair taught music and then got involved in many aspects of theater, including acting, writing and directing. Eventually, she returned to teaching music and drama at Clay Middle School in Carmel, Indiana. While looking for inspiration after being out of teaching for many years, she discovered that the Lilly Endowment foundation – an arm of the Lilly pharmaceutical company – provides grants to promote and support educational purposes. In 2008, Clair applied and was awarded a \$25,000 Teacher Creativity Renewal Fellowship grant. With this grant, she returned to Denmark to research more about the life and work of Andersen.

“He’s the most famous man in all Denmark. He looms so large, yet today, all over the country,” Clair said. “His fairytales are still so famous, and Disney has mined many of them for feature films. So much of what he has done is ingrained into our culture.”

Anderson’s well-known works adapted by Disney include “The Little Mermaid” and “The Snow Queen” – which inspired “Frozen” and its sequel.

Upon Clair’s return from Denmark, she wrote the story and then collaborated with her husband, lyricist John Clair, and composer Derek Hakes to bring the musical to life. As she began to research Andersen’s life, she realized Andersen himself was the story.

“He’s so famous, yet there are so many things about him that nobody knows,” Clair said. “He was born very poor. His father died when he was nine and his mother was illiterate. But he learned to read and write,



These alumni studied abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark, in the 1960s or 1970s and attended a reunion during Homecoming in October 2022. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

and he eventually wrote down many of the stories he heard during his childhood. He was the first person to write in the vernacular of the people of that day – everything before that time had been very literary. And they couldn't keep his fairytales in stock. They sold out immediately.”

Clair decided to tell Andersen's story in a two-act musical. After various iterations, the show is now staged more for an adult audience – and that is where friend and fellow Copenhagen study abroad participant, David Woods, b music '65, entered the scene.

The Big Debut

In May 2021, Clair visited Topeka and met up with Woods to tell him about the musical. Woods, retired from a successful career in higher education administration, had become good friends with Jerry Farley during Woods' time as a dean at the University of Oklahoma. He suggested he and Clair meet with Farley, then president of Washburn, to petition the university to put on the musical. They also met with Craig Treinen, associate professor and chair of the music department and Sharon Sullivan, professor and chair of the theatre department.

“Within two minutes, Craig said, ‘This is an excellent idea.’ And then Sharon did the same,” Woods said. “I thought it's a great thing for a graduate who has done something like this to be welcomed back to do it on campus,”

The debut of the musical was also planned to coincide with Washburn's homecoming weekend this fall and a reunion for alumni who attended the study abroad in Copenhagen. Those from the reunion who could attend watched the musical together on opening night on Oct. 21.

Curtain Call

“Andersen: A Fairytale Life” is Clair's fifth musical. She would love to see the show performed in other colleges around the country – and if it were to go to Broadway, she definitely wouldn't turn that down.

“I am so grateful to Washburn for presenting the musical, and for my dear friend, David, who was my cheerleader and embraced it,” Clair said. “And I am forever grateful to Washburn for initiating the Washburn semester to Copenhagen and letting me be a part of it so many years ago.” 🧑🏻‍🎨

High Marks

Alumna wins award for exceptional CPA exam score

By Lindsay Thompson

The Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination is notoriously difficult. The test is presented in four separate sections, usually taken over the course of months, and is required to secure licensure as a U.S. certified public accountant. Simply passing with a score of 75 is an accomplishment. Many don't pass, which makes what Madison Farr, bba '20 and m acc '21, achieved so notable. She not only passed the CPA exam on her first attempt, but she also won an award for her high score.

Farr earned the 2021 Elijah Watt Sells Award presented by the American Institute of CPAs. The award recognizes anyone who has a cumulative average score of 95.50 or higher. She was one of 57 winners out of the 72,000 people who sat for the exam in 2021. It was an accomplishment she worked diligently to achieve, but winning it still surprised her.

"I always had it in the back of my mind that it (the award) was a goal. I honestly didn't think it was going to happen because of how difficult the exam is," Farr said. "I was monitoring my scores. As I was about to go into the last test, I realized, 'I'm really close to accomplishing this! I need this specific score to finish it out.' Then I got my score back and it ended up being one point higher than I needed for the award."

Passing the exam and winning the award was the culmination of a lot of hard work. When Farr graduated from Washburn, she immediately embarked on an immersive study regimen. She moved back home to Garden City, Kansas, took four months off from work and studied eight to nine hours a day.

Not only did she employ a laser-focused studying methodology, but she also drew on the relationships and knowledge she had gathered at Washburn. She and two of her fellow master of accountancy graduates worked through the study course on the same schedule, keeping each other motivated and on track.



Madison Farr, bba '20, m acc '21. Photo by Hailey Handy

"We were all in the same position once we graduated," Farr said. "It was helpful to have a support system built right in that I could keep in touch with. I'm glad I chose to do the master of accountancy program in order to meet the requirements to take the CPA exam and also to help prepare me to start studying for it. It is a lot easier to study if you are just reviewing material that you've already learned rather than trying to learn it for the first time."

Life continues to bring momentous developments for Farr. With the exam behind her, and having met the experience requirement in September, she is now a licensed CPA. She works for Lewis Hooper & Dick, LLC in Garden City as a senior associate.

In October, she got married.

Now she's thinking of taking the certified fraud examiner test sometime in the next year. She explained that in her field of accountancy, lifelong learning and exams come with the territory. Luckily for Farr, she is an award-winning test taker. 🏆

Thinking Caps

From photos to headwear, creative juices always flowing for business owner

By Chris Marshall

Ever since his time at Washburn University, Chad Hickman has worn a lot of hats.

After entering college with hopes of becoming a professional photographer, the Olathe, Kansas, native instead chose to develop other skills as a business major, while pursuing photography on the side.

His combination of entrepreneurial and artistic abilities continues to serve him well as founder and CEO of Sandlot Goods, a Kansas City, Missouri-based business that makes all its clothes, leather products and other merchandise locally. The company, which once comprised of five people working out of a garage to make hats, now has over 50 employees.

Hickman, bba '06, launched an online store in 2014 to sell gear branded in the colors of Kansas City's pro sports teams and local universities. One of the first official licenses he obtained was for Washburn. As the business grew and evolved, so did his role. Now as the leader of dozens, he splits his time between operations, procurement and the occasional creative endeavor.

"The business degree has been a big help, but the extracurriculars at Washburn helped me just as much," Hickman said. "I took photos for Gene Cassell (ma '20) in the athletic department and I was photo editor for the Washburn Review. That's the first time I was in a decision-making role with other people. It was the ultimate group project. We made a lot of mistakes, but I learned a lot from them, and we put out a good product."

Running Sandlot Goods has also presented its share of learn-as-you-go moments. The company was deemed non-essential at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, but rather than halt momentum, Hickman capitalized on a need. The staff multiplied by 10, and resources were reallocated to making face masks for hospitals and school districts, with all proceeds going to materials for more masks.

"I took 24 hours of sulking and thinking about how I'd make this happen, then I just decided to put mask-making supplies on a credit card," he said. "I emailed all my employees and told them we'd take donations and they'd still get paid, and we had amazing buy-in from the local community and businesses."

Sandlot products are now sold in Rally House, Boulevard Brewery and Made in KC marketplaces, and the company recently started taking pre-orders for the Yardball, a Kickstarter-funded idea born from the tape ball employees tossed around during the pandemic.

From the outside, it may be hard to predict what Hickman will tackle next. Whether it's choosing a major or introducing an unexpected category of products, the ability to do a little bit of everything always comes in handy. The business owner who wears a lot of hats just hopes someday every customer is wearing one from Sandlot Goods.

"The ultimate dream is to be a company that's doing what New Era and '47 brand are doing, but do it here," Hickman said. "We want to get to the point where our hats nationwide are living on the shelves next to some of these other brands, telling the story of 'Made in the USA,' and it can be done." ✂



Chad Hickman, bba '06, poses wearing a hat from his company, Sandlot Goods. Photo by Blake Hamilton

Down Undercover

Schultz' 22-year FBI career ended in Australia, where he lives in retirement

By Angela Lutz

When Thomas Schultz, bba '87, jd '92, walked across the stage to get his degree at Washburn University School of Law, he never could have predicted where life would take him. After working as an assistant district attorney in Kansas, he fulfilled his dream of becoming an FBI agent and had an exciting 22-year career as an investigator all around the world.

“Tom and I are both Kansans – before we were IChabods. What that means is shared values, perspective and history when those around you have a different background. He is also obviously resilient, having been in dangerous and scary professional situations and emerging with his delightful attitude toward life.”

- Lori Callahan, bba '80, jd '83

“I was working in Papua New Guinea, and I had one of those surreal moments: Would I have ever thought I'd be in the middle of the jungle sitting on a stump talking to a tribal elder investigating a crime?” Schultz said. “I never would have anticipated what the next steps would have looked like – the opportunities and the challenges and the places it would bring me.”

Schultz was born in Hutchinson, Kansas, and grew up near Quantico, Virginia, where the FBI training facility is located. Working as a federal investigator was always at the back of his mind. As a young person, he had a slow start as a student until he moved back

to Hutchinson to be near his grandparents who were struggling with health issues. His grandfather introduced him to Washburn, and when Schultz decided to study accounting, he finally found his academic footing.

“I loved that it taught you how to think – there's a strategy involved, and there's a logical flow of information,” Schultz said. “To understand business and government you need to understand the financial aspect of it. It was tremendously useful to me – those skills are constantly relied upon to this day.”

Schultz went on to law school because he craved the challenge, and he enjoyed the mentorship of professors and the camaraderie of his classmates and colleagues. He recalls knowing he was in the right place on his first day of class. His legal education also helped prepare him to think logically and solve problems and mysteries in the FBI.

“With its own language and logic, studying the law is certainly key to understanding why things function as they do and what the outcome will be,” he said. “When there is a conflict or problem, it helps with developing a plan most likely to succeed, both in the short and long term.”

Always gravitating toward his next adventure, Schultz was a natural fit for an FBI career. He started working on public corruption and white-collar crimes, which utilized his accounting background. He then investigated congressional spending before shifting his focus to international counterterrorism, which brought global assignments in Europe and Asia. He also provided on-the-ground support following the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005, leading to some of the most challenging times of his career.

“You go into this type of work because you want to help people and make your community and your family



Thomas Schultz, bba '87, jd '92, traveled by helicopter to meet with Alaska Native leaders as part of the 2015 Arctic Nations Security Conference in 2015. *Photo submitted*

safer,” Schultz said. “It’s chasing a mystery too – that’s really satisfying as well, being able to put the pieces together. Combining those elements – I really found it fascinating. There was never a boring day at all.”

Ultimately Schultz’s FBI career took him to Australia – and when the opportunity arose, he and his family decided they wanted to stay there. Now retired from the bureau, Schultz works in consulting, primarily focusing on governance, risk and compliance, investigations and business intelligence. An unexpected bonus has been connecting with fellow School of Law and School of Business alumna Lori Callahan, bba '80, jd '83, who recently retired Down Under after a successful legal career. She is proud to call Schultz a friend, and she admires his intelligence and values his presence as a fellow Ichabod in a foreign country.

“Tom and I are both Kansans – before we were Ichabods,” Callahan said. “What that means is shared values, perspective and history when those

around you have a different background. He is also obviously resilient, having been in dangerous and scary professional situations and emerging with his delightful attitude toward life.”

Despite living more than 9,000 miles from Topeka, Schultz retains a strong affinity for the city and Washburn. He is especially grateful for the professional opportunities he gained at Washburn and early in his career in the Kansas Department of Revenue and Kansas Insurance Department, which planted the seed for his compelling, rewarding and delightfully unpredictable career.

“Being in the capital city and its business community provides students with an incredible opportunity. Whether you’re talking internships or other jobs, they become the building blocks of their later professional careers,” Schultz said. “As a student, I had access to meaningful job experience and professional connections. Topeka is a great place for Washburn to be.” 



Alumni Fellows

Six people were honored by the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation on Nov. 9, 2022, for their service to their profession, community and Washburn University.

SCHOOL OF NURSING HONOREE

Holly Cobb, bsn '04, msn '13 | Topeka, Kansas

Co-owner, Founder, Operator | Oasis Family Medicine Associates



Holly Cobb is a family nurse practitioner. Since 2015, she has been the co-owner, founder and operator of Oasis Family Medicine, a direct primary care clinic with more than 2,800 patient members.

She and her partner manage the leadership and operation of the clinic, as well as the long-term planning. Prior to that, she held roles within the former St. Francis health system in Topeka from 2004-15. She was a clinical instructor at Washburn from 2011-17 and she completed the point of care ultrasound fellowship in 2021. Cobb was on the Mental Health Advisory Committee for the state of Kansas and has been on the

executive board of the Kansas Association of Advanced Practice Nurses. She volunteers on the Race Against Breast Cancer board of directors and was a member of Leadership Greater Kansas class of 2022.

What is your favorite memory of Washburn:

My favorite memories are of those in the classroom listening to faculty and classmates share clinical knowledge and experiences. It was so exciting hearing about real world experiences and knowing I was building a great foundation for my career. I also have found memories of "asking" my family to be my guinea pigs as I practiced my clinical assessments and procedures. They were good sports!

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS HONOREE

Carlos Gomez, bba '90 | Kanas City, Missouri

President/CEO | Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City



Carlos Gomez has been president and CEO of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City since 2007. The organization meets the needs of the Hispanic small business community, especially Spanish-speaking

business owners, lobbies for small business legislation, comprehensive immigration reform and to connect Hispanic businesses and consumers to corporate America, government and others. He has implemented a number of programs that support and help grow small businesses. Gomez was previously in management at Best Buy from 1989-2007. He also served three years as city planning commissioner for the City of Topeka. Gomez has been

recognized by the government of Mexico with the Ohtli Award in 2016, won the Martin Luther King Award from the Kansas City Missouri human relations department in 2010 and the Martin Luther King Living the Dream INC Award in 2006 for community service. He was in the Top 50 most Influential Kansas Citians by 435 Magazine 2019 and in the Power 100, Most Influential Business Leaders in Kansas City in 2017, 2018 and 2019 by the KC Business Journal.

What is your favorite memory of Washburn:

Washburn was right for me. I needed a college where I would know my professors, but more importantly, they would know me. I think that's the key to Washburn University. That's the success of the students.

SCHOOL OF LAW HONOREE

Deena Hyson Bailey, jd '97 | Wichita, Kansas

Managing Senior Counsel | Cargill, Incorporated



Deena Hyson Bailey is managing senior counsel for Cargill, Incorporated, a global food, agriculture and finance company and the largest privately-held company in the U.S. Her practice focuses on all aspects of employment and labor law matters and includes federal contractor equal employment opportunity requirements, immigration, data privacy, anti-trust and health and safety law. Hyson Bailey was previously in private practice at both Wallace Saunders and Martin Pringle Law Firm. She has served as board president of the Wichita Women Attorneys Association and the Kansas Women Attorneys Association, as well as several community non-profit organizations. She has

been honored with the annual achievement awards by the Wichita Women Attorneys Association in 2016 and the Kansas Women Attorneys Association in 2017. During her career, her pro bono efforts have centered on the protection from abuse docket in Sedgwick County and legal work for non-profit organizations such as the Wichita Family Crisis Center and Wichita Animal Action League. She presents on continuing legal education topics including substantive legal topics, mentorship and diversity and inclusion.

What is your favorite memory of Washburn: The openness of the professors, the collegial environment and the friendships made were the best memory of Washburn. I was able to successfully graduate from Washburn Law while balancing being a mother to Kyla.

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY HONOREE

Steve Kearney, certificate '72, bs '81, jd '83 | Topeka, Kansas

President | Kearney and Associates, Inc.; Kearney Law Office, P.A.



Steve Kearney is an attorney, president and founder of Kearney and Associates, Inc. and Kearney Law Office, P.A. Kearney and Associates provides government relations representation to business and non-profit organizations in all aspects of lobbying and administrative relations. Kearney Law Office trains and advises non-profit organizations in compliance with all aspects of the law. He is a frequent contributor to newsletters and magazines on government affairs and non-profit matters. He earned a certificate in radio and television from Kaw Area Technical School, which became Washburn Tech. He worked his way through college while a member of the Topeka Police Department, and after later earning a law degree from

Washburn, he worked as a special agent with the FBI. He was also an assistant city attorney and the chief of staff to the Kansas Senate majority leader. He was previously named the Kansas Society of Association Executives member of the year. He is a charter member of the Topeka South Rotary and has served as board president of Shawnee County Crime Stoppers and board chair of Family Service and Guidance Center.

How has Washburn contributed to your life or career: I am a proud graduate of Topeka High School, what is now Washburn Tech, Washburn University and Washburn School of Law. I attribute my education and lifelong relationships gained at Washburn for giving me my foundation for service and success.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES HONOREE

Kevin Mullinix, ba '08 | Lawrence, Kansas

Associate Professor | University of Kansas



Kevin Mullinix is an associate professor and undergraduate director of political science at the University of Kansas and has worked there since 2018. Prior to that, he was an assistant professor at Appalachian State University

from 2015-18. Mullinix has published dozens of papers, has presented papers at conferences, given talks in his field and been quoted or referenced in numerous news articles. Topics focus on partisan polarization, elections, policing and civil liberties. His forthcoming book, “The Politics of Innocence,” analyzes how politics impacts the adoption of policy reforms designed to reduce the likelihood of wrongful convictions. He is a reviewer for

several academic journals in his field. Mullinix was the 2019-20 University of Kansas Ethan and Martha Allen Research Chair in American Politics and the 2016-17 Outstanding Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences at Appalachian State.

What is your favorite memory of Washburn: The many one-on-one meetings I had with Dr. Loran Smith. Through numerous conversations, he inspired me to want to better understand politics and its profound impact on people. He had a passion for teaching and mentoring and was always eager to give students his time. He altered the trajectory of my career plans. I absolutely love my job, and he is the one who put me on this path. I will be forever grateful to him for that.

SCHOOL OF APPLIED STUDIES HONOREE

Dillan Soph, certificate '07, as '07, bas '08, ma '16 | Atchinson, Kansas

Clinical Program Director | Valley Hope



Dillan Soph is a licensed clinical addictions counselor. He has been clinical program director for the Atchison Valley Hope Addiction Treatment and Recovery since 2018 and the Overland Park outpatient location since 2021.

He provides supervision to 30 clinicians, chaplains, case managers, peer mentors, interns, assistant director and office personnel who provide programming for a daily average patient population of 180. Prior to that, he was program director in training at Valley Hope in Atchison from 2016-18 and a clinician at Valley Hope in 2008 and from 2013-15. Soph did substance use assessments and probation supervision for the Topeka Municipal Court from 2008-13. There he helped individuals address addiction, legal, family,

employment and education complications, as well as supervise individuals sentenced for substance related charges.

What is your favorite memory of Washburn: My first two years at a community college went so poorly (1.5 grade-point average) that I feared it would prevent me from ever obtaining an education. Fortunately, Washburn University was gracious and forgiving, admitting me on academic probation. Rick Ellis in the family and human services department was the first faculty I met at Washburn, and he took a special interest in me, initially becoming my advisor and a friend. Staff and faculty sincerely cared for me, and to honor Washburn's grace to me – and to meet my own potential – I maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout my time as an Ichabod.

Leading, Defending

Phillips stresses team culture, and it's equating to wins for the soccer team

By Jeremy Wangler • jwangler@wualumni.org

A coach's dream scenario might be when everyone buys into the plan, takes leadership and implements it on their own. That is currently happening with the culture Davy Phillips is building on the soccer team, and it's translating into wins.

"Each year we've prioritized the culture, and this is the first year they've really taken accountability and ran the culture side of things on their own," said Phillips, head coach, Washburn women's soccer.

"We discuss how to stay mindful of what a good teammate looks like, what a good teammate sounds like, healthy conflict resolution, what a healthy locker room looks and sounds like," he said. "We do exercises to create vulnerability, and they have to open up a little bit. The team has really bought in and taken ownership, and it's led to a lot of on-field performance results."

The Ichabods finished this year 11-6-2 overall and sixth in the MIAA. This was the highest



Davy Phillips has been Washburn's women's soccer coach since 2017 and the team had the highest win total this year since 2009. *Photo by Gene Cassell*



Emily Michaelis

win total and the first back-to-back winning seasons since 2009. A big part of their success was a defense that produced seven shutouts and allowed less than one goal per game during the regular season, and a big part of the defense was senior defender Emily Michaelis.

“It helps the overall momentum of the game when we’re not being scored on,” Michaelis said. “We defend the whole game – the whole team defends – so a shutout shows all the effort we put in.”

Phillips played for a defensive-minded coach when he was a student-athlete at Baker University and stresses the same here at Washburn.

“Being organized and tough to break down is number one,” he said. “The forwards and midfielders did a great job this year putting pressure on teams so our defenders are not dealing with as much. It’s been a collective team effort starting with good, solid defending.”

Michaelis said good defending involves a lot of talking – or yelling – during games, much of which comes from her.

“We can see everything, so we talk to everyone on the field,” she said. “We’re telling them where to move, when to move. If you come to our games, it’s never going to be quiet. It’s going to be really loud.”

Michaelis developed into a strong leader in her four years and learned people at any level can lead.

“Everyone seems to think only the seniors can do it. But I’ve realized over the years we have leaders in every class,” she said.

Sophomore forward Khloe Schuckman, who led the team this season with eight goals and 19 points, learned this year you don’t have to be an upper-class student to lead.

“Last year I was a freshman trying to feel it out, trying to do what I could and give the energy I could to the



Khloe Schuckman

team,” she said. “Now, as a sophomore, I try to lead our offense because we have so many young freshmen. I try to lead by example, just doing the right things on and off the field. I’m not a very vocal player just because I’m up front and it’s hard to do that. Emy (Michaelis) is very loud. She carries the team vocally.”

Phillips said Michaelis’ leadership on the team will translate well to her career as a registered nurse. She will graduate this May with a bachelor of science in nursing and she wants to work in labor and delivery.

“Nursing is a similar environment to the competitive atmosphere of sports,” Phillips said. “Every minute matters. You’re working hard and you have to be organized and disciplined and stay on top of things. One-hundred percent, yes, she’s going to be a terrific nurse.”

Michaelis and Schuckman both came to Washburn from Wichita, Kansas, and quickly fell in love with the program and the campus during recruiting visits.

“Visiting Washburn was the first time I could see myself playing soccer, going to school and having a good time,” she said. “Everyone wanted me to succeed, and that didn’t stick out to me at other schools.”

“I didn’t look at many other places after I visited Washburn,” Schuckman said. “I really liked the facilities, campus and the people, and I committed a few weeks later.”

The team’s culture is meant to build an environment where student-athletes can feel confident and become the best version of themselves. Phillips said the athletic department and the university also reflect those values, and it’s a big part of why he came to Washburn in 2017.

“Washburn is an easy place to sell to students and their families, and that’s important in recruiting and building a program,” he said. 



James Letcher, Jr., bcj '21, led Washburn with 1,076 receiving yards and 13 touchdowns. He is an NFL draft hopeful this April. *Photo by Jesse Bruner*

Returning Stronger

After years of hardships, Ichabod receiver finishing career on high note

By Chris Marshall

Considering the potential he showed as a freshman wide receiver, and the accolades and NFL attention he earned this year as a senior, one might assume James Letcher, Jr.'s route to success followed a straight path. The truth is, reaching this point required more changes in direction than the kick returns Letcher specialized in for the Washburn University football team.

Coming off a season when he was named the team's freshman of the year in 2017, Letcher, bcj '21, appeared poised for an even bigger role as a sophomore before breaking his hand in the third game and missing the rest of the season as a medical redshirt.

Then things took a tragic turn in the offseason. Hours after teammate Corey Ballentine, als '19, was drafted to the NFL, a shooting killed Washburn teammate

Dwane Simmons, ba '19, and injured Ballentine. Letcher was present during the shooting.

After an agonizing wait, Letcher returned to the field in 2019, cemented himself as a key member of the Ichabod offense and earned all-MIAA and All-America honors. Yet again, his momentum stalled when the COVID-19 pandemic cancelled the 2020 season.

Now, as a sixth-year senior, Letcher was able to play two consecutive seasons on the field for the first time. He's already graduated with a degree in criminal justice and continues to take classes to prepare for a career after football, whenever it may be.

With a team-best 1,076 receiving yards and 13 touchdowns this year, his NFL hopes have been bolstered, but one lesson he's learned is not to assume the next season is guaranteed.

"It can all be taken away so fast," he said. "I appreciate playing more now. Whatever happens in the future, I'll just appreciate it as much as I can. I don't take anything for granted."

Letcher ranks third on Washburn's career receiving yards list and holds the school record for kickoff return touchdowns. A year ago, he was named to six different All-America teams, and many more are sure to follow his senior season.

Ballentine, a close friend who was drafted in the sixth round in 2019, offers frequent guidance in how Letcher can improve his chances of being selected in April's NFL Draft in Kansas City, Missouri. Washburn offensive coordinator Jeff Schwinn, m ed '19, coached both players and sees several similarities. Both speedsters excel on special teams, a phase of the game that isn't as glamorous, but often makes the difference in deciding which late-round picks earn a roster spot.

"He can change the game in an instant with kick returns and punt returns," Schwinn said. "He's definitely going to have some NFL interest, and there have been teams from the next level coming through and asking about him, so there's definitely a possibility for him there."

Schwinn has helped develop dozens of student-athletes in his 10 years at Washburn, but he's become especially



James Letcher, Jr.

close with Letcher. The senior from Piper High School in Kansas City, Kansas, has been on the team for more than half of Schwinn's tenure.

"It was quite the recruitment process," Schwinn said. "He and I joke about it every once a while. He was underrated and

underrecruited, but his confidence and his ability were very evident. Although he was undersized, you could really see he was a very good player and athlete."

Since his recruitment, Letcher has grown physically and mentally. Schwinn said Letcher added 30 pounds without losing any of his quickness. Meanwhile, in the classroom, he's benefitted from the attention of professors who want to see him succeed.

"I heard stories in high school about how hard college is, and they won't take any slack if you fall behind," Letcher said. "Washburn is accommodating. You can get the help you need from the professors. If you're willing to put the work in, you'll make it."

Washburn was the first school to offer Letcher a scholarship, which allowed him to continue following in the footsteps of his dad, who served in law enforcement and played college football at Coffeyville Community College and East Carolina University before eventually getting an invite to Miami Dolphins training camp.

In addition to football, Letcher has talked to his dad and uncle, who has worked in juvenile detention, about hopes of joining the FBI and what it would take to get there. Through hard work and perseverance, Letcher has put himself in position to pursue his career dreams at the highest level, whether it's catching footballs or criminals.

"He's a very solid young man," Schwinn said. "He's had to work through some challenges off the field and has continued to grow through it. He's a strong young guy, and with his confidence and abilities, he's going to do great things in the future." 

Campus News

New Initiative Aims to Eliminate Textbook Costs

Washburn began the Zero Textbook Cost initiative this fall to reduce or eliminate the cost of primary materials for students to take classes at Washburn. ZTC encourages faculty to design their classes to use open educational resources and other no-cost alternatives to traditional textbooks. Courses that meet ZTC guidelines will be marked accordingly in the course schedule. Savings to students this fall were expected to be \$400,000, and the goal is more than half of general education classes will adopt this initiative by fall 2023.

New Scholarship Guidelines Remove ACT, SAT Requirements

Students applying to Washburn University no longer need ACT or SAT scores to qualify for merit scholarships as automatic awards are now based only on high school grade-point average. Merit scholarships are renewable and range from \$4,000 to \$20,000 during a four-year span. “We are committed to equitable access and success. The focus of our new scholarship model is on a high school GPA and not the ACT because it is not a holistic representation of a student’s potential,” said Alan Bearman, interim executive director of enrollment management.



Photo by Morganne Lander

Washburn Opens eSports & Gaming Lounge

A new facility with 24 computers and multiple popular gaming systems is now available to

students, faculty and staff as the eSports & Gaming Lounge opened in November in the Living Learning Center. The project is a partnership between Residential Living and the Student Recreation and Wellness Center with the hopes of building community and creating healthy competition and rivalries similar to other SRWC sponsored sports. In addition, Washburn is sponsoring an esports and gaming club which may eventually compete against other university clubs.



Photo by Christa Roehl

Men's Cross Country has Breakthrough Season

For the first time in school history, the men's cross country program sent a squad to the NCAA Division II national championship this fall. Gabriel China, Nathan Gray, Paul Kamp, David Kibet, Collen McLain, Tommy Roehl and Sam Steinlicht made up the team. The Ichabods set school records this year with their first national ranking, a fifth-place finish in the NCAA Central Region race and a fourth-place finish in the MIAA championship. 🏃



WELCOME

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Class Notes

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

1960s

Deanna (Gilmore) Johnson, ba '64, Sacramento, California, Student Council, Washburn Review and **John Johnson**, ba '65, Sagamore Society, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a dinner for family and friends on October 20, 2022. They recently moved to Sacramento to be close to family. **Alvin Zopata**, ba '64, Antelope, California, retired after 48 years in social work and special education careers. .

1970s

Jan Hamilton, ba '70, jd '73, Topeka, Kansas, retired on Oct. 1, 2022, from his position as standing chapter bankruptcy trustee for Topeka, a position he was appointed to in 1998. He plans to do bankruptcy mediation work on a part-time basis.

Jeffrey Joy, jd '77, Portland, Oregon, Phi Delta Phi, joined Greenberg Traurig as counsel in Portland and Orange County.

Michael Manning, jd '77, h '07, Paradise Valley, Arizona, Law Journal, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Delta Phi, was honored with his seventh selection out of the last 10 years to the Super Lawyers of Arizona. He was also named one of the Top 50 Lawyers in Arizona four times in the last six years.

David Morse, ba '70, mba '85, Broxton, Georgia, retired after 33 years with Walmart Stores, Inc, and after 30 years as a captain in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

Lee Smithyman, jd '76, Overland Park, Kansas, Law Clinic, and two other attorneys from Smithyman & Zakoura joined Foulston Siefkin LLP, the largest law firm based in Kansas and will practice as special counsel in the Overland Park office. He is a trial attorney known for his energy and public utilities practice.

Hon. Merlin Wheeler, jd '77, Emporia, Kansas, Law Clinic, retired on Sept. 3, 2022, as chief judge of the 5th Judicial District. He was appointed district judge in 1990 and chief judge in 1997. He earned the Kansas District Judges Association's Judicial Excellence Award in October 2022.

1980s

Mark Beffort, bba '85, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Football, Sigma Phi Epsilon, was recently inducted into the Oklahoma Commerce & Industry Hall of Honor because of his significant contribution to the growth and development of the state.

Dan Foltz, mba '87, Topeka, Kansas, is the CEO of KBS Constructors, Inc. and was recently announced as an inductee to the Topeka Business Hall of Fame.

Jeffrey Jackson, bba '89, jd '92, Topeka, Kansas, was named interim dean of the Washburn University School of Law in May 2022.

Hon. James Kepple, jd '85, Manhattan, Kansas, became Manhattan's municipal court judge on Nov. 28, 2022. He was previously a magistrate judge for the 21st Judicial District in Riley County since 2017.

Hon. Jeffrey Larson, jd '86, Emporia, Kansas, was appointed chief judge of the 5th Judicial District by the Kansas Supreme Court. He was previously a judge in the district since 2007. He will serve this term through Dec. 31, 2023.

Kimberly (Mahan) Moore, ba '84, jd '87, Wichita, Kansas, Kappa Alpha Theta, Nonoso, was presented a 2022 EdTech Leadership Award. She was recognized as an outstanding leader in moving forward digital credentials and badging in higher education. She is a nationally recognized subject matter expert, speaker and consultant in this discipline.

Steven Scheiwe, jd '86, Encinitas, California, was appointed to the board of directors of Atlas Financial Holdings.

Stephen Seitz, ba '87, Manhattan, Kansas, retired this fall as technical director of the C. L. Hoover Opera House in Junction City, Kansas, a position he held since 2011.

Hon. Daniel Vokins, jd '84, Olathe, Kansas, announced he will retire on Dec. 9, 2022, as magistrate judge of the 10th Judicial District in Johnson County. He was appointed to this position in 2005 and has served as a judge since 1987.

1990s

David Bohm, ba '95, jd '98, Apex, North Carolina, Kappa Sigma, Phi Delta Phi, recently began as executive director of the Apex Chamber of Commerce.

John Burns, ba '92, Topeka, Kansas, Baseball, was inducted into the Kansas Athletic Trainers' Society Hall of Fame in November. He has taught at Washburn since 2003 and was a Washburn athletic trainer for many years. He is the athletic trainer for Perry-Lecompton High School.

Christian Green, bba '97, Peoria, Arizona, recently became economic development office for the city of Glendale, Arizona. He has 25 years of experience in strategic development and communication.

Hon. Paula Hofaker, jd '93, Logan, Kansas, was appointed as a district court judge in Kansas' 17th Judicial District. She will serve until a judge is chosen in the next general election. She was previously a Phillips County magistrate judge in the district for nine years.

Shelley (Hornung) King, ba '97, jd '00, Lawrence, Kansas, Law Journal, was named a senior associate counsel and director of legal services with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas in June 2022.

2000s

Samantha Bracken, ba '04, Kansas City, Missouri, was recently promoted to administrative assistant to the sheriff of Platte County, Missouri.

Jason Coody, jd '02, Tallahassee, Florida, Washburn Student Bar Association, was named a U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Florida.

CeCe Courter, b ed '04, m ed '11, Eudora, Kansas, earned the Kansas early childhood director credential from the Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children. She has been executive director of Children's Learning Center in Lawrence, Kansas, since 2018.

Caroline (Van Dyke) Harris, bas '01, Prairie Village, Kansas, Learning in the Community, recently became a real estate agent at Compass Realty Group and received her Kansas and Missouri real estate licenses after seven years as an agent in Chicago.

Charles Kitt, jd '06, Topeka, Kansas, was appointed chief deputy district attorney in Shawnee County.

Tiana (Brushwood) McElroy, ba '01, jd '04, Columbus, Kansas, Law Clinic, Hispanic-American Law Student Association, is now the county attorney for the Bourbon County Attorney's Office.

Dr. Casey McNeil, bs '06, Marion, Kansas is now a physician at St. Luke Medical Clinic.

Kevin Mechtley, jd '09, Overland Park, Kansas, Washburn Student Bar Association, Phi Alpha Delta, was named vice president of business development and chief innovation officer for Sammons Financial Group.

Amy (Jurgensmeier) Memmer, mcj '03, jd '03, Topeka, Law Clinic, Law Journal, Criminal Justice Law Society, was named associate professor and chair of the criminal justice department at Washburn University.

Benjamin Ramsey, bs '07, mcj '10, Larned, Kansas, Football, was named vice president, loan officer of the High Plains Farm Credit Union.

Alexandra (Harris) Ritter, jd '04, New Haven, Connecticut, was named a partner with Dolan Divorce Lawyers.

William Schmidt, jd '09, Lenexa, Kansas, Law Clinic, has joined the Kansas City branch of the IRS Office of Chief Counsel as a tax attorney.

Sheri (Krehbiel) Smiley, jd '09, Kansas City, Kansas, recently co-founded the firm Friel, McCord & Smiley. The firm has an emphasis on electric cooperatives and is located in Kansas City, Springfield, and St. Louis.

John Spisak, jd '02, Lone Tree, Colorado, Washburn Student Bar Association, Law Journal, joined Spencer Fane LLP as an associate attorney focused on intellectual property.

Hon. Geoffrey Sonntag, ba '00, jd '03, Tonganoxie, Kansas, was sworn in as judge of the 1st Judicial District in Atchison County on Nov. 16, 2022.

Takama Statton-Brooks, msw '01, Springdale, Arkansas, is interim assistant vice chancellor for university housing at the University of Arkansas. She had been UA's director for residence education since 2011.

Melanie Worsley, jd '07, Topeka, Law Journal, was named associate dean of the School of Applied Studies at Washburn University. An associate professor, she was formerly chair of the criminal justice department.

Leah Zeiglar, bba '09, Shelburne, Vermont, has joined the board of directors for Age Well, experts and advocates on aging in Northwestern Vermont.

2010s

Keri Bausch, msw '19, Delia, Kansas, was hired by the Royal Valley School District as a staff social worker.

Dr. Mollyanne (Gibson)

Brunkow, bs '15, Olathe, Kansas, Christian Challenge, recently started as a family medicine physician at College Park Family Care Center in Overland Park, Kansas. She previously completed her residency in family medicine at John Peter Smith Health Network in Fort Worth, Texas.

Boyd Chappell, jd '12, Midland, Michigan, Student Bar Association, was named chief financial officer of Jones Memorial Hospital in Wellsville, New York. He was previously worked at Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital in Manistique, Michigan.

Whitney (Bolden) Chrisman, jd '16, Wichita, Kansas, was hired in November as a junior partner at SJ Law, a woman-owned, general practice law firm in Wichita. Her focus is family law, adoption and criminal defense.

Jordan Clothier, jd '15, Denver, Colorado, was named senior assistant general counsel for Denver Health & Hospital Authority.

Maureen (Hannen) Cook, jd '17, Highlands Ranch, Colorado, Moot Court Council, became an associate attorney in the tax, trust and estates practice group in the Denver, Colorado, office of Spencer Fane LLP.

Jorge De Hoyos, mba '16, jd '16, Wichita, Kansas, Moot Court, was named lead assistant public defender for the Sedgwick County Public Defender's Office.

Valerie Desroches, jd '17, North Beach, Maryland, Black Law Student Association, Law Clinic, is now an associate attorney at the Law Office of Thomas E. Pyles, P.A.

Peggy Fell, msn '10, Olpe, Kansas, recently joined the Emporia, Kansas, clinic of CareArc as an advanced practice provider.

Brianne Johnson, mba '16, Topeka, Kansas, was promoted by Security Benefit to national accounts manager for independent broker dealers.

Tristan Johnson, bls '19, jd '22, Topeka, Kansas, joined Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered as an associate attorney with his primary practice focusing on the defense of criminal cases including DUIs and drug offenses.

Garrett Love, bba '10, Montezuma, Kansas, Men's Basketball, Leadership Institute, WSGA, was elected to the National Sorghum Producers board of directors.

Michael Miller, ba '17, m ed '21, Football, was drafted as an offensive lineman by the Las Vegas Vipers of the XFL. He previously played in the XFL before the league stopped operations in 2020.

Travis Pfannenstiel, jd '14, Scottsdale, Arizona, Law Journal, Washburn Student Bar Association, was named assistant general counsel of DEPCOM Power, Inc.

Stephanie Randall, jd '13, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Law Clinic, was named the CEO of The Burnham Law Firm PC.

Hon. Andrea (Ohlman) Swisher, jd '10, Lindsborg, Kansas, Law Clinic, was appointed to a judgeship position in the 28th judicial district by Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly.

Jenica (Moore) Weaver, bs '11, Hillsboro, Kansas, Bod Squad, Phi Kappa Phi, welcomed Jude Weaver to their family on June 30, 2022, with her husband Matthew Weaver.

2020s

Lori O'Toole Buselt, ma '20, Wichita, Kansas, is executive director of communications for Maize USD 266 in Maize, Kansas. She is serving as president of the Kansas School Public Relations Association and was named among the Wichita Business Journal's 2021 Women Who Lead in Marketing and Communications.

Marisa (Wilbert) Clifton, msw '20, Aurora, Colorado, and her spouse, Blake Clifton, had a baby girl, Melanie, in July 2022.

Ashley McCall, jd '22, Topeka, Kansas, Law Journal, joined law firm Foulston Siefkin LLP and will work in litigation practice in the Wichita office.

Reagan McCloud, jd '22, Topeka, Kansas, was named manager of government relations for Kansas Electric Cooperative Inc.

Lucas Ryan, ba '21, Topeka, Kansas, was named communications manager of the State of Kansas Treasurer's Office on Aug. 26, 2022.

Anna Wells, msw '22, Manhattan, Kansas, is now a recovery services therapist with Pawnee Mental Health, Inc. 



In Memory

The following information was received by the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation before Nov. 30, 2022. Submit any omissions to Jeremy Wangler at jwangler@wualumni.org.

1940s

Col. Junior F. Elder, bba '49, jd '51, 102, Topeka, Kansas, Delta Theta Phi, on Sept. 26, 2022

1950s

Ted P. Birdsell, ba '53, 91, Peoria, Arizona, Alpha Delta, Air Force ROTC, on Aug. 9, 2022

Edith J. (MacArthur) Bronson, ba '59, 84, Overland Park, Kansas, Student Council, on Sept. 22, 2022

Margaret J. (Moore) Cabbage, bs '53, 91, Hutchinson, Kansas, Zeta Tau Alpha, Phi Kappa Phi, on Nov. 5, 2022

Dean H. Cotton, jd '54, 93, McPherson, Kansas, on Sept. 18, 2022

Naomi A. (Kitchen) Gibeson, ba '59, 107, Lenexa, Kansas, on Aug. 30, 2022

Hon. Melvin M. Gradert, jd '59, 93, Wichita, Kansas, Delta Theta Phi, on Sept. 7, 2022

Manny H. Moser, ba '56, 87, Holton, Kansas, on Sept. 20, 2022

James R. Preisner, bba '59, 86, Topeka, Kansas, Phi Delta Theta, Baseball, Young Republicans, on Sept. 19, 2022

Dan L. Robison, bba '56, 88, Wichita, Kansas, Men's Basketball, Sagamore, on Aug. 19, 2022

Hon. Norman Keith Sanborn, jd '50, 100, Wichita, Kansas, Law Journal, Delta Theta Phi, on Aug. 1, 2022

Robert L. Schaeffer, bba '56, 90, Topeka, Kansas, Kappa Sigma, on July 17, 2022

1960s

Donald W. Behne, bba '66, 78, San Diego, California, on Feb. 15, 2022

Alvin L. Camblin, bfa '60, 85, Topeka, Kansas, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Young Republicans, on Sept. 27, 2022

Gerald M. Carder, ba '65, 79, Leavenworth, Kansas, on July 31, 2022

Anita L. (Riley) Frank, b ed '66, 79, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 19, 2022

Charles R. Garriott, bs '69, 75, Gainesville, Georgia, Sigma Phi Epsilon, on Oct. 27, 2022

Arnold J. Grundeman, jd '69, 86, Springfield, Virginia, on July 30, 2022

Molly J. (Hoover) Hedrick, ba '62, 81, Denver, Colorado, on July 29, 2022

Rosemary A. (Hughes) Holzhter, m ed '67, 84, Overbrook, Kansas, on Oct. 4, 2022

Robert B. Rowley, bba '64, 79, Houston, Texas, Phi Delta Phi, on Aug. 12, 2022

Larry G. Rutter, ba '68, 84, Meriden, Kansas, on Sept. 16, 2022

John A. Showalter, ba '69, jd '72, 75, Kansas City, Missouri, Young Republicans, on July 28, 2022

William R. Taliaferro, ba '69, 73, Chesterbrook, Pennsylvania, Track and Field, Phi Delta Theta, Young Democrats, on March 25, 2020

Daniel K. West, ba '69, 75, Shawnee Mission, Kansas, Football, on Oct. 7, 2022

Charles C. Winfrey, III, bba '61, 84, Winder, Georgia, on Oct. 22, 2022

1970s

Mary A. (Muller) Blossom, m ed '75, 86, Omaha, Nebraska, on Sept. 7, 2022

Linda S. (Wilson) Carroll, bsw '72, 73, Topeka, Kansas, Phi Kappa Phi, on Sept. 13, 2022

Susan K. (Canole) Crooks, b ed '76, 69, Silver Lake, Kansas, Softball, Phi Kappa Phi, on Nov. 11, 2022

Franklin M. Davis, ba '70, 86, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 23, 2022

Gary L. Domer, bba '73, 72, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 19, 2022

David J. Finnegan, bba '71, 77, Topeka, Kansas, Delta Sigma Pi, on Oct. 7, 2022

Robert L. Hainline, bs '79, 66, McLouth, Kansas, Football, Baseball, on Sept. 15, 2022

Col. John W. Halladay, bba '79, 90, Lawrence, Kansas, on Oct. 11, 2022

Danny A. Holst, ba '71, aa '83, ba '84, 72, Wichita, Kansas, on Oct. 31, 2022

Rosemary (Luthi) Kirkpatrick, ba '70, 73, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Kappa Alpha Theta, on July 4, 2022

Alyce J. (Patterson) Lloyd, ba '70, 88, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 20, 2022

Paul F. Mages, bba '71, 77, Tecumseh, Kansas, on Oct. 11, 2022

Lenice L. (Stevens) Massey, ba '70, 103, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 25, 2022

Richard A. Mills, bs '76, 88, Berryton, Kansas, on Nov. 2, 2022

Beth J. (Furneau) Myers, b ed '72, 72, Auburn, Kansas, on Sept. 10, 2022

John I. O'Connor, II, ba '77, jd '80, 67, Farmington, Missouri, Tennis, Phi Kappa Phi, Sagamore, Law Journal, Moot Court Council, on Oct. 12, 2022

Stephen N. Paige, ba '71, 74, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 29, 2022

Randal A. Peavler, bba '77, 69, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 1, 2021

Scott C. Pretti, ba '77, 67, Parachute, Colorado, Tau Kappa Epsilon, on June 15, 2021

Russell L. Reynolds, bba '76, 77, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 23, 2022

Marla L. (Parker) Rimel, b ed '74, 73, Topeka, Kansas, gymnastics, on July 29, 2022

Ellen L. (Hoppas) Schirmer, ba '72, 94, Holton, Kansas, on Nov. 9, 2022

Deborah L. (Owen) Scholl, bsn '78, 66, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 15, 2022

Milton L. Snyder, aa '78, 90, Holton, Kansas, Aug. 4, 2022

Betty J. (Manley) Stiles, bsw '74, ba '90, 72, Meriden, Kansas, on Oct. 3, 2022

Timothy J. Suttle, ba '70, jd '73, 73, Richardson, Texas, Kappa Sigma, on Aug. 1, 2022

Barbara J. (Martin) Tosh, b ed '73, 94, Valley Falls, Kansas, on Oct. 22, 2022

Ronald G. Van Dalsem, ba '71, 75, Silver Lake, Kansas, on Sept. 27, 2022

William L. Winkley, jd '71, 77, Wichita, Kansas, on Feb. 10, 2022

1980s

Rev. Kenneth L. Butts, ba '89, 82, Atlanta, Georgia, Alpha Delta, on Sept. 17, 2022

Esther L. (Brandt) Ideker, bsn '87, 92, Whiting, Kansas, on Oct. 9, 2022

Kari L. Kelly, certificate '88, aa '88, bas '98, 57, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 8, 2022

Tanya M. (Williams) Kline Hamilton, m ed '88, m ed '91, 76, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 9, 2022

David M. Head, bs '87, 74, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 8, 2022

Betty J. (Pinter) Ramsey, aa '80, ba '81, 63, Berryton, Kansas, Phi Kappa Phi, Washburn Singers, on Aug. 25, 2022

William A. Relph, bs '86, 66, Hutchinson, Kansas, on Aug. 15, 2022

1990s

Dorothy A. (Greene) Hanger, ba '92, 92, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 26, 2022

Scott E. McGuire, bba '95, 52, Arkansas City, Kansas, on Jan. 21, 2022

Nicholas S. Neukirch, bba '90, 57, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 20, 2022

John R. Palmer, ba '91, 55, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 30, 2022

Le Ann Renner, b ed '92, 68, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 11, 2022

Gayla C. (Burriss) Slusser, bas '90, 55, Topeka, Kansas, Washburn Review, on Aug. 13, 2022

Michele A. Smith, aa '90, 63, Topeka, Kansas, on July 26, 2022

2010s

Elizabeth E. (Cook) Jackson, msw '16, 46, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 16, 2022

Marissa L. Mannell, ba '17, 27, Topeka, Kansas, Alpha Lambda Delta, Phi Alpha Theta, Student Media, on Sept. 20, 2022

Matthew I. Sullivan, bba '19, 31, Silver Lake, Kansas, on Sept. 9, 2022

Friends

Wayne A. Cottril, 87, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 19, 2022

Joan E. (Krause) Denny, 80, Topeka, Kansas, Aug. 1, 2022

George A. Griffin, 80, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 6, 2022

Winifred A. Helus, 93, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 6, 2022

Albert E. Henry, Jr., 99, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 2, 2022

Terrance A. "Tony" Mark, 63, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 21, 2022

John A. Moore, 78, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 2, 2022

Carroll L. Morgenson, 91, Berryton, Kansas, on Nov. 3, 2022

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

Robert S. Stalcup, 76, Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 28, 2022



William D. Bunten, jd '56, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation Board of Trustees, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation Board of Directors, Washburn Alumni Association Board of Directors, 90, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 2, 2022



Delta Theta Phi

Bill Bunten worked in the banking industry for 50 years throughout the U.S., retiring in 1996 from INTRUST Bank in Wichita. He chaired several

non-profit boards including United Way of Topeka and the Topeka Chamber of Commerce.

Bunten joined the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation board of trustees in 1990 and served as a director from 2006-09. He received the School of Law Distinguished Service Award in 2009. He and his wife, Charlene Bunten, created and funded a School of Law scholarship and have supported several other areas at Washburn.

Kenneth C. Havner, jd '72, Washburn University Board of Regents, 78, Overland Park, Kansas, on Feb. 13, 2022



Law Clinic

Ken Havner opened a law practice in Hays, Kansas, in 1975. In 1987, he received a Kansas Bar Association Pro Bono Certificate

of Appreciation, and throughout his life he served the Hays community in several ways, including as a city commissioner and mayor. He served a four-year term on the Kansas Board of Regents and was the KBOR appointee to Washburn University's board of regents in 1995.

Richard C. Hite, jd '53, h '11, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation Trustee, 93, Wichita, Kansas, on Dec. 16, 2021



Phi Alpha Delta

Dick Hite practiced law in Wichita, Kansas, with Kahrs, Nelson from 1959-2000. He was also a founding partner of the firm Hite, Fanning & Honeyman.

He volunteered and served on the boards of

several local and national legal and charitable organizations. Hite served on the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation board of trustees from 1986-99 before becoming trustee emeritus. He created and funded an endowment in his name for the Washburn University School of Law.

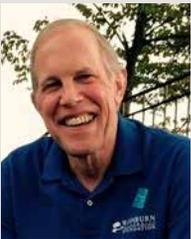
James W. Pickert, Washburn University Board of Regents, 87, Emporia, Kansas, on Oct. 9, 2022



Jim Pickert was a realtor for 57 years and also served in the U.S. Navy. He was an active member of the Emporia, Kansas, community including serving

as a city and county commissioner and mayor. He served on the Kansas Board of Regents and was appointed to Washburn University's board of regents from 1982-84.

Jeffrey L. Ungerer, bba '76, jd '82, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation Board of Trustees, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation Board of Directors, 68, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 15, 2022



Phi Kappa Phi, Sagamore

Jeff Ungerer was general counsel and chief financial officer at MRV, Inc. for 12 years, retiring in 2014. In 1991, he started his own law firm, which later became Newbery, Ungerer & Hickert LLP, where he specialized in tax and estate planning. From 1978-90 he was an

assistant professor and then an adjunct professor teaching taxation at Washburn University School of Law. He was a Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation trustee from 2009-18, serving as a director from 2010-18. He served on several other non-profit boards in Topeka. He and his wife, Mary Ungerer, created and funded a law scholarship and a scholarship for single parents at Washburn.





Alumni Travel Opportunities

SEE THE WORLD WITH FELLOW ICHABODS

Athens and the Greek Isles | May 23-31, 2023

Fly to Athens and spend two days in one of the world's most ancient cities. Among other things, enjoy a private Athens tour, visit the Acropolis and dine al fresco in the Plaka Old City. Then board the Celestyal Olympia for a three-night cruise visiting five enchanting destinations in the romantic Aegean Sea. Discover the celebrated history, landscapes and landmarks of Mykonos, Kusadasi, Patmos, Crete and Santorini. After the cruise, visit the Temple of Poseidon and return to Athens for two additional nights. Cost is \$4,750 per person and includes airfare.



John Burns, ba '92, and Linda Oldham Burns, bba '89, at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

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

Admire New England's autumn splendor taking motorcoach, train and boat tours with fellow Ichabods and friends. The trip begins and ends in Boston; during the nine-day trip, visit Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Connecticut. Visit the Freedom Trail, Kennebunkport, Casco Bay, Portland Head Light, White Mountains, Kancamagus Scenic Byway, Quechee Gorge, Plymouth Rock and whale watching at Cape Cod Bay. A historian in Worcester, hometown of Washburn University's namesake, Ichabod Washburn, will share information about the real "Mr. Ichabod." Dates and pricing announced soon. To receive the final details, contact Susie Hoffmann at susie@wualumni.org to add your name to the list.



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

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



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FEB. 2, 2023

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