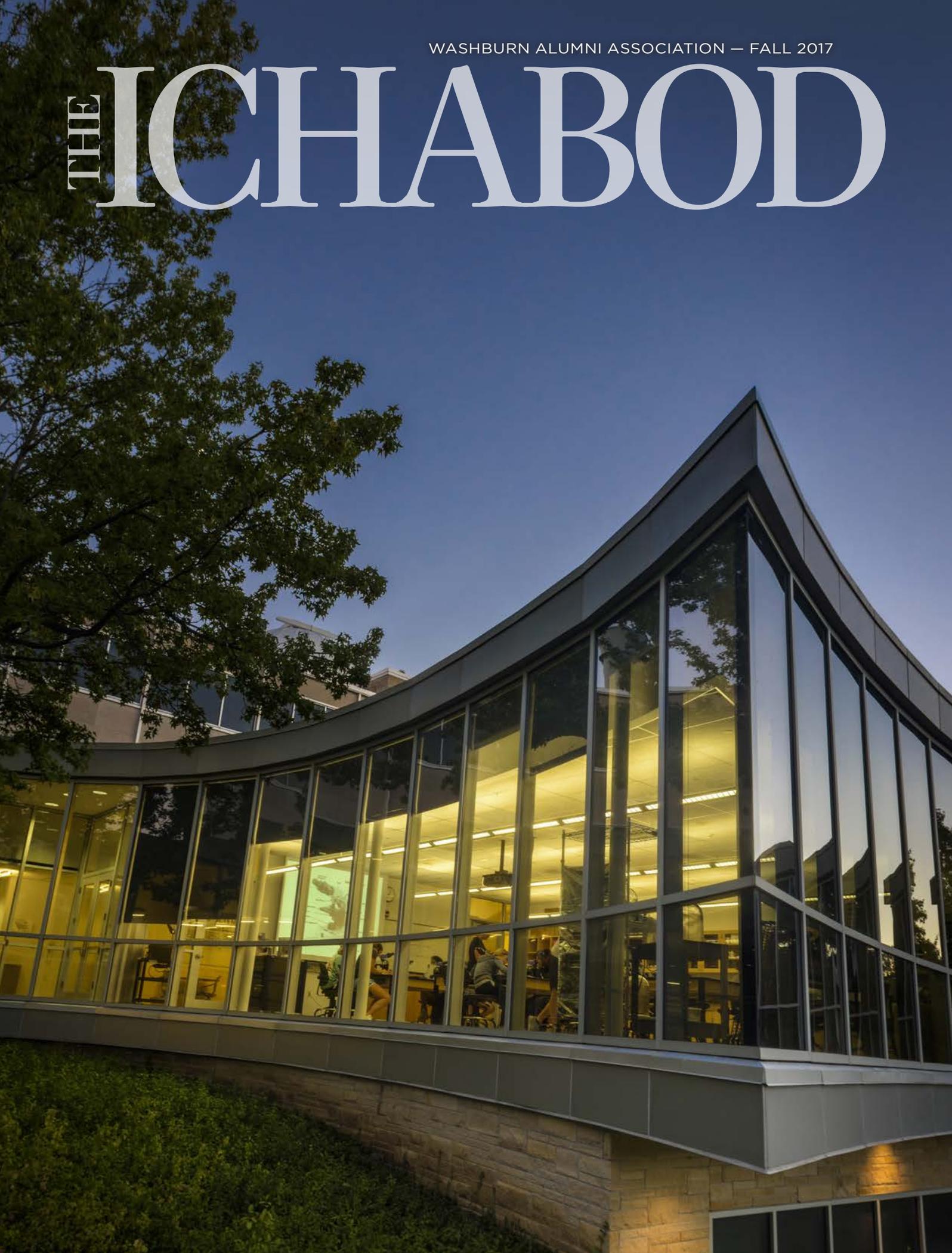


WASHBURN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION — FALL 2017

THE ICHABOD







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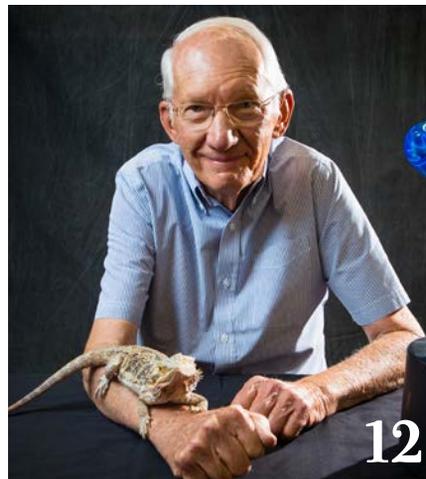
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On the cover:

Stoffer Science Hall, named after then University president Bryan Stoffer, opened in 1960. In 2007, it was renovated to upgrade all labs, classrooms and equipment. Stoffer is home to biology, chemistry, computer information science and physics/astronomy departments. *Photo by Doug Stremel*



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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

This fall, Washburn is excited to once again welcome thousands of new and returning students to campus. The beginning of the academic year always brings a renewed energy to campus in anticipation of what we can accomplish with our students and faculty.

One area we are very excited about is STEM education –science, technology, engineering and math. Across the country, the number of people interested in pursuing these fields is diminishing, but the need for these professionals in the workforce is increasing.

Washburn has a major role to play in the state of Kansas in STEM education. We regularly visit with businesses looking to fill the pipeline of employees for the future, and we know it's imperative those employees have the right skills. Many of our community partners are making investments to encourage students to go into STEM careers, and it's Washburn's task to work with the business community to not only encourage students to take STEM courses, but also make sure they have the right skills when they graduate.

We must inspire children at a young age to take advanced math and science courses early on in their education. This involves actively engaging our education department to make sure the state's future teachers can not only teach science, technology, engineering and math skills, but also inspire students to continue their STEM education at the college level.

Washburn University is developing the only program in the state to train teachers to effectively teach STEM courses and inspire students to take these courses in elementary grades, middle school and high school so they are better prepared when they come to the University.

Washburn has a rich history in the science and math areas, and we have alumni who excel at the top of STEM fields. In this issue, you'll read about Dr. Tony Ware, senior vice president of clinical product development for Eli Lilly, as well as John McConnell, who retired from Los Alamos Laboratory and now mentors young children in math and science. This fall, we are also excited to have Mae Jemison, the first African American female astronaut, on campus to discuss the importance of STEM education and inspire students to get involved. Jemison will visit Washburn as part of an upcoming conference for teachers in Kansas to learn more about teaching STEM courses.

Washburn is excited about our STEM program and the impact it will have on the future workforces in our community.



Uncovering Kansas

Prehistoric findings on archaeological dig excite students, keep them busy

By Jeremy Wangler • jwangler@wualumni.org

Washburn students were halfway through the last day of a 10-day archeological dig when Daniel Houglan's trowel scraped against something that wasn't soil.

"That's a big chunk of charcoal," he said.

Leaning over the unit – a hole about six feet long, two feet wide and now two and a half feet deep – he ponders the best way to get at what will become a significant find.

Laura Murphy, an assistant professor of anthropology in her first year at Washburn, makes her way to the site on a bank 20 feet above a spring where a frog sits croaking. The prairie wind picks up, the morning fog fades, and clouds provide relief from the summer sun.



Assistant professor Laura Murphy and Daniel Houglan, senior, sift through the soil. *Photo by Doug Stremel*

By now, Houglan has also uncovered bone fragments and teeth. They've found similar artifacts on this trip, but these surround a larger object in the middle.

"I found a feature," he said. "I don't know what it is, just a piece of rock."

"Oh," she says, as she looks in. "That's kind of a big deal."

"So what's the plan of attack?" the eager student asks his professor.

Murphy brought three Washburn seniors and one University of Kansas graduate student to this cattle ranch in southwest Kansas, 10 miles south of Meade and 10 miles north of the Oklahoma border, to look for evidence of Kansas' earliest humans. Many decades ago, a mastodon or mammoth was discovered there, and that could mean humans were there thousands of years ago.

"When archaeologists started looking at Kansas, they dismissed it," Murphy said. "They called it the great American desert. No one would have wanted to live here. The intrigue is to prove that all wrong, to show that Kansas was such a great place for mobile hunter-gatherers following bison herds, hunting mammoth and mastodons."

Lori Holstrom, a student working on another unit at the site that morning, has loved digging in the ground since childhood.

"I was really interested in Egyptology, and that opens the door to anything ancient," she said. "Originally, I came to Washburn for the radiology tech program but decided it wasn't for me. I went back to my first love of anthropology and have loved it ever since."

She works in the Mulvane Art Museum at Washburn and wants to work professionally in museum collections after graduation. Like classmate Adrianna Hendricks, this was her first field school, and they both had new experiences on the trip.

"Being out here, learning how to do everything, making sure we do it right – it's stuff you can't learn in the classroom," Hendricks said. "Like how to deal with gnats."

Aside from bugs, sunburns and curious cattle, being out there also gave them a chance to survey the landscape to decide the best excavation sites. The team targeted buried soils, or former stable land surfaces, where people once walked and artifacts and features,



From left, Lori Holstrom, senior, Daniel Houglund, senior, and Adrianna Hendricks, senior, join Laura Murphy, assistant professor, in Meade, Kansas, to look for evidence of Kansas' earliest humans. *Photo by Doug Stremel*

such as ancient fire pits, are preserved in place. The sides of cliffs, called cut banks, expose these layers.

As Houglund meticulously pulls artifacts from the buried soil and bags them for later analysis, Murphy reminds him to stay at 80 centimeters and not go much deeper yet. It's 10:30 a.m., and a phone alarm reminds them it's lunchtime. They had been working since 6:30.

"You want to stay, don't you," Murphy asks Houglund.

"I do. So bad. My lunch is here." He climbs out, grabs a can of SpaghettiOs from his bag and eats it cold.

It would be a few more hours before they get the feature completely uncovered. It will be weeks or months before they know exactly what they found. To do so, Murphy is raising money on Impact, a crowdfunding platform hosted by the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation, to purchase lab equipment that will help determine the types of stone tools and animal bones uncovered at the site, and provide climate information from soil samples.

"The right equipment would increase the value of what we're doing," Houglund said.

Without the proper equipment, Murphy could only hypothesize that the rock feature they found was an archaic-aged cooking feature.

"We're thinking that soil is about 6,600 years old or so," Murphy said. "Within that, we found lots of charcoal, and the burned bone fragments and teeth of an herbivore they were likely eating and processing in their campfire. They were having a big cookout over there." 🏕️

Goal: \$9,650

Raised since the summer: \$2,540 (26 percent)

The Meade field school was one of two Laura Murphy led this summer. She also took students to the Ozarks, in Missouri, where they found artifacts possibly 10,000 years old. You can make a tax-deductible gift and help Washburn students know exactly what they found. The equipment will help them hone their skills in the scientific method and have a competitive edge for careers in science, industry, archaeological consulting, cultural resource management and museum curation, as well as graduate school.

Learn more, hear the latest from Murphy and her students and make a gift at:
impact.wualumni.org

Building Community

International Programs coordinates overseas trip for local high school students

By Sarah Towle • stowle@wualumni.org

Helping students realize traveling around the world is a rewarding experience is central to what Washburn's study abroad program does to help college students.

"The earlier someone is exposed to international travel and learning, the more likely they are going to continue to do it," said Baili Zhang, director, international programs at Washburn.

As a service to the local community, Washburn decided to extend its international program planning beyond the University, and sent its first group of high school students to China this past spring break.

"The earlier someone is exposed to international travel and learning, the more likely they are going to continue to do it."

- Baili Zhang

The groundwork for the trip was laid in 2014, when Janie Vogel's Chinese class at Topeka High School began a pen pal exchange with students at Quzhou No. 2 High School in China. As students got to know each other better, they began exchanging small gifts and pictures of each other's families.

In 2016, nine students and one teacher from China visited Topeka High and Washburn University. In China, the school day is much longer and can last well into the evening. Since the American school day is shorter, the Chinese students were able to experience cultural events and athletic games.

"Then it was our turn to go to China, but there wasn't a precedent for a University taking a group of high school students abroad," said Andy Vogel, coordinator for international student recruitment and retention. "We had to start from the ground up on developing the policies and looking into the liability of the trip."

It was important the trip was affordable for students who wanted to attend, and Washburn knew it could cut the costs of the trip as it didn't take any overhead costs that a travel company would charge. A University planning for a trip like this for high school students was unique, and there weren't other programs to look at for examples. Zhang credited Robert and Marcie Holtz and Barnes & Noble for their generosity in supporting some of the trip.

"Even though the trip was budgeted at cost, it was still expensive for some families to go, so the donations really helped," Zhang said. "It showed the students that people care about international education, and it motivated them to pursue it."

Seven students from Topeka High School and one student from Seaman High School took the trip with the Vogels accompanying them for 12 days. The students attended class with their Chinese counterparts at Quzhou No. 2 High School in China – getting the opportunity to experience the long and rigorous school days and to stay with Chinese host families.

Tina Williams, study abroad coordinator at Washburn, worked on logistics and policies for the trip. She said the U.S.-China Youth Exchange Program was able to come together because of unique connections in the community.



Students from Topeka stand in front of the world's second tallest building in Shanghai during the U.S.-China Youth Exchange, a pilot outreach program with Washburn University to facilitate international experiences for local high school students. *Photo submitted*

“It takes an adventurous and curious student to invest time and resources to travel and study abroad, and these students were perfectly suited for the challenge,” Williams said.

Amber Schmidt, a senior at Topeka High School, said it was interesting to see the differences and similarities of other young adults who were learning and growing up at the same time as her.

“I definitely want to study abroad again; I want to be put out of my comfort zone,” she said. “We started out as pen pals, and then we were able to see them in their world. It makes you realize how small the world is.”

Schmidt said now that she is considering which college to attend, she is looking at what kind of study abroad opportunities are available.

“The students who returned are not the ones who left,” said Andy Vogel. “The hospitality of the Chinese

people was wonderful, and everyone came back more compassionate and more mature.”

The work of International Programs is already paying off as several of the pen pals and trip participants are now attending Washburn.

“We hope outreach programs like this will bring more local students to campus and motivate them to consider Washburn after they graduate,” said Zhang.

A group from China will come back to Washburn’s campus this spring, and Janie Vogel hopes the trip will continue to inspire high school students in Topeka.

“There really is no partnership more important,” said Andy Vogel of the U.S. and China relationship. “It’s a growing economy and political influence. With these two superpowers, if they are friends, it could create a whole new age of harmony.” 🦿

Solving Problems

Education department seeks to teach teachers how to teach STEM

By Sarah Towle • stowle@wualumni.org

If children do not fall in love with the STEM fields by the fourth grade, research shows they won't in the future.

This is one of the many reasons Cherry Steffen, professor and chair, education department, and many other faculty members at Washburn University are focusing on how to teach STEM fields and inspire young children to choose those careers later in life. To do this, the University is not only hosting a conference in late October for teachers, but a unique middle grade STEM education program at Washburn is also being formulated by faculty members.

"We know there is probably going to be 10 jobs in the STEM field for one job in a non-STEM field in the not so distant future," Steffen said. "We also know STEM is not just the idea that you have to have a college degree or a graduate degree, but there are so many programs at Washburn Tech, for example, that are STEM programs. If our teachers don't know what those are about, and they don't have the background to teach those kids, the kids are not going to know those fields."

With her father a doctor and her mother a science teacher, Steffen grew up in a family of scientists. Her own career began as a math and science teacher on the east coast for about 10 years, but she moved on to graduate school to study botany. It was during time in a lab while working on her doctoral research that she realized what she really loved was teaching and changed her doctoral studies to education. Before coming to



Cherry Steffen, professor and chair of the education department at Washburn. *Photo by Doug Stremel*

Washburn three years ago, she was a faculty member at Kennesaw State University in Georgia for 11 years and worked with several STEM schools in the area.

Steffen believes one of the first steps of the program will be to get people to stop thinking in silos around subject areas.

"A big part of the way the program looks different is education moves away from the silos," she said. "You no longer have a math class, science class, English class. It's about 'I have this problem, and I use math, and I use language arts, and science to solve the problem.' You learn it along the way, so it's more integrated, it's more problem based, and it's more inquiring based."

Because of a generous gift from AT&T, a STEM classroom has also been created on campus with technology for these future teachers to use. The program has a goal to accept its first students in the fall of 2018, and it will be the only education program of its kind in Kansas. 

The Education Department is hosting a STEM conference for teachers on Oct. 30, 2017. The cost is only \$10 because of generous sponsorships from Bartlett & West and Westar Energy. Teachers and education majors can register for the event at www.washburn.edu/stemconference.

Artist's Legacy

Rita Blitt Gallery and Sculpture Garden to open in November

By Sarah Towle • stowle@wvualumni.org

Kansas City-based and internationally recognized artist Rita Blitt will open her gallery and sculpture garden at Washburn University on Nov. 3, 2017, in conjunction with Topeka's First Friday Art Walk.

In 2015, Washburn announced Blitt and her husband, Irwin, had gifted her legacy collection and archive to the University's Mulvane Art Museum. The gallery and garden are connected north of White Concert Hall to create a meaningful link between the performing and visual arts on campus, which is key to Blitt's work. Blitt's many works on paper, canvas, sculpture and films will rotate in exhibitions at the Gallery.

Connie Gibbons, director, Mulvane Art Museum, said Blitt's legacy collection and archive will create a unique educational experience, offering the University a chance to distinguish itself from other regional art museums and collections.

"To display such a large cross section of her art and share the way she works and processes the world is a great honor for us," Gibbons said. "It's an incredible opportunity to see how an artist has evolved over a lifetime. You can see in her early childhood drawings where a line first appeared and where that form appears throughout her work. Seeing her talent grow and connect, whether it's a simple drawing on paper or a massive sculpture, is the really exciting part of her gift."

Blitt was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and her creative journey began from the time she could pick

up a crayon. At ages 10 and 11, she won scholarships for Saturday classes at the Kansas City Art Institute, and she returned there after attending the University of Illinois and graduating from the University of Missouri at Kansas City with a bachelor in arts. Blitt's internationally recognized, award-winning work celebrates her love of nature, music, dance and the spontaneous flow of movement. Bridging the world of visual art, music and dance, Blitt's work encompasses many mediums and processes, ranging from paintings and drawings, sometimes transformed into sculpture up to 60-feet tall, and film making. She has studios in California and Kansas.

Blitt's art is created by spontaneous movements, springing forth from a desire to capture the beauty and joy of life. Her monumental sculptures are reflections of lines she's let flow across canvas and paper. She once wrote she feels as though she is "dancing on paper."

"I am thrilled for the gallery to open," Blitt said. "I can't believe it's time. I am lucky to have this marriage with the Mulvane Art Museum, and the connection to White Concert Hall is thrilling for me."

Blitt's works can be seen in private collections and museums including the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum and National Museum of Singapore, among others. 



Rendering of the Rita Blitt Gallery and Sculpture Garden located north of White Concert Hall at Washburn University.

Unconventional Life

Law graduate, LGBTQ rights activist buys pirate ship in Amsterdam

By Leah Sewell

Every great tale has a careful balance of ingredients, but perhaps the most important of these is unpredictability. In the best stories, the winds of fate blow the protagonist's ship off course, and what happens next is anyone's guess.

A life, too, can be a page-turner. Take, for instance, Scott Curry-Sumner, jd '97, a Kansas native with a craving for adventure. In a newfound urban life on the west coast, he discovered his life's mission. But, eventually, fate stepped in to change his trajectory. One day, Curry-Sumner was graduating from the Washburn University School of Law, a young lawyer bent on blazing legal trails. Then life deposited him where he presides today, aboard a pirate ship-turned-houseboat docked on a river in Amsterdam, Holland. Living out a life he never would have predicted, Curry-Sumner is a father, an expatriate and the recent subject of a popular television show.

"Looking at where I've gone from Washburn forward, I'm really proud of it," said Curry-Sumner. "There's a lot that has happened between then and now. I could write a book for every decade."

Curry-Sumner's most recent adventure is home ownership. The "Natalie L." is christened after his seven-year-old daughter, Natalie. At 60 years old, Curry-Sumner has settled in an unconventional home befitting the unconventional life he's led. Father and daughter live on the spacious 20th-Century vessel and run a bed and breakfast below deck.

"It's a very romantic ship, and I absolutely love it," said Sumner.

Earlier this year, HGTV's House Hunters International featured Curry-Sumner and his search for the perfect houseboat in Amsterdam. In 18+ minutes of footage, viewers get a glimpse into his go-with-the-flow personality. When a realtor asked him about his requirements for the property, Curry-Sumner hesitated.

"I'll look at anything," he admitted at last.

"He knows exactly what he wants," said a friend who accompanied him on the televised real estate venture. "But he won't know it until he sees it."

Curry-Sumner is a semi-retired attorney and teacher of law focused on Natalie's upbringing and satisfying travelers at his floating lodge. But how did he get here from his Kansas and Washburn beginnings?

Curry-Sumner completed his undergraduate degree at Wichita State in the late 1980s, then caught wanderlust. In the mid-1970s, he found himself in San Francisco. As a member of the gay community, he was witness to the devastating AIDS epidemic at a time when little was understood about the virus.

"We didn't know what it was," said Curry-Sumner. When friends were hospitalized, he said, "We were told not to visit because no one knew what it was or how it was spread. My circle of friends included 42 people. By the time I'd returned to Kansas, there were only two of them alive."

Curry-Sumner's experiences on the west coast had a politicizing effect. Back in Kansas, he became involved in civil rights, women's rights and LGBTQ rights.

"I was pretty much an activist, but everything was moving too slowly in Kansas. I thought the faster way to go was to become a lawyer, and champion the rights of gay and lesbian people, especially those with AIDS," said Curry-Sumner. "In Kansas, I thought I could have an impact. At that time, if you were gay, lesbian or trans, it was hard to get someone to represent you who would treat you with respect."

Curry-Sumner values the relationships he built at Washburn Law. He was a research assistant to professor



Named after Scott Curry-Sumner's daughter, Miss Natalie L. B&B sits on the Zaan River in Holland.

Nancy Maxwell, whose mentorship was a driving force. He pursued a career as an attorney addressing LGBTQ rights, and Maxwell's enthusiasm was the wind in his sails.

After law school, he began a practice in Wichita, where he worked in adoption law assisting birth mothers while his business partner represented gay couples seeking to adopt. Curry-Sumner recounts the work was groundbreaking for Kansas.

"At the time, it was very difficult for gay and lesbian people to adopt," said Curry-Sumner. "We used the law to the best interest of our clients."

He was also commuting to Topeka to teach at the law school. Maxwell invited Curry-Sumner along on a work-related trip to London, where he met a fellow scholar of law, Ian, and began a long-distance relationship. After two years, the couple knew the situation had to change.

"We needed to commit to each other and decide where we wanted to live. It came down to a decision between the U.S. and the Netherlands," said Curry-Sumner.

In the Netherlands, they could pursue their dream to legally marry, and so the couple decided Curry-Sumner would be the one to move.

Curry-Sumner taught law in Maastricht, and whenever possible, the pair traveled the world. Eventually, they settled down a bit and decided to start a family.

"It took 5 years, but we ended up getting the adoption," said Curry-Sumner of the arduous process of bringing Natalie into their lives. "I fell in love the first time I saw her."

Although Ian and Curry-Sumner recently divorced, they still have mutual passion for Natalie's upbringing. They split custody, and Natalie gets to travel widely with her father, Ian.

"Natalie has been all over the U.S., Turkey, Budapest, Paris and about every capital city of Europe," said Curry-Sumner.

While Curry-Sumner's life is more stationary than ever, he still manages to find adventure right at home.

"The best thing about having a B&B on a pirate ship is that people come to me," said Curry-Sumner. "I've had people from every continent except Antarctica. They tell me about their country, and I've learned so much more about the world than I ever did while traveling." 🏴‍☠️



John McConnell, bs '60. Photo by Matt Janson

Dedicated Mentor

John McConnell inspires passion for science in his Colorado community

By Chris Marshall

It wasn't until his late 20s that John McConnell, bs '60, recognized his passion for science and the fulfilling work the subject could provide.

A decision to change career paths led to his enrollment at Washburn University, followed by jobs as a physicist at Iowa State University and Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. His findings have been published more than 30 times in various journals and magazines, and his work was rewarded with an honorary doctor of science degree from the University of

Colorado in 2004 and the chance to carry the Olympic torch on its way to the 2002 games in Salt Lake City.

Technically, his working years ended in 1990, but McConnell has devoted his retirement to sharing his knowledge with children, ensuring they don't have to wait until their 20s to open the doors that can be unlocked by an education in science.

"My goal is to give the kids a broader view," he said. "They may not become scientists, but by coming to

our workshops or the center, at least they have some knowledge of science so they can become a better citizen along the road, no matter what career they choose.”

Achieving that goal will be easier than ever in March 2018, when the John McConnell Math and Science Center completes its move from a 5,000 sq. foot location to a building nearly three times larger at Colorado Mesa University.

“We welcome kids from age 3 to 93,” McConnell said of the center he founded in 1999. “But now we’ll be in the university’s new engineering building, which will allow us to have college students come in and design displays and set up experiments for the kids to do. The most important thing is it gives people a chance to have more access to science.”

The fully loaded science wonderland is a far cry from the resources McConnell had in his first foray into education, when he and his wife, Audrey, traveled to local elementary schools armed only with a trunk full of science supplies.

The couple’s demonstrations were such a hit, McConnell was eventually given his own permanent space, which he developed into the Western Colorado Math and Science Center. Ten years after the center’s establishment, the board of directors changed the name to honor its founder.

Early on, McConnell had no idea how popular his lessons would become, but he knew from day one he wanted to share his knowledge, in large part because of the crucial role education played in his own career.

“I always liked science, but I didn’t start at Washburn until I was 26,” he said. “I came back to college after working as an engineer at WIBW. I couldn’t have done the things I’ve done without what I learned at Washburn. I really loved it as a school. They helped mold me. No doubt about it.”

Now, McConnell spends a majority of his time paying it forward to young minds like Ryan Patterson, a student who, as a third-grader, was more interested in working on robots than sitting idle in a classroom. For about eight years, the McConnells welcomed him into their home every Saturday for one-on-one science instruction.

Patterson accumulated nearly \$500,000 in science fair prizes and made national headlines for his creation of a

modified golf glove that translated sign language into text.

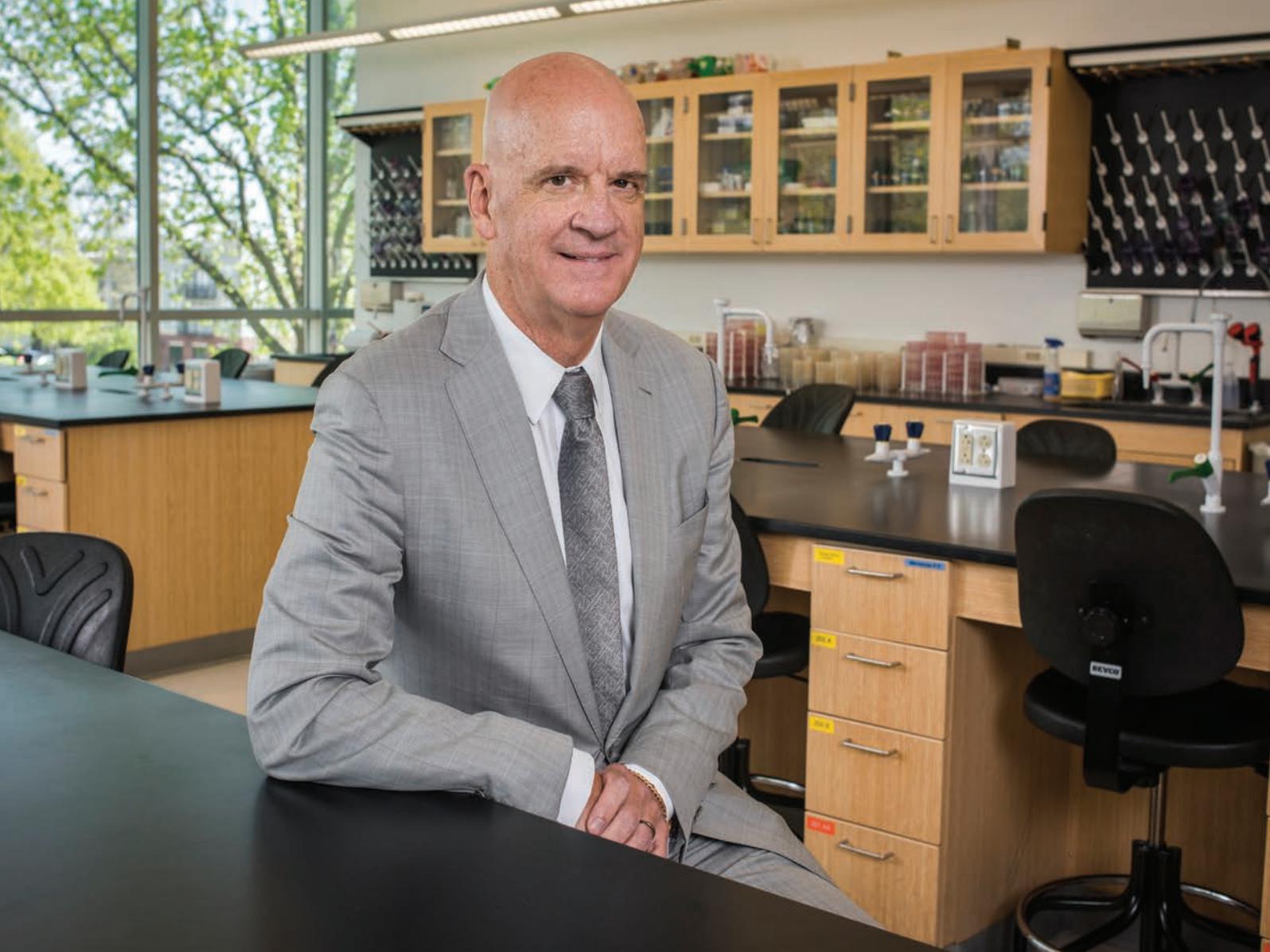
Today, Patterson is an independent contractor designing sophisticated electronics for companies like Lockheed Martin and Zipline, a Silicon Valley-based drone manufacturer.

It’s just one example of how McConnell’s commitment to educating children is beneficial for both parties.



John McConnell, bs '60, teaches a science experiment at the John McConnell Math and Science Center. *Photo by Matt Janson*

“From when I first started out, I got hooked on sharing with kids my love of science,” McConnell said. “The 27 years of retirement have been the best years of Audrey and my lives. We would go out to little towns on the road, she would help with whatever lesson we were doing, and kids would see us coming down the hall. They’d run up and hug us and say, ‘This is the best day of our lives.’” 



Dr. Tony Ware, bs '74, returned to campus in 2016 to receive an Alumni Fellows award. During his visit, he spoke to Washburn students in Stoffer Science Hall. *Photo by Doug Stremel*

Rewarding Research

Ware devoted to improving length, quality of life through drug research

By Jeremy Wangler • jwangler@wualumni.org

A doctor can save a patient's life in a heartbeat, or devote hours to pharmaceutical research in hopes of finding a drug that can save thousands of lives.

Dr. Tony Ware, bs '74, has done both, and now he manages a team of researchers at Eli Lilly and Company. In every stage of his career since leaving Washburn – medical school, patient care, directing hospital staffs and

research – he's looked back to Washburn professors who made science come alive once he started on that path.

"I was working on a survey crew to pay tuition the summer after my first year at Washburn," he said. "I had a sudden revelation that I wanted to be a physician and this would be a good way for me to contribute. The more I thought about it, the more it made sense."

He had considered medicine while in junior high, but gravitated away from math and science courses and toward social studies courses in high school. He had to completely revamp his curriculum so he could graduate from Washburn in three years.

“I started studying math and science in earnest,” Ware said. “There was a lot of material to master, but the teachers were so good it came alive.”

One such teacher was Shel Cohen, Ware’s first chemistry professor at Washburn. Cohen, who passed away in July, wasn’t sure about Ware when he first saw him.

“He was just sort of casual. That would be the very polite way of saying it,” Cohen said before he passed. “But that did not go over into his classwork. He was disciplined academically. He took the difficult classes in biology and chemistry and was always prepared.”

“I walked past Dr. Cohen once,” Ware said. “And he turned to another faculty member and said, ‘you wouldn’t believe it, but this Bohemian here is one of my best students.’ I wasn’t sure what a Bohemian was. I had to look it up.”

If not for professors like Cohen, Ware may not have had the success he’s had in medicine. He earned his doctor of medicine from the University of Kansas in 1977. From 1986-97, Ware was on the faculty of Harvard Medical School and directed the coronary care and vascular biology units at Beth Israel Hospital. He was chief of cardiology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center from 1997-2001.

He joined Eli Lilly in 2001 and became senior vice president of clinical product development in 2009. He manages several hundred physicians, project managers and others responsible for late-stage clinical testing and approval of medicines for conditions like diabetes, heart attacks, migraines and rheumatoid arthritis.

“I always had an intellectual curiosity about research and investigations,” Ware said. “If you make a major discovery – it’s part of why I got into the pharmaceutical industry – you can help thousands of people. We’re a team working together to advance new therapies in care and improve the length or quality of someone’s life.”

Ware worked hard to take the science classes necessary to graduate in time. However, he and Cohen agreed

Ware remembers Cohen’s engaging style



Former Washburn faculty members Shel and Virginia Cohen both died after a car accident on July 11, 2017. Shel joined the Washburn faculty in 1960.

“I was shocked and deeply saddened by the news of the untimely deaths of Sheldon and Virginia Cohen,” Ware said. “Both were such vibrant and vital people, still intellectually curious and so warm and encouraging. I will miss them personally, and I know that the Washburn community will feel their loss in the years to come. I feel very fortunate to have had Shel Cohen as a professor while at Washburn, and I was particularly delighted to be able to interact with him in the years following my graduation upon my return visits to campus.”

Read more about Shel and Virginia Cohen on page 35.

STEM education on all levels – from kindergarten to college – could be improved. The next great physicians need inspiring STEM educators early on.

“Young kids are interested in nature and why things work,” Cohen said. “By the time they get to junior high, if they haven’t been nurtured or instilled with interest, they start to lose it.”

“It doesn’t have to be that way,” Ware said. “I think educators are making a better effort about getting people involved. We’re making big strides.”

Resilient

Alumna focuses on faith, community during challenging times

By Shalyn Murphy

Linda Jeffrey, BA '74, JD '77, has a theory about why she's been blessed with loving friends, a supportive family and a fulfilling career.

"I often say, 'God loves you, but I'm his favorite.' What other explanation can there be for the many opportunities to live, laugh, love and give back to my community I've been afforded?" Jeffrey said.

In March, Jeffrey was recognized as the 2017 Woman of Distinction by the American Business Women's Association's Career Chapter in Topeka, just one of many awards the Topeka native has received over the years as an attorney, a mentor and a volunteer. During her career, Jeffrey enjoyed working with elected officials while at the Kansas Attorney General's office, on the legal staff for Shawnee County and as city attorney for Topeka. When she was appointed in 1994, Jeffrey became the first woman and the first African American to serve as city attorney, where she worked long hours on challenging issues without losing her smile or upbeat spirit.

She did, however, insist on cleaning up the language at the city attorney's office. Carol R. Bonebrake, a Topeka attorney and former employee of Jeffrey, recalled how Jeffrey taught them all to use the word "vexed" instead of its crude alternatives.

"Linda treated us all like family, but she was always the captain of the ship," Bonebrake said. "Her job was to keep the mayor and city council members in line. I think she was managing the elected officials even when they didn't know they were being managed."

Now in retirement, Jeffrey remains committed to serving her community. She currently serves on the board for Community Action, Inc. and The Women's Fund, a donor-advised fund of the Topeka Community Foundation. Jeffrey values the strategic work done through the Community Foundation, which connects donors to organizations making a real difference in their community. The Foundation chooses grantees with

intentional care — a process that was enhanced from Jeffrey's presence.

"We all listen when she speaks because we know her contributions take our conversations to the next level," said Marsha Pope, president of the Topeka Community Foundation.

But Jeffrey's future didn't always look so bright. One cold day in 1969, the high school senior came home to discover the family's Christmas tree had caught fire and everything had burned. Jeffrey and her four siblings were already in a challenging situation, straddling the poverty line in a poor neighborhood. But Jeffrey's parents took the disaster in stride.

"My parents were strong, honest, hardworking people with a genuine Christian faith who taught us by example," Jeffrey said. "After the fire they just said, 'Hey, we're all alive! God is good.' And we worked to slowly get back on our feet."

From an early age, Jeffrey's parents stressed the importance of getting an education and making a difference in the community. Jeffrey took that direction to heart, working hard to obtain scholarships, following her older sister Bernadette to Washburn University and pursuing volunteer opportunities. While considering a graduate degree in urban planning or government, Jeffrey realized a law degree could open nearly any door. As a teen, Jeffrey had experienced firsthand how the law could influence behavior and bring about change as she and her younger sister were asked to help bring integration to Topeka.

"Shelia and I would be invited to be the first blacks at this event or that event, breaking the color barrier," Jeffrey said. "We knew that someone had to do it, so it might as well be us. At first, people might look at you funny. And I'd think, 'Haven't you seen a black person before?' But you know, maybe they hadn't! And then people would get to know you and see that we're all the same."



Linda Jeffrey, ba '74, jd '77. Photo by Doug Stremel

In 1977, Jeffrey was one of the first three African American women to graduate from Washburn University School of Law. She recalls her time at Washburn Law fondly and said she was well prepared for her legal career. She learned that being a good lawyer required absolute honesty and integrity, and that justice must be available to all people.

Many organizations and causes have benefited from Jeffrey's involvement over the years, but cancer has been a special passion. She has volunteered at a camp for children and youth with cancer and was part of the community coalition responsible for Topeka's Race Against Breast Cancer. Jeffrey was 40 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer, a disease that has claimed

“Linda decided to be happy even in the face of profound adversity, personal disappointments, health challenges. But most of all, Linda is a woman of distinction because she has distinguished herself through hard work, commitment, loyalty, trust in the democratic process and her abiding faith in God.”
- Carol R. Bonebrake

the lives of several women in her family. Though Jeffrey persevered through a painful recovery and returned to work, chronic health problems eventually prompted her to take an early retirement.

Still, Jeffrey's friends see that same shining smile and spark of life. Jeffrey says that life is just too exciting to stay depressed for very long.

“Linda decided to be happy even in the face of profound adversity, personal disappointments, health challenges,” Bonebrake said. “But most of all, Linda is a woman of distinction because she has distinguished herself through hard work, commitment, loyalty, trust in the democratic process and her abiding faith in God.” 🙏

Family Ties

Graduates uncover connections to Ichabod Washburn

By Sarah Towle • stowle@wualumni.org

It's been more than four decades since Carrie (Johnson) Rutherford, ba '76, graduated from Washburn University, but it was this year she realized the impact Ichabod Washburn had on her life.

"When we were growing up, the family story was we were related to Ichabod Washburn," Carrie Rutherford said. "We always said it, but we didn't particularly have proof of it."

Carrie, and her brothers, John Johnson, jd '83, and Frank Johnson, grew up blocks from the University at 1305 SW Jewell in Topeka, Kansas. Carrie, her brother, John, and her mother, Geneve (Greco) Owensby, b ed '80, all attended the University after tragedy struck their family when her father, John (Jack) Johnson, passed away at a young age. Later, her son, Ben Rutherford, bs '04, also graduated from the University.

Five years ago, Carrie Rutherford's aunt visited the family and provided the family proof of what had been passed down among generations. She brought the family a tintype of Ichabod Washburn and retold the verbal history of how their family was connected. Rutherford's grandmother did all of the genealogy

for the family, and had been keeping the tintype in storage.

The history became real this past spring when the family donated the tintype to the University and visited with Martha Imparato, special collections librarian and archivist for Washburn, who was able to trace the history and provide proof of a connection back to Ichabod Washburn. While he had no direct descendants because his children passed away at a young age, the Rutherford and Johnson families are direct descendants of Ichabod Washburn's uncle, Seth, and his aunt, Abigail. The descendants of his aunt and uncle made their way to Kansas when Thomas Mitchell and Mary Flaunce married and settled in Burlingame, Kansas, in the 1850s. *(See graphic below.)*

While Washburn had pictures of its namesake, this was the first original photo that had been provided to the University.

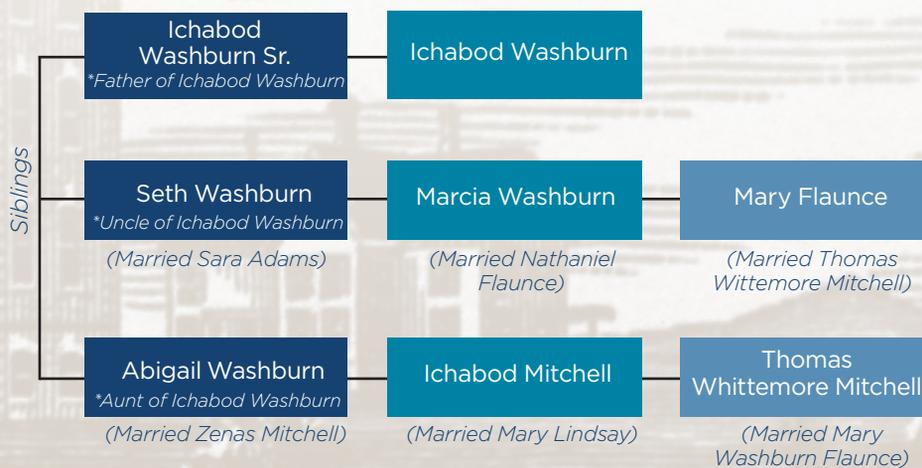
Ben Rutherford, who played baseball for Washburn and is now a dentist and owner of East Topeka Dental Associates, said he didn't realize the impact the gift of the tintype would have on the University.

Family Tree

Ichabod Washburn, who is credited with saving the struggling then-named Lincoln College with a gift of \$25,000, does not have any direct descendants. The Rutherford and Johnson families, who always knew they were related to Ichabod Washburn, were recently able to trace their family history back to him. The families are direct descendants of Seth and Abigail Washburn, Ichabod's aunt and uncle.

The family descends from both Seth and Abigail because Seth's granddaughter, Mary Flaunce, married Abigail's grandson, Thomas Whittemore Mitchell. It was common at the time for second cousins to marry.

Graphic by Danielle Smith





From left, Frank Johnson, Carrie (Johnson) Rutherford, ba '76, Ben Rutherford, bs '04, John Johnson, jd '83, presented the original tintype of Washburn University's namesake to Jerry Farley, president of Washburn. Photos by Sarah Towle

"It was really special to be there and see people's reactions," he said. "I didn't know how many people had studied his life and how important it would be to the University to have that photo."

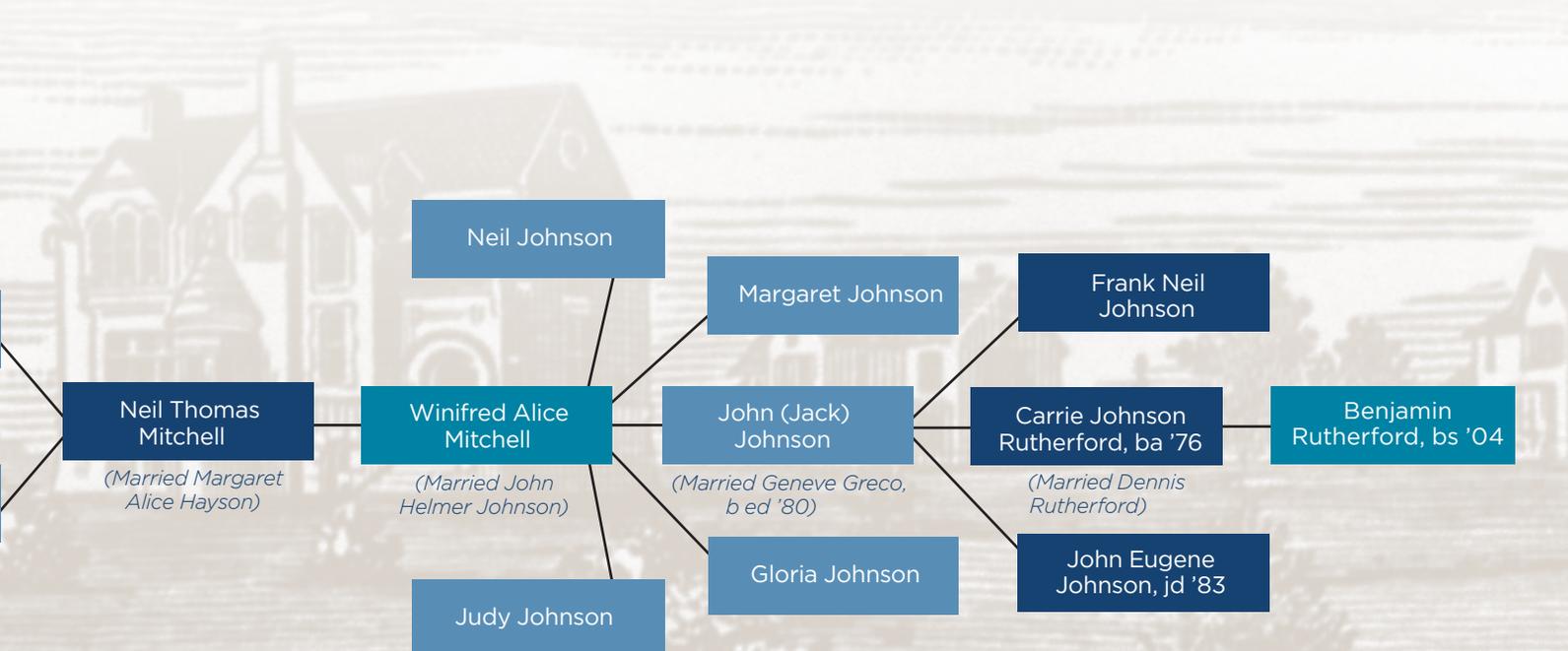
Imparato has been researching Ichabod Washburn's life and family for years, including traveling to his former home in Worcester, Massachusetts.

"I got chills when they gave us the tintype," she said. "It was a very special moment."

Carrie Rutherford said the special part for her was to hear why Ichabod Washburn gave the gift to the

then-named Lincoln College to save the financially struggling institution as he believed in the importance of education for all, including women and people of all races and ethnicities.

"Until we mapped out the genealogy, I did not understand the depth of it," she said. "I really felt like it came full circle, and it was a transformative experience to listen to how Ichabod Washburn addressed the rights of all people – and that was in the 1860s! Washburn University stands for everything I believe in, and I didn't know that before." 



New Trustees

Three new members of the Washburn University Foundation Board of Trustees began their term on Aug. 1, 2017. The board is the governing body responsible for implementing the strategic mission of the Foundation to develop and invest private support for Washburn University.

By Ally Burr • aburr@wualumni.org

Dan Foltz, bba '87 | Perry, Kansas



Foltz currently serves as president and chief executive officer of KBS Constructors, Inc., a Midwest commercial and industrial construction company specializing in providing construction and management services in mission critical

and sensitive environment type projects. He is a past president and long-time board member of the Associate General Contractors of Kansas.

Along with the board experience in the construction industry, Foltz has served on the board of Midland

Care for eight years including one as chairman. He also serves on the Advisory Council for Kansas State University School of Engineering & Construction Science.

Foltz earned his master of business administration in 1987 from Washburn University, utilizing the Washburn Small Business Development Center to launch his company. He was recently featured as the first “Wake Up With Washburn” speaker of the 2016-17 year.

He resides with his wife, Monica, and their two sons near Lake Perry, in Perry, Kansas.

Brian Hahn, Washburn attendee '81-'83 | Chicago, Illinois



Hahn is a managing director and wealth advisor at Neuberger Berman's Chicago office, which he helped start in the early 1990s. He played a role in growing the office from several people to more than 200 today. His name appeared on Barron's

Top 100 Financial Advisors in America and ranks at No. 5 for the state of Illinois.

Prior to his time at Neuberger Berman, Hahn spent five years working in Washington, D.C., on the staff of Kansas 3rd District Congresswoman Jan

Meyers, serving as chief legislative aide on business and economic issues. Hahn also spent some time as a consultant to the British government on developing the business services sector of Gibraltar, an offshore financial center.

Hahn attended Washburn University between 1981-'83, going on to finish his undergraduate education at Kansas State University. While at Washburn, Hahn participated in varsity tennis and choir, worked at the Washburn Review and was a member of Alpha Delta fraternity.

He and his wife, Carla, reside in Chicago, Illinois.

Judy Jenkins, bs '04, jd '07 | Kansas City, Missouri



Jenkins is a Kansas City attorney whose practice specializes in administrative and contract law. She is the managing attorney for Kansas Gas Service, a division of ONE Gas, Inc.

Before her current position, Jenkins worked for the Kansas Corporation Commission, the office of Kansas 2nd

District Congresswoman Nancy Boyda and the Consumer Protection Division for the Kansas Attorney General's Office.

She earned her bachelor of science in criminal justice at Washburn University in 2004 before going on to earn her juris doctor at Washburn School of Law in 2007.

Jenkins is a mother of one and currently resides in Kansas City, Missouri.



Alumni Board

Three alumni joined the Washburn University Alumni Association Board of Directors effective Aug. 1, 2017.

By Ally Burr • aburr@wualumni.org

Tracey (Mace) Anderson, ba '96 | Mission, Kansas



Current position: Business and public relations advisor / Door Security Solutions at Tracey Anderson Consulting

While on campus: Cheer team, Campus Activities Board, Zeta Tau Alpha

Memories: “My fondest memories are wrapped around people across campus from my mentor, friend and first boss, Al Dicks, to my cheer advisor, Jane, to my ZTA sorority sisters and my professor Cindy Horschem.”

Hobbies: Writing, tennis, sports with my son and his friends, world travel, attending professional sporting events, Formula1 motor racing fan

Thoughts: “The positive impact my Washburn education has made on me, being a first-generation, eager and brave student, is what carries me day to day. It changed my future, my family’s future. Now I am honored to serve the college, my fellow alumni, the staff, the current students and the community in the capacity of board member to the Alumni Association.”

Ashley (Howard) Charest, ba '99, mba '06, certificate '09 | Topeka, Kansas



Current position: Vice president of resource development at Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce

While on campus: Kappa Alpha Theta, Washburn marching band

Memories: “I loved Greek Week at Washburn. It was a time to show unity for our Greek system as a whole, while also encouraging us to bond closer with our own house!”

Hobbies: Chauffeuring my girls to cheer, gymnastics, ballet and tap practices, leading both of their Girl Scout troops and volunteering on five local nonprofit boards. I also enjoy reading and catching up on Netflix.

Ann (Severns) Hoelting, bba '85 | Shawnee, Kansas



Current position: Assistant vice president at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

While on campus: Panhellenic Council, Zeta Tau Alpha

Memories: “My very first class, a nice guy recognized me from an event and then walked me home from class – and carried my books. After dating three years, we

married before our last year of college. Looking back, our relationships in the Washburn Greek community created close bonds with others who share my love for Washburn and are some of my closest friends today.”

Hobbies: My children and husband’s activities, being actively engaged in the booster clubs for their activities, outdoors, water, boating, decorating, designing, spending time with extended family, learning new creativity skills and traveling.





Brett Ballard will coach his first game in Lee Arena against familiar foe Baker University on Nov. 15. *Photo by Doug Stremel*

Building Trust

Player buy in, alumni support important to Ballard as he builds program

By Jeremy Wangler • jwangler@wualumni.org

When Washburn University was about to announce Brett Ballard as the next men's basketball coach, assistant coach Matt Hundley, b ed '03, called a team meeting to tell the players this hire should excite them.

"I told them he's a high-character, high-energy guy. I've known him for a long time and he's going to work hard," Hundley said. "Do everything you can to welcome him and get to know him as soon as possible."

That meeting kick started Ballard's top priority when he left his assistant coach position at Wake Forest University, in North Carolina in April.

"Number one, players won't follow me until they trust me," Ballard said. "That will be key from now until we start the season."

Washburn's top returning player fits Ballard's mold – strong on both ends of the court and hardworking in the

classroom. Senior forward Brady Skeens is an Academic All-American and two-time MIAA defensive player of the year. He was impressed right away with Ballard.

"I think he will be a player's coach," Skeens said. "He has been very involved with us since he arrived on campus, and I have really enjoyed getting to know him and his family. He is developing relationships with us as people first. He certainly wants to foster a family type culture and environment."

Ballard involved himself with the Topeka community early on, visiting elementary schools, hosting summer camps and making obligatory visits to hotspots like Bobo's Drive In.

"There are a lot of proud people in this area and it's cool to get out and be a part of that," he said. "I feel like this is a place where my family can be happy,

healthy and successful. And the boosters have helped me get organized, connect and fundraise. It shows how much they care and are committed to making this an elite program.”

That sense of community, along with strong traditions made Washburn an easy choice for Ballard.

“Looking at a job, you look at the total package,” he said. “There’s a commitment on the academic level that’s elite. Students can come here and get an unbelievable education by people who care about them. That was important to me. The facilities, leadership and support are in place. I’m excited to meet more people and encourage them to come out and support these young men.”

Taking over after Bob Chipman’s 38-year career ended in March, Ballard recalls a quote from Bill Self, whom he worked under for seven seasons at the University of Kansas.

“Coach Self says Kansas is bigger than any one player or coach,” Ballard said. “I think Coach Chipman would agree Washburn is bigger than him or me, any one player or team. It’s a group of people who sacrificed and committed to this place. We want to embrace the tradition and former players, and at the same time, figure out how we can help put these guys in a position to be successful.”

Ballard’s career has always had a tie to the state of Kansas. He was born in Hutchinson and played guard at KU from 2000-02 for Roy Williams. The Jayhawks went to the Final Four his senior season, and he was named academic all-Big 12.

“Earning significant minutes as a walk-on at a place like Kansas is something I’m personally proud of.”

He started coaching as a student assistant on Self’s first Kansas team, was a head coach at Baker University and an assistant at the University of Tulsa and Wake Forest. He worked under former Jayhawk Danny Manning at the two latter schools.

“I’ve been fortunate to be around great coaching,” he said. “The lessons I’ve learned have been incredible, and hopefully I can take that and build a program that best fits my personality.”

Ballard and his staff are ready to get started playing in a conference – the MIAA – that produced two national champions in the last four years.

Getting his brand out there

Fans will be able to catch up with Coach Brett Ballard on Twitter (@CoachBBallard), where the 37-year-old actively runs his own account.

“Twitter is free advertising for our program,” he said. “I want to put our brand out there. I want to have our fans and alumni feel connected. I try to show some of the behind-the-scenes stuff. Some fun stuff or hard things we’re doing. Even when we struggle, I want fans to feel connected.”

The Ballard File

Hometown: Hutchinson, Kansas

Degree: Secondary education, University of Kansas, '03

Family: Wife Kelly; Sons Kaden and Brooks; daughter Breagan

Coaching History:

2014-17 (3 seasons)	Assistant coach, Wake Forest University
2012-14 (2 seasons)	Assistant coach, University of Tulsa
2010-12 (2 seasons)	Head coach, Baker University
2008-10 (2 seasons)	Director of basketball operations, University of Kansas
2004-08 (4 seasons)	Administrative assistant/video coordinator, University of Kansas
2003-04 (1 season)	Volunteer student assistant, University of Kansas

“Rolling up our sleeves and getting to work excites me more than anything,” Hundley said.

“This is a big-time league with big-time coaches, great players and fan bases who care,” Ballard said. “Every night’s going to be a battle.” 

Clearing the Bar

Competitive nature, desire to help others drive Menghini

By Jeremy Wangler • jwangler@wualumni.org

Some unsuspecting kids thought they could beat their coach in a race at a recent summer camp. The challenge sparked the competitive side of Allexis Menghini, a senior on Washburn's track and field team.

"They weren't faster than me," she said. "I wasn't going to let those kids beat me. I'm really competitive."

Menghini was the team's only female pole vaulter last year, the first year of track and field at Washburn since discontinuing it in the 1980s. She qualified for the NCAA indoor and outdoor meets and she's looking forward to having some fellow vaulters on this year's team with a new crop of recruits.

"I'm excited to have some people push me in practice," Menghini said. "It's going to be a pride thing. I don't want to get beat by a freshman."

It takes a certain type of athlete to pole vault. To get a running start carrying a pole more than twice your body length, plant it in the ground and use momentum

to carry you upward. As the pole bends and springs you forward and further up, you let go as your body rotates 180 degrees and you clear a bar feet first and fall safely to a mat.

Perhaps just as important as athleticism is the mentality to master the variables, ignore fear and focus on your vault.

"You have to be a little crazy and fearless, and I guess I fit the bill," Menghini said. "But when things finally come together and there's that little margin for error and you hit it perfectly, that's like the best feeling ever."

Menghini grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska, and dreamed of being a gymnast at the University of Nebraska. However, when she turned 12, her family moved to North Platte, Nebraska, where the sport wasn't as prominent.

"People recommended pole vaulting since it's the same upper body strength and body awareness," she said.

She took the advice and was a two-time state champion at North Platte High School. She went to Nebraska and vaulted for two years before transferring to Washburn. Rick Attig, Washburn's assistant coach, had worked with Menghini at camps throughout the region, and Menghini knew she could improve under Attig's guidance.

"He's coached Olympians and American record-holding pole vaulters. Everywhere I go with him, he's a superstar in the track world," she said.

"I think she felt comfortable with a lot of things we teach," Attig said. "There are certain parts of the vault where, with a level of insecurity, they can feel scary. In the past, she had never been able to go to a long run. We got over that real quickly, but that extra speed sometimes brings insecurity. She's really worked to bring that out."



Allexis Menghini clears the bar at a meet at the University of Central Missouri. *Photo by Joe Hoffmann, University of Central Missouri Media Relations*



Alexis Menghini prepares for a vault at the NCAA outdoor track and field championships in May. She finished 18th at the meet. *Photo by Dan Wiseman, Focal Point Media*

Menghini set a school record in the final outdoor event of the season with a vault of 12 feet and 6.75 inches. That height qualified her for the NCAA national meet in Bradenton, Florida, where vaulters got three chances to clear a height and then move the bar up.

“Her first two jumps, she just did what was secure and she came down on the crossbar,” Attig said. “The last jump she dealt with the insecurities – sometimes pressure will allow you to do that – and she blew it away by maybe two feet.”

She finished 18th with a vault of 11-10.75.

“It was good to see the competition and get the feel for how it’s going to go,” Menghini said. “I still have this year, so I’m excited to have gotten the experience.”

As a senior, she’ll also practice her leadership skills, something she will use in her future career in coaching or child therapy. She’s a psychology major and Spanish minor.

“I think she’ll be great with kids,” Attig said. “If you go in for the right reason, to help make people successful, that really helps. She is one of the few athletes I give coaching roles during camps.”

Menghini’s school records and postseason vaults

2017 Indoor Season

MIAA meet: 12-05.25 (6th place) (school record)

NCAA national meet: 12-04.50 (11th place)

2017 Outdoor Season

School record: 12-06.25 at Loper Last Chance Meet (1st place)

MIAA meet: 12-04.75 (5th place)

NCAA national meet: 11-10.75 (18th place)

“I love working with children,” Menghini said. “They’re always so happy and life is so simple for them. They’re so loving and accepting.”

As long as they don’t challenge her to a race. 

Tackling the next level: Ichabod alumni navigate the NFL

By Ally Burr • aburr@wualumni.org

From sitting on the hill in chilly fall weather to cheering until voices are lost with the Bod Squad, many students are proud to call Yager Stadium a part of their home.

For a group of football athletes, Yager is home in a whole other way. Two of those Ichabods, Cody Heiman, bba '16, and Zach Franklin, bls '16, have gotten the chance to use their experience as a springboard into the next level — the National Football League.

Both players signed with NFL teams out of college and trained with them over the summer, but were waived before the regular season began. They entered the fall looking to sign with new teams.



Cody Heiman hails from Baileyville, Kansas, and spent four years making headlines with the Ichabods at linebacker and a brief stint at running back. Throughout his career at Washburn, Heiman earned a variety of all-MIAA honors for work on the field and in the classroom. His journey

in the NFL began this past spring as he signed with the Green Bay Packers.

“My favorite part is just being able to play football because a lot of people don’t get the opportunity once their senior year is finished,” Heiman said. “I feel honored to represent Washburn and my small hometown of Baileyville, Kansas.”



Zach Franklin, bls '16, an alumnus of Wichita Northwest High School, finished his senior year with the Ichabods with a plethora of accolades for work on and off the field. Numerous player of the week awards, all-MIAA selections including Honor Roll and Scholar Athlete followed Franklin’s career at Washburn. He signed with the San Francisco 49ers in the spring of 2017.

“For me, I’m the rookie now, and it’s all new,” said Franklin. “I’m getting to know the standards by which to uphold myself in the NFL. Just being on the field is a great experience.” 🏈



New Leader

Marshall Meek named president of Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation

By Sarah Towle • stowle@wualumni.org



In July, the Washburn University Foundation Board of Trustees announced Marshall Meek, mba '17, has been named the president of Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation. Meek succeeds JuliAnn Mazachek who stepped

down to become the vice president for academic affairs for Washburn University.

Meek served as interim president since May 2017 and served as executive director of major and planned giving for the Foundation from January 2015 to April 2017. He previously served as executive director of the St. Francis Health Foundation in Topeka, Kansas. During his four-year tenure there, he led fundraising efforts for several capital projects, including the renovation of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, the Da Vinci surgical robot and the emergency department renovation. In addition, he was instrumental in forming a partnership with the Washburn University School of Nursing Mobile Health Unit and St. Francis with a \$500,000 investment in the program.

As president, Meek will oversee alumni relations, fundraising and gift stewardship for the University. The organization has more than 3,500 dues-paid alumni association members and more than \$194 million in total assets. According to the 2016

NACUBO Commfund Study of Endowments, it ranks in the top 50 of public institutions per full time student equivalents.

“Marshall is the consummate professional who will continue to build on the success of the Foundation in its support of Washburn University,” said Cynthia Heath, ba '71, chairperson, Board of Trustees for the Washburn University Foundation.

He also previously served as the senior development officer at the First Hand Foundation at Cerner Corporation in Kansas City, Missouri. He received his master's degree from Washburn University and his bachelor's degree in mass communications from Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas.

In 2017, Meek was named to Jayhawk Area Council's 20 under 40 list for his professional and personal accomplishments.

Meek and his wife, Amy, have three children and have resided in Topeka, Kansas, since 2011.

Meek said he is honored to lead the organization.

“Over the last few years, I've had the privilege of developing relationships with alumni and friends of Washburn University,” Meek said. “I believe this is a wonderful community that's passionate about the future of Washburn and generous in their support of its students. I'm thrilled to call myself an alumnus and honored to be chosen to lead an organization that does so much for the University.” 🏃

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 www.wualumni.org/alumninotes or to Ally Burr at aburr@wualumni.org by Friday, Dec. 1, 2017, to be included in the winter magazine.

1960s

Robert Fleming, jd '68, Weir, Kansas, retired from his position as Labette County District judge. Fleming practiced for 28 years before serving for 21 years on the bench. He is a member of the Kansas Judicial Council and the executive committee of the Kansas District Judges Association.

Mayre (Macey) Hoffman, ba '68, Topeka, Kansas, was named housemother for Alpha Delta fraternity at Washburn. Hoffman was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority during her time at Washburn.

1970s

Cindy (Fletcher) Adams, bs '79, bsw '95, Topeka, Kansas, currently serves as director of recruitment for Stormont Vail Health.

Bob Adrian, jd '79, Atchison, Kansas, was named to Ingram's list of "50 Kansans You Should Know 2017." Adrian is currently employed at Berger Company, where he serves as vice president.

John Bird, ba '70, jd '74, Hays, Kansas, was chosen to receive the Kansas Bar Association's Outstanding Service Award for 2017. Bird is a senior partner with Glassman, Bird, Brown & Powell, L.L.P. While at Washburn, Bird was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, Student Council, Washburn Review and Sagamore Society.

Angelo Cocolis, bba '70, Prairie Village, Kansas, retired as a high school principal in 2012 and is now an instructor of education leadership at the University of Kansas.

Sara (Shelton) Cocolis, b ed '76, m ed '93, Prairie Village, Kansas, retired as a high school principal in 2012.

Galen Dale, bba '75, Topeka, Kansas, recently retired.

David Dunklee, b music '75, Gravois Mills, Missouri, and his wife, CJ, run a program called The Healing Box Project in which Dunklee teaches veterans, many with PTSD, how to play guitar. The program started in 2012 and has donated 88 guitars to veterans.

Robert Frederick, jd '75, Garden City, Kansas, was elected as president of the Kansas District Judges Association. Frederick has served as a district judge in the 25th Judicial District since 2001.

Ron Holt, bba '70, Kansas City, Kansas, was named to Ingram's list of "50 Kansans You Should Know 2017." Holt currently serves on the board of trustees for the Kansas Leadership Center.

Sherman Parks, ba '72, jd '75, honorary degree '90, Topeka, Kansas, was posthumously named to the Shawnee County Baseball Hall of Fame class of 2017. Parks was named Outstanding Senior Athlete in 1972 for his accomplishments

as a member of the Washburn baseball team. Parks also helped reinstate baseball at Topeka High School, Topeka West High School and Highland Park High School in the 1990s.

Richard Ross, ba '71, jd '75, Topeka, Kansas, received the inaugural Richard Ross Mountain Plains Award at the start of the 25th annual Mulvane Art Fair, which Ross founded in 1993.

1980s

Jeff Griffith, jd '82, Derby, Kansas, left his position as legal counsel to Derby Public Schools after 35 years.

Mary McPartling, aa '89, bba '91, Overland Park, Kansas, is currently employed as a claims examiner with Ascension Insurance.

Janet (Lassiter) Walbert, ba '87, Lenexa, Kansas, is now a loan coordinator at NBKC Bank in Kansas City, Missouri.

1990s

Heather (Pickering) Bohaty, b ed '96, Derby, Kansas, was named superintendent of Derby schools, beginning July 1, 2017. Previously, Bohaty served for eight years as assistant superintendent of human resources for the school district.

Randy Bowman, bs '93, Topeka, Kansas, was appointed to the position of deputy secretary of the Kansas

Department of Corrections division of Juvenile Services. Bowman has worked with juvenile services within the state since 1998.

Jennifer (Cowan) Haugh, bfa '96, Topeka, Kansas, was promoted to manager of public and government affairs for the Kansas region of AAA.

Jason Jones, b ed '96, m ed '00, m ed '04, Gardner, Kansas, was named principal of Sunflower Elementary school. Prior to this, Jones served as principal in the Seaman (Topeka), Lawrence and Emporia school districts.

Brian Lay, ba '97, Naperville, Illinois, is the owner and acupuncturist at Golden Tiger Wellness.

Monette Mark, aa '94, certificate '94, ba '03, Auburn, Kansas, recently served on the judging panel for the 2017 McPherson County Student Art Exhibition and Scholarship Competition. Mark previously worked as an illustration and production artist for McGraw-Hill, and her art has been displayed nationally and internationally. She currently serves as a lecturer in the art department at Washburn University.

Doug Norman, bsn '92, Hiawatha, Kansas, is now the chief nursing officer at Hiawatha Community Hospital. He is a fellow at the American College of Health Care Executives and has been certified in critical care nursing for 24 years.

T.L. Price, bs '93, Topeka, Kansas, was named laboratory director for the Forensic Science Laboratory Division of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. He will oversee the four KBI laboratories which include the Topeka-Washburn location, Great Bend, Kansas City and Pittsburg locations. He first joined the KBI in 1992 as a criminalist technician.

Ernie Webb, ba '98, mls '17, Overland Park, Kansas, received the Staff Extra Mile Award at Metropolitan Community College-Business & Technology for the second straight year in May 2017. Webb was also inducted into Phi Kappa Phi at Washburn. Webb started as the director of strategic marketing and communications for admissions at Washburn University in July 2017.

2000s

Jennifer Baldwin, bba '06, Lawrence, Kansas, owns and operates Renew by Jennifer, LLC. Baldwin was recently awarded second place in the individual massage therapist category in the Best of Lawrence competition.

Dan Billen, bfa '07, Lawrence, Kansas, is a co-owner of Primary Colors Music, which was recently recognized as one of the Existing Businesses of the Year by the Kansas Small Business Development Center. More than 2,000 businesses were eligible for the awards given and 17 were selected.

Cara Burnidge, ba '06, Waterloo, Iowa, published a new book titled "A Peaceful Conquest: Woodrow Wilson, Religion and the New World Order."

Melissa (Stallbaumer) Deutsch, bba '04, mba '08,

Topeka, Kansas, is a senior auditor with Westar Energy.

Lesa Duryea, bs '01, Morrill, Kansas, is now an administrator of Falls City Nursing and Rehab.

Annie Flachsbarth, ba '07, Topeka, Kansas, received a Bronze Quill Award of Excellence from the Topeka chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators for her feature writing in the AE Insider for Advisors Excel.

Brian Good, ba '02, Topeka, Kansas, was named to the Dealerscope 2017 40 Under 40 list. Good currently serves as vice president of sales and marketing for iPoint.

Kymm Hughes-Ledbetter, bfa '00, Topeka, Kansas, is the owner of Prairie Glass Studio in Topeka, which is celebrating its fifth anniversary.

Katharine (Potter) Hunter, bba '06, Lenexa, Kansas, is currently in sales with Dormakaba.

Amanda Kiefer, jd '03, Topeka, Kansas, was named to Ingram's list of "50 Kansans You Should Know 2017." Kiefer currently serves as first vice president and human resources director for FHLBank.

Jennifer Kirmse, ba '02, Topeka, Kansas, vice president of business development at Azura Credit Union was honored at the Topeka YWCA Leadership Luncheon on June 20, 2017, for demonstrating excellence in the community and workplace.

Jessica Lehnherr, ba '02, msw '05, Topeka, Kansas, was hired as the new CEO for United Way of Greater Topeka. Previously, Lehnherr served as executive director of CASA of Shawnee County.

Josh Looney, bba '05, St.

Joseph, Missouri, was named director of athletics at Missouri Western State University.

Lauren Lucht, ma '06, Basehor, Kansas, is now employed by the University of Kansas Health System as a senior administrator of psychiatry and behavioral science.

Brad Madden, b ed '01, Lakewood, Colorado, has coached high school baseball for 15 seasons and led teams to three state titles. He is currently serving as head baseball coach at Green Mountain High School.

Chris Marshall, ba '09, Topeka, Kansas, received a Bronze Quill Award of Excellence from the Topeka chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators for his feature writing in the Washburn Lawyer.

Aaron Mays, ba '02, Topeka, Kansas, is the owner and president of The Mays Group.

Edward McNally, jd '01, Overland Park, Kansas, was appointed as a senior vice president and chief underwriting officer for Lockton Affinity, LLC.

William Schmidt, jd '09, Lenexa, Kansas, is the clinic director for the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic at Kansas Legal Services. The clinic is the primary tax controversy clinic for the entire state, dealing with federal and state tax issues for low income taxpayers.

Jason Sharp, mcj '07, Parsons, Kansas, was awarded one of three Distinguished Alumni Awards given by Labette Community College. He is currently serving as the Parsons Police Department chief of police.

Jared Smith, jd '00, Lutz, Florida, was named a judge in

the Hillsborough County Court in Florida.

Karan Thadani, jd '06, Topeka, Kansas, will serve as chief of prosecution for the City of Topeka.

J.R. Treto, ba '03, Minneapolis, Minnesota, is a director of operations and teacher leadership and development at Teach For America.

Jennifer Walters, jd '09, Hays, Kansas, has become an equity partner in the firm Clinkscales Elder Law Practice. She has been with the practice since 2009 and focuses on elder care issues, asset protection and estate planning.

Janice Watkins, ba '05, Topeka, Kansas, executive director at Habitat for Humanity, was honored at the Topeka YWCA Leadership Luncheon on June 20, 2017, for demonstrating excellence in the community and workplace.

Dustin Watson, bba '07, Topeka, Kansas, is a distribution manager with Payless ShoeSource.

Michelle Whitehead, bba '01, mba '06, Topeka, Kansas, vice president and assistant cashier at Capital City Bank, was honored at the Topeka YWCA Leadership Luncheon on June 20, 2017, for demonstrating excellence in the community and workplace.

Michelle Witte, jd '06, Wichita, Kansas, of Joseph, Hollander & Craft LLC has been ranked as one of Kansas' top labor and employment lawyers by Chambers USA 2017. Witte has been ranked in Chambers USA every year since 2011.

Eryn Wright, jd '08, Salina, Kansas, was named executive director of human resources for Salina Kansas Unified School District 305.

2010s

Martha Boatright, aa '14, Topeka, Kansas, is now the lead preschool teacher at Community Action Head Start.

Jessica Bremer, bba '11, Oberlin, Kansas, passed the CPA exam and purchased an accounting practice, which is now called Jessica E. Bremer CPA, LLC.

Jesse Burris, jd '15, Mulvane, Kansas, was selected as state representative for the 82nd Kansas House District, which includes much of Derby and Mulvane, as well as some of Sumner County.

Melissa Delgado, bs '11, Mission, Kansas, is currently employed as the Lead Regulatory Coordinator at the University of Kansas.

Chris Enos, bs '16, Topeka, Kansas, was named director of the Washburn University Police Department. Enos served as interim director previously, and has been a sergeant with WUPD since August 2005. He is a 2014 graduate of the FBI National Academy.

Zach Franklin, bls '16, Wichita, Kansas, signed to play football with the San Francisco 49ers.

Kristin Guyle, bba '11, Topeka, Kansas, received her MBA from Arizona State University in May 2017 and was promoted to assistant manager at BNSF Railway.

Cody Heiman, bba '16, Topeka, Kansas, signed to play football with the Green Bay Packers.

Keenan Hogan, bs '12, Kansas City, Kansas, is now a resident physician at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas.

Crystal Irwin, bhs '12, mhs '15, Topeka, Kansas, has opened a yoga studio called Oshnik Yoga. Irwin is currently working to earn a doctorate degree at Nova Southeastern University.

Riley Krane, bba '16, Evergreen, Colorado, signed to play baseball with the Windy City Thunderbolts, an independent professional baseball team based out of Crestwood, Illinois.

Austin Main, ba '16, Topeka, Kansas, is a recreation leader

for Shawnee County Parks and Recreation. He will supervise Garfield Community Center.

Katherine Mathews, bs '17, Topeka, Kansas, received a scholarship from the National Panhellenic Council for her continued studies. Mathews served as the president of the Washburn Panhellenic Council during 2016, as well as serving as president of Zeta Tau Alpha.

Aubrey Mink, mls '11, Topeka, Kansas, staff development manager at Florence Crittenton Services, was honored at the Topeka YWCA Leadership Luncheon on June 20, 2017, for demonstrating excellence in the community and workplace.

Michaela Olberding, ba '17, Columbus, Ohio, was hired as an events and operations specialist in the executive office of Delta Gamma in Columbus, Ohio. Olberding is the first member of the Washburn Alpha Kappa chapter of Delta Gamma to be hired by the executive office of Delta Gamma.

Edna Reyes, jd '17, Wichita, Kansas, was hired by McDonald

Tinker as an associate immigration attorney.

Daphne Reynolds, ba '12, Leavenworth, Kansas, was promoted to assistant director of admissions for recruitment and communications at University of Saint Mary. Reynolds was previously working as an admissions counselor.

Travis Ternes, jd '16, Great Bend, Kansas, joined Watkins Calcara Chtd.

Sierra Valdivia, ba '15, San Antonio, Texas, graduated with a master's in higher education and student affairs from Baylor University in May 2017. Valdivia began a job at Trinity University as a residential life coordinator.

Andrew Walker, ba '15, Arlington, Texas, is currently employed as an account coordinator at Brad Cecil and Associates.

Paul Wenger, bba '14, Sabetha, Kansas, is engaged to Carly Adams of Wisconsin. Wenger is currently employed at Wenger manufacturing. 



In Memory

1930s

Albert Patten, ba '38, 100, Denver, Colorado, on Feb. 1, 2017

1940s

Roy Boast, bba '48, 93, Topeka, Kansas, on June 25, 2017

Ralph Brinegar, ba '40, 98, Dallas, Texas, on March 23, 2017

Georgia (Schrader) Daniels, ba '45, 93, Loveland, Colorado, on March 28, 2017

Orlen "Dale" Foltz, ba '49, jd '50, 94, Lincoln, Nebraska, on Jan. 31, 2017

Bessie (Ritchey) Keene, ba '47, 91, Ft. Worth, Texas, on April 13, 2017

1950s

Nancy (Farrish) Anderson, ba '53, 86, Grand Rapids, Michigan, on May 23, 2017

Thomas Bush, ba '52, 91, Wichita, Kansas, on May 12, 2017

Lewis Carter, jd '59, 93, Holton, Kansas, on April 26, 2017

Alfred Cheng, bs '54, 85, St. Louis, Missouri, on May 18, 2017

Bernard "Bernie" Christian, bba '52, 81, Overland Park, Kansas, on March 24, 2017

Jack Davis, bba '56, 88, Ottawa, Kansas, on March 31, 2017

Charles Green, jd '50, 91, Olathe, Kansas, on April 20, 2017

Lester "Les" Haslett, bba '50, 92, Topeka, Kansas, on April 24, 2017

David Hinken, Jr., ba '55, 84, Lenexa, Kansas, on June 8, 2017

Shirley (Holtwick) Huttenhoff, ba '58, 81, Topeka, Kansas, on March 26, 2017

Kenneth Kangieser, bba '59, 81, Houston, Texas, on May 7, 2017

Edward Krass, ba '53, 87, Topeka, Kansas, on July 15, 2017

Jack Long, bba '53, 85, Las Vegas, Nevada, on June 20, 2017

James "Jim" Metzger, bba '57, 85, Topeka, Kansas, on June 26, 2017

Ruth "Maxine" (Brecheisen) Miller, ba '52, 92, Topeka, Kansas, on June 7, 2017

Elizabeth "Betty" (Moyer) Peach, ba '52, 87, Topeka, Kansas, on June 4, 2017

Joe Peel, jd '55, 88, Topeka, Kansas, on June 11, 2017

Howard Pool, ba '54, 86, Phoenix, Arizona, on March 15, 2017

Carole (Johnson) Stone, b ed '59, 79, Tecumseh, Kansas, on April 9, 2017

Jack Sullivan, ba '51, 89, Wentzville, Missouri, on March 27, 2017

Frederick Tilton, bba '55, 83, Topeka, Kansas, on April 21, 2017

Charles Works, ba '53, jd '53, 87, Topeka, Kansas, on March 31, 2017

1960s

Virginia (Stewart) Anderson, b ed '61, 97, Topeka, Kansas, on May 8, 2017

George "G.W." Campbell, ba '67, 91, Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 12, 2016

Toni (Simpson) Hampton, ba '67, 71, Overland Park, Kansas, on April 27, 2017

Phillip Kenny, m ed '68, 80, Woodward, Oklahoma, on March 19, 2017

Jerry Mercer, b ed '65, 78, Lawrence, Kansas, on June 23, 2017

Gale Newton, jd '60, 86, Tucson, Arizona, on May 22, 2017

Robert "Bob" Pfannenstiel, bba '63, Dodge City, Kansas, on May 23, 2017

Arlyn Sage, bba '62, 78, Topeka, Kansas, on March 28, 2017

Richard VonRiesen, bba '60, 81, Casper, Wyoming, on March 31, 2017

Helen Weston, ba '63, 91, Topeka, Kansas, on May 19, 2017

John Wohlfarth, bba '62, 77, Charlotte, North Carolina, on April 29, 2017

James "Jim" Wright, jd '63, 78, Topeka, Kansas, on March 16, 2017

1970s

Jean Attebury, b ed '71, certificate Morita therapy '11, 68, Topeka, Kansas, on May 20, 2017

Cleora (Burden) Bentz, b ed '73, Winfield, Kansas, on July 26, 2017

Pamela (Wohlgemuth) Blaylock, b ed '71, 68, Topeka, Kansas, on June 3, 2017

Geri (Revitte) Brown, ba '78, 61, Colleyville, Texas, on March 10, 2017

Francis "Frank" Callahan, bba '79, 60, Great Bend, Kansas, on Jan. 21, 2017

Ralph Duncan, bba '76, 62, Wichita, Kansas, on March 17, 2017

Michael George, bs '79, 61, Nashville, Tennessee, on May 24, 2016

Joan (Kruse) Glotzbach, ba '78, 85, Topeka, Kansas, on May 17, 2017

Steven Graber, ba '72, jd '75, 66, Manhattan, Kansas, on Feb. 9, 2017

James Guy, jd '70, 71, Wichita, Kansas, on Feb. 23, 2017

Eulalia (Railsback) Lewis, bfa '78, 91, Silver City, New Mexico, on March 13, 2017

Alana "Susan" (Flowers) Shuart, ba '72, 66, Lincoln, Nebraska, on Oct. 31, 2016

Bruce Miller, jd '70, 77, Las Vegas, Nevada, on March 20, 2017

Ernestine "Erni" Muzzy, ba '70, 89, Lawrence, Kansas, on Feb. 27, 2017

Janice (Wolverton) Proper, b ed '72, 80, Topeka, Kansas, on March 31, 2017

William "Bill" Reppart, bba '74, jd '93, mba '93, 63, Grove, Oklahoma, on July 23, 2017

Dorothy (Barber) Robinson, b ed '72, 88, Topeka, Kansas, on April 2, 2017

John Roberts, jd '70, 86, Plevna, Kansas, on April 10, 2017

James Seem, bba '72, 70, Topeka, Kansas, on June 27, 2017

Lucy Stein, m ed '73, 90, Topeka, Kansas, on May 3, 2017

John Suter, jd '73, 70, Hutchinson, Kansas, on June 2, 2017

Ross "Steve" White, bba '73, 67, Osage City, Kansas, on March 27, 2017

1980s

Richard Allison, bba '80, aa '84, 70, Osage City, Kansas, on March 14, 2017

Laudie "Marie" Booth, b ed '83, 66, Topeka, Kansas, on May 8, 2017

Suzanne (McBride) Bundy, ba '83, 74, Topeka, Kansas, on March 9, 2017

Rebecca Hermsen, ba '81, 54, Topeka, Kansas, on July 14, 2017

John Liezert, bsn '81, 68, Topeka, Kansas, on July 19, 2017

Martha Look, b ed '83, 61, Nueva Gorgona, Panama, on July 10, 2017

Michael Murphy, bba '86, mba '01, 63, Topeka, Kansas, on March 23, 2017

Rose (Serna) Ramirez, bsw '85, 77, Topeka, Kansas, on Jan. 24, 2017

Bruce Wiley, bs '83, 57, Greybull, Wyoming, on May 20, 2017

1990s

Wade Bowie, jd '99, 73, Hoover, Alabama, on March 31, 2017

Jeanine (Freeman) Crowl, bs '91, 48, Topeka, Kansas, on May 12, 2017

Beverly (Reichert) Dirk, aa '93, 58, Topeka, Kansas, on May 11, 2017

Donald McCoy, Jr., bs '96, 47, Overbrook, Kansas, on Jan. 7, 2017

Michael Mongeau, bba '99, 41, Plainville, Kansas, on July 13, 2017

Jason Smith, bs '96, 43, Olathe, Kansas, on May 30, 2017

Connie (Mast) Snyder, bsw '99, 72, Topeka, Kansas, on March 17, 2017

Robert Sweet, bsw '94, 60, Topeka, Kansas, on June 14, 2017

Steven Wilhoft, jd '92, 58, Parsons, Kansas, on April 18, 2017

2000s

Barbara Bruner, ba '01, 67, Topeka, Kansas, on May 17, 2017

Kevin Chambers, jd '06, 36, Newton, Kansas, on March 21, 2017

Ronald Dees, jd '10, 47, Topeka, Kansas, on August 2, 2017

Priscilla Humphrey, ba '01, mls '04, 53, Topeka, Kansas, on April 25, 2017

2010s

Soren Galvez, certificate of nursing '16, 20, Topeka, Kansas, on April 30, 2017

FRIENDS

Byron "Barney" Braymen, 91, Topeka, Kansas, on March 29, 2017

Rosemary Brinegar, 92, Dallas, Texas, on May 4, 2017

Roberta (Holman) Buttenhoff, former Washburn staff member, 77, Emporia, Kansas, on July 31, 2017

Norma (Lovseth) Clark, former Washburn staff member, 93, Anderson, South Carolina, on July 4, 2017

Melva "Jean" Duffens, 84, Topeka, Kansas, on March 30, 2017

James Garrett, 49, Tuscon, Arizona, on March 1, 2017

Roth Gatewood, 83, Topeka, Kansas, on March 27, 2017

Marjorye "Marge" (Savage) Heeney, 91, Topeka, Kansas, on June 25, 2017

Delano Henderson, former Washburn police, 85, Leavenworth, Kansas, on July 16, 2017

Arthur James, 90, Chicago, Illinois, on March 20, 2017

Chester Laney, Washburn Tech instructor, Topeka, Kansas, on July 27, 2017

Ima Jean Oden, former Washburn faculty, 80, Topeka, Kansas, on June 24, 2017

Virginia "Ginny" Scrinopskie, 87, Topeka, Kansas, on June 19, 2017

Ruth Warfel, former Washburn employee, 93, Topeka, Kansas, on March 18, 2017

Louese Winkler, 92, Wamego, Kansas, on May 13, 2017 



Sheldon, 83, & Virginia Cohen, 79, former Washburn professors of chemistry and biology, on July 11, 2017

Sheldon Cohen earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin and a doctorate from the University of Kansas before joining the chemistry department of Washburn University in 1960. He served as chair of the department from 1967 - 82, then went on to serve as provost and academic vice president from 1982 - 84. In 1991, he was named executive director of institutional planning.

"Shel taught for many, many years," said Washburn University President Jerry Farley at their memorial on campus. "He had a talent for making what was difficult for some - chemistry - better for others to understand. He truly is an iconic part of so many students' Washburn experience."

Virginia Cohen earned a bachelor's degree from Radford University in Virginia and a master's degree in genetics from Ohio State University before she joined the staff at Washburn University as an instructor in the biology department.

The Cohens were steadfast supporters of Washburn as they established a scholarship fund to benefit both the chemistry and biology department students.

"To many, Shel and Virginia were teachers," Farley said. "When I think of them and the thing that defines them, the thing that comes first and foremost to my mind, is they were teachers."



Shel and Virginia Cohen.
Photo submitted

Lanny Kimbrough, ba '59, Washburn University Foundation Trustee Emeriti, former Board of Regents member, 79, on June 22, 2017

Lanny Kimbrough received a bachelor's of arts in 1959 from Washburn University. He went on to have a 30-year career in banking, was vice president of 1st National Bank and became president of Highland Park Bank and Trust. He served as the chairman of the marketing committee for the Kansas Bankers Association, president of the Topeka Country Club, president of the Topeka YMCA, was a 40-year Topeka Rotarian, board member of the Stormont Vail Foundation, and chairman of the Topeka Blood Bank.

He was also a former chairman of the Washburn University Board of Regents and served as a trustee for the Washburn University Foundation from 1985-91.



Photo submitted

ALUMNI TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Playa del Carmen, Mexico

January 19-26, 2018, or January 20-27, 2018

Back by popular demand, we're headed to Mexico for the fifth year in a row. Get away this winter and enjoy the sun, sugary-white sands and crystal-clear waters of the Mexican Caribbean at the all-inclusive *Sandos Playacar Beach Resort* located in Playa del Carmen, 20 miles south of Cancun. Cost begins at \$1,680 per person for two people sharing one room and includes roundtrip airfare from Kansas City (other departure cities available, but pricing may vary), and seven nights stay at the all-inclusive resort hotel, all meals and

beverages. Last January, we sold out an entire Boeing 737, taking 166 Ichabods and friends to this popular vacation destination.



In June, 80 Ichabods and friends enjoyed a cruise on the Rhine River. The cruise started in Amsterdam and ended in Basel.

Picturesque Provence, Paris and Normandy

May 14-24, 2018

Fly to Paris and spend the week meandering by motorcoach through Provence in the South of France visiting among others, the cities and villages of Avignon, Nimes, Carcassonne and more. Along the way, enjoy the beautiful scenery, explore ancient sites, relish French wines and savor French cuisine. Later board the high-speed train to Paris for an additional three nights in the City of Lights. Included is a day trip to Bayeux to visit the Memorial Museum of the Battle of Normandy, a gateway to the D-Day beaches.

Also, visit the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, the final resting place of nearly 9,400 American soldiers. Cost is \$3,750 per person for two people sharing one room and includes roundtrip airfare from Kansas City (other departure cities available, but pricing may vary), nine nights first class hotel accommodations, sightseeing, nine breakfasts, five lunches and three dinners and more. Add \$900 if traveling by yourself. **This trip is SOLD OUT, but a waiting list is available.**

Cuba

October 19-26, 2018

Experience Cuba, this once forbidden island nation, aboard Oceania's intimate, 684 passenger ship, *Sirena*. The cruise starts and ends in Miami with visits to three of the island's cities. Spend two days in the island's largest and most lively city, Havana. Then enjoy a relaxing day at sea before arriving in the former French settlement and bayside city of Cienfuegos. Sail to the southeastern cultural hub of Santiago de Cuba, home of the Battle of San Juan Hill and the Cuban Revolution's victory proclamation. Enjoy one last day at sea before returning to Miami.

Pricing begins at \$1,899 per person for two people sharing one stateroom, and includes roundtrip airfare to and from Miami, seven-night luxury cruise and exclusive excursions while in Havana. As a bonus, each stateroom has its choice of either four additional free excursions, or free beverage package or \$400 shipboard credit. Cost of trip nearly doubles if traveling by yourself. More than 70 Ichabods have already signed up. Cabin availability is limited; some categories have already sold out.

For more information, call Susie Hoffmann, director, Alumni Association, at 785.670.1643.





WASHBURN UNIVERSITY

Homecoming 2017

FRIDAY, OCT. 20

AFTER HOURS

5 p.m. | Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center

HOMECOMING BONFIRE AND PEP RALLY

7:15 p.m. | Field South of Henderson

SATURDAY, OCT. 21

PANCAKE FEED

8 a.m. | Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center

PARADE WATCH PARTY

9:30 a.m. | Washburn University Foundation Lawn

TAILGATE

11 a.m. | Memorial Union Lawn

FOOTBALL GAME VS. CENTRAL MISSOURI

1 p.m. | Yager Stadium

PRESIDENT DR. JERRY FARLEY'S 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION & BOW TIE BASH

4:30 p.m. | Memorial Union, Washburn Room

