

WASHBURN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION — FALL 2019

# THE ICHABOD







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TOWER

PAXSON  
TOWER



### On the cover:

The Ichabod statue and Ichabod Plaza were dedicated during Grand Homecoming and Washburn's 150th anniversary celebration in 2015. Rita Blitt's "Confluence of Love and Learning" sits behind the Ichabod statue. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*



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

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# From the President

When we talk about what it takes to be an Ichabod, typically, it is a lifelong commitment. For so many of our most engaged alumni, the Washburn experience becomes a part of who they are early on. This issue reflects on the lives and values of those who remind us daily what an Ichabod should be.

We reflect on the lives of Ichabods we lost this year and the examples by which they led. In April, we lost a dear friend when Jim Sloan passed away. Mr. Sloan let his passion and enthusiasm spill over on everyone. Throughout his life, he volunteered much of his time, expertise and treasure to Washburn and his beloved Alpha Delta fraternity. We also lost Robert “Bob” Lee in July, a caring and thoughtful Ichabod for whom, along with his wife, Sallee, we named our athletics arena. Both individual’s legacies will live on through their generosity. I urge you to read our memorial tribute to them and other Ichabods in this edition and learn more about their amazing lives.

Tragedy struck when football players Dwane Simmons and Corey Ballentine were shot in April. Corey had just been selected in the NFL Draft, and Dwane was preparing for his senior year. Sadly, Dwane lost his life. Corey has made a strong recovery and has been impressive with the New York Giants. This edition celebrates Corey’s football achievements and reflects on Dwane’s infectious spirit. Washburn classrooms have one less passionate student. The football team has one less motivating voice. But we all have one more enduring example of what an Ichabod should be.

The values all these individuals represented live on in so many graduates. You will read about Ichabods Moving Forward, a student philanthropy group focused on raising money from peers and awarding grants to students in financial emergencies. It is valuable when students learn early the rewards of giving back.

We also celebrate the 65th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education. African-American lawyers, trained at Washburn, helped craft the case, and we are proud Washburn has always been a place for people who want to make a difference in the world.

Alumnus and world-renowned graphic artist Bradbury Thompson, when designing the Ichabod mascot in 1938, said the following. As you read it, think of the values and the knowledge you gained while at Washburn and consider how you live each day with the spirit of an Ichabod.

“He has courage and enthusiasm, as shown by his brisk walk. He is democratic and courteous, for he tips his hat as he passes. Sincere in his search for truth and knowledge, he studiously carries a book under his arm. His friendly smile makes you like him. He is neatly dressed and he fits in well with his generation ... but he adapts himself with equal ease to any change or any age.”





**STATE THE TOPEKA JOURNAL**  
The Strafford Publications, Inc.  
Topeka, Kansas, Monday, May 17, 1954—Twenty-four Pages  
Home Edition  
FIVE CENTS

**SCHOOL SEGREGATION BANNED**

**Supreme Court Refutes Doctrine of Separate but Equal Education**  
High Tribunal Fails to Specify When Practice of Dual Schools Must Be Dropped by States

Washington, May 17 (AP)—The Supreme court ruled unanimously Monday that segregation of Negro and white students in public schools is unconstitutional. And it said it will hear further arguments this fall on how and when to end the practice.

Those many months will shape more time will before the historic case out.

**Court Ruling Hailed**  
Segregation Already Ending School Officials

**“Today, education is perhaps the most important function of state and local government. Compulsory school attendance laws and the great expenditures for education both demonstrate our recognition of the importance of education to our democratic society... WE CONCLUDE THAT IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION THE DOCTRINE OF 'SEPARATE BUT EQUAL' HAS NO PLACE. SEPARATE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES ARE INHERENTLY UNEQUAL.”**

*Oliver L. Brown, et al. vs Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, United States Supreme Court, May 17, 1954.*

**Turnpike Bonds**  
Arrived So

**FOLKS AND THINGS**  
By 2054 This Bill Should Be Terrific

**L. DRELL** it was that Jim Lane and his five other army cadets figured it wasn't an crime to steal a horse from a Kentuckian soldier.

A Kentucky man caught his mother's hat a Kentucky congressman and even of his last one for himself. He is good. Don't forget to read it.

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An exhibit in the Washburn University School of Law Library titled “In Pursuit of Freedom & Equality: Kansas and the African American Public School Experience, 1855-1955,” chronicles, among other things, Washburn’s connections to this historic case.

# Ideal Connections

Washburn Law has been training grounds for many fighting for civil rights

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

Washburn College President Norman Plass said during his 1902 inaugural address this was the “ideal place” for a law school. Topeka had the legal infrastructure to provide proper training and career opportunities.

Plass’ vision was realized a year later, and today, Washburn University School of Law remains the ideal place to impact the world through a legal education. The impact may best be seen in the roles Washburn-trained lawyers played in the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* case ultimately decided by the United States Supreme Court. Washburn hosted a celebration of the May 17, 1954, decision with a banquet on the 65th anniversary earlier this year.



Delano Lewis

Two prominent African-American Washburn graduates reflected on the case and their connections to people who paved the way for an end to segregation in public school education.

“When May 17 comes around, I typically think about the role Washburn lawyers played,” said Ambassador Delano Lewis, jd ’63, h ’00. “I think about my view of that case and its impact on my life in Kansas City, Kansas, the lifelong friendships I have had from those associated with the *Brown* case and then about Washburn itself.”

Lewis was attending Sumner High School in Kansas City, Kansas, an African-American school and the only segregated high school in the state when Brown was decided. When he graduated two years later in 1956, there was one white student in his class.

“In high school, I decided maybe I’d like to pursue a career in the law,” said Lewis, who worked as an attorney in the Department of Justice and served as ambassador to South Africa from 1999-2001. “It was my intent to use the law to make changes in society, particularly those issues of discrimination based on race.”

Lewis attended the University of Kansas and then Washburn Law where he learned of and met persons who shaped his career. The Scott, Scott and Scott law firm with Elisha Scott, Sr., jd ’16, John Scott, ba ’42, jd ’47, and Charles Scott, ba ’48, jd ’48, along with Charles Bledsoe, who attended Washburn Law, represented the NACCP in filing the Brown v. Board case in Topeka. Lewis got to know the Scott family and he and John Scott later worked together in the federal government.

A partner in the firm, Samuel Jackson, ba ’51, jd ’54, became friends with Lewis. President Lyndon Johnson later appointed Jackson to be one of the first commissioners of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Jackson, in turn, asked Lewis to be on a task force to launch the EEOC. After 10 years as a federal attorney, Lewis worked in telecommunications in Washington, D.C., and in 1994, he became president and CEO of National Public Radio. President Bill Clinton nominated him ambassador to South Africa in 1999.

“It speaks a lot to Washburn and a lot to its graduates,” Lewis said of the connections to the Brown case. “All those relationships were helpful to my career.”

Another Washburn connection to the case was developing as a young man watched his aunt fight for justice prior to Brown v. Board. The Honorable Paul Brady, ba ’51, jd ’56, h ’04, observed his aunt, Lucinda Todd, fight the Topeka school board to provide her daughter music education. She was secretary of the Topeka NAACP, became one of 13 Brown plaintiffs and was on the leadership team that crafted the litigation.

“When they would have the meetings in Aunt Cindy’s home, I recall how they used to pull down the

blinds because people were driving by and watching and looking at those people who were coming in,” said Brady, who became the first African-American attorney in the Federal Power Commission and the first African-American federal administrative law judge. “Meeting with those lawyers, hearing them and their discussions, I was so impressed that I wanted to make the law my career.”

Graduating high school in Flint, Michigan, Brady was rejected from attending General Motors Institute, a technical school. There were few options for African-Americans there, so he came to Washburn.



The Honorable Paul Brady, ba ’51, jd ’56, h ’04, at the 65th anniversary commemoration with (from left) Loretta Burnette; his wife, Xernona Clayton; and Stephanie Coleman Carson. *Photo by Michaela Saunders*

“Had I gone on and taken a job as a janitor at General Motors after they wouldn’t allow me into the General Motors Institute, I would have been very bitter,” Brady said. “It was so important for me to show that, given the opportunity, a black man can do the same thing a white man can do. My whole life was that way.”

Washburn Law recognized Brady during the Brown v. Board 65th anniversary celebration in May.

“Having Judge Brady and his wife, Xernona Clayton, visit campus was an amazing experience,” said Carla Pratt, dean, Washburn Law. “Judge Brady and Ambassador Lewis are perfect examples of what people can achieve when given equal opportunities in education. I would not be where I am now if not for the role Topeka has played in civil rights history, and I’m proud Washburn graduates have been a part of it.” 🏃





The 2019 WIFI Film Festival garnered almost 2,000 film submissions, and the mass media department was able to screen 72 of them during the three-day event. *Photo Annalee Lubeski*

# Behind the Scenes

Mass media department's debut film festival considered a huge hit

*By Annie Flachsbarth*

When Washburn University's mass media department decided to launch its first film festival, Matthew Nyquist worried they wouldn't get enough entries for a successful festival. After all, there were less than six months between its inception and the actual event.

Leave it to the filmmakers to provide a happy ending.

Almost 2,000 films from nearly 90 countries were submitted for the first Washburn International Film Institute Film Festival held April 11-13, 2019 – coinciding with the department's 25th anniversary celebrations. Of the 2,000 submissions, organizers selected and screened 72 films at White Concert Hall and the Rita Blitt Gallery and Sculpture Garden.

"We ended up with about 670 hours' worth of film," said Nyquist, assistant professor, mass media. "Some of the content we got was so good. We even had the Academy Award-winning short film 'Skin' submitted."

## The Making of WIFI

WIFI was founded on the belief that cinema is one of the most democratic arts with its ability to reach large audiences on an accessible and inclusive level. So, one of the main priorities of the festival is to give Washburn students and the region a place to showcase and promote their work.



As the festival's founder, Nyquist worked closely with Maria Stover, chair and professor, mass media, to get things up and running. As managing director of the event, Stover said the funding from donors and the volunteers on campus made this event successful.

"We had 67 volunteers over the three-day festival, including teachers and students from across the mass media department and other majors," Stover said. "It really took a village and an entire community to make this happen, which is also what made this so exciting."

Nyquist brought in his friend and former film professor, Allan Holzman, from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, as a founding trustee of the event. As a Peabody and two-time Emmy-winning filmmaker, with such credits to his name as director-editor of Steven Spielberg's "Survivors of the Holocaust," Holzman brought an air of distinction and loads of experience to the festival.

The festival featured Holzman's "The Art of Directing," series about Hollywood directors, a documentary entitled, "#TAKEMEANYWHERE," by actor and filmmaker Shia LaBeouf, and many other films including those submitted by Washburn students and alumni.

"One of the things I've focused on in my time so far at Washburn is to get students as much professional exposure as possible," Nyquist said. "When we showed the Academy Award-winning movie at the festival, we showed all the Washburn films right before to give the most visibility to Washburn student films. People came away really impressed."

In addition to professional exposure, the film festival is also giving future students – as well as others around the world – a glimpse of what is possible at Washburn.

"Two-thousand more people from across the world now know about Washburn. That alone is a tremendous impact," Washburn President Jerry Farley said during the festival.

Forty-two faculty, community and staff judges helped evaluate the film submissions in eight categories including full-length features, short films, documentaries, Washburn student and alumni films and Kansas student films. Farley even judged a category and was present to bestow the first WIFI Film Festival President's Award. The award was

presented live via Skype to Yasmin Mistry for her film "For a Better Life."

## A Sequel in 2020

With a successful first WIFI Film Festival behind them, the department is already working on next year's festival with plans to get even more of the community, students and alumni involved.

"We're already accepting submissions for 2020," Nyquist said. "We'll also be doing some of the screenings at the Jayhawk Theatre in downtown Topeka in addition to the screenings on Washburn's campus."



Matthew Nyquist, assistant professor, mass media, and Maria Stover, chair and professor, mass media, are planning a second WIFI Film Festival for April 2-4, 2020. Photo by Patrick Early

The second annual WIFI Film Festival is set for April 2-4, 2020, during a First Friday Artwalk. The department is working to host several established filmmakers to offer free workshops and master classes.

Alumni and others are encouraged to get involved in the 2020 Festival through submitting their own films, volunteering, judging, donating or attending. Through increased efforts to stay engaged with alumni, the department raised more than \$6,000 to support initiatives like WIFI through the Feb. 6 Day of Giving and an Impact crowdfunding page in celebration of the 25th anniversary.

"We are truly enjoying establishing these new traditions with students and alumni," Stover said. "We have been very busy this year, but there is an immediate impact and the rewards are great." 🏃

# Moving Forward

Student group raising funds to benefit other students

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

Ana Lima found herself in a financial predicament last spring, and a new student group, Ichabods Moving Forward, was there to help.

Lima grew up in Brazil and received a scholarship to attend Washburn University. After she graduated in 2014 with honors, she took a job as a case manager helping people with intellectual disabilities.

"I helped them connect with and receive their services, and it was a very rewarding, but difficult job," she said. "I was the only one in the nearest county who could also speak Spanish, so I traveled around a lot."

Her dream job required a master's degree in psychology, and she was accepted into Washburn's program. Unfortunately, her father had passed away a few years prior, and she was no longer receiving family support for her education.

She knew if she was going to get through the master's program, she had to work hard as international students can't take out federal loans. She took on multiple jobs with Counseling Services, the sexual assault prevention and training program on campus, and the psychology department. Still, without family help, she was not able to pay her expenses working at minimum wage.

"Even though I received the Student Employee of the Year award on campus for all of the work I did, I still needed to pay a good chunk of money to be able to get my transcripts and diploma to my future employer," said Lima, ba '14, ma '19.

That's where Ichabods Moving Forward stepped up. The student-led organization raises money for an emergency fund to help recipients get through one-time financial emergencies when all other resources have been exhausted. Sydney Fox, a communications studies senior who serves on the group's board, said a financial crisis can force students to drop out of school, and students want to help each other during

tough times. Students apply anonymously, and the board reviews their case and decides to award them money or help them navigate other resources.

While it helps Washburn students stay in school, it also teaches the importance of philanthropy to students who donate to the group and those who sit on the decision committee.

"The rewarding part is we are helping students we don't know," Fox said. "I'm a person who likes to help others and it was an organization that was different from anything I was doing."

Because of Ichabods Moving Forward, today, Lima is also helping others. She received a grant from the organization to pay down her tuition bill, and she was able to access her transcripts and diploma after graduating summa cum laude. She was recently hired by Wyandot Behavioral Health Network in Kansas City, Kansas, as a crisis clinician.

"I'm extremely grateful to Washburn," Lima said. "It's the reason I have this job." 🦿



The students in Ichabod Moving Forward work to raise money for a student emergency fund and then review applications and award grants to students in need.

*Photo by Jeremy Wangler*



# First-year Focus

Washburn earns national recognition for student mentoring

By Bayley Baker • [bbaker@wualumni.org](mailto:bbaker@wualumni.org)

Paul Mismaque was born and raised in France. Inspired by the exchange student year he took in high school, he began his search for a college in the United States that would eventually become his home away from home. That college and home is Washburn University.

Mismaque enrolled in The Washburn Experience, also called WU 101, in the fall of 2016. His support system included a faculty mentor, academic advisor, librarian and two peer educators – students who work in the First Year Experience program. A year later, Mismaque himself was a peer educator, and today he is one of two senior peer educators who are leaders in the program.

“I decided to become a peer educator to help Washburn students succeed, as some of my mentors helped me during my first year,” said Mismaque, who is studying marketing and economics.

The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators recognized Mismaque in April as a regional Outstanding Peer Educator for 2018. Also recognized was James Barraclough, director of undergraduate initiatives for the Washburn University Center for Student Success and Retention, who received a regional award for Outstanding Peer Education Advisor. Barraclough is one of Mismaque’s mentors.

“Paul has a rare combination of compassion, drive and intelligence, and it has been a pleasure to work with him,” Barraclough said. “He helped coordinate our 70 active peer educators, planned and led meetings and assisted with our training program for new peer educators.”


In addition to the peer education awards, NASPA also recognized Washburn by naming the University a First Forward institution. This designation recognizes institutions demonstrating a commitment to improving experiences and advancing outcomes of first-generation college students.



James Barraclough (left), Paul Mismaque and Washburn’s Center for Student Success and Retention were honored for their work with first-year and first-generation students. *Photo by Jeremy Wangler*

“This recognition is a true testament to our student-centered mission,” Barraclough said. “Colleagues across our campus have embraced meeting the needs of our students, and this designation will allow us to deepen our knowledge base for supporting first-generation students.”

Washburn considers more than 40 percent of students first-generation, meaning neither of their parents/legal guardians completed a bachelor’s degree, regardless of siblings and other relatives. The first-generation retention specialist, the First-Generation Mentoring Program, the Ichabod Success Institute and a first-generation student section of WU 101 help build a cohort of support for those students.

“The First Year Experience program has helped me become a better leader and person,” Mismaque said. “It is important to feel welcome, and Washburn really values that.” 

# Treated Like Family

Friends commemorate 50 years since semester in Denmark

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

Richard Ross remembers persuading his parents to let him spend a semester abroad while he was a political science student at Washburn University.

“I was wanting to convince my parents this trip was a good idea and I ran across a quote: ‘Travel teaches toleration.’ I have never forgotten that quote,” he said.

British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli’s words guide Ross’s lifelong desire to travel and learn from other cultures. After spending a semester in Copenhagen, Denmark, 50 years ago, the first thing Ross, ba ’71, jd ’75, thought about when he returned home was how soon he could go back.



Richard Ross, ba ’71, jd ’75 (left), and the Honorable Steve Hornbaker, ba ’70, jd ’73, stand in front of “The Little Mermaid” in Langelinie, Denmark. The two made a return trip to the country exactly 50 years after studying there as Washburn students. *Photo submitted*

He made it back several times. Most recently, he and Copenhagen roommate the Honorable Steve Hornbaker, ba ’70, jd ’73, commemorated the 50-year anniversary of their transformational semester with a return trip in February 2019. They relived many of the sights, sounds and tastes influential to them as students. They found the home they lived in and reconnected with their Danish sister. Their hearts were especially warmed when they learned their Danish mother – who has since passed away – saved the photographs they sent her in correspondences over the years.

“I think Richard and I both agree it was one of the greatest experiences we ever had,” said Hornbaker, who has been a judge in the 8th Judicial District in Junction City, Kansas, since 2000. “To relive that in some small way was just incredible.”

## Winning the Dog’s Approval

Ross remembers his Danish mother picking him and Hornbaker up in 1969 in a Volkswagen and sitting in the back because her Irish terrier, Anthony Edward, got to sit up front. She set firm ground rules early, but the expectations helped them better settle into their new home. The family – dog included – quickly warmed to the newcomers.

Ross, who is retired after working for 40 years as the reporter of decisions for the Kansas Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, used a similar approach when he hosted a student from Italy.

“The first day he was here, I set out some rules,” Ross said. “But they were things like, ‘You’re family. If you want something out of the refrigerator, you don’t need to ask permission. You just get it.’”

## Citizens of the World

Linda Elrod, ba ’69, jd ’72, the Richard S. Righter Distinguished Professor of Law in the School of Law,





Richard Ross and the Honorable Steve Hornbaker relived many of the sights, sounds and tastes of Denmark. The study abroad helped shaped their lives and their appreciation for travel and other cultures. *Photos submitted*

also did Washburn's Copenhagen study abroad as a student and has returned more than 15 times.

"It made me think I am a citizen of the world," Elrod said. "Every student should have a study abroad experience if possible. It makes one critically look at our system in comparison with others."

She recalled former student Jessica Dorsey, jd '09, and her reaction during a law school summer program in Utrecht, Netherlands, in 2007 led by Elrod.

"Jessica looked at me with wonder and said, 'This program has changed my life,'" Elrod said.

Washburn had the resources and connections to offer the Denmark program to students across the United States when it started. The program outgrew itself, and other universities were able to run their own trips. Washburn still prides itself on international opportunities for between 150-200 students a year to more than a dozen countries. There are 25 partner universities around the world.

"Study abroad is a transformational experience that has the potential to be a catalyst for many different life-changing, career-changing events in students' lives," said Tina Williams, ba '95, study abroad coordinator, Washburn International Programs. "It's a very introspective experience as well. While you are looking out and learning, you're processing it and bringing it into your world."

She studied in Mexico as a Washburn student and encourages those who have done study abroad trips to share their experiences with students. Maybe they'll go on to have similar experiences.

"I think Benjamin Disraeli is right. Travel teaches toleration," Ross said. "If you go with the attitude that you want to immerse yourself in a different culture, and not with an attitude your way of life is superior and you're just looking, you learn a lot."

Hornbaker agreed.

"You start expanding your knowledge of different people and are able to be more acceptable to their cultures and traditions and not be small-minded about the fact there are people out there who are different than we are." 🚶



Richard Ross and the Honorable Steve Hornbaker found the home they lived in during their semester in Denmark in 1969. They both said the semester was a transformational experience that broadened their worldview. *Photo submitted*

# Never Say No

Alumna's passion shatters glass ceiling in broadcast technology

By Annie Flachsbarth

"I once drove a live truck through a forest fire in the mountains of Central California to get video back in time for the 11 o'clock news."

That may have been a risky situation, but Tish Graham (Nelson), ba '80, is never one to shy away from a challenge. In fact, Graham believes her motto of "never saying no" is what got her to where she is today – serving as ABC Owned Television Stations vice president of broadcast technology in Los Angeles, California. But it almost didn't turn out that way.

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"When someone asks you do to something, say yes and figure it out." - Tish Graham

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Graham graduated high school in Clay Center, Kansas, and came to Washburn University with plans of attending Washburn University School of Law after graduation. She didn't realize it at the time, but her plans changed when she took a TV production class as an elective her sophomore year. Her teacher, KTWU producer Bill Shaffer, and the class made such an impression that she chose to major in mass media – a decision that changed the course of her career.

"I became fascinated with broadcast television," Graham said. "Bill was my mentor from day one, and he was the one who told me to 'Never say no.' When someone asks you do to something, say yes and figure it out."

Shaffer helped Graham get an internship at KTWU, and eventually she took a paid, part-time job. After graduation, she took a position at the local NBC station.

"I just have to laugh. Back then, all the commercials were on two-inch tape. We had commercial breaks

that were four to six commercials long, but we only had three tape machines. I worked overnight making a stack wheel – where I would edit together all the commercials for the next day," Graham said. "That's about as low of a position as you can get at a TV station on the technology side."

As technology advanced, Graham has always worked to stay on top of the latest trends, taking on new challenges along the way. In 1986, she moved to Fresno, California, to join the ABC Owned Television Stations group. She worked at four of the company's eight stations around the country. Her curiosity about technology took her from being a master control operator to a newscast technical director to an IT manager – and eventually to heading a station's entire technology department.

"Many years ago, when I was asked to be an IT manager, I didn't have any IT management experience, but I had computers at home. So I said, 'Sure. I can do that. I'll figure it out,'" Graham said. "That's where I started to understand the importance of computer technology in a TV station."

Not once did Graham let the mostly male-dominated industry slow her down. In 2015, Graham was named ABC Owned Television Stations vice president of broadcast technology – breaking a glass ceiling of becoming the first woman to lead technology for a television station group.

"There are still not enough women in this field," Graham said. "It is great to see young woman and girls are getting more involved in STEM programs. The technology side of the media and entertainment industry is an exciting place to build a rewarding career."

In 2017, Graham received a Broadcasting and Cable Technology Leadership Award. This spring, she received TVNewsCheck's 2019 Women in Technology





Tish Graham, ba '80, won TVNewsCheck's Women in Technology Leadership Award this year. *Photo by EXECUTIVE PORTRAIT - Tish Graham, VP Broadcast Technology, ABC Owned TV Station Group. (ABC/Ed Herrera) © 2019 American Broadcasting Companies, Inc. All rights reserved.*

Leadership Award. Both are well-known, prestigious awards in the media and entertainment industry.

"I am humbled and overwhelmed to be recognized and acknowledged by my colleagues and other leaders across the industry," Graham said. "I just keep doing what I love to do, and it goes back to I never say no."

Although women haven't traditionally gravitated toward this career path, Shaffer isn't at all surprised Graham has consistently excelled.

"I think Tish is where she's at because she's made herself available, proven she can do the job and once she gets into the middle of things, she gets it all accomplished," Shaffer said.

When looking back at highlights of her career, Graham said there are plenty of big moments like

successfully launching major systems, building two TV stations, or even miking up jazz legend Duke Ellington. But for Graham, the moments when something isn't good are when she feels the strongest obligation to do her best.

"When a television station has to go wall to wall to communicate to our communities during a hurricane or a tornado or some type of disaster, it's our job to make sure all the systems and technology are working to bring that information to viewers to make sure they're safe and secure," Graham said. "Making sure our viewers know they can turn to us whenever and wherever they need and we're there for them – at the end of the day, that's what all of this is about."

Graham resides in Pasadena, California, with her husband Rodney Graham. 🏡

# Plan of Action

Alumnus, former CEO focuses on big-picture outcomes in life and business

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By Angela Lutz

In business and in life, Greg Brenneman encourages people to “look for the blue chips.” It’s a poker metaphor – when betting on a hand of cards, blue chips are often worth the most, but it’s easy to become distracted by the abundance of less-valuable white chips.

“Often in life, we love to build our to-do lists, whether we write them down or put them in our iPhone or keep them in our head, and we get satisfaction from crossing things off every day,” Brenneman, bba ’84, h ’99, said. “But mostly, if you look at them, those are really white chips. You really need to ask yourself – what are the things you want to do in your life? What are the blue chips?”

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“I suggest people use the five Fs – faith, family, friends, fitness and finance. If you can get those on a sheet of paper and really order your life around them, it has a dramatic impact.”

- Greg Brenneman

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In the business world, Brenneman is a sought-after expert when it comes to helping CEOs sort priorities. He serves as executive chair of CCMP Capital Advisors, LP, a private equity firm that specializes in leveraged buyout and growth equity transactions. Brenneman works with between 10 and 12 CEOs to help them turn around their struggling organizations. His process is straightforward – he asks leaders to develop a one-page plan focusing primarily on market, finances and people, considering three or four tasks in each area that will dramatically change their business.

“Once you have a plan, you need to put in place a team and an incentive system that will deliver that plan,” Brenneman said. “Most of it is about people – how do you treat people with dignity and respect? How do you reward them for what they do? How do you motivate them? In big companies, it’s really important that everybody knows what the plan is and what their role in the plan is.”

Brenneman’s expertise stems from experience. His stellar resume includes 15 years as the CEO or chair of large companies such as Continental Airlines, Burger King, Quiznos Sub and PwC Consulting.

“I executed turnarounds when they were in a little bit of trouble, fixed them up and made them better,” Brenneman said.

His most famous and well-publicized turnaround was with Continental in the late 1990s. Known for its dysfunctional management and terrible service, the flagging airline was losing money and customers. By sitting down with the company’s leaders and creating one-page plans, Brenneman was able to cut costs while improving the customer experience and empowering employees, simultaneously bolstering Continental’s reputation and ensuring it once again became profitable.

Brenneman later wrote about his experiences with the airline for the Harvard Business Review, which led to the publication of his book, “Right Away and All at Once: Five Steps to Transform Your Business and Enrich Your Life,” in 2016. The book details how individuals can use similar principles to transform their personal lives.

“You need a one-page plan for your business, but you also need a one-page plan for your life,” Brenneman said. “What are your eulogy virtues, not just your resume virtues? What do you want someone to say at your funeral? I suggest people use the five Fs – faith,




family, friends, fitness and finance. If you can get those on a sheet of paper and really order your life around them, it has a dramatic impact.”

Last spring, Brenneman visited Washburn University to meet with students and discuss his book, which is widely read in business classes around the world. David Sollars, dean and professor, School of Business, said it is valuable for students to receive guidance and mentorship from successful alumni like Brenneman.

“It’s one thing to talk about turning around a company, and it’s another thing when you talk to the guy who turned around the company,” Sollars said. “It’s important our students here at Washburn realize they can be as successful as anyone who goes to any college or university in the world. We have so many great alumni who go out and do amazing things. When our students leave us, they’ve got an education

that prepares them to succeed anywhere in the world, and we want to encourage that.”

Over the years, Brenneman and his wife of 35 years, Ronda, b ed ’84, have stayed connected to the University, which conferred on him an honorary doctor of commerce in 1999. He has served as a Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation trustee since 1997, and the School of Business offers the endowed Greg and Ronda Brenneman Professorship in Business Strategy. Brenneman looks forward to developing additional opportunities to connect with and mentor current students.

“Washburn gave us a great education anchored by outstanding professors who really cared,” Brenneman said. “Ronda and I feel an ongoing indebtedness to Washburn. It is where we met each other, started our life together and launched our careers.” 



Greg Brenneman, bba ’84, h ’99, has been CEO or chair of several companies including Continental Airlines, Burger King, Quiznos Sub and PwC Consulting. *Photo submitted*

# Age of Leadership

Wamego connecting his Washburn service to Prairie Band tribal citizens

By Angela Lutz

Raising kids, working full time, taking college courses – any one of these tasks is enough to keep most people busy. But when Jacob “Tug” Wamego, bs ’07, attended Washburn University, he did all three at once. The father of three had a young family and worked the night shift at the Prairie Band Casino in Mayetta, Kansas, while earning his degree in criminal justice. As a nontraditional student who commuted to campus every day, Wamego believes the support of his professors was essential to his success.

“Schedule-wise, Washburn worked with me as a parent and as a person who had a job,” Wamego said. “The instructors were very understanding and supportive, and their doors were always open if I had questions or needed to talk.”

After getting his criminal justice degree, Wamego earned his law degree from the University of Kansas and an MBA from Friends University, and he now serves as president and CEO of Prairie Band, LLC, an economic development company wholly owned by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. As a Prairie Band tribal citizen, Wamego has lived his whole life on the reservation, so he understands the needs of the community.

Having succeeded in a leadership role, he is now trying to give back and help the next generation of tribal citizens.

“I’m getting to the age and point in my career where I can do more service-oriented activities,” he said.

A growing part of this outreach includes becoming more involved with Washburn. Wamego serves on the Washburn Alumni Association board of directors, and he hopes to create avenues for the University to become more connected with Prairie Band, which is located about 15 minutes north of Topeka. According to Wamego, the tribe has invested a lot in grants for citizens to further their education at area schools like Washburn. He is also a board member at GO Topeka,

an organization that focuses on attracting new business to Topeka and Shawnee County.

“A lot of people come to Washburn and they stay because it is a great community,” he said. “The amount of growth that’s happened just over the last couple of years is amazing. I’m happy to reconnect with Washburn and see good things happening with the campus and the University.” 🦋



Jacob Wamego, bs '07, is CEO of Prairie Band, LLC, an economic development company wholly owned by Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. *Photo by Doug Stremel*



# Above and Beyond

Four generations strong, Wiecherts still amazed by Washburn experience

By Chris Marshall

Stan Wiechert wasn't expecting much of a welcome the first time he visited Washburn University.

The University of Cincinnati transfer moved to Topeka sight unseen. The next day, his future wife, Maxine Wiechert, did the same. Two days later, the 1966 tornado destroyed much of Washburn's campus.

So, when Stan made his first trip to the University just two weeks after the storm passed, he questioned whether an appointment would even be possible. But the reception he got made it immediately clear Washburn is where he would enroll. The head of admissions told Stan they could talk right then and there. At least, once there was a place to sit.

"They had a couch," Stan said. "There was still dust and bits of mortar from the rock, and so he got a hand brush, I kid you not, and swept it up so I could sit down."

Since that day, 11 family members, spread across four generations, have enrolled at Washburn. Stan, ba '68, was the first, followed shortly by his father, Stan Sr., who took courses while stationed in the Air Force. Maxine, m ed '78, eventually became an Ichabod as well, working on a master's degree after marrying Stan Jr. and having a pair of daughters, Lisa Hockenberry, bba '93, and Julie Anderson, ba '96.

Washburn roots continue to grow thanks to Hockenberry's four daughters, including Angela Huffman, ba '18, who met her now-husband, Trevor, ba '18, in a history class. Even the Huffmans, who preferred sitting in the back rows, still felt a connection with faculty. Trevor recalled the efforts of his advisor, Tracy Routsong, assistant dean and professor, College of Arts and Sciences, and professor, communication studies.

"I was shy, and she got me to open up," he said. "From that point on, my academic career changed because she was right behind me the whole way."




(From left, seated) Lisa Hockenberry, bba '93, Maxine Wiechert, m ed '78, Stan Wiechert, ba '68, (standing) Marc Anderson, als '19, Julie Anderson, ba '96, Trevor Huffman, ba '18, and Angela Huffman, ba '18, pose on campus. Stan holds a picture of his father, Stan Wiechert, Sr., attendee. Photo by Michael C. Snell

Washburn's willingness to go above and beyond remains evident in 2019. After putting his education on hold as an undergraduate, Julie's husband, Marc Anderson, als '19, was inspired to resume his pursuit of a degree while watching his niece, Angela's, graduation ceremony.

Marc met with an advisor, Linsey Modellmog, ba '02, assistant professor, political science, who kick-started a weeks-long dive into Marc's academic records, and after an agonizing wait, it was determined his previous coursework qualified him for a degree, 23 years to the day after his wife graduated.

"Tears were streaming down my face," Marc said. "Fifteen years since I had taken a class, and I didn't have to take any other classes. This was really emotional for me, in a good way."

The symmetry between the accommodating welcome Stan received 53 years ago and what his son-in-law experienced this May shows why families keep coming back to Washburn and will so for generations to come. 



Kristi, bsn '92, and Brendan, bsw '92, Sneegas have shared a life of compassion toward others since meeting at Washburn. Brendan works for Angel Flight Central, which arranges charitable medical flights for people in need, and Kristi is a registered nurse with Pentec Health treating patients with chronic pain and spasticity disorders.

*Photo by Doug Stremel*

# Love Takes Flight

Ichabod couple providing compassion in their careers

*By Amanda Hughes • [ahughes@wualumni.org](mailto:ahughes@wualumni.org)*

When selecting a college, Washburn was number one for Brendan Sneegas, bsw '92, who grew up in Lenexa, Kansas. The music scholarship he earned allowed him to play trumpet while pursuing a degree in social work and a career helping others. Kristi Ruiz Sneegas, bsn '92, from Wichita, Kansas, attended Washburn because of its small size and it was far enough from home to give her the experience she desired.

Each other's roommates were dating one another and thought Brendan and Kristi would be a good match. That set the stage for a blind date; Brendan and Kristi

were to go on a double date with their roommates – or so Kristi thought. The matchmaking trickery that followed produced a couple living a life fueled by compassion for others.

“We were leaving to get ice cream and meet Brendan, and my friend said they needed to get their music schedule in a music practice room first,” Kristi said. “I walked into a room and saw Brendan at a candlelit piano. He had written a poem to ask me out to his fraternity's formal.”



The romantic gesture worked and Brendan and Kristi eventually started dating. However, when it came to it, the financially-limited students relied on their creativity.

“One time it was snowing, and the football practice field was covered in snow,” Kristi recalled. “Brendan had me go to the top floor of Henderson and look out the window. There I could see he had written my name in the snow.”

Since graduating 26 years ago, the Sneegas’ careers have truly intertwined. In the beginning, during the day, Brendan worked for Cancer Action providing supplies to cancer patients. At night, Kristi worked as an oncology nurse. Often, they would see the same patients only at different hours.

Kristi worked 20 years on the same floor in the same hospital. It worked well when they had young kids, but the night shifts began to wear on her. She moved into home health, hospice and even returned to oncology before finding her current career path.

“The beauty of nursing is I got to practice different kinds of nursing,” Kristi said. “What I love most is helping a patient one-on-one.”

Kristi now works for Pentec Health, a company providing specialized home infusion therapy for patients with chronic pain and spasticity disorders. She travels to serve 48 patients in four states.

While working for Cancer Action, Brendan received a phone call about a new organization, Angel Flight Central, starting at Wheeler Downtown Airport, in Kansas City, Missouri, which needed help establishing a volunteer program.

“Our volunteer program at Cancer Action was going gangbusters,” Brendan said. “I met with the founders at Angel Flight Central and let them know how to get things going.”

In 2006, Brendan joined Angel Flight Central as their director of operation and development. Angel Flight Central is a non-profit organization dedicated to arranging non-emergency, long distance air

transportation free for individuals in situations of compelling need.

“Any issue which can be resolved with two runways is what we are involved in,” Brendan said.

Angel Flight Central takes requests from people in need and pitches their stories to a database of 320 volunteer pilots who own and operate their own planes in a 10-state region. In 2018, Angel Flight Central flew 2,663 flights organized out of the Kansas City office. Nearly 91 percent of the flights transport people to specialized medical care. They also arrange flights to help people during a family crisis, to help children fly to special needs camps and to assist communities in times of natural or national disasters.


“We flew 176 flights three days after the Fremont (Nebraska 2019) flooding,” Brendan said. “We fly 200 to 300 children to special needs camps in northern Minnesota, Colorado and Nebraska that specialize in children with cancer, burns, AIDS and heart disease.”

Brendan is thankful to work with people willing to provide a service to people they have never met and will probably never meet again.

“When I was a student, I was warned by many adults, the world of social work will not make you rich, and it hasn’t,” Brendan said. “The reward is getting to work with people who share a common passion and knowing every day you are helping strangers in need.”

The highlight of Brendan’s career came in 2018 when Angel Flight Central was inducted into the International Air and Space Hall of Fame.

The Sneegas live in Merriam, Kansas, have two daughters and recently celebrated 25 years of marriage. They remain friends with their college roommates and Brendan’s Alpha Delta brothers. Their youngest daughter, Kati, is a junior at Washburn, plays on the soccer team and is following in Brendan’s footsteps by studying human services. Brendan and Kristi have attended all but one of her matches.

“Washburn was not just a fleeting thing,” Kristi said. “It was and is a part of our lives.” 

# Alumni Board

Three alumni joined the Washburn University Alumni Association board of directors effective Aug. 1, 2019.

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## Angel Romero, ba '10, jd '13 | Topeka, Kansas



After graduating from law school, Angel Romero worked as a data analyst for the Kansas board of regents. In 2015, he joined the United Way of Greater Topeka as the vice president of resource development. Romero is the chair of Forge Young Professionals, past board president of the Kansas Association for Youth Alumni Network, board president of the Shawnee County Crime Stoppers and a trustee of Topeka Civic Theatre and Academy.

He is a member of Momentum 2022, the Kansas Bar Association and the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Romero received the 2018 Leadership Greater Topeka Emerging Leader Award, the Outstanding Young Professional in Fundraising Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the Outstanding Community Commitment to Students of the Washburn Leadership Institute Award. In 2017, he was named the Washburn Alumni Association Graduate of the Last Decade and was a 2011 honoree of Topeka's 20 Under 40.

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## Kitra Schartz, ba '98, jd '01 | Manhattan, Kansas



After graduating from law school, Kitra Schartz started her legal career in her hometown of Dodge City, Kansas, working for Kansas Legal Services, Inc., where she represented individuals in divorce and other family law matters. She

joined the law firm of Morrison, Frost, Olsen, Irvine and Schartz, LLP in 2007 and became a partner in 2009 where she continues to focus in the area of family law. Schartz is licensed to practice law in Kansas and


Missouri and is admitted to practice before the United States District Court of Kansas and the Western District of Missouri. She previously served as the president and is a current member of the Riley County Bar Association. She is also a member of the Kansas Bar Association, the Missouri Bar Association, the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association and the Riley County Law Library. She previously served on the Kansas Legal Services board of directors and the executive board for the Junior League of the Flint Hills.

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## Jacob "Tug" M. Wamego, bs '07 | Mayetta, Kansas



Along with his Washburn degree, Jacob Wamego earned a juris doctor from the University of Kansas and an MBA from Friends University. He is the president and CEO of Prairie Band, LLC, an economic development company established by tribal leadership with the purpose of providing opportunity and prosperity to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Prior to this position, he worked

for the company as business development manager and legal counsel and before that at the casino. Wamego is involved with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Boys and Girls Club, CASA of Shawnee County and is a mentor for the Royal Valley Singers and Dancers. He is a member of the Topeka South Rotary and board member of GO Topeka. He received the Native American 40 under 40 award in 2018 by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development and was a member of the 2018 Leadership Greater Topeka class. 



# New Trustees

Six new members of the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation board of trustees began their term on Aug. 1, 2019.

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## Garry G. Cushinberry, ba '80 | Topeka, Kansas



Garry Cushinberry is senior vice president, community relations at CoreFirst Bank & Trust in Topeka. He has been employed with the bank for over 30 years and has served more than 35 years in the financial services industry.

Cushinberry has served on the board of directors for the Brown Foundation, Brewster Place Foundation and St. Francis Health Foundation. He also has served on the board of the Washburn Alumni Association

and the Ichabod Athletic Fund. He is serving or has served on the boards of the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, Visit Topeka, Downtown Topeka Inc., Junior Achievement, United Way of Greater Topeka and Sales and Marketing Executives of Topeka. He played basketball for Independence Community College and was part of the 1977 national championship basketball team that was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame in 2012. At Washburn, he was a two-year starter and captain of the basketball team.

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## Scot Ferrell, bba '85 | Castro Valley, California



Scot Ferrell has more than 30 years of business and risk consulting experience in multiple executive roles and is currently a managing director at Marsh and serves as the western geography sales leader for Marsh Risk

Consulting. Before joining Marsh, Ferrell was a western region consulting practice leader at Ernst & Young from 1997-2002 and held various roles in

finance, accounting, auditing and risk management at Gap, Inc. and Fireman's Fund Insurance Companies from 1985-1997. Ferrell received his MBA in 1988 from Golden Gate University in San Francisco and serves on the university's board of trustees. Ferrell also volunteered his time from 2006-15 as a director on the American Red Cross San Francisco Bay Area Chapter board of directors. He was elected to the board of directors for the Fairview Fire Protection District within Alameda County, California, from 1998-2002.

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## Lori A. Fink, jd '84 | New York, New York



Lori Fink is chief legal officer for Xander (an AT&T company) where she works with data protection and consumer privacy. She started her legal career as a law clerk in the United States District Court of Kansas and

then at a Topeka, Kansas, law firm. A job with the Kansas Corporation Commission brought her into the

world of regulatory law, and she eventually made her way to Southwestern Bell in Topeka. There, she spent time as a legal generalist assisting multiple parts of the business. Working with the corporate communications and strategy units during the advent of big data and its implications for privacy, Fink later became chief privacy officer and was an integral part of the business world's initial development of strategies around big data and privacy on global scales.

## Kent A. Lammers, bba '97 | Berryton, Kansas



Kent Lammers is currently president and CEO of Polo Custom Products, Inc., a global manufacturing company, headquartered in Topeka, Kansas. His career began at Wood Valley Racquet Club and Polo Custom

Products (formerly M-C Industries, Inc.) while attending college. He eventually became president and CEO of Wood Valley Racquet Club, while also

holding various positions at Polo Custom Products. Lammers is active in the Topeka community. He is a past three-term president of Topeka Tennis Association and has held board positions with the Ichabod Athletic Fund, Capper Foundation and CASA of Shawnee County. He has assisted with numerous fundraising efforts with several nonprofit entities, including the newly renovated Washburn Tennis Complex and the Kossover Tennis Center court expansion.

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## Camille C. Schmidt, bba '90 | Arlington, Virginia



Camille Schmidt is the chief of the Emerging Issues Section in the Division of Risk Management Supervision at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in Washington, D.C. Prior to taking this position she was a Division of

Risk Management Supervision financial management analyst in the FDIC's Kansas City Region. She also

served in the role of acting regional manager for the Division of Insurance and Research in the FDIC's New York Region. Schmidt graduated summa cum laude from Washburn and was a member of the Washburn Review staff. She also received a marketing scholarship and was elected for membership in the University's chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi National.

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## Colonel Clarence E. Taylor, Jr. II, United States Air Force Retired, bba '78 | Overland Park, Kansas



Retired Air Force Colonel Clarence Taylor is the owner/operator of the Chick-fil-A at Oak Park Plaza. He opened his restaurant in 2008 after retiring from the Air Force with 29 years of service. He retired as

a master navigator with 2,458 flying hours in the B-1 and B-52 bomber aircraft. He served in unit, wing, Air Staff, Secretariat and in Joint assignments.

He also served four assignments as a commander. Taylor retired as the professor of aerospace studies at Howard University (Washington, D.C.) where he instructed leadership studies for prospective Air Force officers. He is a recipient of the Defense Superior Service Medal, a four-time recipient of the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal and a two-time recipient of the Legion of Merit. He was one of the initial "Reasons to Believe" recipients for the Kansas City Kansas Public School System. 🏆



# Balanced Approach

Washburn education propelled career for MIAA commissioner

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

Mike Racy, bba '87, got his start at Washburn where the small setting made him feel he could make a difference. He has since built similar opportunities as commissioner of the MIAA, Washburn's athletic conference since 1989. He talked this summer about changes in the MIAA and what excites him about the balanced experience student-athletes get.

## How did you choose Washburn and what was your experience like here?

I grew up in Abilene, Kansas, and really wanted to go someplace where I knew I could get involved. Washburn was one of a handful of schools I looked at and it just felt like a good place for me. I got a business degree, was involved in a fraternity (Phi Delta Theta) and got involved in student government. When I think back on the start of my career, I know the experience I had at Washburn helped open some doors and helped me get a start in intercollegiate athletics.

## You were NCAA vice president for Division II until 2013 and MIAA commissioner since 2017. What excites you about Division II?

Balance is such an important word in Division II. One great example is the national partnership we started with the Make-A-Wish Foundation. I think Division II is closing in on \$5 million raised by our student-athletes and granting hundreds of wishes for young people. We also started the Division II National Championships Festival that takes place once a year in either the fall, winter or spring. It brings all the Division II championships together in the same location, kind of like an Olympic format. Washburn's experience there was a great example of what Division II athletics is all about – the volleyball team competing at the highest level, but the student-athletes are thinking beyond themselves and to this young person who is part of the Make-A-Wish program. It's a great story that touches your heart.

## What is your favorite thing to tell people about the MIAA?

Since I became commissioner in 2017, our schools have won 11 different national championships by eight



Mike Racy, bba '87. Photo submitted

different schools in six different sports. To me, that speaks about the breadth and depth of excellence in our conference.

## Southwest Baptist University and Lindenwood University left, and associate members Newman University and Rogers State University were added. Tell us about them.

We had an opportunity this past year to think for the first time of bringing in schools that do not have football. Rogers State, in Claremore, Oklahoma, just outside of Tulsa, and Newman, in Wichita, Kansas, are schools in our geographic footprint, they're schools that are currently Division II members and schools with great academic reputations.

## The MIAA got a new office. How is that going?

The move to what used to be Kemper Arena, now Hy-Vee Arena in Kansas City, has been great. Hy-Vee Arena has been repurposed as a multi-level sports complex with 12 full-size basketball courts and volleyball courts. We're excited about the opportunity through signage to tell the story of the MIAA and our schools. 🏀

Go to [wualumni.org/mikeracy](http://wualumni.org/mikeracy) to read the complete Q&A with Mike Racy.

# Giant Steps

Fallen friend motivating Ballentine in journey to make NFL roster

By Chris Marshall

Corey Ballentine spent the first 23 years of his life overcoming hurdles on his path to the NFL. Hours after his dream was realized with a selection by the New York Giants, the day that was supposed to be his happiest was marred by a shooting that killed Dwane Simmons, his best friend and Washburn teammate.

Ballentine's plans to celebrate with friends and family were replaced with a draft-night trip to the hospital. Thoughts of football suddenly got put on the

backburner as Ballentine, als '19, processed the life-changing implications of a tragedy. His bullet wound delayed the departure to New York and introduction to the NFL for a sixth-round pick who already faced a tall task coming from an NCAA Division II university.

But beating long odds is something Ballentine's grown accustomed to, and those around him said he's handled the circumstances with poise.

"I'm just so proud of him," said Craig Schurig, Washburn's head football coach. "When you look back, he goes from a day you only dreamed about, and he achieved a goal and he's sharing it with his friends, to a nightmare and a tragedy that is hard to comprehend. He's really dealt with it about as well as you can."

Speaking to New York media this summer for the first time, Ballentine said he's doing his best to carry on the light-hearted spirit that made Simmons a favorite among many in the Ichabod athletic department.

"He helped me get here every step of the way," Ballentine said. "When I was on the field by myself, he would come out there and join me. And I feel like I'm kind of doing it for both of us. I know if he was here now, he would love to see where I'm at, how I'm doing and want to visit."

Ballentine said he's physically healed, and now he's taking strides toward healing mentally as well.

"I think personally, it's time for me to be strong," he said. "I can't keep dwelling on it. I have to move forward. If I'm going to make this team, I've got to learn the plays. I've got to execute."

That's exactly what Ballentine's done in extended preseason playing time, most notably when he snagged an acrobatic interception against the Jets and drew praise from New York TV announcer Carl Banks.



Corey Ballentine, als '19, had an interception in his first NFL preseason game with the Giants and five tackles in the next game. *Photo by Evan Pinkus/NY Giants*



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“He helped me get here every step of the way. When I was on the field by myself, he would come out there and join me. And I feel like I’m kind of doing it for both of us. I know if he was here now, he would love to see where I’m at, how I’m doing and want to visit.” - Corey Ballentine

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“This is a continuation of what folks have been talking about and those who have been at camp have been seeing,” said the former NFL all-pro linebacker during the broadcast. “This kid competes, he’s fundamentally sound. He comes from a small college, but you’d never guess it because he’s well-coached.”

Two years of high school football at Shawnee Heights in Topeka and a redshirt freshman season aren’t the typical foundation for stardom, but the Jamaican-born speedster never doubted he’d eventually play at the highest level.

“It’s always something I wanted to do since I was young,” Ballentine said in the days leading up to the draft. “The day I got recruited at Washburn, I told them that’s something I wanted to do, is be in the NFL. I said that when the coaches visited my family in my house. Now that it’s the real thing, it’s kind of surreal.”

Three all-MIAA selections and a senior season that included 50 tackles, three blocked kicks and three interceptions turned NFL scouts and coaches into believers. Ballentine was named the small-college national defensive player of the year and earned first-team all-conference and second-team AFCA All-America honors as a senior.

The former Washburn track sprinter was also recognized off the field as a six-time MIAA academic honor roll member and graduated with an associate’s



Corey Ballentine won the Cliff Harris Award as the small-college national defensive player of the year last year. *Photo submitted*

degree in the spring despite a whirlwind pre-draft travel circuit.

Ballentine was one of three Division II players invited to the Reese’s Senior Bowl and held private workouts with the Saints, Lions, Bills and Jets. In the end, it was the Giants who chose Ballentine 180th overall, making him the first Ichabod drafted since Trey Lewis and Cary Williams in 2007 and 2008, respectively, and the highest selection since Troy Stedman went No. 170 in 1988.

“You knew he was very talented,” Schurig said of Ballentine. “But anticipating how far he’s come, it’s hard to see that. We’ve seen that with a few other players, but we knew skill-wise and speed-wise he definitely had the ability to do it.”

Ballentine’s combination of character, intelligence and abilities won over fans in Topeka. Millions around the country began pulling for the small-college star upon hearing about the devastating circumstances. But for all the newfound support Ballentine has, he’s playing for one person more than any other: A best friend who was beside him every step of the way. 🏃



Dwane Simmons (above) played in all 11 games last year with 28 tackles. A different Ichabod will wear his No. 17 jersey during each game this season. *Photo by Washburn Athletics*

# Spirit of a Warrior

Washburn remembering a life cut short by senseless tragedy

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

The image of two inseparable friends and teammates training for the most important moments of their football careers sticks in the mind of Washburn University Coach Craig Schurig.

Unfortunately, that memory from this spring is one of the last Schurig will have of Dwane Simmons after he and his friend and workout partner, Corey Ballentine, als '19, were shot April 28 after attending a party

where they celebrated Ballentine's selection in the NFL Draft. Simmons was killed in the tragedy. Ballentine said he has recovered physically.

"I still have strong visions of him on the field training with Corey and the enthusiasm you could see," Schurig said. "One is working toward going to the NFL, the other one's working to finish his career."



Fighting back from two knee injuries, Simmons would have been a senior defensive back for the Ichabods this year. Ballentine is a rookie defensive back for the New York Giants.

The Washburn community will memorialize Simmons with an endowed scholarship in his name. A different player will wear his number 17 jersey during every game, and teammates will wear a helmet decal that says 17DS. A sign reading “17DS Dwane Simmons ‘Spirit of a Warrior’” hangs in Yager Stadium where the players enter and exit the field. Simmons’ family will be on the field with other seniors and their families on Nov. 9 during Senior Day.

Teams and individuals from around the country sent the Ichabods and Simmons’ family tributes. Representatives from the Giants attended his funeral, and Chiefs Coach Andy Reid and General Manager Brett Veach presented Simmons’ family a jersey during a summer minicamp. Army West Point sent a signed football saying Simmons had “the spirit of a warrior.”

“I remember how upset Dwane was when he got that second knee injury,” Schurig said. “But he just never backed down. We’ll try to represent that spirit on the field. His energy and excitement he had to play the game and to play it for his teammates, that will be our message before every game.”

Like what he earned on the field, his good grades in the classroom came from hard work. Kristen Grimmer, ba ’10, assistant professor, taught three of his mass media classes as he pursued a career in public relations. She said he especially excelled in the upper level courses and class projects last year.

“He would do whatever it took to make a good grade,” she said. “And he was always there whenever students needed him. He definitely went above and beyond his share of things. He wanted to be involved.”

Washburn will recognize his academics with a posthumous degree during the December commencement. Grimmer said it’s well deserved after he excelled in numerous upper-level classes.

“He was a really vital part of that senior class of public relations students,” she said. “He would have been

incredibly successful, and unfortunately, somebody stole that from him.”

Schurig said their focus this season will be on remembering and honoring his legacy.

“You can see his closeness to others, not just Washburn football, but Washburn Athletics and the University as a whole,” Schurig said. “We’d like to have his legacy be as strong as possible.” 🏈

## National Tribute



## Contribute to his Legacy

Visit [impact.wualumni.org/simmons](https://impact.wualumni.org/simmons) to contribute to the Dwane Simmons Football Scholarship Fund.

The crowdfunding project has a goal of \$80,000 to fund an endowed scholarship and give others the chance to perform on the field and in the classroom with the same spirit and enthusiasm of Simmons.

# Phi Kappa Phi graduate earns national fellowship

Whitney Bergman, bs '19, will continue her education with the help of an \$8,500 fellowship she received from the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi this spring. Bergman, one of 50 recipients in the nation, will pursue a doctorate at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She earned a biochemistry degree from Washburn while working on several research projects, including a 10-week summer program at Kent State University where she experienced graduate-level research. Her Washburn professors were instrumental in encouraging her efforts.


"When deciding on undergraduate institutions, I wanted a school that not only had a good chemistry/biochemistry program, but also where I would feel valued as a student," Bergman said. "At Washburn,



Whitney Bergman

the faculty supported me while encouraging me to stretch in my learning."


Selections for this fellowship are based on academic achievement, service, career goals and other factors.

"Whitney's selection for this national honor reflects her extraordinary academic accomplishments and the excellent faculty mentoring she received," said Laura Stephenson, dean, College of Arts and Sciences. "Phi Kappa Phi members on our campus illustrate the quality education and academic opportunities we offer each student at Washburn." 

## Ichabod Softball Complex approved for turf project

After playing just four games on campus last season, the Ichabod softball program will get a much-needed improvement to the Washburn Softball Complex. The Washburn University board of regents approved the plan to add artificial field turf to the east field, replacing the dirt infield and grass outfield. The complex will become only the third in the MIAA to have an all-turf field, making it one of the best facilities in the league.

"This will be a difference-maker for our program and will move us towards the top of our conference in terms of facilities," Head Coach Brenda Holaday said. "Unfortunately, last season we endured significant challenges finding a field to practice and play games.

Having the opportunity to practice on our field daily and being able to stay home and play in front of our fans will allow us to compete on an even playing ground with our competitors. None of this would be possible without the major donations by individuals and businesses who have been so generous and supportive of our program." 

Help the softball team continue their success with a gift to their crowdfunding project at [impact.wualumni.org/softball](https://impact.wualumni.org/softball).

# Class Notes

The Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation loves to receive your news and updated information, and your former classmates are interested in what you have accomplished. Submit your news and updates online at [wualumni.org/alumninotes](http://wualumni.org/alumninotes) or to Bayley Baker at [bbaker@wualumni.org](mailto:bbaker@wualumni.org) by Dec. 3, 2019, to be included in the winter magazine.

## 1950s

**Sen. Bob Dole**, ba '52, jd '52, h '69, h '85, Washington, D.C., was promoted to the grade of colonel in the United States Army. This promotion honors his military heroism during World War II.

## 1960s

**Gloria (Johnson) Bachman**, bs '67, Apex, North Carolina, has been retired since 2011 after a pioneering career as a Navy engineer. She lives in Apex, North Carolina, close to two of her three sons.

**Lonny Morrison**, ba '64, Henrietta, Texas, Football, was selected as one of five 2019 recipients of the Texas Bar Foundation's Outstanding 50 Year Lawyer award. The award recognizes attorneys with 50 years of practice who adhere to the highest principles and traditions.

**David Skidgel**, ba '69, jd '76, Phi Delta Theta, and Carol Cavanaugh Skidgel, attendee, Alpha Phi, Overland Park, Kansas, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 31.

## 1970s

**William Beach**, ba '71, Alexandria, Virginia, Sagamore, recently became the 15th commissioner of labor statistics at the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor.

**Major John Heidrick**, ba '74, La Cygne, Kansas, has recently retired after 25 years of service as a special education teacher and administrator in the East Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative. Heidrick is also a retired U.S. Air Force major, Operation Desert Storm veteran and Bronze Star recipient.

**Lt. Col. Pete Ramirez**, bba '71, jd '74, Wheat Ridge, Colorado, was elected president of the Colorado chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. ABOTA includes the nation's premier plaintiff and defense trial lawyers.

**Bill Rein**, ba '74, jd '77, Evanston, Wyoming, Phi Kappa Phi, became the superintendent of Wyoming State Hospital.

**Sarah "Sally" Shattuck**, ba '76, jd '79, Ashland, Kansas, Kappa Alpha Theta, Student Council, Kaw Yearbook, was honored by the Kansas Bar Association with its Pillars of the Community Award. The award recognizes a lawyer with at least 10 years active general legal practice in a predominately low-density population area and substantial practice in small or solo law firms or local government service.

**Meryl Wilson**, jd '74, Manhattan, Kansas, retired after serving as a Riley County district court judge for more than 20 years.

**Teri (Wilford) Wood**, jd '78, Bronxville, New York, has joined Jackson Lewis P.C. out of the New York office.

Wood previously served more than 20 years at IBM as chief global labor and employment counsel. She earned an honorary doctor of law from Washburn this spring.

## 1980s

**Ivan Baker**, ba '81, Tinley Park, Illinois, will join Crowe LLP, one of the largest business accounting and consulting firms in the nation, as manager of the credits and incentives consulting team in Chicago.

**Mark Braun**, jd '86, Topeka, Kansas, Delta Theta Phi, will retire as Shawnee County District Court judge after 13 years on the bench and 33 years in the legal profession.

**Tim Durst**, ba '84, Dallas, Texas, Alpha Delta, Sagamore, Student Council, Washburn Review, was recognized as the Alpha Delta 2019 Alumnus of the Year.

**Mark Elliott**, b ed '84, Topeka, Kansas, Football, was inducted into the Shawnee County Baseball Hall of Fame.

**Anson Flake**, ba '89, jd '92, Enola, Pennsylvania, Phi Delta Theta, Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, was appointed to the board of directors of LINKBANK and LINKBANCORP, Inc.

**Justice Lee Johnson**, jd '80, Caldwell, Kansas, Phi Delta Phi, will retire from the Kansas Supreme Court on Sept. 8, 2019.

**Thomas Meier**, bba '88, Topeka, Kansas, Basketball, will be inducted into the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame.

**Robert Newman**, bs '80, Highlands Ranch, Colorado, Rugby Club, retired from United Launch Alliance in February of 2018.

**Rob Reilly**, bba '88, Keller, Texas, Basketball, was appointed to chief operating officer of the Canadian National Railway Company.

**Ann (Peckenschneider) Shelton**, bba '84, Topeka, Kansas, Alpha Phi, Campus Activities Board, was recently promoted to vice president of finance and chief financial officer for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas.

**Jeff Wagaman**, ba '84, Topeka, Kansas, was appointed Kansas securities commissioner by Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt on Jan. 28, 2019, and was confirmed by the Kansas Senate on April 5.

## 1990s

**Dina Bennett**, ba '90, Nashville, Tennessee, Black Student Union, is the curatorial director for the National Museum of African American Music in Nashville, Tennessee. The museum will open in 2020.

**Mike Bennett**, bsn '99, Houston, Texas, has been named chief nursing officer at The Menninger Clinic, a nationally-ranked psychiatric hospital.



**Angela Berland**, ba '98, Topeka, Kansas, Student Media, God's Bods, was appointed to serve as labor market information services director for the Kansas Department of Labor.

**Randy Bowman**, bs '93, Berryton, Kansas, recently became executive director of public affairs at the Kansas Department of Corrections.

**Pete DiDio**, bba '91, Topeka, Kansas, was recently promoted to controller for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas.

**Jason Green**, mba '99, Fort Smith, Arkansas, was selected for the 2019 Jack White Community Leadership Award from the Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce. The award is the top honor from the Leadership Fort Smith program.

**Dennis Heusted**, bsn '92, Bothell, Washington, will be retiring from Swedish Heart and Vascular Institute after a 38-year career in nursing. He will retire to Boise, Idaho, to pursue motorcycling and fly fishing.

**Joel B. Jay**, jd '97, Chappell, Nebraska, was appointed to the county court of the 11th Judicial District.

**Lynn McCreary**, jd '94, Elm Grove, Wisconsin, was nominated to the board of directors of NMI Holdings, Inc., the parent company of the National Mortgage Insurance Corporation. She was also named among the Wisconsin Law Journal 2019 Women in the Law honorees. McCreary is chief legal officer and chief compliance officer of Fiserv, Inc.

**Rusty Monhollon**, ba '91, Columbia, South Carolina, Sagamore, was recently named president and executive director of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education.

**Nikki Olberding-Greenawalt**, ba '98, Tucson, Arizona, Basketball, was named to the MIAA Hall of Fame class of 2019. She was a member of Washburn women's basketball from 1994-98.

**Eric Sauer**, bs '91, Topeka, Kansas, was promoted to Kansas Highway Patrol major.

**Jeff Schmitt**, bba '99, Rockwall, Texas, celebrated his 20-year work anniversary at HBK Capital Management.

**Jay Simecka**, bcj '92, Council Grove, Kansas, Football, was sworn in as Shawnee County undersheriff.

**Fred Taylor**, ba '91, Longview, Washington, became a patrol sergeant at the Cowlitz County sheriff's office.

## 2000s

**Crystal (Barger) Anderson**, bas '00, Ottawa, Kansas, Washburn Student Association, LinC, became CEO of the East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corporation.

**Amy (Schlink) Dubach**, bba '08, Topeka, Kansas, was recently promoted to director of member engagement at the Kansas Society of CPAs.

**Stephanie Farley**, mba '05, Wichita, Kansas, was promoted to chief people officer at Berry Companies, Inc. Previously, Farley served as human resources director for Berry Companies since 2017.

**Kyle Fisher**, bba '08, Coffeyville, Kansas, Basketball, was selected as head men's basketball coach at Butler Community College, El Dorado, Kansas.

**Emily (Friedstrom) McGee**, ba '01, Topeka, Kansas, Tennis, Kappa Alpha Theta, is serving as president of the Capper Foundation board of trustees for 2019 after serving as a trustee for three years.

**Marcia Hannon**, bba '07, Topeka, Kansas, graduated from Leadership Greater Topeka. This program identifies aspiring and established leaders from the community.

**Cynthia (Waskowiak) Holthaus**, jd '08, Topeka, Kansas, graduated from Leadership Greater Topeka. This program identifies aspiring and established leaders from the community.

**Amber Housholder**, bba '06, Topeka, Kansas, graduated from Leadership Greater Topeka. This program identifies aspiring and established leaders from the community.

**Christopher Langsford**, b music '01, Concordia, Kansas, was hired as an instructor of music at Cloud County Community College.

**Dana Lauer**, jd '07, Bolton, Massachusetts, was promoted to litigation manager at domestic litigation firm Cordell & Cordell.

**Josh Looney**, bba '05, St. Joseph, Missouri, Football, was promoted to vice president of intercollegiate athletics at Missouri Western State University.

**Jessica (Concannon) Loveless**, ba '08, Prairie Village, Kansas, WSGA, Pi Sigma Alpha, was named the 2019 Kansas Chiropractic Association Young Doctor of the Year.

**Rodger Turbak**, jd '03, Olathe, Kansas, joined the financial services litigation team at Lewis Rice LLC in Kansas City.

**Jane Sieve Wilson**, jd '05, Kansas City, Kansas, Moot Court Council, was appointed by Gov. Laura Kelly to fill a district court vacancy in Wyandotte County.

## 2010s

**Matthew Barlow**, b ed '18, Topeka, Kansas, Tennis, was named men's and women's tennis coach at Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas.

**Whitney Bergman**, bs '19, Topeka, Kansas, received a Phi Kappa Phi national graduate fellowship. She plans to use the funds in pursuing her doctorate at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

**Andrew Brown**, certificate '10, bas '10, Lawrence, Kansas, Washburn Players, was appointed to serve as commissioner for the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services Behavioral Health Services Commission.

**Lance Cahill**, bba '12, Overland Park, Kansas, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Beta Alpha Psi, was promoted to assurance senior manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Francisco Camargo**, bba '17, Topeka, Kansas, graduated from Leadership Greater Topeka. This program identifies aspiring and established leaders from the community.

**Justin Crawford**, jd '18, Neosho, Missouri, Law Clinic, was hired by the Joplin School District as its director of educational support and human resources.

**Clint DeVoe**, bba '12, Topeka, Kansas, graduated from Leadership Greater Topeka. This program identifies aspiring and established leaders from the community.

**Andrew Gutierrez**, bs '13, Topeka, Kansas, Biology Club, recently opened the first Brightway Insurance franchise in northeast Kansas. Gutierrez serves on Forge's board of directors and the Topeka Police Department Citizen's Advisory Council and is a 2018 Leadership Greater Topeka graduate.

**Brett Harding**, mba '14, and **Marta Godoy Harding**, mba '13, Lenexa, Kansas, welcomed a new baby in May 2019.

**Nathaniel Higdon**, ba '18, Overland Park, Kansas, was appointed the Young Ambassador State of Kansas representative for the American Society for Microbiology for 2019.

**Lori Holstrom**, ba '18, Amarillo, Texas, is a museum registrar at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum.

**Jessica Hubach**, bsn '19, Topeka, Kansas, is a patient care technician at Stormont Vail Health in the surgical trauma intensive care unit.

**Taylor Ignoto**, bsw '16, Thousand Oaks, California, Basketball, joined the coaching staff at University of Nebraska Omaha as an assistant coach for the women's basketball team.

**Sheila Krumrey**, certificate '15, Shawnee, Kansas, became a senior administrative assistant at Washburn University Institute of Technology.

**Anna Lang**, bba '19, Shawnee, Kansas, is a marketing coordinator at ProSpection solutions.

**Peyten Lopez**, bba '19, Topeka, Kansas, accepted a position as a billing analyst at Westar Energy.

**Garrett Love**, bba '10, Basketball, Leadership Institute, WSGA, and **Caley Love**, ba '11, Leadership Institute, Phi Kappa Phi, Mortar Board, Bod Squad, Campus Activities Board, WSGA, Montezuma, Kansas, welcomed baby boy Grayson on May 20, 2019.

**Andrea (Boyles) McFarland**, msw '18, Manhattan, Kansas, is a mental health therapist at Pawnee Mental Health Services.

**Shayla (Holsten) Neeley**, as '18, Topeka, Kansas, is a registered respiratory therapist at Children's Mercy Hospital.

**Kyle Porter**, ba '14, Holton, Kansas, Baseball, recently became the new girls' basketball coach at Hays High School in Hays, Kansas. He will also teach physical education and social studies.

**Joshua Ruoff**, msw '19, Topeka, Kansas, is working as a social worker for the PACE program at Midland Care.

**Cash Sterling**, bs '13, Kansas City, Missouri, Bod Squad, Beta Beta Beta, French Club, Biology Club, began his general surgery residency at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville, Georgia.

**Logan Stutz**, bis '13, Sudbury, Canada, was named the recipient of the Ian Fowler Memorial Executive of the Year award by the National Basketball League of Canada. The award symbolizes excellence in the front offices of NBL Canada franchises.

**Tyarra Tinoco**, certificate '14, bsn '19, Topeka, Kansas, began working as a patient care technician in intensive care at Stormont Vail Health upon graduating.

**Erika (Lane) Yoder**, ba '18, Ozawie, Kansas, Basketball, Volleyball, Mortar Board, returned to Washburn as the head junior varsity coach and varsity assistant coach for the women's basketball team.

**Bryce Korf**, ba '18, Lindsborg, Kansas, Hispanic American Leadership Organization, Washburn Players, is the new resident designer and technical director for Oldfather Theatre at Topeka Civic Theatre and Academy. 



# In Memory

The following information was received from the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation between March 22, 2019, and July 31, 2019. Submit any omissions to Bayley Baker at [bbaker@wualumni.org](mailto:bbaker@wualumni.org) by Dec. 3, 2019.

## 1940s

**Claudia (Duvall) Cerrone**,  
b music '48, 93, Topeka, Kansas,  
Sigma Alpha Iota, on April 1,  
2019

**Emogene "Sandy" (Saindon)  
Kepple**, ba '48, 93, McKinney,  
Texas, Delta Gamma, Kaw  
Yearbook, Pep Club, on May 15,  
2019

**Kathleen (Coleman) Phillips**,  
ba '45, 98, Boulder, Colorado,  
Alpha Phi, on March 17, 2019

**Florence (Kane) Richey**,  
ba '49, 92, Topeka, Kansas, Delta  
Gamma, on April 18, 2019

**Jean (Rutter) Warner**, ba '47, 96,  
Topeka, Kansas, Kappa Alpha  
Theta, on March 19, 2019

## 1950s

**Charles "Don" Baxter**, jd '53,  
89, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 6,  
2019

**Cornelia "Sally" (Morrison)  
Benfer**, ba '53, 87, Topeka,  
Kansas, Kappa Alpha Theta,  
on April 28, 2019

**Wright Crummett**, jd '57, 89,  
Overland Park, Kansas, on June  
1, 2019

**Hal Des Jardins**, ba '57, jd '59,  
83, Park Rapids, Minnesota, Phi  
Delta Theta, Delta Theta Phi, Air  
Force ROTC, Young Democrats,  
on Jan. 3, 2019

**Ralph "Dean" Erwin**, b ed '54,  
87, Osborne, Kansas, Football,  
Kappa Sigma, Sagamore Society,  
Air Force ROTC, on May 20,  
2019

**Wendell Gibson**, bba '53, 88,  
Germantown, Tennessee, Alpha  
Delta, Air Force ROTC, on  
March 6, 2019

**Nancy (Covert) Harner**,  
b ed '50, 90, Lincoln, Nebraska,  
Alpha Phi, Marching Band, on  
March 23, 2019

**William "Bill" Johnson**,  
bba '56, 85, Albuquerque, New  
Mexico, Kappa Sigma, Sagamore  
Society, Student Council, Young  
Republicans, Christian Student  
Association, on April 24, 2019

**Barbara (Bair) Kosty**, ba '55,  
86, Henderson, Nevada, Delta  
Gamma, Phi Kappa Phi, on May  
4, 2019

**Robert Lindsay**, ba '51, 91,  
Chillicothe, Ohio, Phi Delta  
Theta, on March 15, 2019

**Richard "Dick" McConnell**,  
ba '53, 89, Tucson, Arizona,  
Kappa Sigma, Basketball, on  
April 23, 2019

**Wilma (Pendleton) Minton**,  
ba '50, 88, Sun City West,  
Arizona, Kappa Alpha Theta, on  
Jan. 6, 2019

**Richard Pringle**, ba '50, jd '51,  
90, Bellevue, Washington, Phi  
Delta Theta, on March 8, 2019

**Richard Ridley, Sr.**, ba '53, 90,  
Topeka, Kansas, Kappa Alpha  
Psi, Air Force ROTC, on May  
22, 2019

**Thomas Robison**, ba '58, 85,  
Topeka, Kansas, on June 25, 2019

**Stanley "Stan" Sager**, jd '57,  
h '13, 89, Albuquerque, New  
Mexico, Delta Theta Phi, on May  
12, 2019

**John Shaffer**, jd '54, 92,  
Hutchinson, Kansas, on June 24,  
2019

**Susan (Thompson) Uphoff**,  
b ed '51, 91, Winston-Salem,  
North Carolina, Kappa Alpha  
Theta, Pi Gamma Mu, on June  
12, 2019

**John Wooley**, jd '56, 92, Wichita,  
Kansas, on Feb. 15, 2019

## 1960s

**Mark Arthur**, jd '65, 79, Russell,  
Kansas, Phi Alpha Delta, on May  
2, 2019

**Marvin Baehr**, jd '69, 75,  
Wichita, Kansas, on May 9, 2019

**Marion Bartlett**, bba '61, 87,  
Topeka, Kansas, on July 3, 2019

**Clark Bradshaw**, jd '69, 74,  
Kansas City, Missouri, on Feb.  
25, 2019

**Leon Brunton**, ba '63, b ed '69,  
79, Jefferson County, Kansas, on  
April 7, 2019

**David "Dan" Chase**, jd '61, 82,  
Englewood, Florida, Delta Theta  
Phi, on Feb. 26, 2019

**Terry Cobb**, ba '69, jd '72, 73,  
Topeka, Kansas, on July 2, 2019

**Thomas Dudley**, bba '64, 82,  
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, on  
Feb. 22, 2019

**Richard Finn**, bba '64, jd '67, 77,  
Weatherby Lake, Missouri, on  
Feb. 23, 2019

**Ronald Ford**, b ed '67, m ed '70,  
74, Dunwoody, Georgia, Phi  
Delta Theta, Basketball, Young  
Republicans, on March 22, 2019

**E. Gordon Johnson**, jd '62, 81,  
Wichita, Kansas, on May 30,  
2019

**Dorothy (Gustafson) Jones**,  
b ed '61, m ed '68, 97, Topeka,  
Kansas, on July 3, 2019

**Jim Marshall**, ba '66, 76,  
Bennington, Nebraska, Alpha  
Delta, Marching Band, on April  
29, 2019

**Dennis Morrow**, bba '65, 75,  
Weatherford, Texas, Football, on  
Oct. 3, 2018

**Joseph Nestor**, jd '62, 84,  
Endicott, New York, on Feb. 20,  
2019

**Dorothy (Jackson) Salters**,  
b ed '61, 95, Topeka, Kansas, on  
July 2, 2019

**Lawrence Schneider**, ba '68,  
jd '77, 73, Topeka, Kansas, on  
April 10, 2019

**Jerry Tompkins**, ba '67, 73,  
Topeka, Kansas, on June 21, 2019

**Otto Weilert**, ba '60, 84, Ness  
County, Kansas, on Sept. 9, 2018

## 1970s

**Richard Bassett**, bba '78, 70,  
Topeka, Kansas, on April 22,  
2019

**Larry Bernhardt**, bba '79, 62,  
Overland Park, Kansas, Student  
Media, on July 16, 2019

**Donna Daniels**, b ed '70, 71,  
Topeka, Kansas, on June 1, 2019

**Mathilda "Tillie" (Desch)  
Esser**, b ed '70, 92, Topeka,  
Kansas, on July 7, 2019

**Harry Geier**, bba '72, 72,  
Topeka, Kansas, on June 6, 2019



**Jack Gladson**, bba '72, 68, Chanute, Kansas, Track, on Sept. 28, 2018

**Douglas McClure**, jd '79, 66, Colorado Springs, Colorado, on May 8, 2019

**Michael Merriam**, jd '76, 66, Andrews, Texas, Washburn Employee, on May 19, 2019

**Carol Patzkowsky**, b ed '70, 71, Topeka, Kansas, Delta Gamma, on Feb. 22, 2019

**Gary Ratzlaff**, jd '70, 76, Lamar, Missouri, on Dec. 13, 2018

**Harrietta (Williams) Robinson**, bsw '77, 94, Conyers, Georgia, Delta Sigma Theta, on June 5, 2019

**Ruth (Roush) Robinson**, b ed '76, 68, Topeka, Kansas, on May 26, 2019

**Monica (Davenport) Rose**, b ed '78, m ed '85, 70, Tecumseh, Kansas, on June 14, 2019

**Mary (Hammond) Roth**, bs '73, 96, Wichita, Kansas, on May 12, 2019

**Vernon Soeken**, m ed '70, 79, Rock Island, Illinois, on April 2, 2019

**Michael Titus**, ba '75, 70, Topeka, Kansas, on June 18, 2019

## 1980s

**Robert "Bob" Christensen**, jd '80, 64, Medicine Lodge, Kansas, Law Clinic, on March 28, 2019

**Denise (Fulton) Evans**, bba '88, mba '97, 53, Topeka, Kansas, Delta Gamma, Student Alumni Association, Accounting Society, on June 22, 2019

**Bradley Haddock**, jd '80, 64, Wichita, Kansas, Law Journal, on April 1, 2019

**Dana (Schulz) Hammontree**, bsn '82, 62, Topeka, Kansas, on April 2, 2019

**Nancy (Lindburg) Moore**, aa '88, 81, Topeka Kansas, on May 5, 2019

**Phil Morris**, ba '83, 92, Topeka, Kansas, on July 2, 2019

**Linda (Barnes) Sann-Brown**, bba '83, 69, Topeka, Kansas, on May 25, 2019

**James Stansbury**, bba '87, 55, Mesquite, Texas, on May 28, 2019

**Lori (Rockey) Wyre**, ba '87, 53, Topeka, Kansas, Zeta Tau Alpha, Young Republicans, on April 27, 2019

**Marilyn (Voss) Young**, bsn '89, ba '92, 79, Kearney, Nebraska, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Alpha Theta, on June 17, 2019

**Aaron Zlatnik**, b music '83, 59, Berryton, Kansas, on June 12, 2019

## 1990s

**Mona (Bally) Baxter**, aa '93, 65, Overland Park, Kansas, on April 4, 2019

**Janet Bueker**, bsw '91, 60, Wichita, Kansas, on March 16, 2019

**Mary (Hoover) Chabira**, bsw '90, 70, Sedona, Arizona, on April 2, 2019

**Marilynn (Shea) Demers**, bsw '91, ba '91, 70, Liberty, Missouri, on April 6, 2019

**Richard "Dean" Dinkel**, jd '98, 47, Sharon Springs, Kansas, God's Bods, on Jan. 9, 2019

**Richard Dunkin**, bsw '90, 64, Ellis, Kansas, on April 13, 2019

**Cheryl (McCaine) Eldringhoff**, bsn '93, 61, Desert Hot Springs, California, on April 3, 2019

**Evelyn (Halberg) Musick**, bba '97, 75, Harveyville, Kansas, on March 30, 2019

**Carolyn Roudybush**, aa '93, 51, Topeka, Kansas, on July 12, 2019

**Dianne (Zoglo) Schwartz**, ma '91, 70, Lawrence, Kansas, on March 25, 2019

**Sally (Shoenberger) Shaffer**, ma '95, 77, Topeka, Kansas, on April 6, 2019

**Kevin Wohler**, ba '90, mls '04, 51, Lawrence, Kansas, Washburn Employee, Sagamore Society, on Oct. 28, 2018

## 2000s

**Donald Krutsinger**, bsw '04, 68, Batumi, Republic of Georgia, on April 12, 2019

**Emily (Copeland) Marsh**, bis '09, 44, Topeka, Kansas, on July 28, 2019

**Kathleen "Kay" Terwilleger**, certificate '04, 78, Topeka, Kansas, on Sept. 9, 2018

## 2010s

**Marshall Hille**, bba '14, m acc '16, 29, Topeka, Kansas, Beta Gamma Sigma, on May 16, 2019

**Lydia Oika**, bsn '02, 40, Bakersfield, California, on May 30, 2018

**Julie Schalansky**, aas '10, bas '15, 35, Topeka, Kansas, on May 9, 2019

## Friends

**Paul Boatwright**, 89, Topeka, Kansas, on April 6, 2019

**Bradley "Scott" Bowman**, Washburn Employee, 50, Topeka, Kansas, on March 20, 2019

**Robert Chipman**, 95, Traverse City, Michigan, on June 17, 2019

**Wanda Dole**, Washburn Employee, 76, Chicago, Illinois, on November 23, 2018

**Betty (Mealer) Fox**, Washburn Employee, 89, Topeka, Kansas, on November 24, 2018

**Phil Gilman**, 92, Topeka, Kansas, on June 27, 2019

**Rollo Gurss**, 89, El Paso, Texas, on April 16, 2019

**Mary (Lee) Huff**, 94, Davis, California, March of 2019

**Jemi Johnson**, 46, Topeka, Kansas, on May 4, 2019

**Sharon Killam**, 73, Olathe, Kansas, on July 18, 2019

**Sylvia (Reimer) Kuhlmeier**, Washburn Employee, 60, Topeka, Kansas, on June 28, 2019

**Janet (Leggett) Martinek**, Washburn Employee, 83, Topeka, Kansas, on July 26, 2019

**Betty (Flenniken) Meyer**, 91, Topeka, Kansas, on March 24, 2019

**Gwendolyn (Hall) Miller**, 96, Kansas City, Missouri, on June 25, 2019

**Jean (Tallant) North**, 88, Topeka, Kansas, on July 14, 2019

**Don Phillips**, Washburn Employee, 75, Lawrence, Kansas, on March 20, 2019

**Dorothy (Schroeter) Prager**, 99, Topeka, Kansas, on June 26, 2019

**Robert "Bob" Procter**, Washburn Employee, 91, Topeka, Kansas, on June 20, 2019

**Dixie (Williams) Radford**, 78, Topeka, Kansas, on May 22, 2019

**Frank Saiya**, Washburn Employee, 77, Topeka, Kansas, on April 30, 2019

**Dwane Simmons**, Washburn Student, 23, Topeka, Kansas, on April 28, 2019

**Geraldine "Geri" (Dick) Vanover**, 87, Topeka, Kansas, on July 16, 2019

**Ysidro Villarreal**, 59, Dallas, Texas, on July 31, 2018

**Wayne Wasson**, Washburn Employee, 80, Topeka, Kansas, on May 19, 2019

**Elizabeth "Betty" (Barrett) Watson**, 70, Topeka, Kansas, on April 7, 2019

**Robert Harvey, b music '64, h '19, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation Trustee, 78, St. Petersburg, Florida, on July 1, 2019**



Alpha Delta

After serving in the Army, Bob Harvey moved to Los Angeles and was involved in the Apollo space program for several years, working with Johnson Controls, a NASA subcontractor, on complicated spacecraft fueling systems. He then worked

in financial systems consulting, forming his own company in 1987 and working on projects with major clients in the New York City area implementing their financial accounting systems. He retired in 2004. He donated funding for the Leland Harvey Garden at Washburn University in honor of his brother and supported other areas including scholarships and campus buildings.

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**John “Jack” Meisinger, bba '66, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation Trustee, 74, Topeka, Kansas, on July 10, 2019**



Alpha Delta

Jack Meisinger and his family owned Topeka Aircraft with operations in Kansas City and St. Louis. The business purchased aircraft worldwide and ferried

them to the nearest refurbishment place to bring them up to code and market them worldwide. He sold his share of the business in the 1990s and became a Washburn University Foundation trustee until 2006 while remaining a lifelong supporter of Washburn.

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**Robert “Bob” Lee, ba '52, Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation Trustee, Washburn University Board of Regents, 93, Topeka, Kansas, on July 22, 2019**



Alpha Delta, Football, Baseball, Track & Field

Bob Lee worked as a realtor, developer and appraiser, starting Lee Realtors in 1955, and later Lee and Bueltel Realtors and Lee and Bueltel Construction Company. He served as president of numerous real estate professional

organizations. He was a partner in Cablevision of Topeka in 1971, the company that first brought cable television to Topeka. He volunteered on many other community boards and was a Washburn University regent from 1988-92. Lifelong supporters of Washburn Athletics, he and his wife, Sallee, started an athletic scholarship, and Washburn named its basketball arena after them in 1984.

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**Michael Sarkesian, former Washburn Athletic Director, Chair, Department of Physical Education, Health and Recreation, 89, Topeka, Kansas, on May 11, 2019**



Michael Sarkesian was an all-conference football player and Hall of Fame member at the University of Rhode Island where he graduated in 1953. In his career, he coached multiple high school championship teams

and was known for fast-paced basketball at Iowa Wesleyan College and rejecting color barriers

and segregation in sports. He accepted the Washburn athletic director position in 1966 right before a tornado destroyed much of campus. He kept his word and was part of the efforts to rebuild and keep sports afloat. He left the athletic director position in 1973 and remained a faculty member. He attended more than 200 consecutive Washburn football games during one stretch.

James W. Sloan, ba '50, jd '52, h'09, 91, former Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation Trustee, Washburn Alumni Association Director, Topeka, Kansas, on April 18, 2019.

Alpha Delta, Washburn Players, Delta Theta Phi

Jim Sloan was born Dec. 30, 1927, in Hoxie, Kansas. He graduated from Topeka High School in 1945. With a handful of other family members preceding him as an Ichabod, he received his bachelor's degree from Washburn University in 1950 and his juris doctor from Washburn University School of Law in 1952.

Art Glassman, ba '59, and jd '65, a close friend and law firm partner for more than 40 years, said immediately after Sloan graduated from Washburn, he became involved as an alumnus, especially in his fraternity where he served as the treasurer of the Alpha Delta Alumni Association since 1957. He went on to be named Alpha Delta Outstanding Alumnus of the Year in 1968, and Glassman said the fraternity was like a "second home" to Sloan.

Sloan served as a trustee for the Washburn University Foundation and on the board of directors for the Ichabod Club and the Washburn University Alumni Association. For more than a decade, he volunteered in the University's historical archives in Mabee Library identifying people in photos, organizing historical documents and serving on the Friends of Mabee board.

"Whenever I see his writing on a file or back of a photo, I remember him," said Martha Imparato, special collections librarian. "He left his mark in so many ways. I miss his stories and his wealth of knowledge and perspective about Washburn history, which are irreplaceable."

He was an admirable fan of Washburn Athletics. Loren Ferre, director of athletics, said for years, he traveled to all of Washburn's basketball and football away games and never missed a home event. He became a fixture sitting behind Bob Chipman in Lee Arena. He established endowed scholarships for tennis and golf, and he also enjoyed Washburn theatre and musical performances and established a fund for a professorship and a scholarship in theatre.



"Jim was a walking encyclopedia of Washburn information," Ferre said. "If we ever had a question about something that happened in the past, we could ask Jim and he would know the answer. He was our Google before there was Google. He loved Washburn and will be greatly missed."

He was very active in the legal communities in Topeka and Kansas and established scholarships for Washburn law students. He joined the law firm of Sloan, Hamilton & Sloan (now Sloan, Eisenbarth, Glassman, McEntire & Jarboe L.L.C), where he was a partner from 1955 until his retirement in 2008.

He was repeatedly honored for his service and generosity to Washburn University. In 1998, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Washburn Alumni Association and the Person of the Year Award from the Ichabod Club. In 2018, Washburn Law honored him with a Lifetime Achievement Award. ✎





## *Alumni Travel Opportunities*

### SEE THE WORLD WITH FELLOW ICHABODS

#### ALL-INCLUSIVE WINTER TRIP TO PLAYA MUJERES, MEXICO

**Jan. 21-28, 2020**

Get away this winter, head someplace warm and enjoy a fun time with fellow Ichabods and friends at the Grand Palladium Costa Mujeres Resort & Spa. Located approximately 45 minutes north of the Cancun airport, the resort is right on the beach amidst the sugary white sands and crystal-clear waters of the Mexican Caribbean. Cost begins at \$1,750 per person for two people sharing one room and includes roundtrip, non-stop airfare from Kansas City (other departure cities available, but pricing may vary), seven nights stay at the all-inclusive resort hotel, all meals and beverages.

#### ICELAND

**May 26 - June 1, 2020**

The Land of Fire and Ice is a beacon of nature's majestic beauty. Among other things, soak in the famous Blue Lagoon, visit the Vikingaheimar Museum and travel the Golden Circle. Admire the beauty of the waterfalls, volcanoes and black sand beaches. Cost is \$2,750 per person for two people sharing one room and includes round trip, non-stop airfare between Kansas City and Reykjavik, five nights lodging and sightseeing. **The trip is sold out.** Ask for your name to be added to the waitlist by emailing [susie@wualumni.org](mailto:susie@wualumni.org).

#### CRUISE: ITALY, FRANCE, SPAIN AND MONACO

**Nov. 3-11, 2020**

Sail to some of the most cultured cities on the western Mediterranean aboard Oceania Cruises' Marina. Fly to Rome, board the ship and cruise to the ports of Florence (Livorno), Ajaccio, Palma de Mallorca, Valencia, Barcelona, Marseille and Monte Carlo. Pricing begins at \$2,299 per person for two people sharing one room and includes airfare and cruise. Extend your trip with a pre-cruise stay in Rome or post cruise stay in Monte Carlo. More than 70 people have already booked the cruise. It will likely sell out, so don't delay.



We invite you to join the Washburn Alumni Association and become a member of our travel club for advance notification of our trips. Hundreds of Ichabods join us each year in exotic destinations, historic sites and some of the most beautiful scenery on Earth. All travelers must be a member of the Washburn Alumni Association, so join today at [wualumni.org/join](http://wualumni.org/join) and book yourself on one of these exciting trips. Most of them sell out! You don't have to be a graduate of Washburn to join or be a member of the travel club. We would love to see you on our next trip!

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







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