



DIRECTIONS



WASHBURN[™]
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

WINTER 2012

'INNOVATION'

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Chemistry: Stephen Angel

Communication: Tracy Routsong

Computer Information Sciences: Bruce Mechtly

Education: Donna LaLonde (interim)

English: Danny Wade

History: Tom Prasch

Kinesiology: Roy Wohl

Mass Media: Kathy Menzie

Mathematics and Statistics: Kevin Charlwood

Modern Languages: Miguel González-Abellás

Music: Ann Marie Snook

Philosophy and Religious Studies: Russell Jacobs

Physics and Astronomy: Steve Black

Political Science: Mark Peterson

Psychology: Dave Provorse

Sociology and Anthropology: Cheryl Childers

Theatre: Paul Prece

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Cover: *From left*, Karen Camarda, associate professor of physics and astronomy, and students Chris Bird and Hayley Strutt



“Washburn’s College of Arts & Sciences continues to look for ways to innovate, and not simply for the sake of novelty. Our faculty members are constantly seeking better ways to help students learn.”

Innovation.

That’s a word not always associated with the work of a typical College of Arts and Sciences, where the preservation of tradition seems paramount. However, Washburn’s College of Arts & Sciences continues to look for ways to innovate, and not simply for the sake of novelty. Our faculty members are constantly seeking better ways to help students learn.

In the pages that follow, we present a series of brief stories that illustrate new ways of fulfilling our educational mission – new places, new courses, new instructional methods. The goal, however, never changes. It always has been and always will be to help our students experience the transformative power of higher education – to prepare them for life, for careers, for finding ways to make their world and ours a better place. I hope you enjoy reading these stories as much as we have enjoyed developing them.

This will be my last column for *Directions*. At the end of this academic year, I will be stepping aside as dean of the College to take a place as professor of music. My 11 years as dean have been eventful and rewarding, and I will leave with gratitude for the opportunity to serve with so many outstanding faculty members and the chance to get to know so many successful and loyal alumni of our College. Thank you for your part in this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon D. McQuere". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gordon McQuere, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences

To learn more about the College, visit Washburn.edu/cas

A Study in Teaching



Washburn students won't be the only ones taking notes next spring semester. A trio of College of Arts & Sciences faculty members will pilot a Pedagogical Excellence Team (PET) project by observing one another's classes and comparing instructional strategies.

Ultimately, the team will share its insights with other faculty to identify and build on effective teaching practices. Dean Gordon McQuere chose the initial PET faculty members from the math, chemistry and music departments for the diversity of subject matter and their varied career stages.

"In higher education, teaching traditions are often similar across a single discipline," McQuere explained, "while styles can vary widely between departments."

"Even those of us who have been teaching a long time know that there are always better ways of teaching," he added. "And a great idea about how to connect with your students, or help your students connect with your subject matter, is always valuable."

Three faculty members, three disciplines

PET member Janet Sharp, lecturer of mathematics and statistics, is looking for ways to incorporate more discussion-based lessons into her classes. She said the PET model of professional development stands out for its ongoing, interactive and nonjudgmental nature.

"If we can really change our pedagogy, that's lasting," Sharp said. "Professional development like this can remain with a teacher for the rest of her career." The PET team likely will study Sharp as she teaches college algebra.

Another member of the pilot project, Lisa Sharpe Elles, assistant professor of chemistry, served on a faculty task force that suggested the PET program. She looks forward to seeing how students respond to different teaching styles and to learning from her peers.

"By having the professors in the class acting as students, they can give me feedback right away," Sharpe Elles said. Her PET colleagues will observe her general organic and biochemistry course.

The third PET member is Sylvia Stoner-Hawkins, director of opera and lecturer of music. She will open the opera studio to her colleagues as she directs a spring performance of Stephen Sondheim's "A Little Night Music."

"It's important for an artist like me to continue to grow in education in all kinds of disciplines and create art that reflects life," Stoner-Hawkins said. "I'm excited to learn from my colleagues."

Interdisciplinary excellence

The trio is still discussing the best communication tool for sharing findings with other faculty. Meanwhile, McQuere is working on plans for next fall, when he hopes to have two, three-person PET groups building on what was learned in the pilot.

"This is a vivid example of the positive Washburn culture," McQuere said. "The university places tremendous value on ideas generated by the faculty, as well as on top-notch teaching and interdisciplinary work."

Ped-a-go-gy: (n) The art, science or profession of teaching

source: Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary

Practical Training in Psychology



Two new, innovative programs in the psychology department are helping graduate students get clinical experience and assist Washburn students with athletic performance and ADHD issues.

Let's take a look at both programs of the Psychological Services Clinic – one a collaboration with the Washburn Women's Soccer team and the other with Washburn's Counseling Services:

Performance enhancement

The first initiative launched in the 2010-11 school year when Tim Collins, head coach of women's soccer at Washburn, approached Dave Provorse, associate professor and chair of the psychology department, to work on team performance enhancement.

Through a collaboration with Washburn's Counseling Services, the psychology program initially worked with the soccer team in small groups, concentrating on five mental skills connected with sports performance, Provorse said. This year, the focus has been on individual performance enhancement. Eight graduate students in clinical psychology work with every player for six 30- to 50-minute sessions.

"With most players, we've been able to identify something they are really invested in working on," Provorse said. "It's not exclusively a sports focus – we're helping them come up with academic goals too. Our psychology students get client experience and enhance their skills."

ADHD Clinic

The second collaboration, the Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Clinic, launched in September. The ADHD Clinic serves three purposes: to offer clinical experience to graduate students in psychology, to help Washburn students and community members who may have ADHD, and to alleviate the workload for Counseling Services, said Jamie Olsen, *ba psychology '02, ma psychology '05*, a licensed clinical psychotherapist with Counseling Services.

Olsen said her office was flooded with students requesting ADHD assessments, challenging the counselors to manage an increasingly heavy caseload.

Teaming with Jenna Glover, assistant professor of psychology, Olsen and Marilynn Koelliker, director of Counseling Services, created a process for graduate students to use in the ADHD Clinic. The ADHD assessment includes a personal interview, an assessment that rules out other common disorders, and an assessment for ADHD.

"This sets our graduate students ahead of other graduate students, because they're getting actual experience in their first and second years," Olsen said.

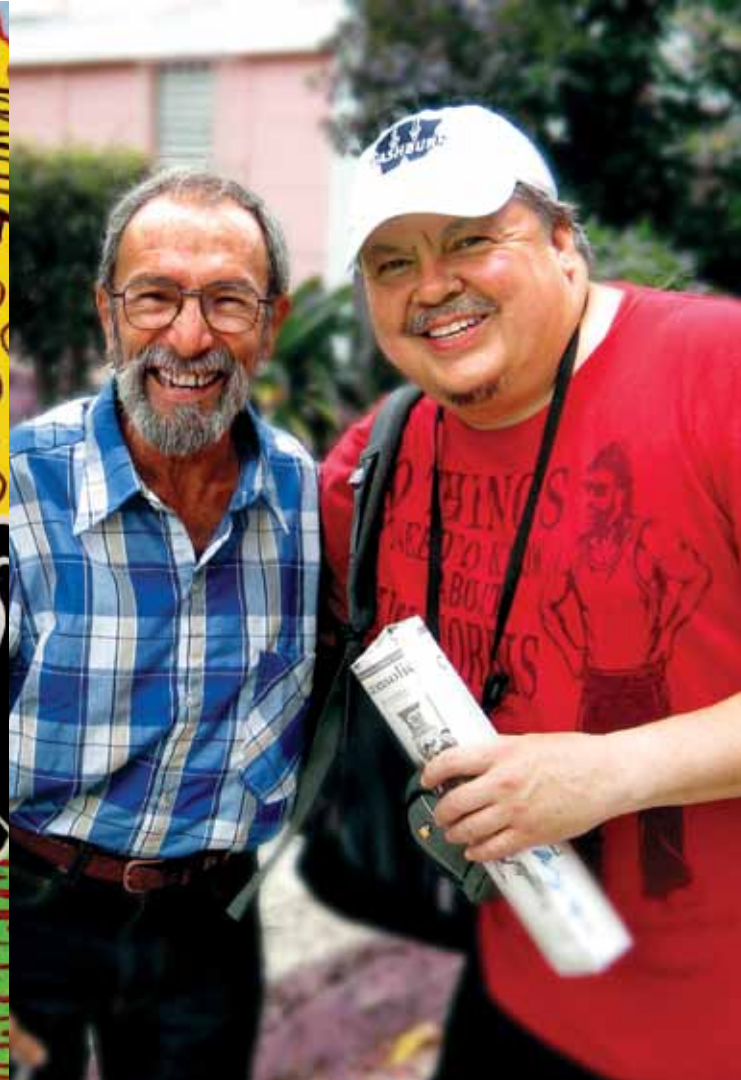
The one-on-one client time has proven to be invaluable, said Lindsey Jenkins, who expects to graduate from Washburn with a master's degree in clinical psychology in 2015. Jenkins, from Wichita, Kan., plans to pursue her doctorate and work as a neuropsychologist.

"You get supervision from the professors, who guide you along," Jenkins said. "I know in other programs, you don't necessarily get to see clients right off the bat. That's one of the reasons I love Washburn so much. You hit the ground running."

Five Criteria to Improve Sports Performance

1. Goal setting
2. Positive self statements
3. Emotion management/relaxation
4. Imagery/visualization
5. Team communication

Opening Closed Doors



Most parents might not like to hear, “Mom and Dad, I want to travel to Cuba.” However, trips to Cuba like the one taken by 19 Washburn students last June allow adventurous scholars to learn valuable skills and lifelong lessons.

The 10-day Cuba excursion was led by Bob Beatty, professor of political science – who has traveled to the island four times – and Mark Peterson, chair of the political science department. Because Cuba is the only country that the U.S. government restricts its citizens from traveling to, the Washburn trip was granted a special educational license by the U.S. State Department.

Differences and diplomacy

Before the trip, Beatty advised students to learn about their destination – and work on their interpersonal skills. In Cuba, the students would have to navigate the country’s distinct political, economic and social dynamics as well as diplomatically gather information from citizens in a vibrant, yet different, society.

On the Cuba trip, students visited the Bay of Pigs and rode in a 1960s-era school bus. At times, they carried their own toilet paper. They marveled at men cutting grass along the road with machetes, not mowers. They were welcomed into families’ homes for lively discussions and observance of a simpler daily life. And they learned to have tactful discussions about touchy subjects.

“A study abroad trip is hands-on learning,” said Gerald Bingham, who made the trip to Cuba and is working toward a bachelor’s degree in public administration, with a minor in general business. “The student’s brain goes into a higher gear when abroad, because the visual learning is constant.” Bingham expects to graduate in May 2014.

Opening eyes ... and minds

Touched by the Cuba experience, Bingham claims a new appreciation for the realities of both abundance and deprivation. In addition, a

session the group had with a U.S. State Department representative while in Cuba has Bingham considering a career in international relations, with a possible connection to the Cuban culture.

Such observation and immersion confirms Beatty’s belief that students need a variety of educational experiences to engage their minds.

“Washburn University is about students learning to ask questions and to analyze situations,” Beatty said. “Cuba is perfect for that and allows students to see firsthand the Cuban situation that so few Americans, including journalists, have seen.”

Did You Know?

Bob Beatty, professor of political science, is an author, columnist, researcher and political analyst who has appeared in broadcasts across the state and nation.

He’s also served as a guest professor for the U.S. State Department, conducting lecture tours in Mongolia, Russia and China.



Opposite page: Gerald Bingham (*wearing a hat*), a third-year student from Los Angeles, enjoyed interaction with Cuban citizens. He’s pictured here with renowned artist Saulo Serrano, along with one of Serrano’s watercolors.

Chemistry *in Action*



A new Washburn chemistry course challenges students to think about what happens on a chemical level when they throw a steak on the grill or make a pan of fudge.

Lisa Sharpe Elles, assistant professor of chemistry, designed “Chemistry of Food and Cooking” to encourage students to think about how pertinent chemistry is to their everyday lives.

“I hope students gain an appreciation and respect for chemistry and find something that’s cool that motivates them to learn more,” she said.

Sugar is her favorite example of cooking chemistry, Sharpe Elles said. Sugar transforms easily through cooking times, temperatures and changing ingredients, creating a delicate balance the cook must understand to get the right product.

“With temperature changes during cooking, you either have taffy or you have a lollipop,” Sharpe Elles said.

The science of peanut brittle

In the first class last year, students experimented with making peanut brittle, said Claire Hopps of Delaware, Ohio. Hopps expects to graduate with bachelor’s degrees in biochemistry and psychology in 2014.

“I liked this class because, in chemistry, so much is about calculations or theoretical – you can’t put your hands on it,” Hopps said. “This class, it’s physical. You can see chemistry in action.”

Hopps helped Sharpe Elles design the new course, exploring which experiments could be done during a three-hour class. Other labs included making ice cream and burning a Cheeto to measure how much energy was given off when the Cheeto heated water. The class also visited area food businesses, such as Billy Vanilly, Free State Brewery and PT’s Coffee Roasting Co. to see chemistry at work.

Accessible education

“The food chemistry class broadened my appreciation for chemistry,” Hopps said. “I was able to view cooking in a new light, and it made lab experiments less intimidating.” After Washburn, Hopps plans to pursue a Ph.D. in neuroscience.



13th-Century Classroom

A peculiar scene played out in Washburn’s Mabee Library last spring: A group of robed men and women huddled around a book, muttering about their imprisoned teacher and the bishop who put him away.

History lecturer Anthony Silvestri’s Medieval Experience class last spring was an experience and an experiment. Known for injecting quirky elements into his courses – role-playing and strategy games, to name a few – Silvestri’s most ambitious idea came from an education article he read years ago.

“The gimmick of this class was to teach it as if it were being taught in the 13th century at a medieval university,” Silvestri said. “In addition to the standard lecture component of a regular 300-level class, the students had to wear proper academic robes at all times, as I did.”

‘Medieval’ guests

Silvestri also handcrafted a single textbook or “codex,” which was chained to a library table and shared among the students. Silvestri moderated in-class debates, called disputations, and invited speakers to enhance his students’ immersive experience.

“I tried to get people who live in our world but who also, in some way, live in the medieval world,” Silvestri said.

The guest list included an art historian, a historical textile

specialist, a medieval poetry expert, an armorer, a Franciscan nun, a Benedictine monk, a medieval music ensemble and a bookbinder who helped Silvestri bind the class codex and the students’ journals.

Inquisition, heresy, oh, my!

The experience went even more medieval one day when the bishop, played by Alan Bearman, associate professor of history and dean of libraries, stormed into the classroom. He announced that Silvestri was guilty of heresy as judged by the inquisition and whisked him away.

“The students just stood there, not really knowing what to do,” Silvestri said.

Silvestri later explained to the class that women were not allowed in the classroom during medieval times. So Silvestri had decided to invite women anyway – and let the consequences happen as they might have 800 years ago, resulting in his capture.

“I hope Washburn alumni understand that the teaching of history at Washburn is alive and well, and it’s dynamic,” Silvestri said. “It’s possible to teach a very old civilization’s history in a new way.”

Math for *the Real World*

In the new ‘Essential Mathematics’ class, Washburn students focus on developing quantitative literacy – or math skills for the real world, said Donna LaLonde, associate professor of mathematics and statistics and interim chair of the education department.

The new math course enhances what the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) defines as “the ability to adequately use elementary mathematical tools to interpret and manipulate quantitative data and ideas that arise in an individual’s private, civic, and work life.”

Quantitative literacy is not just a popular topic in the mathematics community; the term is being discussed in the workplace as well. For example, LaLonde said, employers have identified quantitative literacy as essential and as a skill that can help create more desirable job candidates.

“Our own discussions about student-learning outcomes at Washburn identified quantitative literacy as an essential outcome,” LaLonde added. “It’s important that the Washburn curriculum reflects the skills and knowledge required for success in work and community.”

Atypical mathematics

LaLonde has based a portion of the new mathematics curriculum on recommendations by the MAA’s Special Interest Group on Quantitative Literacy. Doing so has allowed her to make some innovative choices.

“Our class takes a theme-driven approach and allows the students

to identify a problem within this theme,” LaLonde said. Examples include a quantitative investigation of public transportation or the adoption of a community recycling program.

Haley Hanson, a freshman psychology major from Lawrence, Kan., was among 17 students who took the pilot math class this fall. Hanson registered for the class when she heard it was oriented to word problems.

“We got to solve a real-world problem and see how the math we learn ties to what we are interested in,” Hanson said. “In a typical math class, you are given questions right out of a book that are not easily relatable to your everyday life.”

Math of the future?

The new course is showing so much promise that the mathematics and statistics department has proposed that Essential Mathematics be accepted as a course that satisfies Washburn’s math requirement. The proposal is making its way through the faculty governance process. Currently, candidates for a bachelor’s degree must pass College Algebra or Exploring Mathematics to graduate.

Freshman Haley Hanson (*above*) appreciated the usefulness of practical word problems in the new Essential Mathematics course.

Distance Learning



Professor of music Rebecca Meador watches and listens intently as her flute student plays a composition. She offers feedback and encouragement – even though her student may be hundreds of miles away.

Thanks to an innovative distance-learning project, teacher and student connect via computer monitor, using the free video-based Internet calling service Skype.

This is the second year Meador has offered advanced flute instruction over the Internet. Among her students this semester are two high schoolers from Potosi, Mo., who work with Meador to prepare for competitions and to receive advanced training not available locally. During the program’s pilot study last year, Meador conducted virtual music lessons with a non-degree-seeking flute student from Coldwater, Kan., more than 260 miles from Topeka.

“We’re excited about the prospect of the program and think it will be a great benefit to students in the state and surrounding regions,” said Ann Marie Snook, chair of the music department. While Snook noted that the project is still in the planning and data-gathering stages, she said such long-distance instruction could expand to other musical instruments.

University lessons, on a budget

Meador said she proposed the pilot after successfully using Internet video technology to introduce several guest artists to students in her flute studio. The distance-learning connection allowed Meador to have immediate access to more guest musicians and stay within her budget.

Meador is quick to add that Skype lessons don’t replace one-on-one instruction. However, she said the benefits of the program include offering university-level instruction to students who couldn’t otherwise access it and promoting Washburn University to a wider audience.

More possibilities

Meador has found other creative ways to use video technology to help her students. She is pursuing video chats with instructors at graduate schools that her flute students are considering, and she sees the Internet even as a possible communication tool for local students.

“If they are practicing at home and they have a question, they can Skype in with me quickly, and we can take care of that issue,” she said.

Rebecca Meador (*above*) uses the Internet and a laptop to address a question from freshman Colleen Dilmore, a music education major from Paola, Kan.

Department Highlights





ART

Art Department students helped turn a clothing drive into a famous art reference: The Seams Like Van Gogh Project mural (*shown above*) was displayed at the Yeldarb Gallery in NOTO (North Topeka Arts District) in October. After the mural was taken down, the clothing went to the Topeka Rescue Mission. Lead artist Betsy Roe, adjunct and former Catron Professor of Art, collaborated with the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, Topeka Rescue Mission, Yeldarb Gallery, Teens Taking Action and MB Piland.

The **Biology Department** welcomed Takrima Sadikot, assistant professor, molecular biology. Matt Arterburn was tenured and promoted to associate professor. In July, Casey McNeil, *bs biology '06*, earned his Ph.D. in molecular biosciences from the University of Kansas and is an assistant professor of biology at Newman University in Wichita, Kan. Nine of 10 biology majors who applied to medical school in 2012 were accepted. Last May, Ursula Jander, associate professor emeritus, retired after 28 years of teaching. She will continue to do research and teach courses as an adjunct faculty member. Jander's retirement initiated a reunion of many former biology professors who had not seen the recent Stoffer Science Hall renovations. (*Shown above, from left: Mary McCoy, Betty Cole, Tom Wolf, Tom O'Connor, Ursula Jander, Ron Ash, Ross Johnson and Lee Boyd, the only non-retiree in the group.*)

Opposite page: Steve Black, chair of the physics and astronomy department, assists students (*from left*) Garrett Mazachek, Keri Heston and Kathryn Meehan with a static-electricity-producing Van de Graaff generator.

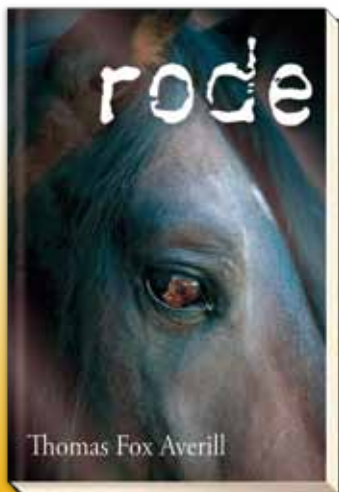


BIOLOGY

The **Chemistry Department** recognizes Diana Crain, *bs chemistry '12*, Kansas City, Mo., who is currently attending graduate school at Northwestern University. While attending Washburn, Crain presented her research at the second annual Wakarusa Valley Student Research Symposium in 2011 and won first place. Crain won a round-trip flight to San Diego and registration to the American Chemical Society Symposium, where she presented her research. Riley Ross, *bs chemistry '12*, Marion, Kan., is attending graduate school at the University of Kansas. Last March, Ross won first place in the Undergraduate Oral Presentation at the 144th Annual Meeting of the Kansas Academy of Science. (*For more department news, see page 10.*)

The **Communication Department** recognizes debate seniors Lauren Knoth, Independence, Mo., and Joshua Ramsey, Fort Scott, Kan., who defeated a Texas Tech University team to win the championship round at the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence in March. The Knoth-Ramsey duo topped the nation's best 64 intercollegiate parliamentary debate teams competing at Western Washington University, Bellingham, Wash.

Lakeisha Grier and Taylor Drain, students in the **Computer Information Sciences Department**, earned the Jay Liebowitz Outstanding Student Research Paper award at the International



ENGLISH

Association for Computer Information Systems (IACIS) conference in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The presentation “Is the Growing Use of Electronic Devices Academically Beneficial?” was originally the students’ *Apeiron* project at Washburn. Delaney Fish, Elizabeth Unrein and Joshua Boeker’s *Apeiron* presentation “Living in Denial: A Comparison of DDoS Mitigation Methods” was also shared at IACIS. Kris Antonetti, Donald Hinton, Andrew Edmonds and Matthew Calovich created a poster for *Apeiron* that described a social network website they are developing. The poster was also presented at the Consortium for Computing Sciences at Colleges regional conference in Springfield, Mo. Joshua Wurtz and Jeff Tanking’s *Apeiron* poster showed a 3-D simulation of a Scribbler Robot the students developed in OpenGL, which will be used to teach students about artificial intelligence.

The **Education Department** began the academic year with a focus on student learning, with students attending professional conferences, investigating strategies for engaging students and participating in community service activities. The department also welcomes assistant professor Amy Nebesniak, who focuses on mathematics education. Her enthusiasm and belief that all students can do math have already made an impact on the elementary teacher education program. Associate professor Catherine Hunt is now director of teacher education.

The **English Department** reports that *rode*, professor Tom Averill’s new novel (*shown above*), was named Outstanding Western Novel of 2011, an honor previously awarded to James Michener, Larry McMurry,



KINESIOLOGY

Barbara Kingsolver and Cormac McCarthy. In April, Averill received the award at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City. New department chair Danny Wade received tenure and was promoted to associate professor. The 2012 Klemmer Lecture was presented by Christian Goering, founder of LitTunes.com. His speech was titled “Reversing the Educational Apocalypse: An Arts and Literacy Way Forward.”

Phi Alpha Theta, the **History Department’s** honor society, continues to offer numerous lectures each year. Kelly Erby, assistant professor, presented “Dining on Dissolution: Middle-Class Anxieties about Restaurants in the 1850s” in March. The presentation examined how American eating habits of the early 1800s underwent extraordinary transformation as urbanites began relying on restaurants for their midday meals. (*For more department news, see page 11.*)

In March, 18 students in the **Kinesiology Department** traveled to Greece (*shown above*) to tour sports facilities and such sites as the Parthenon. Next May, students and faculty will travel to London to visit Wimbledon, the Lord’s Cricket Ground and some Olympics sites; they will also attend a day of the French Open in Paris.

The **Mass Media Department** recognizes Evan Linton, *ba mass media* ’08, an editor at Venice Beach Editorial in Los Angeles, Calif. Linton worked on Visa’s 2012 Olympics ad campaign (*shown above*) and currently works on Nissan’s new “Wouldn’t It Be Cool” campaign and Gatorade’s new “G Series” campaign. “There’s nothing more rewarding than editing a commercial in my edit bay in Los Angeles, and then it



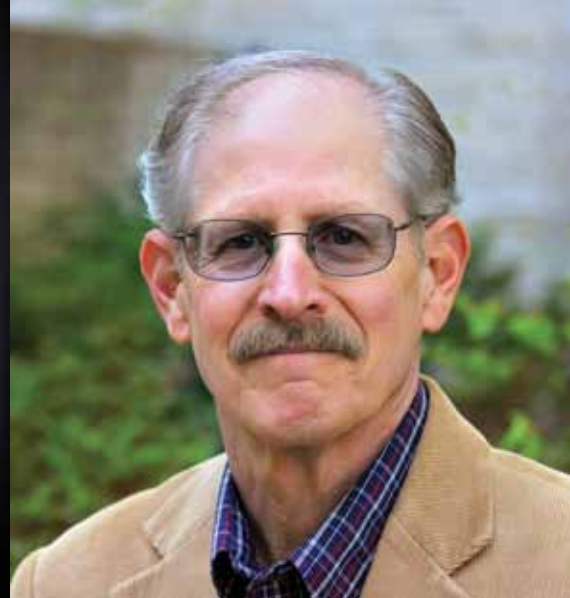
MASS MEDIA



MODERN LANGUAGES



MUSIC



PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

later being seen by my parents 2,000 miles away in their living room in Kansas,” Linton said. The department also reports that film students have created an organization called TriBods, which will organize a film festival in the spring. Student Media has a record 75 students working for the newspaper, yearbook, radio shows and online projects.

Last March, four faculty from the **Mathematics and Statistics Department** – professor Kevin Charlwood, professor Mike Mosier, lecturer Hee Seok Nam, and assistant professor Gaspar Porta – took students Kristen Beall, Anna Lischke and Brian Oxendine to the Kappa Mu Epsilon (KME) math honor society Regional Convention held at Evangel University in Springfield, Mo. Lischke gave a presentation of her work, “Ramsey’s Theorem and Monochromatic Triangles in the Plane.” Washburn will host the National Convention of KME in April. *(For more department news, see page 12.)*

Thanks to a Sweet Sabbatical, Miguel González-Abellás, professor and chair of the **Modern Languages Department**, spent last summer in Paraguay *(shown above at the ruins of Trinidad del Paraná)*. He studied the cultural diversity of the country and attended the international book fair in Asunción. Associate professor Courtney Sullivan received a faculty development grant to complete her book research at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France in Paris and used this opportunity to take students to France during spring break. Associate professor Gabi Lunte received an academic sabbatical in the fall to advance her research on German dialects. Fernando Pezzino, lecturer, also is an accomplished artist, and

currently has an exhibition of his paintings at the Yeldarb Gallery in NOTO (North Topeka Arts District).

In August, four students from the **Music Department** attended the Rafael Mendez Brass Institute in Denver, Colo. In addition to performing, the students participated in master classes with world-class clinicians. The Washburn Opera Studio presented Henry Purcell’s one-act opera “Dido and Aeneas.” In addition to on-campus performances, the students presented the opera at Rockhurst Academy in Kansas City. Junior voice major Brendan Boyle *(shown above performing in “Dido and Aeneas”)* won the junior men’s division of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Regional Conference competition in November. Boyle also was selected for the summer opera program at “Opera in the Ozarks” at Inspiration Point in Eureka Springs, Ark. Last December, the department presented its annual Holiday Vespers program. That concert, produced by KTWU, was nominated for an “Emmy in the Heartlands.” In the spring, the production also won an Emmy in the category of Special Events coverage. *(For more department news, see page 13.)*

The **Philosophy and Religious Studies Department** announces the retirement of longtime professor and chair Harold Rood. Professor Russ Jacobs *(shown above)* is the new chair of the department while two lecturers, Justin Moss and Brandon Gillette, have joined the faculty.

The **Physics and Astronomy Department** again participated in “Women in Science Day” in October. More than 230 girls attended this year’s event, which is now limited to seventh graders only because of the

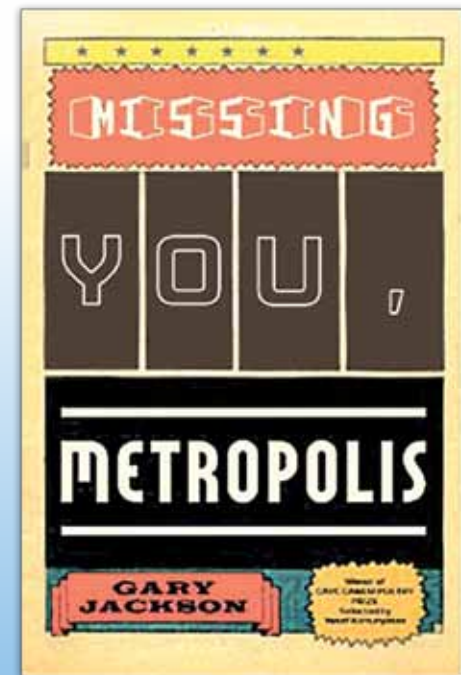


PSYCHOLOGY

event's popularity. Associate professor Brian Thomas was interviewed for a Weather Channel program on natural disasters that will air in early 2013. Thomas discussed his work on how life on Earth would be affected by the relatively nearby explosion of a massive star, an event known as a "gamma-ray burst." Geology faculty Tandra Eifert and Will Gilliland recently added new geology displays in Stoffer Science Hall. The department also welcomes part-time secretary Julie D'Auteuil Seley.

The **Political Science Department** reports that professor Chris Hamilton has taken more than 500 students on an annual field trip to see a nuclear missile silo located near Topeka. Owned by Edward and Dianna Peden, the site leaves a lasting impression on students. Hamilton put extra emphasis on the site this year in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis. *(For more department news, see pages 8-9.)*

Four students from the **Psychology Department** received awards for independent research presented recently at the Great Plains Student Psychology Conference (*attendees shown above*) at Northwest Missouri



THEATER

State University, Maryville. First-place award winners included Jared C. Moser, Catherine Ritter and Soliel Charles, all of Topeka. Jordan Loyd, Newton, Kan., won a second-place award. *(For more department news, see pages 6-7.)*

The **Sociology and Anthropology Department** welcomes sociology assistant professor Stephanie Decker. Associate professor John Paul became the director of Washburn's bachelor of integrated studies program. Associate professor Sangyoub Park traveled to South Korea on a Sweet Sabbatical, where he studied demographic trends; he also investigated cultural trends in Tokyo.

The **Theatre Department** has a busy spring planned for 2013. Shows include "Missing You, Metropolis" (*shown above*) by Washburn graduate Gary Jackson, who grew up in Topeka, and "Sophocles Electra" by Nick Payne. Renovations to the Andrew J. and Georgia Neese Gray Theatre – which include 330 larger and more comfortable seats – comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Opposite page: Student Daniele Osterhaus takes a class from Ye Wang, associate professor of painting and drawing.





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