



# *DIRECTIONS*

**WASHBURN**  
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

**JOURNEYS**

2016-2017



## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

2016-2017 Vol. 9, NO. 1  
**JOURNEYS**

*Directions* is a publication for Alumni & Friends

## Department Chairs

**Art:** Marguerite Perret (interim)

**Biology:** John Mullican

**Chemistry:** Stephen Angel

**Communication Studies:** Kathy Menzie

**Computer Information Sciences:** Bruce Mechtly

**Education:** Cherry Steffen

**English:** Corey Zwikstra (interim)

**History:** Tom Prasch

**Kinesiology:** Roy Wohl

**Mass Media:** Kathy Menzie

**Mathematics and Statistics:** Kevin Charlwood

**Modern Languages:** Miguel Gonzalez-Abellas

**Music:** Ann Marie Snook

**Philosophy and Religious Studies:** Russ Jacobs

**Physics and Astronomy:** Steve Black

**Political Science:** Mark Peterson

**Psychology:** Cindy Turk

**Sociology and Anthropology:** Cheryl Childers

**Theatre:** Paul Prece

Journey Through Karlyle Woods 4-5

The Journey to 26.2 Miles 6-7

Freedom's Journey 8-9

The Journey of Mary Fix 10-11

Journey at Washburn: Retiring Faculty 12-13

Department Highlights 14-18

**Dean: Laura Stephenson**

*laura.stephenson@washburn.edu*

**Associate Dean: Bruce Mactavish**

*bruce.mactavish@washburn.edu*

**Assistant Dean: Matt Arterburn**

*matt.arterburn@washburn.edu*

**Writer and Editor:**

Grace Hildenbrand *grace.hildenbrand@washburn.edu*

**Contributing Photographer:**

Peggy Clark

**College of Arts & Sciences**

Morgan Hall 209 · 1700 SW College Ave. · Topeka, KS 66621

Phone: 785.670.1636 · Website: [www.washburn.edu/cas](http://www.washburn.edu/cas)

**Cover:** Washburn students explore the Montgomery Bus Boycott display at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee. Photo taken by history major Jordan Callison.

### CAS Announces New Master's Program in Communication and Leadership

Our new master's program in Communication and Leadership is an interdisciplinary, two-year, 30 credit hour program. It is designed for working professionals who want to move ahead in their career, as well as high school instructors who teach concurrent enrollment speech courses. "We're teaching skills that people in middle management positions can use to advance their careers," said Kathy Menzie, communication studies department chair, "such as strategic communication for managers, working in teams, persuasion, and negotiation and conflict." The program is offered completely online in eight-week sessions. To learn more, visit [www.washburn.edu/mcl](http://www.washburn.edu/mcl)

# Journeys



I recently attended a talk by Bud Holman, an artist from Topeka whose work is currently exhibited at Washburn's Mulvane Art Museum (through December 23, 2016). During his remarks, he commented that his paintings reflected his life's journey and made reference to a poem by C.F. Cavafy, "The Way to Ithaka," which reminds us that life is not about the destination but the journey:

*As you set out for Ithaka  
hope the voyage is a long one,  
full of adventure, full of discovery.  
Laistrygonians and Cyclops,  
angry Poseidon—don't be afraid of them:  
you'll never find things like that on your way  
as long as you keep your thoughts raised high,  
as long as a rare excitement  
stirs your spirit and your body.*

When our students first arrive on campus, their initial focus is usually on their destination—the degree they are seeking. However, few leave Washburn without an appreciation for the richness of their journey that was a reward in and of itself. This year's *Directions* explores Washburn journeys that have enriched the lives of our students. Some of these are physical journeys that immerse students in a unique culture or environment, or expose them to the living history of a region. One of our featured stories follows the life of alumna Mary Fix, *ba chemistry '49*, whose Washburn journey was one of intellectual challenges and overcoming cultural obstacles to demonstrate that a woman could be a scientist. Some journeys test both mental and physical vigor: our marathon students develop the physical and psychological strength necessary to achieve their goals. Journeys of personal and professional enrichment aren't limited to Washburn students; our faculty leave legacies and imprints on our community that are career-long in the making. These journeys don't end when we move on from Washburn; each of us carries our memories and experiences of this campus and community as life's journey takes us elsewhere.

Washburn journeys are not solo sojourns for any of us. We are supported along our trek by many fellow travelers—faculty, students, staff, colleagues, friends, family, and alumni. Since serving as dean, I've become even more acutely aware of this valuable support. It is with much gratitude that I leave you with this sentiment from Cavafy's poem:

*Hope the voyage is a long one.  
May there be many a summer morning when,  
with what pleasure, what joy,  
you come into harbors seen for the first time...*

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

Laura A. Stephenson, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

# Journey and Discovery in Karlyle Woods

The Robert Meinershagen Field Laboratory at Karlyle Woods provides Washburn biology students with an opportunity to learn and conduct research in a natural environment.



Instead of a classroom with tables and chairs, imagine a “classroom” of 30 acres of lush, green forest surrounding a pastoral prairie. This northern Topeka property, Karlyle Woods, is the setting for students studying environmental biology at Washburn. In addition to the expansive outdoor research environment, the site houses the Robert Meinershagen Field Laboratory, a facility equipped with lab benches, microscopes, and specimen storage units, which allows students to analyze samples collected as a part of hands-on classroom activities.

## History

Karlyle Woods is one of many legacies established by renowned psychiatrist, Dr. Karl Menninger. Menninger donated Karlyle Woods, the site of his summer home, to Washburn in 1983. Robert Meinershagen, *ba '63*, funded a grant to build the laboratory, and the building was dedicated in 1997.

## Intended Use

Dr. Menninger envisioned three uses for Karlyle Woods: educational enrichment, research, and community outreach. “Washburn will find there will be professors and there will be students who will get inspiration. I think this will be a lovely place for people to come for many reasons” Menninger once said. With far greater diversity of habitat than can be found on a college campus, the site allows for an immersive field experience for Washburn students. Multiple biology laboratory courses incorporate field experiences at the site including invertebrate and vertebrate zoology, ecology, entomology, and systematic botany, while the field biology course is taught almost entirely at Karlyle Woods. The site attracts students in non-science disciplines as well; Washburn art classes have even used the site for artistic inspiration.

The field site is ideal for a variety of faculty and student research projects. Karlyle Woods provides a remote, relatively untouched ecosystem to accommodate the plant and insect sampling techniques that are the backbone of ecological and environmental science investigations. Currently, two major projects studying invasive species are underway, under the direction of biology Assistant Professors Jason Emry, plant ecology, and Rodrigo Mercader, entomology.

The first project was launched by Mercader in the fall of 2012, examining the outbreak of the asimina webworm moth, an insect that feeds on pawpaw plants. He and his students are

trying to outline the progression of such outbreaks and how predation by insects controls plant populations. Seven students have undertaken projects that are part of this larger study, and the data they have collected will culminate in scholarly publications.

The second, more recently initiated project, tracks the spread of invasive honeysuckle plants which are dominating and extirpating many of the native plants in the forest. Emry, Mercader, and their students are studying the reemergence of native species after the honeysuckle is cleared out in ten permanent forest plots over the next five to ten years. Emry and Mercader realized the ideal setup for this project is to work together as an ecology unit. “We found with this long-term project, we can always bring students into it, and between the two of us we can have someone to maintain these plots and keep this going,” said Emry.

The site is also a valuable setting for educational activities involving community organizations, being used for events with the Boy Scouts, Kansas Native Plants Society, The Audubon Society, and others. Some groups use the lab as a meeting space, while others are more interested in the outdoor features. The Boy Scouts routinely help build and maintain nature trails at Karlyle Woods and The Audubon Society uses the location for bird watching and bird banding.

## Benefit to WU

The Karlyle Woods site is indispensable for students who study environmental biology because other locations would be susceptible to tampering with research projects and require various permissions for use. “For research, we couldn’t do it anywhere else. Nobody’s going to allow us to do these things in a local park,” said Mercader. “For classes...it’s a place where we have the security of a Washburn owned property where we know the area, we won’t disturb anyone else, and they won’t disturb our work.”

## An Invitation

Despite the activities already underway, the Karlyle Woods site has potential to offer unique experiences to many more groups than those who currently utilize it. Other Washburn classes, student organizations, or local organizations are encouraged to use the site as long as there is a faculty member present. If interested, please contact Rodrigo Mercader, Director of Karlyle Woods, at [rodrigo.mercader@washburn.edu](mailto:rodrigo.mercader@washburn.edu)

# The Journey to 26.2 Miles

The spring of 2016 marked the 20th anniversary of KN 192/193 Marathon Training, one of Washburn University's most unique academic courses. This course promotes determination and encouragement, as students learn how to accomplish a major feat with their feet.



“The last one is the fast one.” “Walk because you planned to, not because you have to.” “No whining!”

Phrases like these are heard as classmates encourage each other while training for a marathon or half-marathon as a part of Washburn University's Marathon Training (WUMT) course. The class--deemed the ‘hardest one credit hour course at Washburn’ --has been taught every spring for the past twenty years by Dave Provorse, associate professor of psychology. Provorse was presented with a “Living Well at Washburn” award in April 2016 for his dedication and leadership in promoting health and fitness within the Washburn community.

## Start of the Class

Provorse started competing in triathlons in 1986 and began running marathons with a friend in 1993 as a way to stay fit. While competing in the Lincoln (Nebraska) Marathon, he met a

couple of professors and several students from the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) who had recently completed a marathon training class. After witnessing the UNI students finish the marathon, he thought that the class would be a great experience for students at Washburn.

When proposing the class to Jim McCormick, the former chair of what is now the Kinesiology department, Provorse was met with questions regarding his credentials to teach the class as well as questions about student interest. However, after explaining his experience with running marathons and his knowledge gained from reading marathon training textbooks, McCormick encouraged him to give the course a try. Seven students enrolled in the first class in Spring 1997. With the continued moral and financial support of current chair of Kinesiology, Roy Wohl, today the enrollment is commonly around 20-30 students. The class has run marathons together in several locations, including Nebraska, Tennessee, Ohio, Kentucky, and Illinois.

## Tools of the Running Trade

The class immediately tests student dedication, meeting early on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and begins with 15-20 minutes of lecture on topics that help students address the common pitfalls that derail most people's marathon training programs. These mini-lectures are followed by a 45 to 75 minute running-based workout. Rookie students are often surprised to learn the class also meets on Saturday mornings for a longer run that



Dave Provorse with his wife, Marcia.



progresses from about 6 to over 20 miles by semester's end. As the semester progresses, students are expected to add in additional aerobic cross-training workouts on their own time to better prepare for the marathon. Students are graded based on attendance, logging of physical training workouts, and quizzes over course content.

### Lessons

The class lectures cover practical topics such as finding the right shoes, the importance of cross-training, nutrition, and pacing. "What you really learn over the course of the semester is how slow you have to run to be able to still be running 26 miles later" said Provorse. Also covered are the mental elements of running such as focus, relaxation, visualization, and the value of having a positive mindset. Once students achieve their goal of completing a marathon, Provorse ensures that they give themselves ample credit for their accomplishment.

### Trends

The WUMT course has, over its 20-year history, paralleled changes in national marathon trends. More women participate now than twenty years ago; today the classes are roughly 70% female and 30% male. Half-marathons and walk breaks are more common today than before. Culturally, running has shifted from a solo undertaking to a social activity.

A national trend that WUMT students are proud to buck is the rate of successful completion. Nationally, only about ten percent of people who train for a marathon actually finish a marathon in the same training season. In the WUMT class, the percentage of those who finish a marathon is roughly 90% percent for those students who remain in the class halfway through the semester,

and virtually 100% for those who actually register for and participate in a sanctioned event.

### Social

Another distinction of WUMT compared to other marathon training programs is the heightened social component. Camaraderie and support are more important than competition. "The goal is for long runs to feel like having coffee with friends," said Provorse. Students are encouraged to converse with one another while they run, and most discover it is easier to run together than alone. Faculty, staff, administrators, and community members often join in running with the class. Provorse notes that Paul Wagner of Washburn's Biology department has been a great source of support and has joined the class on weekend runs for the past 15 years.

### Impact

Provorse emphasizes that the most important outcome of the course is the impact of having completed a goal of bucket-list proportions. He observes that many students feel different about themselves after crossing the finish line.

"I like to think of the class as a metaphor of how to be successful. Very simply, you establish a goal, you come up with a plan for how you are going to achieve the goal, and then you have to follow-through" said Provorse. "I'm not training people to finish a marathon, I'm teaching people how to not quit during a marathon." This lesson is one that can be applied to many situations and Provorse's efforts have produced many "finishers" who carry that attitude beyond the world of running and fitness.



# Freedom's Journey

Returning from a trip to the Deep South to explore civil rights history, 13 Washburn students shared their experiences in the form of photographs, writings, and videos in an exhibition at the Mulvane Art Museum on display in the summer of 2016.





In 2014, the 60th anniversary of the Brown v. Board decision prompted political science Department Chair Mark Peterson to create a course titled “Exploring Civil Rights,” which centered around a spring break trip to the Deep South to immerse Washburn students in the history of the civil rights movement. He partnered with Bruce Mactavish, associate dean of the college of arts and sciences and assistant professor of history, and Connie Gibbons, director of the Mulvane Art Museum, to coordinate this unique course. The trip was made possible largely because of the support of the Washburn Transformational Experience program and its director, Mike Russell.

### **A Moving Experience**

The trip brought students to sites of major civil rights events, from Memphis to Mississippi to Alabama, where they experienced southern culture, music, art, food, and museums. The course was such a resounding success that another “Exploring Civil Rights” course was offered in the spring of 2016. The 2016 trip added singing freedom songs at Martin Luther King’s Dexter Avenue Church in Montgomery, AL, and celebrating the birth of Fred Shuttlesworth with the NAACP in Birmingham. “It was a journey that included trying to think of the American Dream and how it was much more of a nightmare to many blacks in Mississippi and Alabama” said Mactavish.

Students were deeply touched by the experience. “It’s one thing to read about this history in books, as opposed to going to that place and talking to the people and seeing it up close” said Gibbons. “For many students it made it real.” During the trip, students shared features of their journey in a blog. “This trip has really opened my eyes and made me realize that life is about doing what is right and what really matters” wrote Broderick Schuman, a student who went on the trip. Upon returning to Washburn, the students wanted to share their reflections with others, and decided that an art exhibition would best convey the sentiment of the trip.

### **Mulvane Art Museum Exhibition**

The exhibition consisted of gray walls covered with gripping images from the trip paired with powerful quotes from civil rights leaders. Avoiding a traditional, linear setup of framed photos, the exhibit was arranged with 60-70 bare prints grouped

by location, resembling a series of journal entries. Also on display were iPads with student videos and PowerPoint presentations, as well as their “Get on the Bus” blog. The exhibition was interactive, as visitors were encouraged to share their thoughts using colorful sticky notes taped to the wall.

Mactavish and Gibbons chose the title “Freedom’s Journey” to convey the idea that freedom is a continual, lifelong journey, focusing on the journey itself rather than the destination.

Over 3,000 people visited the exhibition, and many were moved by the display. Notable reactions from visitors recorded on the sticky notes included: “What a life-changing experience,” “We are all given the challenge to never let this happen again,” and “Freedom is a privilege; we need to keep fighting for it.”

### **The Journey Continues**

The student travelers took from their trip a challenge to continue to speak up for civil rights. “Every place we went to, the final message was always to keep moving forward; continue to fight for justice for all people” said Nicole O’Brate, a student who went on the trip. “It is my greatest hope that we can keep moving forward together.”

Encouraged by the call to action adopted by the students, Mactavish and Gibbons plan to continue offering this course every other spring semester, with the next trip planned for spring 2018. They look forward to inviting more students to participate in freedom’s journey.



*Opposite page:* Julie Velez and Ayesse Tchamlesso stand on the iconic Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. Photo by art major Julie Velez.

# The Journey of Mary Fix

A new scholarship fund established by alumna Mary N. Fix, *ba chemistry '49*, provides support to students studying the natural sciences at Washburn. Her legacy as a pioneer in the historically male-dominated field of physics is evident in her numerous career accomplishments, including the establishment of significant technological patents.

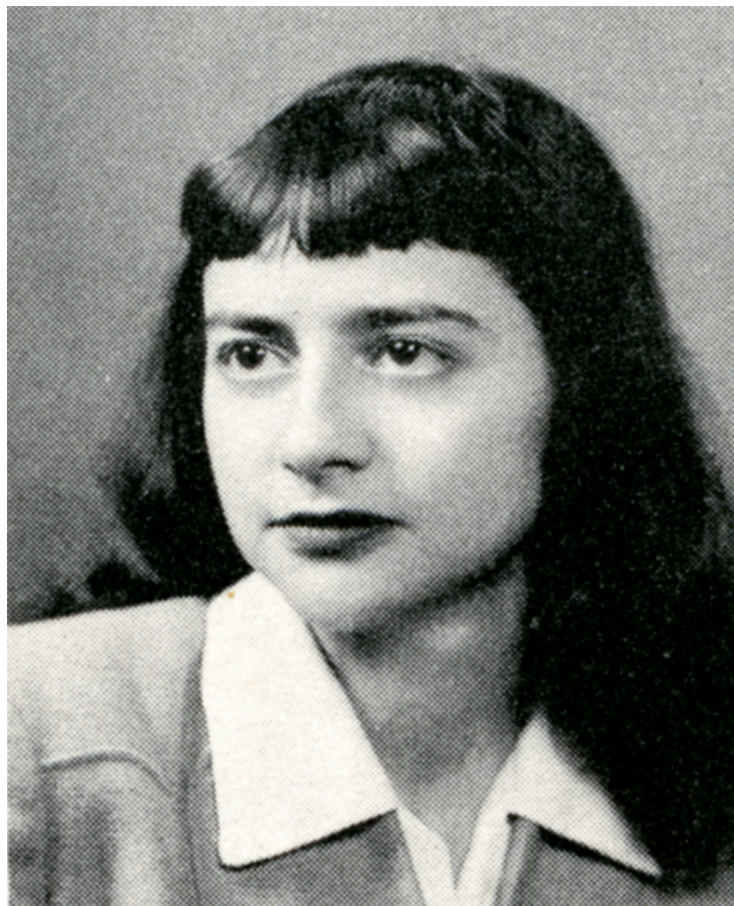
In the spring of 2015, Dean Stephenson was delighted to discover nearly double the amount of scholarship money available to support deserving CAS students, thanks to a newly created fund, the Mary N. Fix Scholarship. Little was known about Mary Fix beyond her graduation from Washburn in 1949 and the scholarship funds she left for Washburn after passing away in 2010.

Stephenson's curiosity was piqued. She contacted two of her favorite sleuths: Martha Imparato, Washburn's special collections librarian/archivist, and Lori Domel, a friend with a passion for genealogical research, tasking them with uncovering clues about the life of Mary Fix. Their investigations revealed a picture of a woman dedicated to both scientific research and higher education.

## History

Much of what we learned about Fix comes from a front page Albuquerque Tribune feature article from November 22, 1957 titled "29 Men and a Girl: She's Only Woman Physicist at Lab" written by Foster Maxwell. Maxwell described her as "quiet by nature" with a "background in explosives."

Mary Naomi Fix was a native Topekan, born August 29, 1926 to William and Hazel Fix. Her father was a local auto mechanic. She and her parents lived in Des Moines, IA during her childhood but then moved back to Topeka.



Mary Fix in a Washburn yearbook photo from 1948.

Growing up, Fix was dismayed by the limited prospects for women in the career field that so greatly held her interest. "I was discouraged by others mainly because no one believed a woman stood much of a chance to get a position in scientific fields" Fix said. However, a four year scholarship to Washburn University changed her outlook and empowered her to pursue her dream of becoming a scientist.

## Time as an Ichabod

Fix participated in numerous extracurricular activities while at Washburn including Kappa Mu Epsilon, a national honorary math fraternity, and the Dolphin Club, a female swimming team that performed water shows. She studied chemistry and physics.

## Career

After graduation, Fix attended the University of Kansas to pursue a master's degree. After her first semester she accepted a position at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory in Silver Spring, MD. "At last, she was a physicist" wrote Maxwell. "She worked hard, day and night, cramming every bit of information into her head." She continued to work in Maryland until September 1956 when she was offered a research position at Sandia Labs in Albuquerque, NM.

Fix proudly claimed the distinction of being the only female physicist at the lab, working in the Electrochemical Development Department with 29 men. Throughout the course of her career she produced two patents including a patent for a Method/Apparatus for Measuring Transient Pressures. She never married or had children, devoting her life to research and her hobbies, including photography and reading.

## Legacy

The College almost never realized the generous and intriguing legacy of Mary Fix. Fix died in 2010 in Las Cruces, NM at the age of 83. Her caregiver, an Adult Protective Services agent, created a false will, leaving the estate, car, and money to herself. She also forged checks using Fix's checkbook. After uncovering the fraud, investigators discovered that Fix had established a living trust in 2004 naming Washburn as the beneficiary of her estate. The College is pleased to see that the legacy of Mary Fix, a



The Kansas Delta Chapter of national honorary math fraternity Kappa Mu Epsilon. Mary Fix is pictured on the far right in the front row.

woman who pursued her passion against the odds, will live on in support of our students.

## Scholarship

The Mary N. Fix Memorial Scholarship Fund is a four year renewable scholarship which supports outstanding incoming freshmen studying biology, chemistry or physics. The scholarship can be renewed for a fifth year for students studying science education.

## Mystery Solved

Mary Fix loved reading mysteries and as a scientist she was described as having "an undying curiosity for the unknown". It is very fitting that her story and her legacy came to us as a mystery.

# Journey at Washburn: Retiring Faculty

When the 2016-2017 academic year comes to a close, several of our revered faculty members from the College of Arts and Sciences will retire. We contacted them and asked them to reflect on their most rewarding experience while working at Washburn, and captured photos of them at their favorite spot on Washburn's campus. These professors have touched the lives of numerous students, faculty, and staff along their journey at Washburn, and we are thankful for their years of support and wisdom.



**Tom Averill, Writer-in-residence and Professor, English:** *"My students! Over 37 years, what wonderful people I've met, and they've shaped me and I've shaped them. One student once said, "You don't remember me," and I answered, "But I haven't forgotten you," and maybe I have forgotten a name, or a face, but each student is part of who I have had the privilege to be as a Washburn Professor."*

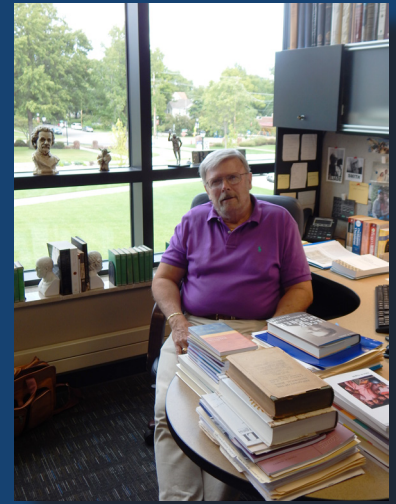
In the basement of Mabee Library at the Thomas Fox Averill Collection.

**Barry Crawford, Professor, Religious Studies:** *"The colleagues I've worked with, the friends I've made, and the woman I married."*



**Bill Gahnstrom, Lecturer, Mathematics:** *"What I remember most about Washburn University is how I have looked forward to coming to Washburn each and every day since joining the Mathematics and Statistics department family in January 1994. I feel truly blessed and fortunate to have had both the opportunity and pleasure to work and socialize with the dedicated and professional faculty and staff who make Washburn University a wonderful place to work and positively impact the lives of so many students."*

Standing in his office with one of the many Homecoming Top Hats from his collection.



Sitting in his office in Morgan Hall.



**Russ Jacobs, Department Chair and Professor, Philosophy:** *“My most rewarding experience in my 40+ years at Washburn has been my interaction with students. Working with them, seeing their faces as they begin to understand the idea or argument at hand, is what has kept me coming back, energized, every semester.”*

In the garden outside Garvey Fine Arts Center.

**Paul Prece, Department Chair and Professor, Theatre, and Director of the Bachelor of Integrated Studies:** *“My time at Washburn has been spent in studying and making theatre, in the classroom and in the Neese Gray Theater; creative work was nurtured, developed and shared. Students and faculty together grew from these experiences. A unique community was formed with each ensemble and every production. Hours spent in this evolving process is as rewarding as anything I can imagine.”*



Inside Garvey Fine Arts Center.



**Tom Schmiedeler, Professor, Geography:** *“My most rewarding experience at Washburn has been participation in the Sweet Sabbatical Program, which has been ideal for my continued education as a geographer through its support of international travel. It also has been an asset to my teaching because it inspires enthusiasm for conveying my knowledge of the world realms, regions and places in the hope that my students will also want to experience firsthand world cultures in all of their intriguing and mystifying facets.”*

Standing in front of the International House.

**Penny Weiner, Professor, Theatre:** *“The most rewarding experience for me anywhere, everywhere, is the joy, always the joy. At Washburn, it’s the joy of seeing curiosity aroused, awakened and rewarded. It’s also the joy of learning from my students, of being alive in an environment where wonder is an asset.”*



At her desk next to a photo of her granddaughter.

# Department Highlights





## ART

The **Art** department hosted High School Art Day in November 2015 with participants from 15 area high schools. Glenda Taylor was named fellow of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts at the 50th Annual Conference in March 2016. A mural was created in her memory, and is on display at the Art Building on campus (*shown above*). Charles & Margaret Pollack Award winners for 2016 included James A. Martin and Tyler Quintin. The Marydorsey Wanless Award for Photography was presented to Julie Velez.

**Biology** alumnus Andrew Hulse was presented with a 2016 Kansas Horizon Award by the Kansas State Department of Education. Dr. Tony Ware, *ba '74* (*shown above*), visited Washburn and presented “Alzheimer’s Disease: General Overview and Therapeutic Prospects” in April. Faculty members Susan Bjerke, Takrima Sadikot, and Heather Snyder were involved with Women in Science Day.

**Chemistry** Professor Sam Leung was presented with the Award for Excellence in Teaching Science in May 2016. The department is proud to welcome Holly O’Neill as the Forensic Chemical Science Program Director. She previously worked for MRI Global, a company focused on National Defense and Security, and has worked for the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. Seid Adem, assistant professor, traveled to Ethiopia this summer to teach master’s level chemistry students at Kotebe University College, Addis Ababa (*shown above*). Administrative Assistant Joyce Hutchins, *Eminentes Universitatis*, retired from the department.



## BIOLOGY



## CHEMISTRY

Tracy Routsong, **Communication Studies** professor, won the First Year Experience Faculty Debate in the spring 2016 semester. Washburn 2016 debate squad members were crowned national champions at the National Parliamentary Debate Association Championships in California, winning over 163 teams.

**Computer Information Sciences** Professor Nan Sun ran coding workshops for the Topeka Girl Scouts. Four computer information science majors presented at *Apeiron* in April 2016. David Bainum and Roberta Jolly retired from the department. Phillip Hauptman, lecturer, joined the Computer Information Sciences faculty.

**Education** Professor Sandy Tutwiler published a book, *Mixed-race Youth and Schooling: The Fifth Minority*, in February. Judith McConnell-Farmer reprised her study abroad trip to Belize over winter break. Craig Carter, field placement director, and Lisa Douglass, assistant professor of math education, joined the faculty. The department is in the process of designing a STEM classroom. Department Chair Cherry Steffen and Professor Gloria Dye were awarded financial support from the Kansas Board of Regents to provide opportunities for paraprofessionals in local school districts to complete a degree in teaching. All education graduate programs are now offered completely online. Denise Salisbury retired from the department.

In fall 2015, Fali Farwell, **English** major, was named an Outstanding Secondary Student Teacher by the Education department; Amy Rhodes was presented with the same award in spring 2016. Eric McHenry, associate professor, had a review in



## HISTORY

the December 27, 2015 issue of the *New York Times Book Review*. McHenry also gave a Poet Laureate/CAS Distinguished Lecture presentation, and was presented with the A. Roy Myers Excellence in Research Award. Lecturer Dennis Etzel's book, *My Secret Wars of 1984*, was selected as the Best Poetry Book of 2015 by the Kansas City Star. Melanie Burdick was selected as the Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence in Learning. Geoff Way joined the faculty of the department as an assistant professor of literature.

Rachel Goossen, **History** professor, received the 2015 Charles DeBenedetti Prize in peace history for her scholarly work on war toys. Caroline Janney from Purdue University presented the Lincoln Lecture titled "What They Thought it All Meant: The Civil War Generation Remembers." Mia Bay, Director of the Center of Race and Ethnicity at Rutgers University and Fink Visiting Professor, gave a presentation on the reform efforts of Ida B. Wells. Kim Morse, professor, was awarded with the Herrick Faculty Award for Outstanding Service. Kelly Erby, assistant professor, recently published a book titled *Restaurant Republic: Boston and the Rise of Dining Out*. The history department hosted a pop-up conference on civil religion this fall (*shown above: History major Jordan Callison presenting at the conference*). Kerry Wynn taught an Adventurer's Library course using books from the James R. Mead collection in Mabee Library. Alumnus Jordan Boyd, *ba '14*, received the Horizon Award, given to outstanding teachers in their second year of teaching.

## KINESIOLOGY

Athletic Training (AT) Quiz Bowl Team of **Kinesiology** majors McKensie Bevens, Paul Stueve, and Kristyn Watts won the Kansas State AT Student Quiz Bowl, the Mid-America Athletic Trainers Regional Quiz Bowl, and competed in the National AT student Quiz Bowl in Baltimore in June (*shown above*). This is the first AT student quiz bowl team from Kansas to ever qualify to compete at the national competition. Washburn finished in a tie for fourth among 13 teams. At spring graduation, Marina Quimby, a Kinesiology double major (BA Exercise Physiology and BA Sport Management), won the Sibberson Award. Matt Heesch joined the faculty as an assistant professor in exercise science. Margie Miller was presented with the Student Life Achieving Excellence Award and retired from the department.

The **Mass Media** department hosted their first Media Day in March 2016 with 30 high school students in attendance. Kristen Grimmer, *ba '10*, joined the department as an assistant professor of public relations. The spring banquet, 'Elegance and Excellence: The Roaring 20s', was a resounding success. The department is working on creating a minor in applied media. Charles Cranston, professor, created a documentary titled "Blessing the Fleet."

The **Mathematics & Statistics** department hosted Math Day in November 2015, with 20 local high schools represented for the competitive exam and "Mathnificent Race". Faculty members Mike Mosier, Gaspar Porta and Jason Shaw took students Taylor Balsmeier, Kendall Golder, Kevin Mosier, Katelynn Robinson, and Jonathan Tyler, to the Kappa Mu





## MODERN LANGUAGES

Epsilon North Central Regional Convention on April 1 – 2, 2016, held at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. The department has purchased new classroom technology over the past two years, including three 84” ultra high definition interactive panels, an Elmo system (document camera system), nine iPads, and two Microsoft Surface units. Angela Crumer joined the faculty of the department.

Georgina Tenny, lecturer in Spanish, led a group of **Modern Languages** students on another successful study abroad experience to Salamanca, Spain, in the summer of 2016 (*shown above*). Courtney Sullivan, professor of French, published a book, *The Evolution of the French Courtesan Novel: From de Chabryllan to Colette*, about the autobiographical fictions of nineteenth-century French courtesans in response to damaging representations of their kind in the fiction of some male writers. Michael O’Brien, lecturer in Spanish, had a paper accepted for publication in the volume *Essays in Medieval Studies*. Chairperson and Professor of Spanish, Miguel González-Abellás, published an article in the Brazilian e-journal *Fênix: Revista de História e Estudos Culturais*. Yuka Naito-Billen, adjunct professor of Japanese, was presented with the Ned N. Fleming Excellence in Teaching Award.

Washburn **Music** department alumnus Darren Jenkins has published a CD of musical compositions entitled “The Simple Things in Life” that is used as Washburn’s background music when phone calls are on hold. The Wind Ensemble was selected to perform at College Band Directors National Association Convention over spring break in Boulder, CO.

## MUSIC

## POLITICAL SCIENCE

Martha Placeres joined the faculty as the Director of Orchestras. The Honors Fetter String Quartet was selected to perform in Italy in the summer of 2016. All fall 2015 and spring 2016 music education graduates have secured full-time teaching positions. The opera studio performed “L’Elisir d’Amore” in April. Gordon McQuere retired from the department.

The **Philosophy & Religious Studies** department hosted its annual Thomas L. King Lecture in September, featuring Professor Rami Arav, who presented “Bethsaida from King David to Jesus”. Ian Smith, assistant professor, was awarded the Student Life Achieving Excellence Award. Professor Barry Crawford co-edited a manuscript for the Society of Biblical Literature titled *Redescribing the Gospel of Mark*. Department chair Russ Jacobs presented a poster at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Conference in Boulder, CO titled “Three Objections to Conjugal Marriage.” Rik Hine, assistant professor of philosophy, joined the faculty.

Mark Smith, lecturer in the **Physics & Astronomy** department, presented planetarium shows to 1,767 visitors with 38 school groups, and hosted eight open houses. Steve Black, department chair, Brian Thomas, professor, and student Kendall Golder, constructed a radio telescope (*shown on p. 19: Kendall Golder with the radio telescope*).

Linsey Moddelmog, assistant professor of **Political Science**, presented a research paper in San Juan, Puerto Rico at the Southern Political Science Association’s annual meeting. Mark Peterson, department chair, traveled to London with students John Shively and Jack van Dam, to observe the



## *PSYCHOLOGY*

campaign and voting in the British EU Retention Referendum. Bob Beatty, professor, presented guest lectures at Gakuen University and Fukuoka University in Japan this summer. Beatty also taught a field research class that attended the Iowa Caucuses (*shown on previous page: student Natasha Martinez takes a photo with Hillary Clinton*). Washburn student Natasha Martinez is the winner of the 2016 Topeka city-wide Peacemaker Award, given annually by the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice, for her tremendous contribution to student voter registration in Kansas.

Students and faculty in the **Psychology** Department presented research at the annual meeting of the Midwest Psychological Association in May 2016. Cindy Wooldridge, assistant professor, and some of her colleagues, have started a blog at [learningscientists.org](http://learningscientists.org). The bachelor's degree in psychology can now be earned completely online. The master's program was ranked #33 in a list compiled by [BestMastersInPsychology.com](http://BestMastersInPsychology.com). Linzi Gibson was presented with the Student Life Achieving Excellence Award. Kira Johnson, psychology master's graduate, and Charlie Blomstrom-Johnson, her brother and an undergraduate psychology major, train therapy miniature horses. They came to campus during the spring and presented to two Abnormal Psychology classes (*shown above*). Jericho Hockett was presented with the Muriel D. Clarke Student Life Award. Bonnie Paine retired from the department as *Eminentes Universitatis*.

The **Sociology/Anthropology** Department conducted two successful searches – Laura Murphy, archaeology, and

## *ANTHROPOLOGY*

Alexandra Klales, forensic anthropology. Associate Professor Sharla Blank accompanied students to India with Professor of Art Azyz Sharafy during the 2015-16 winter break. Students spent 18 days taking classes in Indian mythology, culture, economics, and rural development at Symbiosis University, as well as visiting the Taj Mahal, touring temples in Pune, and participating in workshops on Bollywood dance and other cultural traditions (*shown above*). In the spring semester, the first classes were held in the new laboratory space in the KBI Forensic Science Center as part of the new B.S. in Anthropology (Forensic Concentration). Sharla Blank was awarded the Ned N. Fleming Award for Excellence in Teaching, and John Paul, professor, was awarded the A. Roy Myers Award for Excellence in Research.

John Hunter retired from the **Theatre** department. Sharon Sullivan traveled with Washburn students to New York for the 60th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Two students presented their original plays at *Apeiron*. This summer and fall the department put on “The Turn of the Screw,” featuring students Andrew Fletcher and Jamie Schartz (*shown above*).

## *THEATRE*



**WASHBURN**  
UNIVERSITY

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

1700 SW COLLEGE AVE. TOPEKA, KS 66621

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
WASHBURN  
UNIVERSITY

## **Impact**

Make a difference.

Have an impact.

The Washburn University Foundation has launched *Impact*, a crowd-sourcing, online platform to support projects which will enhance the educational experience of CAS students.

To explore the CAS projects, go to: [www.washburn.edu/cas/impact](http://www.washburn.edu/cas/impact)