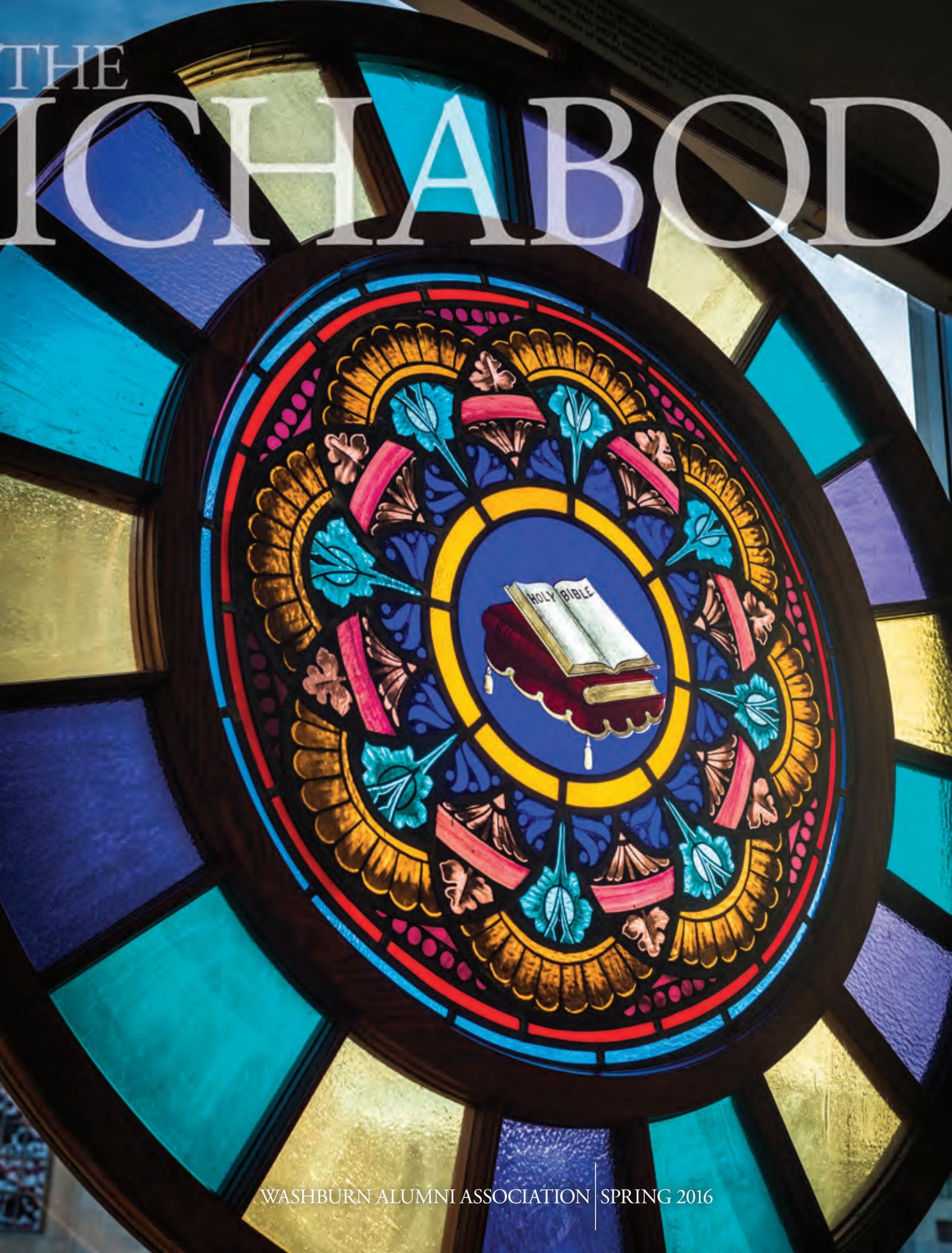


# THE MICHAEL BOOD





MEMORIAL  
UNION



**Assistant director, communications/The Ichabod editor**  
Sarah Towle, ba '07 • [stowle@wufoundation.org](mailto:stowle@wufoundation.org)

**Alumni Association director**  
Susie Hoffmann, bba '87 • [susie@washburn.edu](mailto:susie@washburn.edu)

**Contributors**

Katy Browne, aa '07  
administrative specialist, Alumni Association

Kathy Busch  
director, communications  
Washburn University Foundation

Peggy Clark  
photographer, University Relations

Danny Funk  
assistant director, Alumni Association

Cynthia Hornberger, bsn '78  
special assistant to the president

Robin Moser, ba '99  
assistant director, Alumni Association

Jeremy Wangler  
communications specialist  
Washburn University Foundation

Jami Weisbender  
freelance

**Photography:**  
Jones Huyett Partners  
Earl Richardson  
Doug Stremel

**On the cover:**

The stained glass window, now on display in White Concert Hall, was the only stained glass window in Boswell Hall to survive the 1966 tornado.

*Photo by: Doug Stremel*

The ICHABOD alumni magazine is published three times a year by the Washburn Alumni Association for alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the University. Third-class postage paid at Topeka.

Address: 1700 SW College Ave., Topeka, KS 66621  
Telephone: 785.670.1641

Email: [wualumni@washburn.edu](mailto:wualumni@washburn.edu) • Website: [washburn.edu/alumni](http://washburn.edu/alumni)



**FEATURES**

**5**  
50-year anniversary: Personal recollections of pulling together after 1966 tornado

**13**  
Alosha Moore: Student faces new lands and languages, and never backs down

**21**  
Veterans find a home at Washburn

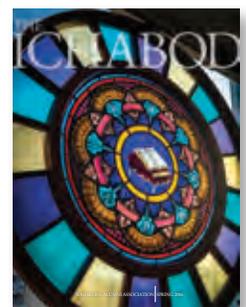
**23**  
Gerd Smith: Washburn woman given scholarship by mistake overcomes many obstacles

**25**  
Tim and Asha Belsan: Alumni couple spreads love of Washburn to nation's capital

**29**  
Roy Sims: Former Ichabod becomes first American heavyweight to take gold in US Sumo Open

**DEPARTMENTS**

- 3 From the President
- 5 Campus News
- 23 Alumni News
- 27 Sports
- 38 Class Notes
- 39 In Memory



**CONTACT US**

Your news, thoughts and questions are important to us. Please write, telephone or send us an email. Letters to the editor and news of jobs, honors, weddings, anniversaries and births are always welcome. Please include your name, class year, address and daytime phone number. Letters to the editor may be edited for length and clarity.



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the foyer of White Concert Hall stands the Phoenix, a metal statue dedicated to Washburn after the 1966 tornado. The sculpture serves as a reminder of our University's rebirth and continuous regeneration. As we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the June 8 tornado, we are reflecting on the crisis and its resilient aftermath – how we have succeeded, despite adversity, to continue to meet our mission.

President John Henderson, in his inaugural speech just months before the tornado, ironically spoke of a university as more than buildings. *Academic quality* was, and continues to be, our highest priority. Well-built and maintained *buildings* support the exceptional academic programs. And perhaps most important are the positive, affirming *relationships* between students and faculty and staff, with our community partners, and with business and industry. Together, these three elements contribute to a vibrant campus community that continues to thrive despite current challenges.

In this issue, we share information about some of our new forensic science programs in chemistry and computer science. We are excited as we now launch new degree majors using the Kansas Bureau of Investigation forensic science laboratories. Our collaboration with the KBI demonstrates commitment to academic excellence combined with building state-of-the-science learning environments. In another story, we highlight the relationships and mentoring of our vice president for student life. Denise Ottinger has spent the last 16 years developing our vibrant student life programs. Her commitment to the students is manifest in her relationships with students and young alumni who have chosen student life careers, based on their positive experiences while at Washburn. And you will learn about our new initiatives to support veterans as they pursue educational goals.

The cycle of rebirth and regeneration is an enduring theme in education. We are continuously improving academic programs and enhancing our physical campus to meet the evolving needs of the students throughout their career. The relationships we create last a lifetime and make a difference. Thank you for your relationship with Washburn. We couldn't do it without you.

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





# “THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A WASHBURN.”

- Lloyd Durow, physical operations manager, in the hours after the tornado.  
The Phoenix symbol serves as a reminder of our university's rebirth.

By Kathy Busch • [kbusch@wufoundation.org](mailto:kbusch@wufoundation.org)

June 8, 1966. In 26 short minutes, a devastating half-mile wide tornado traveled northward 12 miles on the ground from Burnett's Mound, through the heart of the Washburn campus, into the Central Park neighborhood and on to downtown Topeka. It took the lives of 17 people and injured more than 400.

Rice Hall, Boswell Hall, MacVicar Chapel, Crane Observatory, Thomas Gymnasium and the Air Force ROTC buildings were a total loss. Carnegie showed the best chance of renovation even though it was 80 percent damaged. Morgan Hall, Memorial Union, Stoffer, Whiting, Benton and Carruth were damaged but salvageable.

With the help of hundreds, cleanup and restoration began immediately, taking on the name: Operation Ichabod.

Two days after the tornado, summer school registration took place and classes started on schedule in rented space

at Topeka West High School. Administrative offices in Morgan Hall reopened within five days. By fall, 41 portable units were in place for fall classes.

The cost to rebuild was staggering. Washburn's insurance provider paid nearly \$2.9 million, the equivalent of nearly \$20 million in today's terms. Washburn also received more than \$1 million in matching funds from the federal government. Over the next two years, Washburn raised the required match.

Throughout it all, the Washburn community drew together as never before and began the arduous task of rebuilding, replanting and moving forward.

# The key

Locking the door and putting the key in her pocket at 5 p.m. as she left Crane Hall, Dee (Smelser) Bisel, bba '70, was literally the last person in the building. Shortly after 7 p.m., it was dealt a devastating blow by the tornado and collapsed later as bystanders looked on. Bisel, who was staying with her sister in north Topeka, had taken shelter at the north Topeka fire station and watched in frustration as the scene unfolded on television, the key still in her pocket.

Bisel's first thought was, "I just lost my job." Two weeks prior, she had started her work-study program through the psychology department. She was working – as she had since she was 16 – to help pay her expenses so she could start her freshman year at Washburn in the fall.

"For two weeks, I didn't know if I had a job, I didn't know if there would be a university for me to attend," Bisel said. "Then I got a phone call and was told to report to work in Morgan Hall. When I got there, each department had been assigned a classroom as its home

base. Ours was at the back of the building. I spent the summer watching dump trucks, bulldozers and so many people clean up the aftermath of the tornado. It was unimaginable how much damage had been done."

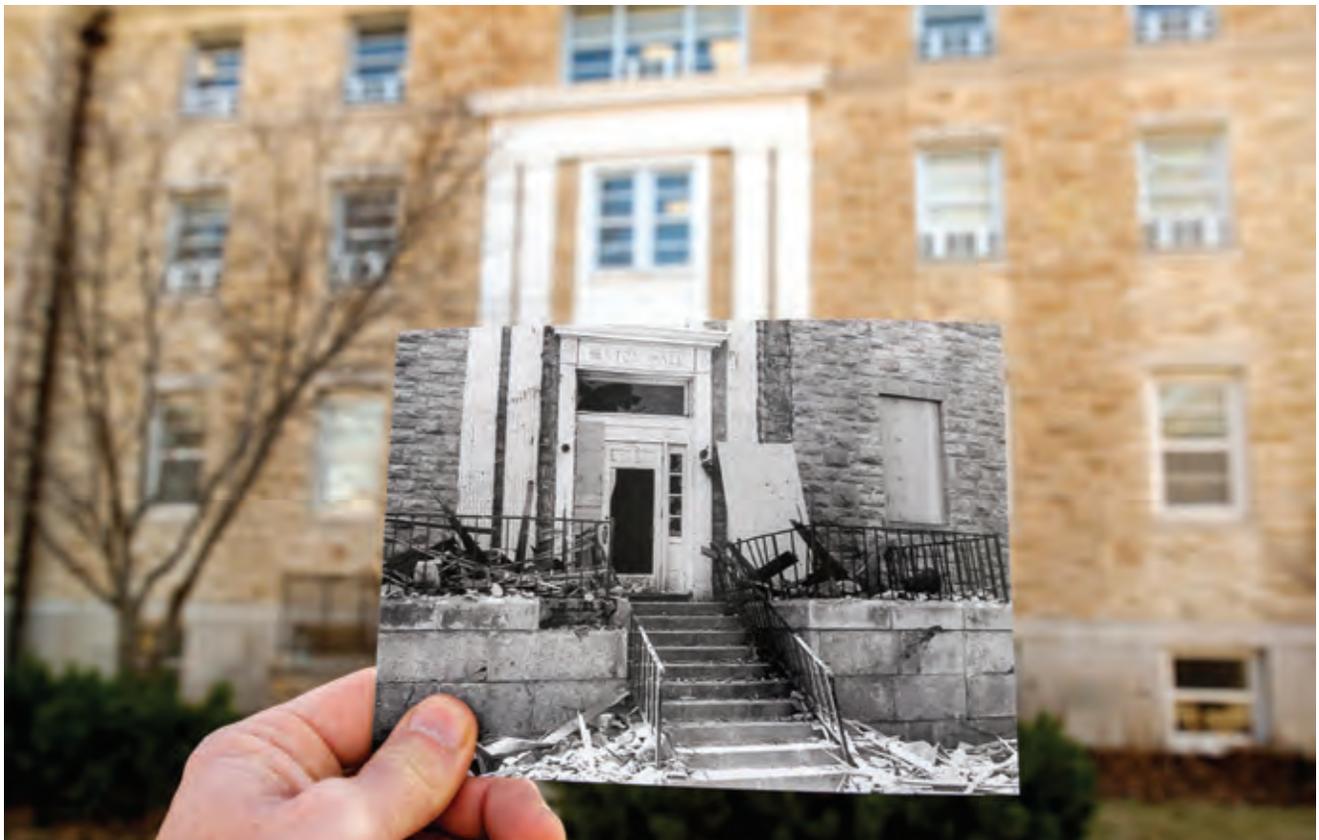
By fall, the campus was cleared and modular classrooms were installed – what would be home to Bisel's classes for the entire four years of her Washburn education.

"I have so much respect for Dr. (John) Henderson. Overnight, he went from president to fundraiser. As a student, I was impressed by the urgency to get things done, the focus of everyone on campus. It was amazing.

"And I loved the blue Trailer Tech sweatshirts we wore that summer."



Dee Bisel



Before and After: Destruction of Benton Hall after the 1966 tornado. The building survived and currently houses the School of Applied Studies, Leadership Institute and Learning in the Community programs, among many others. *Photo by Doug Stremel*

# The law exam

June 9, 1966. Jack Bender, bba '66, jd '69, surveyed his home. Grass and sticks were smashed into the sides of the house. The roof was damaged, but the house was livable. The yard was littered with law school exam papers – graded and ungraded – along with framed legal documents belonging to law professor Robert Fowks.

“I picked up the exams and Professor Fowks’ documents,” Jack said. “The glass was shattered but the documents were intact. I eventually returned them to the law school.”

Only later did he learn the school decided to give credit to every student who took the exam. “I laughed, because I saw some of those grades,” Jack said.

Jack was monitoring the weather the day before. He stepped outside and was instantly struck by the uncanny quiet. “There were no birds flying, no vehicles moving, no movement at all,” Jack said. “Then the sky turned a bright blue, and I could hear what sounded like a freight train in the distance.”

Bender went inside to hear Bill Kurtis, jd '66,

newscaster at WIBW, say, “For God’s sake, take cover.”

Jack and his wife, Donna (Lamar) Bender, bsw '65, joined Jerry and Janet (Kelling) McElroy, b ed '67, in the basement of their duplex to wait out the storm. At one point, the tornado blew open the basement window and sucked out the vent from the clothes dryer.

When they emerged, they saw the ravage of the tornado. Jack spent the rest of the night digging a neighbor out of the rubble, accompanying her to the hospital and serving coffee and donuts to emergency personnel with the American Red Cross.

On July 28, he received a memo from John Howe, dean of the law school, assuring him classes would start on time in mobile units and that most of the books from the law library had been saved – minus “possibly one or two thousand.”



Donna and Jack Bender



Moore Bowl was filled with debris after the 1966 tornado. *Photo by Doug Stremel*

# The pin oaks

As the sirens sounded, Gene Mosiman, bba '61, stepped outside and looked southeast. He could see a small pony farm not far from his front porch. Parts of the white picket fence and outbuildings were swirling around in the air. He hurried inside, gathered his family and took refuge in the basement, pushing furniture around them for extra protection.

When the tornado passed, they came upstairs to a sunny sky and a house that was untouched by the tornado.

Mosiman, who was business manager in the Washburn administration, immediately drove to campus to see how the University fared. His first thought when he saw the destruction was, "My Lord, I don't have a job," followed quickly by the realization the 100-plus-year-old pin oaks on campus were uprooted, splintered and gone. He knew in his lifetime he would see the campus rebuilt, but he would never see trees like that again on campus. It was a sobering moment.

The next day, the administration met in the service area that housed a PBX switchboard – the only place on

campus where they could make and receive phone calls. That became headquarters for the days that followed.

Since President John Henderson was out of town, Richard Vogel, vice president of finance, and Arthur Engelbert, vice president of academic affairs, set the tone for the days and weeks to come. Mosiman recalls Vogel telling them "We're not only going to survive. We're going to get better and never miss a deadline." That tone permeated from the top down through the ranks to faculty, staff and students alike.

With their "marching orders," everyone pitched in to begin the arduous task of cleanup. In just two short days, summer school registration took place and classes started in rented space at Topeka West High School. They met the first of many deadlines yet to come.



Gene Mosiman

---

# The debris

Riding out the tornado in his basement less than a half a block from campus, Sheldon Cohen, professor of chemistry, with his wife, Virginia, and two small children, said the pressure on their ears from the storm was overwhelming.

"I'll never forget how intense it was," Cohen said. "It was extremely painful."

As they waited for the storm to pass, they could hear things flying around upstairs. When they emerged from the basement, there was damage everywhere they looked. The roof was damaged, the windows were blown out, there was debris in the yard – chairs from Stoffer Hall, the metal cover from the telescope in the observatory and papers. Ten years later, when he was tilling the garden in his back yard, Cohen found a fraternity ring in the soil, a reminder of the '66 tornado.

Cohen and his family walked to campus that evening – something he said probably wasn't a good idea – and were dismayed with what they saw.

"It was amazing. It was devastating," Cohen said. "There were power lines down. Trees were splintered. The windows were blown out of Stoffer Hall, the lecture halls were gone. There was debris everywhere."

And yet, just a few days later, his summer school class began right on schedule in the hallway of Topeka West High School. While the conditions were less than ideal, teaching remained the first priority of the University.

Cohen spent the summer teaching and alternately working to repair his home and to recover and inventory what could be salvaged from the chemistry department in Stoffer Hall.

"It was a euphoric period," Cohen recalled. "It brought people together. The faculty quickly resumed our coffee time in the union. We formed a special bond."



Sheldon Cohen

# The diagonal path

The college national tennis tournament was underway in Kansas City when the teams were taken off the courts because of the weather. Soon, Walter Hurd, ba '68, and his teammates, were on their way back to Topeka. They just learned Topeka had been hit by a terrible tornado, and there was substantial damage throughout the city. Players were urged to contact their families.

It was dark when they parked as close as they could get to campus and hiked to the corner of 21<sup>st</sup> and Washburn. "It was a frenzied moment," Hurd said when he and his teammates saw that married student housing was gone with only a few Quonset huts still standing.

"The campus looked like a war zone," Hurd said. "We were at ground level. I saw a diagonal path the tornado had taken. It came in through married student housing and cut across campus. Buildings were gone.

Trees were splintered. Power lines were down. Debris was thrown all around. It all happened in one fell swoop."

Hurd was on and off campus throughout the summer.

"It was very sad as Washburn was the oldest municipal college, and the historical buildings we knew and loved were gone," Hurd said.

And yet, when classes started in the fall, an upbeat attitude permeated campus.

"I was president of my class that year," Hurd said. "Everyone was optimistic that the University would rebuild campus. Even with all of the damage, I don't think enrollment suffered. Everyone came back and settled down into their routines."



Walter Hurd



Despite the heavy destruction to the older building, the administration chose to save Carnegie Hall. Today, it houses the Department of Education. *Photo by Doug Stremel*

## The knock on the door

Gale Howard, a sophomore biology and chemistry major, remembers the drive from Kansas City to Topeka the night of June 8 as the “longest two hours of my life.”

Howard and his fellow members of the Ichabod tennis team were playing in a tournament in Kansas City when the call came. “We were eating a late dinner when we learned Topeka and the campus had been hit by a tornado, and there was a lot of damage,” Howard said.

With that, Howard began the drive home. What he saw when he arrived on campus was that much of married student housing was gone. His home – a Quonset hut – was still standing minus the windows that had been blown out. But he couldn’t find his family.

Only later did he learn a knock on the door probably saved them from injury or worse. Neighbors went door to door, telling everyone in married student housing to take

shelter in the basement of Whiting Fieldhouse. So Eileen Howard and their two small children did just that.

By the time Howard found a neighbor across the street with a working phone, he was anxious about his family’s well-being. He called Eileen’s mother and, with great relief, learned his family had gone to the Fieldhouse, and she later picked them up and brought them back to her house. Howard recalls they stayed with her the next few days while the windows were replaced in their home.

“To this day, I am afraid of tornadoes,” Howard, now a resident of Boulder, Colorado, said. “That was the scariest night of my life.”



Gale Howard

---

## The mineral collection

Returning to Topeka two weeks after the tornado struck, Carol (Lyon) Vogel, ba '67, saw the “war zone” left behind. Her mother’s house located across the street from campus was severely damaged. The campus was surreal.

Determined to help, Vogel and a group of students went to the area that was once Rice Hall and, with a faculty member, began to dig through the rubble trying to salvage part of the mineral collection that was once housed there – a collection that had been on display at the 1905 International Exposition.

“I don’t remember now exactly how we got together, but we wanted to help. We dug through the debris and found several pieces of the mineral collection. I found four or five myself,” Vogel said. “It felt good to be doing something concrete.”

Today, what is left of the collection is housed in Stoffer Hall.

Vogel didn’t stop there. She and her sorority sister, Kathy Portman, b ed '67, got permission to go into the

heavily damaged Kappa Alpha Theta house and retrieve chapter records from the basement.

“In hindsight, it probably wasn’t very smart,” Vogel said. “When we got to the basement, we could hear the house shift, it was literally groaning, creaking. I’ll never forget that sound.”



Carol Vogel

But retrieve the chapter’s records they did. In the kitchen, amazingly enough, they also found the chapter’s china with the Theta crest mostly untouched.

Vogel recalls the pervasive optimism that spread across campus in spite of the overwhelming destruction.

“We lost so many beautiful buildings, so much history and tradition, but Washburn survived,” Vogel said. “What I learned – like so many others – was Washburn was really the students, the faculty, the administration. That’s what we were all about.”

# The book

Every year since 1961, James Hurd, b music '67, has documented his life in a book. Using a fountain pen, he detailed his schedule, his activities, his impressions. And 1966 was no exception, so Hurd has a day-by-day account of his life as a senior after the tornado.

Hurd, who was visiting his grandmother in Texas, learned of the tornado from a relative. He turned on the television and saw the twister had cut a swath through the city and the middle of campus, destroying landmarks in its path. In his book he penned, "A terrible tornado hit Topeka today."

Hurd's home was just a few blocks from campus. He recalls his mother said the tornado sounded like "100 trains going over head." Miraculously, his home wasn't damaged.

The campus wasn't so lucky. Damage was extensive. MacVicar Chapel, home to Hurd's music classes, was destroyed.

"I hated to see that building go," Hurd said. "It had such beautiful stained glass."

Fall of 1966 was business as usual for Washburn. On Sept. 16, Hurd wrote there was freshmen orientation

that day, and he gave a campus tour to a group of students. Today, he laughs trying to remember what that tour was like as they trooped across a badly scarred campus.

Classes resumed on schedule in modular units. Practicing with the choir in a mobile unit had its challenges, but there was a bright spot.

"The mobile units were air-conditioned," Hurd recalls. "MacVicar was not."

In his book, Hurd noted performances by the Concert Choir and Washburn Singers were moved to the Union. Christmas Vespers was moved to Countryside Methodist Church.

In spite of the damage, Hurd credits the administration and faculty for how they managed.

"They did a superb job of picking up the pieces and moving forward," Hurd said. "Today, the campus is even more beautiful than it was before. I am proud to be a Washburn graduate." 🚶



James Hurd



The Memorial Union after the 1966 tornado. Photo by Doug Stremel





Photo by Earl Richardson

# UNSTOPPABLE

Alumnus faces new lands and languages, and never backs down

By Jami Weisbender

To date, the story of Alosha Moore, ba '13, jd candidate '17, has been nothing short of epic. His saga has stretched across three continents, netted him multiple families and meant starting over more than once.

But growing up in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, Moore didn't consider his childhood harrowing, even though he called an orphanage home until age 9.

"Looking back from this perspective, it was a lot harsher to grow up over there. I remember when we would get in trouble, sometimes they would withhold food. Sometimes it wasn't a big deal because you were so hungry that you'd almost rather not eat, because it would just make you hungrier," Moore said.

"But it was just life. It wasn't harsh at the time."

That matter-of-fact mindset is characteristic of Moore. That's how he handled his adoption and relocation to the United States, leaving behind people who "weren't even friends at that point; they were family." It's also how he responded when, due to Russia's lack of medical technology, he slowly lost his sight to glaucoma by 7 years old.

Moore, as he puts it, *happens to be blind*. The fact that could so easily define him – serve as the big, bold title of his life's tale – is, instead, a footnote.



Photo by Jones Huyett Partners

“I’ve heard lots of people say, ‘I forget you’re blind.’ And it’s because it’s just not something that’s forefront to me. In a lot of ways, having that vision loss was more of a blessing. I never would have been able to afford, on my own, getting into college,” he said, noting his National Federation of the Blind scholarships.

That’s not to say it’s been easy. Adopted by a Wichita family in 1998, Moore knew he was fortunate. Still, between learning English, grasping braille and absorbing a new way of life, the adjustment was rough.

“I was a rambunctious, crazy kid. Back in Russia, you literally had to struggle to survive. It took a while for that mentality to go away. So here, when people aren’t struggling and you still are, you’re a lot more amped up than you need to be.”

But Moore refused to be boxed in by his early circumstances. He took on horse training, bronc riding, surfing. Washburn and Washburn Law, which he “heard so many good things about since seventh grade,” were merely next on his list.

“You could tell really quickly that the people were caring,” said Moore, who studied political science and history. “Back then, I was super shy, so I didn’t reach out to other students so much. But the thing is, at

Washburn, students reached out to *me*. And I didn’t feel different. I felt involved.”

Bit by bit, he came out of his shell, joining Mock Trial and Prelaw Club. In typical fashion, Moore addressed the demands of college without complaint, managing braille, screen readers and notetakers.

Finally, with his bachelor’s degree in hand, he officially entered Washburn Law – a dream since childhood. Only this time, he wasn’t alone. Right before law school, Moore welcomed his guide dog, Frosty, who is equal parts navigator and icebreaker.

“People are just so much more receptive and open with Frosty,” he said. “I take the guiding stuff for granted, but the true blessing is socially what he’s done for me.”

With Frosty in tow, Moore has come alive in a way he never knew possible. In January 2015, he traveled solo to an international humanitarian law workshop in California. By summer, he shattered his comfort zone altogether, venturing to Australia for an internship in refugee law.

Each move is part of a calculated plan. First, a foot in the door with the U.S. Department of State, then a career in international human rights and adoption. His purpose is simple – to help children who desperately need it, like he once did.

Washburn Law Professor Rory Bahadur, for one, thinks it’s an ideal match.

“He does things not because of how they would look or because of what other people would think, but because it’s what needs to be done,” Bahadur said. “And when you’re thinking about international adoptions, there’s so much political and bureaucratic red tape that he would be the perfect one to not be dissuaded, but just continue persevering for the benefit of the adoptee.”

Moore has gone from a shy kid in survival mode to an outgoing, driven law student. He’s conquered two languages and three countries. At this point in his story, he seems pretty well unstoppable.

“I feel like I’m one of the very few exceptions who *has* been raised by a village. So sometimes I just can’t help being amazed at where I’ve gotten. It’s been such a huge interaction with so many people, and it’s just such a huge blessing.” 🦿

# KBI AND WASHBURN

Students receive first-hand experience in future careers

PART 2: Chemical Forensics, Digital Forensics programs stress focus on equipment, technology training

By Sarah Towle • [stowle@wufoundation.org](mailto:stowle@wufoundation.org)

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation Forensic Science Center opened on Washburn University's campus in November offering multiple opportunities to new students and new programs. The forensic chemical science program and the digital forensics program will offer additional opportunities to work in the lab spaces in the next few months.

## FORENSIC CHEMICAL SCIENCE

The forensic chemical science program at Washburn is anything but new, but the lab space and the view of Washburn University alumni working for KBI across the hall will open the program to more possibilities.

T.L. Price, bs '93, assistant director for the KBI Forensic Science Center, is one of the alumni who

work across the hall from where the students will be studying. He was the project manager for the building and regularly met with a forensic planner and Washburn faculty members such as Stephen Angel, chair, professor, chemistry department at Washburn, to focus on best uses of the space and how to incorporate Washburn into the overall plan.

Angel said KBI and the forensic chemical science program have had quite the history since they started talking about the program in 2001.

Read Part 1 of the KBI series covering the criminal justice and anthropology programs at <http://bit.ly/KBIPart1>



Stephen Angel, chair, professor, chemistry department, stands in the new chemical forensic science lab in the KBI building.  
*Photo by Doug Stremel*

Bruce Mechtly, chair, professor, computer information sciences, works with students in their new computer lab in the KBI building. Photo by Doug Stremel



“I really enjoy working with KBI lab scientists. We speak the same language, they are generous with their time and expertise, and ultimately, they look forward to working with students.” said Angel.

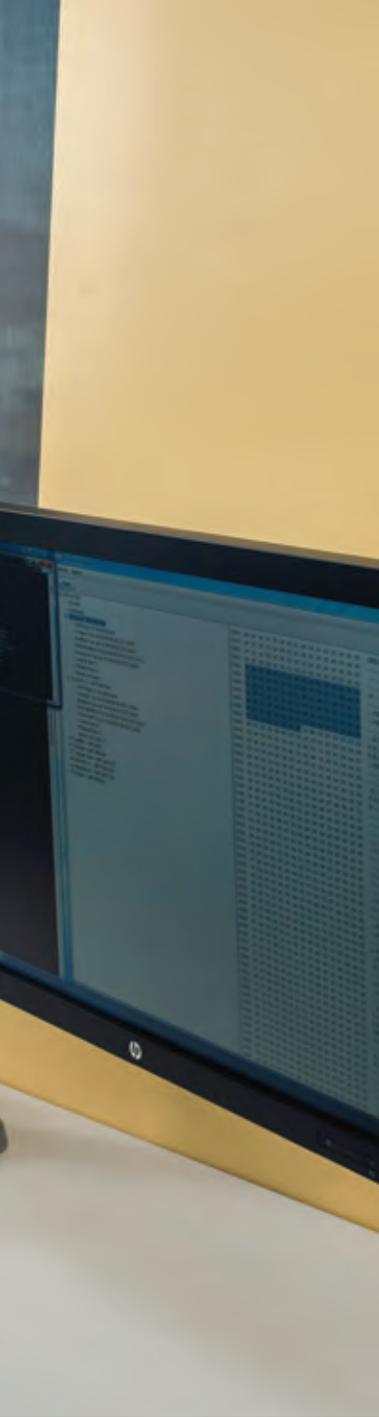
While they built an internship program with students before the building was even an option, the new lab space will offer complete training on instruments they might use when they work in a lab. They also have acquired three new microscopes that use ultraviolet, fluorescent and infrared light, and lasers to analyze samples.

“The program’s focus is to provide students with a rigorous education so they are prepared to be successful

at the next level,” Angel said. “More than 90 percent of forensic chemical science graduates are working in the field – in professions, government, private or forensic labs.”

As there are relatively few forensic chemical science programs in the west or Midwestern parts of the United States, Angel said there will be work opportunities available.

This is the premier undergraduate chemical forensics science program in the state. While other universities offer a graduate program, Angel said Washburn consciously and deliberately does not offer master’s programs in the sciences.



“The advantage is that all resources go toward undergraduate education,” he said. “Faculty focus is on undergraduate education, including research, and students have hands-on experience in labs with state-of-the-art scientific instrumentation. As a result, graduate job placement is high, and acceptance rates to graduate and professional programs are fantastic.”

Angel said his hope is this will become a feeder for the KBI and surrounding forensics labs. The internship gives students the opportunity to see whether this career path is something they want to do for the rest of their lives. The integration of the forensic anthropology, criminal investigation and digital forensics programs will encourage interdisciplinary programs where field work and laboratory work come together.

Price, as a criminal justice major, was able to do just that when he was offered an

internship with KBI during college. He went on to accept a position with the organization as a criminalist technician, moved to Texas to become a firearm and toolmark examiner for two years and then moved back to Topeka to work as a forensic scientist. He has been with the KBI ever since.

Price said while he appreciates the great education he received at Washburn, this relationship only enhances the education for prospective students.

“This profession is not nearly as simple or glamorous as it is on the television shows,” Price said. “The access students have to professionals in the field and the ability

to take a look at what they do here are important for a student to realize if they want to pursue this as a career.”

## DIGITAL FORENSICS

Bruce Mechtly, chair, professor, computer information sciences, has been teaching at Washburn for 17 years. While he’s an expert on the technical aspects of his field, he stresses he’s not very good at one aspect of the outside career world – paperwork.

“I’m very glad we now have investigators on campus to talk to the students about being in the trenches of the career,” he said. “While many aspects are technical, there are also other areas, like sitting down and doing paperwork, that just aren’t taught in the classroom.”

In its second semester, the introductory class to digital forensics is the first class students can take in the new digital forensics concentration with a computer information sciences degree. The concentration will better prepare students for careers in digital crimes, a growing field as computers, smartphones and other technologies are almost always involved in crimes today.

Students will have a computer lab space in the new KBI building. Mechtly will have access to put new hard drives on the computers so students can look for and analyze evidence.

“Digital forensics is about knowing where to look next for evidence,” he said. “Students have the opportunity to look under the hood and see stuff that isn’t normally visible. After going through the program, they will have training that most people don’t have, and that’s really what education is about.”

Digital forensics personnel are not just needed in the investigation field, but are also in demand in the security field to proactively prevent crimes. They are often hired by attorneys as expert witnesses. Right now, students who want to work for KBI after graduation can’t work on real cases until they are certified – a process that may take up to two years. Mechtly is hoping that by using the same tools in the classroom, that time can be cut down.

“There is nothing better than collaborating with someone out there doing the job,” he said. “I think the students are very engaged and excited about this program.” 



Denise Ottinger, vice president for student life, and Ichabod. Photo by Peggy Clark

# OTTINGER LEAVES LEGACY BY HELPING STUDENTS DISCOVER PASSION

By Sarah Towle • [stowle@wufoundation.org](mailto:stowle@wufoundation.org)

When Denise Ottinger helps students move into the Living Learning Center each August, she can immediately spot the next student leaders.

“One of the best things about Washburn is first-year students can make a big difference here,” she said. “Some of them start on day one.”

Ottinger, the first and only vice president for student life at Washburn, will retire at the end of June after helping Washburn students not only become involved

in the university, but also transition to careers in student life at universities across the country.

Many students don’t think of careers in student affairs until they reach college and become involved. A proud graduate of Bowling Green State University’s college student personnel program, Ottinger has

steered some Ichabods interested in student life to her alma mater.

When Molly (Shea) Pierson, ba '07, was preparing to graduate with her degree in biology, she was



Molly Pierson  
*Photo by Ryan Miller*

wondering about her next career steps. As vice president of the Washburn Student Government Association at the time, she enjoyed working with students to create change.

“I remember reflecting on the work we had done in WSGA and feeling proud and inspired by the idea that I could make an impact somewhere.

Ottinger introduced the idea that working with students could be a career,” said Pierson, now the associate director of residential life at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri. “College is a critical time in a person’s life. There is so much to make sense of in the world and developing a sense of who you are. It’s nice to help students discover that and help them.”

Pierson and Joni Wiley, bsw '12, went into Bowling



Joni Wiley  
*Photo submitted*

Green’s program because they saw the staff at Washburn genuinely care about them and what they did. Wiley said she didn’t think she would get into the program, but after much encouragement from Ottinger, she applied, was accepted and graduated with her master’s degree in 2014.

Wiley went on to also work in residential life at Birmingham Southern College, Birmingham, Alabama. She said she is very

## ALUMI AWARD

Denise Ottinger, vice president for student life, received the Lilla Day Monroe Award during Washburn University Alumni Association’s Awards Banquet, Saturday, April 9, 2016. The award recognizes women who have distinguished themselves as teachers, instructors, administrators or benefactors at Washburn.

intentional about trying to mirror her Washburn experience in her professional life.

“Ottinger will always be someone I call when a big life event happens. She is on the short list now,” Wiley said. “Even though I’ve graduated, getting her final stamp of approval is extra icing on the cake, because she had the confidence in me I didn’t have in myself.”

While Ottinger has overseen numerous building projects such as the Living Learning Center, Washburn Village, Student Recreation and Wellness Center and Lincoln Hall, it’s the programs and people she has worked with she will miss the most. She is especially proud of how Family Day and Homecoming events have grown throughout the years and starting the Alpha Lambda Delta and Mortar Board organizations on campus to honor students who excel in academics.

“Washburn is a great family,” Ottinger said. “It is so rewarding to see students go into higher education, because you know something about their college experience was really good. Someone lit that fire.” 



Chris Bowers, a veteran working on his history degree at Washburn, helps faculty, staff and administrators help other veterans adjust to collegiate life.

*Photo by Doug Stremel*

# VETERANS FIND A HOME AT WASHBURN

*By Sarah Towle • stowle@wufoundation.org*

As early as the first grade, Chris Bowers can remember developing his love of history while growing up in Beloit, Kansas.

Weekend trips to historical sites with his family and a passion for historical books heavily influenced his desire to join the Army in 1987.

Retiring in 2010, he found himself bored and unchallenged and decided to follow his childhood interest in history by working on his degree at Washburn University. He enrolled in a First Year Experience class with traditional students.

“Here I was at 44 years old working through this class with 18 and 19 year olds,” he said. “I was shown a lot of respect and was asked a lot of questions, but I could tell not everyone was in the same situation I was.”

In the fall of 2015, after working with administrators

and faculty, Bowers served as a peer educator to a First Year Experience class for veterans only. The class helps students get to know Washburn, and allows them to connect and share experiences related to the military and translate those to collegiate life.

Fostering faculty and student interaction is important to Washburn, so veteran Gary Bayens, associate dean, School of Applied Studies and professor, criminal justice, was tapped to teach the class.

“It was a learning experience for me as well – finding out what each veteran did in the military,” said Bayens, who served in the Marines in the 1970s. “But we all had the same understanding of the mission, team efforts, self-discipline and leadership.”

All lessons, according to Bayens, that can be applied to being a successful student. However, support and

leadership from administrative staff and the community are also critical to make sure students complete their degrees and receive a quality education.

Randy Pembroke, vice president, academic affairs, said one of the biggest challenges is working with government benefit programs to ensure each student has the resources he or she needs to start school.

“We have many veterans who want to start on their degree right away, but it may take a few months for all of their military benefits to be processed. We work very hard to accommodate veterans in those instances,” Pembroke said.

An information resource, the Veterans Success Center opened in Mabee Library in fall 2015 and is working to build a collection of class textbooks for veterans to use if there is a delay in accessing their benefits. Bowers,

who works in the center, helped a student who had just separated from the Air Force. While the student had enrolled in school, he hadn't applied for the GI Bill yet, so they connected him with the Department of Veterans Affairs so he could start receiving benefits.

“This generation of veterans rivals that of World War II in its population,” said Bowers. “The more we get through college, the more of an impact it will have on the rest of the country.”

Bowers said Washburn is critical to providing that quality education.

“It's really a small community here,” said Bowers, who hopes to earn his master's degree in the future. “I have easy access to professors, and I know they are going to read the history papers I write. It's not going to be read by a graduate assistant.” 

## A unique partnership between GO Topeka, Washburn University

In 2015, GO Topeka began working with Washburn University and Washburn Tech to support veterans' education. After collaborating with Randy Pembroke, vice president, academic affairs, Alan Bearman, dean of libraries, and Gary Bayens, associate dean, School of Applied Studies and professor, criminal justice, created the Veterans Success Center in Mabee Library.

The center is staffed on a regular basis to assist veterans adjusting to college and to connect them with other veterans, tutors and veteran success workshops on campus. GO Topeka, with the backing of the Joint Economic Development Organization in Topeka, made a donation to fund the center with the motivation that veterans will stay in Topeka to work.

“Veterans are great citizens and employees, and when they come into a community, they are a wonderful addition,” said Scott Smathers, vice president, economic development for GO Topeka. “Topeka businesses are looking for quality employees, and with that military skill set there, it will be a win-win for everybody.”

Smathers said he is intrigued by the group's idea

to include weekly counseling services offered by Department of Veterans Affairs professionals to assist student veterans.

“Having a support network is very important to any student, and I think it is going to be especially beneficial for veterans,” Smathers said.

Smathers said GO Topeka's partnership with Washburn University and Washburn Tech has been productive not only because of a shared interest in workforce development but also because Washburn has made collaboration so easy. For example, the group was able to put together the Veterans Success Center in just a few months because the University was able to move quickly.

“We all have limited resources, and Washburn goes out of its way to make it work. They do a great job of training and have a strong reputation with companies,” Smathers said of the partnership. “The sizes of Washburn Tech and Washburn University allow them to be more nimble, which gives us the ability to get more done.”

# SETTING HER OWN PATH

Washburn woman given scholarship by mistake overcomes many obstacles

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

**G**erd Smith was accepted to Washburn University in 1954 by accident.

Washburn had set up living arrangements for a male scholarship student from Sweden. They realized things wouldn't work as planned when she attached a photograph with her paperwork.

Keeping their promise, Washburn officials scrambled and made proper arrangements.

"If I were named Barbara or Mary, I may never have gotten the scholarship," Smith joked.

Smith, bba '56, remembers how hard she had to work as a woman in America with a name like Gerd (rhymes with cared).

"I was so goal oriented. Nothing was going to stand in my way," she said.

Competition motivated students in the all-girls

school she attended in Sweden. Her graduating class had two future doctors, two engineers and a pharmacist. She spoke Swedish, German, English and French. Her parents studied in the United States and always spoke of how great America was. That gave her a desire to take her learning overseas.

Her name wasn't the only thing that made people think she was a male before she arrived. She was a student-athlete in Sweden who wanted to study business. Sweden had physical education six days a week, but dance was one of the only activities available for women at Washburn. Females in Washburn business classes were rare.

Her Swedish education had her on track to graduate after two years but her scholarship was for just one year. She had to stay in school to keep her student visa, so she

met with Bryan Stoffer, Washburn president, to solve the problem.

"I've never been the shy type," Smith said. "I marched myself up to Dr. Stoffer's office and asked if I could get another scholarship."

Stoffer got back to her in a few days with the funds. She graduated the next year with a bachelor of business administration, and she began working.

She soon married and had two sons. Living in Chicago in 1972, she wanted more than the social scene the suburbs offered where women stayed home with the children.

"She tried to make it work but something was missing in her life," said Chris Smith, her youngest son and a retired high school educator and coach in Erie, Colorado.

She applied at a major university in the area to earn a master of business administration. She had the grades and the experience, but this school, 18 years after Washburn accepted her, wouldn't budge on a policy.

"They didn't accept married women with children," Smith said. "I was told they gave the spots to men so they could support their families."

She walked out of there fuming.

"My mom had a lot of doors closed in her face," Chris said. "But she was determined to achieve her goals."

Gerd eventually got a master's in counseling at a different school, Roosevelt University, and began teaching assertiveness workshops for women. The same university that rejected her MBA application asked her to give a workshop. She did so well, they wanted her to teach a class.

"I asked if I needed an MBA to teach," Gerd said. They told her any master's would do.

That was poetic justice to her.

"My mother taught us that whatever path we chose, we had to go get it," said Greg Smith, her oldest son and an entrepreneur in the health and wellness field in Clovis, California.

Gerd worked 15 years as a financial officer at a communications company in Asheville, North Carolina, before retiring. She continued doing accounting for local businesses and individuals until 2005.

Smith, 83, gives back with an endowed scholarship at Washburn that provides others the same opportunities she earned. The scholarship influences future Ichabods, and the example she set influences her family.

"I'm proud of how she's supporting her legacy by furthering opportunities for others. That means a lot to her," Greg said.

"I have two daughters of my own," Chris said. "I've always encouraged her to talk to them. She had the strength of character to buck some trends." 



Gerd Smith has an endowed scholarship in her name to give others the opportunities she fought so hard to keep. *Photo submitted*



Tim and Asha Belsan.  
Photo by Earl Richardson

# ALUMNI COUPLE SPREADS LOVE OF WASHBURN TO NATION'S CAPITAL

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

**T**im Belsan used to walk by Asha Plattner's apartment in the Washburn Village when attending a study group his first year of law school. The two never actually met until shortly after graduating.

Tim, jd '09, and Asha (Plattner) Belsan, as '08, ba '09, hit it off and married in 2011. They live in Alexandria, Virginia, where he's an attorney in the Department of Justice and she's a physical therapist assistant pursuing a master's of public health.

They both credit scholarships with helping them afford college, and professors and programs with

enhancing the experience.

Tim received the Weigand Trust Scholarship, giving him a full ride all three years.

"Scholarships were absolutely critical to both my decision to attend law school and school selection," he said.

He graduated first in his class and was editor-in-chief of the Washburn Law Journal. He clerked for the 10<sup>th</sup>

U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for two years then started with the DOJ in 2011. He received the Civil Division Rookie of the Year award in 2012. New hires are eligible for the award within their first three years.

“Receiving the award my first year gave me a lot of confidence in my ability to perform at a high level,” Tim said.

Tim recently worked with the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the Eastern District of Virginia as a special assistant United States attorney in the Criminal Division. He’s now at Main Justice where he represents the United States in cases all over the country and is personally responsible for every aspect of litigation.

“In my section, we have the incredible opportunity to handle both affirmative cases and defensive cases, and to keep our own appeals, both of which are relatively rare within the Department,” he said.

It’s no surprise to him that PreLaw Magazine recently named Washburn No. 2 in the nation for government jobs. The proximity to the Statehouse, government agencies and courthouses gives students many opportunities.

“Washburn values the quality of teaching its law school professors provide,” he said. “The collegial nature of Washburn Law prepares students well for public service, where there’s a lot less emphasis on developing a book of business and far more importance placed on working together for a common cause.”

Asha was a community advisor in the Washburn Village and homecoming queen in 2007. She remembers prominently the influence of her advisor, Patti Bender, recently retired assistant professor in kinesiology.

“Dr. Bender was always full of life and energy, and

it was clear that teaching brought her much joy,” Asha said. “I remember going to her office and asking if I could do my internship in Ireland – a place I had always wanted to visit. I was nervous she would say no, but instead of writing me off, she simply said, ‘If you can find it, you can do it.’”

Asha found it, and the experience expanded her worldview. She and Tim both integrated well when they moved across the country.

“Being from the Midwest has allowed us to keep things in perspective and not lose sight of the fact that ultimately, it’s hard work and consistency that make the difference,” Tim said.

Even though their paths never crossed while at school, they both share similarly heart-warming memories of Washburn. Many of their closest friends went to Washburn, including the best man and matron of honor at their wedding.

“It would be impossible for us to have such fond feelings and pride toward Washburn and not want to give back,” Asha said.

They have given every year to scholarships and unrestricted funds and contributed to *Ideal Place: The Building Campaign for Washburn University School of Law*.

In fact, Tim said he is proud of his first gift – \$25 for law scholarships – made shortly after graduating.

“Don’t wait until you can give at the amount you ultimately wish. There is a need now for any amount,” he said. “We want others to have the same opportunities we had, not only to obtain skills and prepare for a career, but to develop meaningful relationships that survive long beyond graduation.” 

## GOVERNMENT LAW RANKING

Washburn University School of Law was named No. 2 in the nation for government jobs by PreLaw Magazine in its winter 2016 issue. The magazine evaluated law schools to see which ones best prepare students for careers in public service by analyzing job placement data, school curricula, debt, salary and loan repayment options.



Baseball coaches: (left) Chad Herren, Kenny Swart and Harley Douglas. Photo by Doug Stremel

# BODS COACHING BODS

Three Ichabod alumni took similar paths before returning to coach at Washburn

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

**T**wo of Harley Douglas' first hires as head baseball coach were people on a similar path he had traveled.

Douglas, bs '02, b ed '04, hired two assistant coaches who, like him, played and earned education degrees at Washburn, earned a master's in education somewhere else and coached and taught special education at the high school level.

Like Douglas, they left head coaching jobs at area high schools to return to Washburn and build on a program they grew to believe in when they played here.

Chad Herren, b ed '03, and Kenny Swart, b ed '03, both teach special education in Topeka public schools, and then they come to campus in the afternoon and help

college men improve their baseball skills while growing into adults.

Herren teaches special education at Chase Middle School.

"I enjoy getting to know the kids and relating to them – their lives, activities, sports, drama classes or other things," he said. "The most rewarding part is watching them grow and move on to high school."

Swart teaches special education at Topeka West High School.

"The biggest reward I get is from helping the kids

with study skills,” Swart said. “I focus on getting them to finish their homework and get things turned in. Sometimes, when they come from middle school, they haven’t learned responsibility. I work one on one to instill those values.”

Herren and Swart both look back at educators who inspired them. Swart remembers his middle school football coach.

“He taught me to be responsible,” Swart said. “He always had a life lesson for everything we did and a story about how hard work will pay off. Seeing the relationship he had with all the players, I knew I wanted to get into coaching.”

For Herren, it was his high school baseball coach and also the lessons he learned from Steve Anson, Washburn baseball coach while all three played for the Ichabods.

“When I got the opportunity to come back here, I jumped on it to continue what Anson started,” Swart said.

Douglas’ path took an extra step. He finished his college career in 2000 and played one season in the Minor Leagues before returning to Washburn to not only finish his degree, but also to earn a second degree in education. Six years later, he completed a master’s degree in adaptive special education.

“I wanted to get into coaching and teaching, and being a male who coaches and teaches special education was a way to get in,” Douglas said. “My degrees taught me patience and understanding to be a better coach, a better father and better husband.”

Douglas and his staff have high academic expectations for their players, and they implemented mandatory study halls. That has paid off with a climbing team grade-point average.

“We know how to relate to people and how to talk to them,” Herren said. “You can’t always put a kid down. We talk a lot about doing things the right way so we’re not always griping, but we’re also picking them up when they’re down. A little bit of each goes a long way.”

“They want to be here. They’re here to play baseball. It’s kind of like their job. And that’s everything we work for, teaching and coaching in high school,” said Swart. “Nothing makes you feel better than having one of your athletes or students succeed.” 

## HARLEY DOUGLAS

Washburn bachelor of exercise physiology ‘02  
Washburn bachelor of education ‘04, Emporia State  
master of adaptive special education ‘10  
Washburn Head Coach – 2015-present  
Washburn Assistant Coach – 2012-14  
Lansing High School Head Coach – 2007-10  
St. Marys High School Head Coach – 2003-06

## CHAD HERREN

Washburn bachelor of education ‘03  
Baker University master of education ‘07  
Washburn Assistant Coach – 2015-present  
Rock Creek High School Head Coach – 2009-14  
Lyndon High School Head Coach – 2006-08

## KENNY SWART

Washburn bachelor of education ‘03, Emporia State  
master of adaptive special education ‘06  
Washburn Assistant Coach – 2015-present  
Rossville High School Head Coach – 2014

## ANSON NAMED TO K-STATE HALL OF FAME



Steve Anson, Washburn baseball coach from 1980-2014, was inducted into the Kansas State University Athletics Hall of Fame on Jan. 29.

He played baseball for the Wildcats from 1973-76 and is a member of K-State’s All-Century Team. He led his team in batting average all four years and is the K-State leader with 19 career triples. Anson passed away in 2014. Many of his family, teammates, assistant coaches and players gathered to celebrate his life the day of his induction.



Roy Sims used sumo wrestling as a way to stay in shape and competitive after playing football for the Ichabods.  
*Photo by Chuck Green, courtesy of USA Sumo*

# COMPETITIVE EDGE

## Former Ichabod becomes first American heavyweight to take gold in US Sumo Open

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

**L**ike the ancient sumo wrestlers who stood on the dohyo before him, Roy Sims hopes what he is doing will help the sport grow and live on for many generations.

With his football days over, Sims, bis '09, uses sumo as a way to stay in shape and compete. The hobby turned into a gold medal performance in last year's US Sumo Open.

"I didn't want to beat up on somebody anymore," Sims said. "But I still wanted to compete."

He finished his degree and he and his wife, Libby Sims, bis '10, moved to Hollister, California, where they are raising their three children. He's an information technology director at the San Benito County Office of Education. He heard about the 2014 US Sumo Open in Long Beach and decided to enter. Without experience, he took bronze in the heavyweight class.

He trained for a year and won gold in 2015 in the open weight class. He denied one of the world's top wrestlers a ninth straight gold medal and became the first American heavyweight to win a US Open gold. He'll defend his title on May 21 in the 2016 US Open.

Craig Schurig, head coach of the Ichabods since 2002, isn't surprised Sims picked such a unique sport.

"It's fitting he's taking on a traditional Japanese sport with a lot of techniques and spiritual things involved," Schurig said. "We've had kids try boxing and martial arts, and we've recruited really good high school wrestlers. He was into all those disciplines. But we've never had anyone do sumo."

Sumo seemed a natural fit for Sims. Wrestlers try to force their opponent out of a 15-foot circle or onto the ground.

“Coming from the defensive line, the motion is similar in how you come off your stance and move your body,” Sims said. “Having additional mass helps, and the wrestlers who are 300 to 400 pounds are the quickest. They move their body so well.”

Sims, who weighed 376 pounds at last year’s US Open, sees the sport as an opportunity for former college athletes who aren’t ready to stop competing.

“I did it because I could keep going. Not everybody can,” Sims said. “I felt like I could still perform.”

More than 3,000 fans watched the 2015 US Open. Sims sees promise that the sport will grow into what it is in Japan and other Asian countries. It may take time, though.

“I may never be a famous sumo wrestler, but I think it will take off and other Americans will,” Sims said. “It’s an older sport with a spiritual side that is interesting to

people. It’s simple to follow and even participate in.”

Financial reward in American sumo is minimal, and Sims usually has to pay his way to tournaments. After the US Open, he’ll start eyeing the 2017 World Games in Wrocław, Poland.

“My goal is to continue to enjoy the sport. If I could do it full time, I think I would, but it probably won’t happen,” Sims said. “I have an extremely supportive wife, and my kids love it.”

Competing and staying physically fit is just one aspect of Sims’ life.

“Roy is very intelligent, and there were a lot of different avenues he could have gotten involved in,” Schurig said. “IT and sumo wrestling – how diverse is that? It fits him well.”

The lessons he learns competing translate to parenting.

“I always tell my kids, your opponent is yourself. Don’t measure yourself against anyone else. You have to get up and be better than yesterday,” he said. 🏃



Roy Sims (center) took gold in the open weight division of the 2015 US Sumo Open and bronze in the heavyweight division. Watch a documentary of the tournament online at <http://bit.ly/SimsSumo>.

Sims will defend his title at the 2016 US Sumo Open on Saturday, May 21, in Long Beach, California. Read more at [www.usasumo.com](http://www.usasumo.com).

*Photo by Chuck Green, courtesy of USA Sumo*



David and Shawn Bruns. *Photo submitted*

# '84 ALUMNUS LEADS OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Call him the ultimate optimist. The Honorable David Bruns, jd '84 – a judge with the Kansas Court of Appeals – was elected president of Optimist International for 2015 to 2016.

It's a role that means the world to Bruns, an Optimist member since his law school days. It's also a natural fit, given his longtime focus on service and youth. Bruns founded the Topeka-Shawnee County Youth Court as a law student and is still involved today. He's even been an adjunct professor at the Washburn University School of Law since 1997.

As Optimist president, Bruns is leading approximately 85,000 adult and junior members who seek to "bring out the best in kids" – through clubs, sports and other projects.

"I'm trying to find new and innovative ways to make people feel more comfortable serving in their communities," he said. "I think the traditional service-club concept is still good in a lot of locations. But I think there are people who do not want to go to weekly meetings. So we need to find ways to allow them to serve youth, but maybe meet in unique ways."

For Bruns, there's an undeniable link between the law school and his passion for service.

"Certainly, I owe my career to Washburn Law and the professors that I learned under," he said. "I believe it's also helped me recognize the importance of being involved in the community and working to make the world a better place."

# THREE NEW TECH PROGRAMS MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS

Washburn Tech is adding three programs – phlebotomy, emergency medical technician and dispatch technology – to train more than 250 people a year and continue its mission of meeting local industry needs for a highly skilled workforce.

“All three of these programs highlight local needs and our connection with business and industry,” said Clayton Tatro, assistant dean of instruction, Washburn Tech.

Tatro believes classroom and onsite learning will alleviate the turnover associated with on-the-job training.

“If they complete a program, that says something to the prospective employer,” Tatro said.

The phlebotomy program takes one semester with eight weeks spent in clinical settings learning to draw blood from patients. The program can accommodate 24 students in the fall or spring and 12 in the summer.

Stormont-Vail HealthCare and St. Francis Health both came to Washburn expressing a need to change their employment model of training new hires and having them on the floor within a few days.

“They learn all the basics here,” said Kimberly Young, instructor, Washburn Tech. “When they get on the job, they only need to learn facility-specific things. It’s going to save a lot of time and money on the part of the facility.”

Stormont Vail Foundation and the Topeka Community Foundation provided scholarships to help create well-trained employees.

The Topeka Fire Department came to Washburn with a need to have its firefighters EMT-certified. About 20 students enrolled for the first one-semester program and 40 enrolled for the spring. Up to 70 students can register each semester.

The Shawnee County Sheriff’s Office expressed a need for better training and reducing turnover for emergency communicators. Law enforcement offices in the region hired 110 new dispatchers in a 12-month period.

Dispatch technology starts this fall and will be a two-semester program with about 28 students a year. Students will receive 90 hours of onsite training.

## WASHBURN TECH SETS SIGNING DAY RECORD

More than 450 students participated in Washburn Tech’s National Technical Letter of Intent Signing Day on Feb. 18.

Washburn Tech started the event in 2014 to emulate a student-athlete signing with a college to play a sport. The event has spread to 16 colleges around the country this year and included 1,253 students. Washburn’s student total this year set a Signing Day record.

Students sat at the front of the Washburn Tech Conference Center with other signees in their program, put on a Washburn Tech hat and signed their letters. Twenty-seven programs signed students, ranging from culinary arts to heavy diesel construction technology. Instructors and local business leaders stood with the students as they signed their letters.



Photo by Jeremy Wangler

“We’re here for a celebration and to let these students know we believe in them,” said Jerry Farley, president, Washburn University. “It’s what education is all about.”

# MUSIC ENSEMBLE PERFORMS AT PRESTIGIOUS CONFERENCE

The Washburn University Wind Ensemble performed March 17 during the 2016 Southwestern Regional College Band Directors National Association Convention in Boulder, Colorado. The group, made up of 56 Washburn students, performed under the direction of Michael Mapp, assistant professor, music, and director of bands.

In order to be accepted to play, a recording was submitted and anonymously judged by a panel of directors, with the top recordings receiving an invitation to the conference.

Washburn was the smallest school chosen in the

division and played amongst other wind ensembles from Kansas State, Texas Tech and the University of Arkansas, to name a few.

Preparing for a performance like this wasn't easy.

"I recorded every single rehearsal and then listened to it in the evening," Mapp said. "The students then read the notes and listened to the recording in order to better prepare for the next rehearsal."

The ensemble completed the world premiere of two new pieces during the performance – "On Love" by Daniel McIntosh and "The Moon Glistens" by Joni Greene.

# AACSB ACCREDITATION EXTENDED FOR SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Washburn University School of Business has maintained its business accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. The organization recently completed Washburn's Continuous Improvement Review and extended the University's accreditation through 2020.

William Glick, chairman of the AACSB Board of Directors, commended Washburn on several strengths, innovations and effective practices, including:

- Highly dedicated faculty members with a strong focus on classroom teaching and student success.
- High demand and affordable academic programs that attract a strong local student base and provide employees for local and regional businesses.
- Relatively small class sizes provide the opportunity for greater student attention and interaction.
- Strong interaction between the Washburn University Kansas Small Business Development Center and the School enables students and faculty to work on real projects and provide consulting to SBDC clients.
- The school has effectively added a new graduate program in accountancy and new undergraduate concentrations in international business as well as entrepreneurship and innovation.

David Sollars, dean, School of Business, credits many things for the school's success.

"First, we have experienced and knowledgeable faculty and staff members who are dedicated to the success of our students," Sollars said. "Second, through the generosity of donors and other community supporters, the school has the resources to offer innovative and exciting academic and extracurricular programs, and also provides outstanding scholarship support to our students. Third, we attract high-quality students who go on and are successful in their chosen endeavors."

Washburn University School of Business has been AACSB accredited since 2006.

AACSB accreditation is the hallmark of excellence in business education. Founded in 1916, AACSB International is the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees in business and accounting. According to AACSB data, only the top 5 percent of all the business programs in the world have achieved this distinction.



# ALUMNI AWARDS

Note: Denise Ottinger, vice president for student life, received the Lilla Day Monroe Award. See her story on page 19.

---

## Ashley Charest, ba '99, mba '06, Graduate of the Last Decade Award



She is the vice president, membership development for the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce and is the former vice president, client relations for Centric Management and Consulting.

Charest is the current president of the Kansas Society of Association

Executives, former chair of the American Cancer Society's Cogutur for Cancer, served on the Board of Directors

from 2009-2015 for Court Appointed Special Advocates, and has served on the Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae Board as vice president, membership, fundraising chair and president. She is also a certified association executive and a member of Leadership Greater Topeka.

On Washburn: "My fondest memories of Washburn surround Greek Week. My sorority would get with all other chapters and have great competition. Whether it was karaoke night or the annual banquet, the time with my sisters was the best."

---

## Bill and Emilie Gahnstrom, Honorary Ichabods



Bill has been a lecturer in the math and statistics department at Washburn for 22 years, and Emilie has been a full-time volunteer for more than 20 years for KTWU, Topeka Civic Theatre and as a Shawnee County Master Gardener.

Bill and Emilie joined the Washburn University Alumni Association in 2001 and became life members in 2006. They regularly attend a wide range of activities at Washburn including After Hours, tailgating and Washburn music performances, and they have volunteered at KTWU for many years. Bill is a football and basketball season ticket holder and attends athletic events involving his current students. Bill and Emilie have also provided financial support for Washburn in a variety of ways.

Bill has served as secretary of the Kaw Valley Chapter

of the Military Officer's Association of America and as treasurer of the Highland Park High School Alumni Association. He has received a Meritorious Medal and a Navy Commendation Medal with two stars from the U.S. Navy. Emilie is also a Topeka Daylily Club photographer, and she has photographed three national award-winning daylily designs.

On Washburn: Bill – "My lasting memory is of the smiles and laughter of students at the beginning of 'exams,' because I don't give tests/exams. Instead we have 'celebrations' to celebrate what they have learned and these events are marked by my party attire, music and novelties appropriate for the occasion."

Emilie – "I truly enjoy the performances presented by the Washburn Music Department students. It's a thrill to watch the students accomplish their goals each time we attend a recital or concert."

## David Manley, bba '67, Distinguished Service Award



After graduation, he served four years in the Air Force including a year in the Vietnam War. After completing his military service, he was employed by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas holding various management positions eventually leading him to becoming

vice president, member services until 2004 when he retired after 32 years with the company.

Manley was an active member of the Washburn University Alumni Board of Directors from 2011-2015,

and was integral in developing the Ichabod bench sculpture west of Morgan Hall. He currently serves as chairman on the administrative council for Crestview United Methodist Church, Topeka, Kansas.

On Washburn: "My fondest memory that I have at Washburn University is marrying my wife of 49 years during the semester break of our senior year. Washburn University faculty and staff contributed greatly to the successful career that I had. The curriculum and encouragement they provided resulted in a challenging learning environment. For that, I am forever grateful."

---

## Jim David Martin, bba '79, Col. John Ritchie Award



He is the Henrietta and G.W. Snyder Jr. professor for the Washburn University School of Business and former senior vice president of finance for Westar Energy.

He has been a board member of the Kansas City Chapter of

Financial Executives International and the Washburn Catholic Campus Center. He is also a member of Leadership Greater Topeka, Kansas Society of CPAs and Sigma Phi Epsilon.

He received the Ned N. Fleming Excellence in Teaching Award in 2014, the John C. & Betty Dicus Teaching Excellence Award in 2006 and 2013 and the A. Roy Meyers Award for Excellence in Research in 2012.

On Washburn: "Getting an accounting degree at Washburn was not easy, but it prepared me for a 22-year professional and executive career in accounting and finance. It also was a great springboard into one of the best graduate accounting programs at the University of Texas. Washburn has also provided me the best opportunity of all, that is, the opportunity to fulfill a desire to teach."

---

## Pam O'Toole Trusdale, bs '75, Distinguished Service Award



She is the executive director of the National Association of Trailer Manufacturers, a life member of the Washburn Alumni Association and served on the Washburn University Board of Regents from 2011-15, serving as vice chair from 2014-15.

She was president of Nonoso alumnae chapter from 2013-15, and served as the chair of the Stormont Vail Foundation from 2006-09. While

at Washburn, she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta, and is a past president, past corporation president and Washburn Chapter financial advisor to the sorority.

On Washburn: "One of the biggest honors I have had was being appointed to the Washburn Board of Regents in 2011. It was an honor to be able to serve my alma mater and to be a member of the Board during a time when so many positive things were happening at Washburn – the KBI partnership, the new Law School, Vision 2022, the new dorm and the renovation of Morgan Hall."

## Ty Walrod, bba '06, Graduate of the Last Decade Award



He is the CEO and co-founder of Bright Funds, a technology platform unlocking the multi-billion dollar market for individual and workplace giving.

Prior to Bright Funds, Walrod co-founded OutServe, a global nonprofit organization that united thousands of service members and worked to build an environment of respect and equality in the U.S. Armed Services.

He serves on the boards of directors of Sustainable Silicon Valley and Startup & Tech Mixer, and he is an active member of Silicon Valley Leadership Group and Founders Network.

On Washburn: “My fondest memories were those forged as one of the first classes to reside in the Living Learning Center. We had a lot of fun, learned a lot and managed to stay out of trouble for the most part. I remain close with this group from ‘Third West,’ and we still manage to get together about every year to catch up on life post-Washburn. Some of my best friends to date are among this group.” 🚶



# CLASS NOTES

Submit your news online at [washburn.edu/alumni-notes](http://washburn.edu/alumni-notes), post it on Facebook at [facebook.com/washburnalumni](https://facebook.com/washburnalumni), or email [wualumni@washburn.edu](mailto:wualumni@washburn.edu). The deadline for the fall 2016 edition of the magazine is May 23. Any class notes received after the deadline will be published in a later edition.

## 1960s

**Gary Peer**, ba '63, Tulsa, Oklahoma, has retired after a noteworthy career in higher education, most recently as provost/vice president of Texas A&M University, Commerce, Texas, where he was named provost emeritus by the Texas A&M University System College Station, Texas. In 2010, he was honored as a Washburn University Alumni Fellow.

## 1970s

**Vaden Bales**, jd '75, Tulsa, Oklahoma, has been elected as a shareholder of the firm of Hall Estill in the Tulsa and Oklahoma City offices. Bales joined Hall Estill in 2014 as a senior attorney who practices solely in the areas of business transactions, banking and real estate law.

**Jan Hamilton**, ba '70, jd '73, Topeka, Kansas, received the 2015 Robert L. Gernon Award for outstanding service to continuing legal education in Kansas. He currently serves as Standing Chapter 13 Trustee for Topeka, an appointment he has held since 1998.

**Lee Hess**, jd '78, Seattle, Washington, has retired from the United States Foreign Service after 28 years as a diplomat with postings to Iraq, Germany, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Zimbabwe, Armenia, Colombia and Bolivia.

**Steven Martin**, bsn '79, Omaha, Nebraska, was inducted into the Omaha Business Hall of Fame in April.

**Ricklin Pierce**, bba '75, ba '78, jd '78, Garden City, Kansas, has been appointed to the 25th District Court by Gov. Sam Brownback. He previously served as District Magistrate Judge and a Finney County prosecutor.

## 1980s

**Martha Bartlett Piland**, ba '86, Topeka, Kansas, recently published a book entitled "Culturing Creative, a guidebook for fostering the curiosity and creativity that solve everyday problems." The book is written and illustrated by Piland. She established MB Piland Advertising & Marketing in 1998.

## 1990s

**Rebecca Foth**, aa '91, bs '95, mba '02, Olathe, Kansas, has been appointed vice president of real estate, Retro Fitness. She will oversee company growth plans nationwide, including specific targeted growth markets such as California, Texas and Florida.

**Marilyn Jacobson**, jd '90, Topeka, Kansas, has been named chief financial officer and general counsel of KVC Health Systems. She previously served as special assistant and

general counsel, focusing on financial, legislative and related projects.

## 2000s

**Laura Burton**, ba '05, Topeka, Kansas, has been appointed to The Topeka Capital-Journal editorial advisory board. The board is a volunteer group that discusses and suggests topics for editorial consideration. Burton is the communications coordinator for Midland Care Hospice.

**Kirk Easton**, m ed '01, Lennox, South Dakota, has been selected superintendent of the Spearfish school district in South Dakota.

**Jason Geier**, jd '00, Topeka, Kansas, has been named a Municipal Court administrative judge. He previously served as a senior assistant Shawnee County district attorney.

**Patrick Hayes**, ba '03, Clay Center, Kansas, was named chairman of the Clay Center City Recreation Commission in January. He will oversee the city's recreation program and will be chiefly responsible for the city league baseball program.

**Beth Martino**, ba '00, Columbia, Maryland, has been named president and chief executive officer of the Maryland Food Bank, the largest charitable food provider in Maryland with an operating budget of more than

\$78 million and a staff of more than 130 employees across the state.

**Sarah Shipman**, jd '05, Topeka, Kansas, was confirmed as secretary of administration by the Kansas Senate.

**Tabitha Reist Steiner**, b music '00, Overland Park, Kansas, is harpist with the Kansas City Chorale. The Kansas City Chorale and the Phoenix Chorale won a Grammy award Feb. 15, 2016, for a collaborative recording of "Rachmaninoff: All Night Vigil."

## FRIENDS

**Marguerite Underhill**, former Washburn University and Washburn Tech adjunct professor, was honored for a lifetime of work by the Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association. Underhill was inducted into the 2016 EMS Hall of Fame in February, the highest individual recognition awarded to a Kansas EMS. Underhill served as an adjunct for 36 years. 

# IN MEMORY

## 1930s

**Lucile (Geyer) Doyle**, ba '39, 99, Solomons, Maryland, on Dec. 10, 2015

## 1940s

**Clara (Brandt) Burrell**, ba '46, 90, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 27, 2015

**Gerald Cauldwell**, ba '46, jd '48, 99, Wichita, Kansas, on July 6, 2015

**Howard James**, ba '49, 90, Littleton, Colorado, on Feb. 19, 2015

**Margaret Pratt**, ba '45, 90, on May 6, 2015

**Bernice (Draut) Testa**, ba '40, 96, Raleigh, North Carolina, on Feb. 18, 2015

## 1950s

**Lawrence Andra**, jd '58, 87, Wichita, Kansas, on Oct. 22, 2015

**Jack Euler**, ba '53, jd '53, Wathena, Kansas, on Dec. 31, 2015

**Edward Hanson**, ba '52, 86, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 16

**Helen (Degnan) Hinton**, aa '54, 83, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 13

**LeRoy Johnson**, ba '52, 86, Ames, Iowa, on May 5, 2015

**Jennet (Grossman) Jones**, ba '59, 79, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 4

**Herbert Kelley**, ba '51, jd '53, 89, Lutherville, Maryland, on Jan. 2

**Richard Loffswold**, jd '52, 92, Girard, Kansas, on Jan. 16

**Charles McCarter**, jd '53, 89, St. Louis, Missouri

**Robert Myers**, jd '50, 90, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 23, 2015

**Frank Rice**, ba '52, jd '59, 84, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 18

**Samuel Sturm**, jd '52, 92, Wichita, Kansas, on Dec. 29, 2015

**William Wiperman**, ba '55, 85, Centennial, Colorado, on July 25, 2015

Note: Correction to **Kenneth Huske**, ba '52, law attendee, 89, Topeka, Kansas, on Oct. 17. Survivors include his daughters **C. Marlae Huske**, bba '94; **Debra**

**Huske-Davies**, ba '75; and son-in-law, **J. Michael Davies**, ba '72, jd '76.

## 1960s

**Donna (Currier) Lacey**, b ed '62, 82, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 29

**Doreen (Toal) Overman**, ba '64, 75, Topeka, Kansas, on Feb. 9

## 1970s

**Larry Campbell**, jd '75, 73, La Selva Beach, California, on Sept. 11, 2015

**David Hawley**, bba '73, 81, Auburn, Kansas, on Jan. 24

**Lyle Holdren**, bba '74, 70, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 26, 2015

**Maria (Fernandez) Jones**, b ed '70, 68, Alamo, California, on Sept. 25, 2015

**Joe Lang**, jd '77, 71, Wichita, Kansas, on Nov. 5, 2015

**John Pavlis**, b ed '71, 67, St. John, Indiana, on Jan. 12

**Larry Privat**, b ed '72, 74, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 26

**Anne (Oliver) Schroer**, jd '78, 63, Berryton, Kansas, on Dec. 31, 2015

**Frederick Stone**, bs '73, 72, Topeka, Kansas on Jan. 17

**Morris Taylor**, bs '73, 66, Topeka, Kansas on Dec. 10, 2015

**Steven Wehmeier**, bba '71, 71, Highlands Ranch, Colorado, on Nov. 1, 2015

## 1980s

**Edward Gillette**, jd '84, 56, Kansas City, Kansas, on Jan. 6

**Michael Lebbert**, aa '85, ba '86, 56, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 25, 2015

**Mark Lindstrom**, jd '83, 62, Shawnee, Kansas, on May 6, 2015

**John Neidholdt**, jd '84, 62, Overland Park, Kansas, on April 26, 2015

**Maureen (Josling) O'Donovan**, aa '86, bs '88, 66, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 4, 2015

**Kim (Heptig) Smith**, ba '81, 58, North Canton, Ohio, on Feb. 9

**William Stringer**, bba '90, 73, Silver Lake, Kansas, on Jan. 12

## 1990s

**Pamela (Piper) Gorley**, as '91, 54, Silver Lake, Kansas, on Dec. 18, 2015

**Eileen Ross**, ba '95, ba '96, 68, Talihina, Oklahoma, on Dec. 28, 2015

**Mamie (Wahwassuck) Rupnicki**, ba '92, 76, Mayetta, Kansas, on Dec. 1, 2015

**Peggy (Denton) Shughart**, msw '97, 68, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 6, 2015

**John Taylor**, aa '92, 63, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 24, 2015

**Gregory Wold**, ba '94, 69, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 7

## 2000s

**Sharity Kranz**, LPN '08, 30, Holton, Kansas, on Nov. 28, 2015

## 2010s

**Christopher Gomez**, Washburn Tech '15, 53, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 3, 2015

## FRIENDS

**Matthew Barber**, Washburn student, 38, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 15, 2015

**Brent Fender**, Facilities Services, 44, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 27, 2015

**Theodore Ice**, 81, Newton, Kansas, on Nov. 23, 2015

**Jerry Kyles**, Facilities Services, 60, Topeka, Kansas, on Nov. 24, 2015

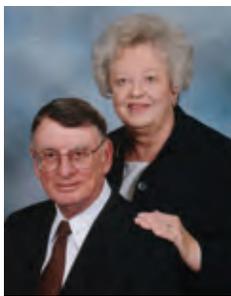
**Harriette (Harkins) Ramsey**, 90, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 18

**Melvin Peterson**, 86, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 22, 2015

**Katherine Smith**, Mabee Library, 85, Topeka, Kansas, on May 5, 2015



## Frank Morgan Rice, former chair of the Board of Regents, 84, on Jan. 18, 2016



Frank, who passed in January 2016, and his wife, Betty Rice.

Frank Morgan Rice graduated from Washburn University with a bachelor's degree in 1952, a master's degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin, and he graduated magna cum laude from Washburn University School of Law in 1959. During his undergraduate years, he was a member of Alpha Delta and Sagamore.

Rice taught economics and law at Washburn, and he practiced law in Topeka for 49 years. He served on the Board of Regents for Washburn from 1973-81, serving as chair from 1978-79. He also served on the Washburn Law School Association Board of Governors from 1974-75 and again in 1977-79.

In 2004, he and his wife established the Frank M. Rice and Betty J. Rice Law Scholarship Fund to support law school students.

---

## Ruth Crow, wife of the Honorable Sam Crow, 90, on Feb. 14, 2016



nursing and organizational skills to help start the first hospice program in Topeka.

Ruth Crow trained to become a nurse at Jane C. Stormont Hospital when it was in Potwin Place in Topeka, Kansas, and was a proud member of the Cadet Nursing Corps. She became the supervisor of surgery at Jane C. Stormont and later used her

Ruth married the Honorable Sam Crow, jd '52, on January 30, 1948. She took a leadership role in Republican Party politics, working especially hard for family friend, the Honorable Robert Dole, ba '52, jd '52. She and her husband were avid supporters of Washburn University School of Law.

In memoriam, Ruth's family has started the Ruth M. Crow Nursing Scholarship at Washburn University's School of Nursing, via the Washburn University Foundation, 1729 SW MacVicar Ave, Topeka, KS 66604.

---

## Hayden St. John, ba '62, jd '70, Washburn University Board of Trustees, 75, on March 17, 2016



Who's Who among students in American Colleges and Universities.

In 2004, St. John joined the Washburn University

Foundation Board of Trustees. He also served on the Washburn Alumni Association Board of Directors. In 2006, he was honored with the Distinguished Service award from Washburn University.

St. John founded Lawyers Title of Topeka, Inc., together with his father, Harry H. St. John, Jr. and Robert T. Craig, III. At the time of his death, he was chairman of the board.

St. John is survived by his wife, Susan (Stratton), b ed '65. They have two grown sons, Chris and David, and three grandchildren.



## ALETHA CUSHINBERRY, FOUNDING FACULTY MEMBER IN THE SCHOOL OF NURSING, 79, ON DEC. 26, 2015

Aletha Cushmanberry. *Photo submitted.*

**A**letha (Thomas) Cushmanberry taught in the Washburn University School of Nursing from its beginning in 1974 until her retirement in 1993 as associate professor when she was awarded emeritus status. However, she loved nursing so much she returned to Washburn in 1997 and taught again for a short time.

“She loved helping the students and seeing that they would correctly understand everything they were taught so they could do a better job as a nurse,” said Larry Cushmanberry, her husband of 39 years.

Her tenure at Washburn led the University to name a special award in her honor. At every Washburn School of Nursing recognition ceremony since her retirement, a student is named the recipient of the Aletha Cushmanberry Professionalism Award. The award recognizes the sound application of evidence-based nursing knowledge in clinical situations while displaying an exemplary role of the nursing profession.

Her love of education and teaching extended into the ministry where she served as the pastor of the Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ for 49 years. She was the first woman in the denomination to be named a suffragan bishop, and in early 2015, she became the first female bishop to serve the 1.5 million-member denomination.

“She was overwhelmed with being named bishop. She was just so surprised,” he said. “She enjoyed serving others through teaching and preaching, and that’s just something that she did because that’s what she was called to do.”

In the community, she also volunteered at the Topeka Justice Unity Ministry Project, the Topeka African American Pastors Coalition and United Way. She also taught Bible classes once a week at the Shawnee County Department of Corrections for more than 10 years.

She attended Washburn from 1954-55 and again in 1960. She received a diploma in nursing from Stormont-Vail HealthCare and became a registered nurse in 1957. She received a bachelor’s of nursing in 1964 and a doctorate of education in 1986 from University of Kansas, Lawrence, and her master’s in nursing in 1969 from Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. She was a member of Nonoso, Alpha Iota Omega and served as graduate advisor to the Upsilon Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority incorporated at Washburn.

In fall 2015, she and the entire Cushmanberry family were named Ichabod Notables as part of the University’s sesquicentennial celebration.



# Brick Sales Phase II

---

Bricks are back! Order yours today!

Back by popular demand. Take advantage of this opportunity to have your own personalized brick in the Ichabod Plaza. Join the hundreds of other Ichabods and friends who have commemorated their time on campus, honored a friend or loved one, or remembered a special professor.

Purchase your brick before May 20, 2016, and it will be added to the plaza in August 2016 in time for the fall semester.

Show your Ichabod pride. Leave your legacy.

**[GiveToWashburn.org/bricks](http://GiveToWashburn.org/bricks)**  
**1-844-ICHABOD (1-844-424-2263)**

*Leave a lasting*  
**IMPRESSION** | The Brick Campaign  
for Morgan Hall

# ALUMNI TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES



*In January, 95 Washburn alumni and friends enjoyed a week-long trip to the Mexican Riviera Maya at the Grand Palladium Riviera Resort and Spa. Another trip to Mexico is planned for January 2017.*

## **CUBA: OCT. 3-11, 2016**

As diplomatic relations between Cuba and the U.S. continue to develop, now is the perfect time to experience this long-isolated nation on the verge of great transformation. Join us on an extraordinary people-to-people exchange, specially designed to reveal the authentic spirit and culture of Cuba. Cost per person is \$5,499 double occupancy and includes one night in Miami, round-trip charter flight between Miami and Havana, seven nights' accommodations: five nights in Havana, two nights in Sancti Spiritus, 19 meals, full schedule of educational activities and sight seeing, private

English-speaking national guide and more. For additional information, contact Susie Hoffmann at [susie@washburn.edu](mailto:susie@washburn.edu) or visit [www.washburn.edu/alumni-travel](http://www.washburn.edu/alumni-travel). Space is very limited and will sell out quickly. A second departure date of Oct. 13-21, 2016, is also available.

## **MORE INFORMATION ON OUR TRIPS**

For more information about Alumni Association travel opportunities, visit [washburn.edu/alumni-travel](http://washburn.edu/alumni-travel) or contact Susie Hoffmann at 785.670.1641.