



DIRECTIONS

WASHBURN
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

2022-2023

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Table of Contents

4 All Aboard! Travel Courses Resume

6 Adding Art to the Syllabus

8 Crossing the Finish Line

10 Honoring the People of Mudtown

12 The Hospital in the Hall

14 Apeiron 2023

15 Department Highlights

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The Return of “Normal”



Dear Ichabods,

Academic year 2023 had a vibrant start in the fall as we welcomed to our campus a population of students whose educational experience has been largely characterized by a pandemic that at times seemed like it would never end. The faculty and staff of the College have marshalled all of their determination and collaboration to provide these students with the complete, engaging campus experience that was so challenging to achieve during the pandemic crisis.

Last year, we worked hard to help our students integrate back into on-campus life, but there were still many challenges. As I worked with my own students, I unwittingly found myself adopting the mantra “not quite back to normal.” Need an extension on that assignment deadline? That’s okay because we’re “not quite back to normal.” Need a video recording of a missed class? I’ll make sure you get that because we’re “not quite back to normal.” Classrooms remained half-filled with students, with the other half still chiming in through webcams. Masks still obscured the fullness of each other’s expressions. The necessity of social distance kept us literally apart. It was indeed the “not quite back to normal” year.

We declared this fall would be different! This would be the really “back to normal” year! The first moment I knew that was true, and not just a wish, was as I stepped down off the bed of a pickup truck in front of Lincoln Hall, lifting a stainless steel minifridge onto a furniture dolly. It was probably the twentieth fridge I’d hauled into the dormitory that day as part of the annual WU Move Crew. Teams of blue-clad student and staff helpers bustled about on that sunny morning, shuttling boxes, bags and appliances to various suites. Excitement, joy and community were on display. No need for distancing, no need for masks, no need for fear. We were reclaiming from the grip of the pandemic everything that makes Washburn special. As the academic year has unfolded, the steady revival of traditions and the launch of new events have made it clear we are indeed truly “back” and our campus spirit is undiminished. Each event, from large concerts, games and lectures, to small gatherings of student clubs and tutor groups, has been a celebration of our return.

In this volume of *Directions*, you’ll find stories that illustrate the resilience and creativity of our faculty and students in the wake of the pandemic. I hope that you find them compelling and emblematic of the commitment that our College faculty exhibit for engaging and inspiring every student.

Matt Arterburn, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

All Aboard! Travel Courses Resume

Faculty-led study abroad courses in the College of Arts and Sciences provide an exciting and low-cost opportunity for students at Washburn to see and learn about the world. With COVID-19 travel restrictions lifted, these programs are once again taking flight.

Dr. Kerry Wynn and Dr. Courtney Sullivan have cotaught the class “Women in World War II” many times. Wynn, professor of history, teaches students the history of the period as it relates to women’s activities and perspectives. Sullivan, professor of French, focuses on literature written by women during and about the era, including memoirs, fiction and nonfiction accounts.

Wynn and Sullivan have long wanted to include a travel component to the course. “We just knew that actually visiting important historic and cultural sites would be so invaluable to our students’ understanding of women’s experiences during this period,” explained Sullivan. The instructors were finally able to include a spring-break trip to France as part of the course in spring of 2022, just as COVID travel restrictions were loosening. Hélène Perriguet-Keene, lecturer in Spanish and French, also joined the class on the trip and provided valuable expertise and assistance.

The specific locations the class visited abroad were carefully selected to enrich the course materials and assignments. “The Normandy beaches were an obvious choice,” Wynn said, “but much of our itinerary was away from areas normally visited by tourists.” One such location was Drancy Station, a temporary holding facility for Jewish people awaiting deportation from France to concentration camps. The station is now a museum.

According to history major Eleanor Jones, visiting this and other sites helped her see World War II “from an entirely different perspective.” Jones explained the trip and the course itself “shined a light on an often-overlooked aspect of the war—the home front—and the sacrifices women made in defense of their country.” Anna Anderson, a double major in anthropology and history, added that the course “allowed me to explore a side of underrepresented history as well as explore a country that I wouldn’t have seen without help from Washburn.”

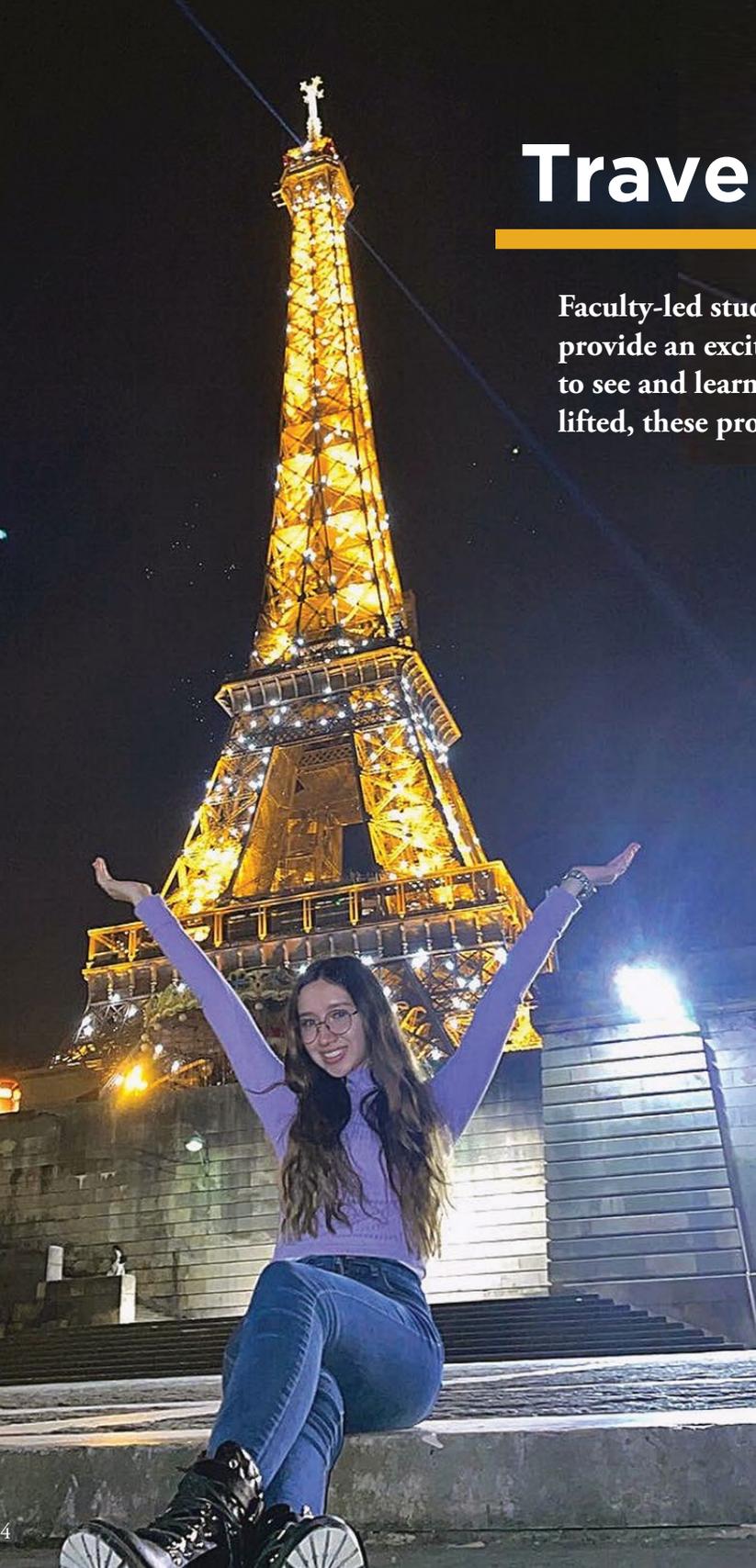
Dr. Sharon Sullivan, professor and chair of the theatre department, knew she wanted to take her students to the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, since the first time she attended the festival. Accomplishing this goal took her almost ten years, but in 2022, Sullivan, along with theatre and communication studies instructor Ted Shonka, attended Fringe with six students.

The Festival is one of the world’s largest venues for experimental theatre. Sullivan wanted her students to attend so they could see performers, directors and writers push the boundaries of what theatre is and can be. “We have a lot of fantastic theatres in the Midwest,” Sullivan said, “but you’ll only see certain types of work here. I wanted the students to see a broader range of artistic expression.” Work performed at the Fringe Festival includes dozens of styles of performance art, such as scripted plays, dancing, comedy, circus acts, spoken word and others unique to the artist performing.

After years of fundraising, the trip was originally planned for spring of 2020. When travel was cancelled due to the pandemic, Sullivan and the students spent the additional time raising more money to further reduce the cost to students. Students who had helped raise money but graduated during the pandemic were invited to attend when the trip was rescheduled.

It was important to Sullivan that her students also have the opportunity to perform at Fringe in addition to attending. “There aren’t a lot of places theatre students can perform, not like choirs, which travel to competitions. I wanted my theatre students to have that experience. And not only did they get to perform four times, they themselves wrote the play they performed – even though when they wrote it, they couldn’t know who would be there to perform the roles.” The play, *The Write Cinderella*, was a hit, and when the students were asked by other attendees where they found it, they were delighted to be able to say it was their own, original work. The students are currently looking for a publisher for the play, as a school in Georgia also wants to perform it.

“I’m just so proud of them,” Sullivan said, “and so grateful for the community support that enabled us to go.” Although orchestrating such trips takes effort and expense, study abroad courses enable students to enjoy an immersive educational experience at a lower cost and in a more supportive environment than they could have by traveling on their own.



Left: Student Breanna Bermudez (French education major) poses in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

Above: Theatre and communication studies instructor Ted Shonka (upper row, left) and theatre students pose on the steps after seeing *Hamlet*.



Adding Art to the Syllabus

Most people interact with art primarily when viewing it in museums or galleries. Sara Stepp, the new academic curator at the Mulvane Art Museum of Washburn University, wants to get the word out that at Washburn art can enrich the learning experience in any class, no matter the topic or discipline.

Stepp was hired in the summer of 2022 to work with faculty to integrate Mulvane art into their lesson plans, and she is excited about the possibilities. “I think it’s important for faculty to know that object-based learning is a valuable tool for any discipline,” said Stepp, “not just art and art history majors.” Art, she explained, is a way to make abstract ideas more concrete.

English instructor Jennifer Pacoianu recently worked with Stepp to create a lesson using art to teach rhetorical analysis. Stepp first curated a selection of pieces from the Mulvane’s extensive collection and asked each student to choose one. Pacoianu then asked the students to imagine the intended target audience of their selected piece, as well as the audience’s expected response to it. In their analyses, students considered the emotional, logical and ethical appeals they thought the artwork made that contributed to the overall impact of the piece. Pacoianu has previously done



Top: Nikaela Zimmerman (left), Mulvane collections manager, and Sara Stepp (right) with the art Stepp curated for a student lesson.

Above: Students study and discuss the art.

this assignment using a text or texts as the focus of the analysis, but in addition to providing a refreshing variation in their usual routine, using the Mulvane’s art for her rhetorical analysis lesson also helps her students develop visual literacy skills.

Tony Silvestri, lecturer in history, worked with Stepp to incorporate art from the Mulvane in his “Civilization of Ancient Greece” class this fall. The selection of art Stepp chose for Silvestri’s class to consider was drawn from an eclectic mix of eras, including the enlightenment, World War II and the modern period, but each piece takes inspiration from ancient art. Students then wrote a research paper about one of these works. Silvestri explained, however, that this it was not a typical research project. “The audience wasn’t just their teacher,” he said. This is because the assignment also required students to condense their research findings and write an exhibition label for their selected piece.

The artwork the students chose, and the accompanying labels they wrote, were publicly displayed at the Mulvane during the Echoes of the Classical World exhibit that ran from November 2022 to January 2023. In addition, both the papers and labels will remain archived with each piece and will be accessible by viewers in the future. “Students have been quite excited about this project,” Silvestri said. “It helps make research more relevant to know it will be available to the public like this.”

Stepp stressed that she is enthusiastic to continue collaborating with faculty to creatively incorporate the rich collections of the Mulvane into courses at Washburn. She hopes additional faculty take advantage of the diverse collections at the Mulvane to inspire new ideas for lessons or augment existing ones. The Mulvane’s collections have long been integral to campus, and the entire staff, including Stepp, is passionate about exploring new ways to advance student learning through art.



Above: Students examine the artwork they selected for their research projects.

Crossing the Finish Line

Traditional university students arrive directly from high school, study diligently for four years and graduate with a degree in their declared major. But in this increasingly complicated world, many students encounter hurdles that knock them off track, delay their graduation, or — in worst cases — prevent graduation entirely. The College of Arts and Sciences, in partnership with the Center for Student Success and Retention, has crafted innovative programs and learning pathways to give students the best chance to overcome hurdles and earn their degree.

Verlisa Cradle (*bis*, '17) began her college career on a very traditional path in Kansas State University's nursing program. However, life threw her a curve ball, and she found herself pausing her education to return to Topeka to care for her mother.

For many students, these sorts of life changes are enough to undermine their higher education goals. Relocation, health issues, child- or elder-care responsibilities and fiscal circumstances are concerns frequently faced by the modern student. So, too, is the soul-searching that happens when a student discovers that their initial major or imagined career path doesn't suit them. Some students with a number of passions struggle to limit themselves to a single major; their transcript becomes a lengthy list of "almost degrees." The goal for faculty and advisors is to support students through these challenges so they do not give up on college entirely.

Fortunately for students like Cradle, Washburn is committed to finding a path to success for every student. Through her work in the Stormont Vail Health pediatric unit, Cradle developed a passion for "not just handing out meds" but also teaching people how to navigate

the medical system, find needed assistance and sustain health. A Washburn advisor suggested Cradle combine these interests into a customized Bachelors of Integrated Studies (BIS) degree that merged elements of education and nursing.

Students in the BIS program, which is directed by the College, may combine courses across several disciplines in a way that supports their unique passions and goals. "I didn't know the BIS was even an option. I feel so blessed to have had the ability to explore something I'm passionate about. The BIS program helped me build a better me." Cradle currently works as an advisor in Washburn's Center for Student Success and Retention while she completes her master's degree in education.

Emma Staats (*bis*, '20), is another advocate of the BIS. Staats initially majored in criminal justice, with a career objective to work for the FBI. While interviewing an FBI agent for a class project, Staats was inspired to take a different path. Having developed a passion for social justice, she used the BIS program to combine her completed criminal justice classes with sociology and offerings from

the Women's and Gender Studies program. Staats is now a student at the Washburn School of Law and plans to use her law degree to fight human trafficking and human rights violations.

The College is committed to helping every student overcome challenges and realize their educational goals. In addition to personal challenges, many of the hurdles students encounter are academic. On a national level, student preparedness for first-year courses like college algebra and English composition can present a barrier to success. Students who fail either course are at risk to not graduate. In the past few years, efforts undertaken by Washburn to address preparedness have dramatically increased student success in these essential courses.

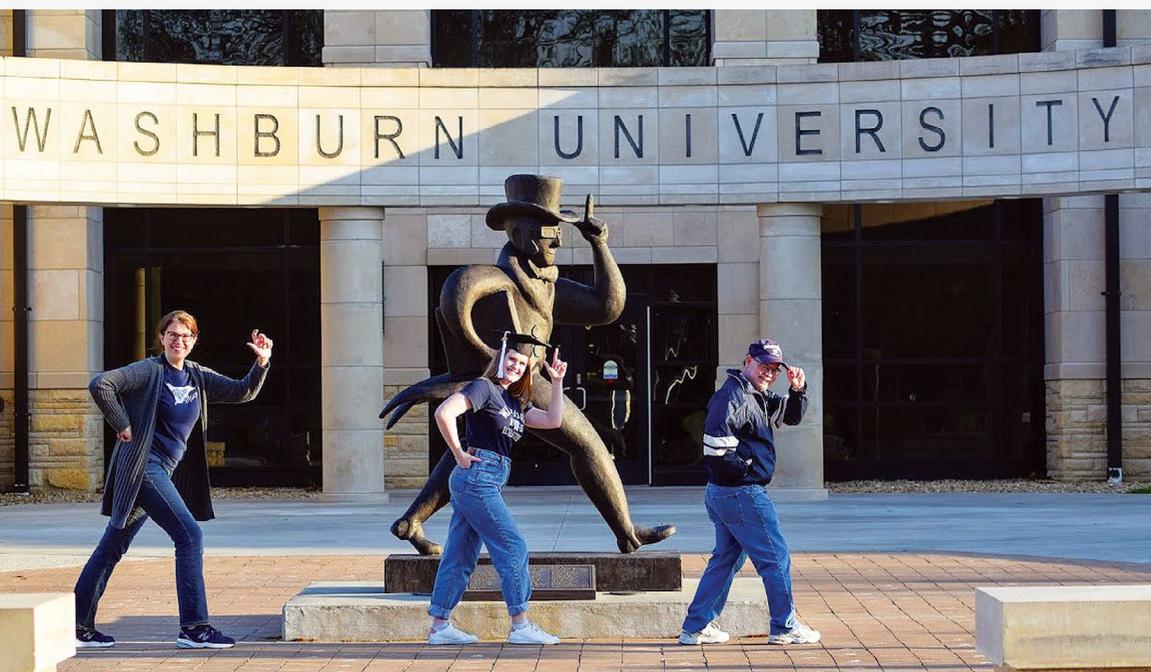
The Dr. Richard E. Shermoen Math Lab in Mabee Library was completed in 2019 and offers students personalized teaching with a combination of dedicated tutors and modular, self-paced computer software. The math department also reexamined and reimagined the math requirements for all degree pathways, ensuring better matches between math content and skills relevant to the degree being pursued. (*See Directions article, fall 2020.*) Initial results have been promising. During the 2017–2018 academic year, 56% of students who took fundamental math courses passed with a C or better. In the 2019–2020 year, with the new math placement program and help from the Math Lab, 74% of students earned a C or better.

Similarly, the English department restructured its learning pathways and placement in required composition courses. In 2018, Washburn launched EN 103: "Academic Reading and Research," a course focused on improving comprehension of academic texts, including textbooks, scholarly articles, and other classroom-specific texts, like syllabi. Students also learn the basics of academic research. EN 103 serves as an optional foundational course to better equip students with general academic literacy skills needed for success in college. Students have the option to start in either EN 103 or EN 101 ("First Year Writing") based on their high school GPA and test scores, and self-assessment of their own confidence as a writer. EN 103 is recommended for all students at any level who desire more focused practice with academic reading and writing. EN 101 has itself been remodeled to include some sections (held in the spring semester) with corequisite support sessions that include supplemental peer instructors and increased tutoring resources.

Washburn extends the promise to students that their experience with us will help them "become their best self." By placing students in learning pathways to maximize their success, assisting them in overcoming hurdles to graduation, and offering flexible classes that inspire their unique passions and goals, we are able to tailor a student's path to graduation to meet their needs. This helps students to not only finish their degrees, but to become the best versions of themselves.



Above: Verlisa Cradle flexes after receiving her diploma.



Left: Emma Staats and her parents pose with IChabod after her graduation.

Honoring the People of Mudtown



The landmark 1954 *Brown v Board of Education* Supreme Court decision desegregated public schools in the United States and put a historic spotlight on Topeka's Monroe Elementary School. Despite that spotlight, very little is known about the people who once lived near Monroe Elementary, a community known as "Mudtown" because of how its dirt roads turned to mud whenever the Shunganunga Creek flooded its banks. Students in Dr. Laura Murphy's "Archeological Field School" class spent the summer of 2022 excavating the site with the hope of learning more about, and giving voice to, the people who once called Mudtown home.

Above: Murphy and her students excavating Mudtown. (right to left: Ray Cwach, Murphy, El Keller)

Right center: Student Lisa Larson cleans an excavated item.

Far right: Murphy and student Kiwenke Hubbard discuss a find.



Digging is a destructive act; artifacts, once pulled from the ground, cannot be returned to exactly the same place. Therefore, archaeologists have one chance to properly excavate, catalog and interpret an archaeological site. Murphy feels this professional responsibility keenly and seeks to teach the students assisting her in this work the importance of respecting the historical people whose lives they are examining.

Mudtown was not a well-to-do neighborhood. Most of the people who lived there were African American and faced discrimination in the kinds of economic opportunities they could access. Murphy and her students sought to answer questions about how the land in the neighborhood was used and what life was like for the people who lived there.

The class began its research by comparing previous maps of the area to current geophysical survey results provided by the National Park Service. They discovered that the map makers from the end of the 1800s to the midtwentieth century often failed to include streets and buildings important to the neighborhood. Using the old maps and modern survey equipment, and with assistance from the Kansas State Historical Society, Murphy and her students were able to build a more complete timeline of layered maps showing the construction and development of buildings, sidewalks and other structures in Mudtown.

Finding information about the people who lived in Mudtown was more difficult. Many of the inhabitants were formerly enslaved, and the kinds of records that typically document peoples' lives were lacking in their cases. Students discovered many of the people they tried to investigate did not have birth certificates or death certificates. Local newspapers, which at the time carried stories of the day-to-day dealings of the people of Topeka, usually focused on the white citizens, and rarely included news from Mudtown.

The lack of textual sources placed additional importance on the archeological excavations done by Murphy and her students. The artifacts they meticulously excavated and identified shed rare light on the experiences of Mudtown's inhabitants. Thousands of items were discovered, from glass medicine bottles to steak bones. Each item will be researched; medicine bottles, for example, can be dated based on the color of the glass, the shape of the opening, the presence or lack of manufacturing seams and so on. This analysis will provide additional insight into what life was like for the people who used those items.

While the work was difficult in the hot summer sun, the students were deeply engaged in the effort. Lisa Larson, an anthropology major with an archaeology emphasis, explained: "I became invested in finding artifacts because I enjoyed discovering and holding history in my hand. I never had that opportunity before the field school." Larson became particularly interested in the medicine bottles she found and ended up doing additional research on medicines used during the last century.

Kiwenke Hubbard, a cultural anthropology major, is a citizen of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and is deeply aware of the history of destruction archaeologists have caused to Native American cultural sites. Hubbard was, therefore, initially hesitant to take Murphy's course, but ultimately trusted Murphy's approach would respect the people who once lived there. "These aren't just objects," Hubbard said. "They were a part of people's lives." Hubbard sought to focus on the cultural element while working, remembering the people behind the objects.

By piecing together the facts, one broken artifact at a time, Murphy and her students are helping to ensure the people of Mudtown are not forgotten.



The Hospital in the Hall



Above: Wendy Stafford, retired administrative assistant for the biology department, holds Sylvester, a three-toed box turtle.

Below: Frodo recovered in the enclosure after a fire burned his face and shell.

As students and visitors walk down the second story hallway in Stoffer Science Hall that houses the biology department, they pass a glass display case built into the stone wall. Inside the display case, an ornate box turtle named Linda watches them walk by while she basks on her warming rock. Linda is the latest inhabitant of the display case, which in 2019 was converted into a vivarium – an enclosure designed for a living animal. Since then, more than 20 turtles have called the space home while being treated for injury or parasites.

Dr. Benjamin Reed, assistant professor of biology, has an enduring love of turtles; at the age of six he wrote a book about them for his parents. Reed came to the Washburn biology department in 2018 after completing his dissertation about the correlation between the muscle mass of ornate box turtles and the size of their territory in the wild.

The Washburn biology department has a long-established field station at Karlyle Woods (see [Directions article, 2016-2017](#)) that provides students an opportunity to learn and conduct research in a natural environment. Fortuitously for Reed, Karlyle Woods is home to a large population of ornate box turtles. Reed jumped at the opportunity to excite students about turtles in the context of meaningful field research.

Reed has mentored more than 30 student field research projects involving the turtles of Karlyle Woods and two other research sites in northeast Kansas. Pivotal to most of his projects is technology that tags the turtles with transmitters and subsequently tracks and locates them in real time. This allows for the extensive collection of data on each turtle's activities throughout its lifetime.

Turtles can live for decades, so Reed's current cohort of students is able to continue collecting data on turtles tagged by previous students. The turtles are given short designations based on sex – "Male126" – but the students know them by name. According to Reed, "Alumni will reach out to me and ask, 'Are you still tracking Dwight? How is he?'" Even though the turtles aren't pets, working with live animals in their natural habitat engenders a bond and sparks passion in the students.

Due to poaching and destruction of their environments, the populations of turtles are declining worldwide; therefore, Reed sees this work not only as education, but also as conservation. When Reed and the students find a turtle that is injured or suffering from an extreme parasitic infection, they help if they

are able. After the turtle is treated and healed, it is returned to the wild and released where it was found.

Reed housed the first turtle needing care inside his office. He quickly found, however, that visitors were eager to check in on the patient, so he looked for a more accessible, visible location. Dr. Paul Wagner converted the display case in the biology hallway into a turtle rehabilitation enclosure to house Rhoda, a female turtle with a life-threatening infestation of flesh flies.

Linda, the ornate box turtle inhabiting the enclosure in the fall, also had a severe flesh fly infestation. Flesh flies have not been widely studied by scientists, which means the research conducted by Washburn students on turtles such as Rhoda and Linda not only helped these animals but also contributed to the body of scientific knowledge about this common parasite.

The turtle vivarium is viewed daily by students and guests to Stoffer Science Hall. Since its creation, it has become a tool to build awareness of zoology, wildlife conservation and the excellent research work conducted by Washburn students under Reed's guidance.



Left: Benjamin Reed holds Linda, the enclosure's inhabitant in the fall of 2022.

The Adopt-A-Turtle program allows the public to donate to local turtle conservation and education. A single transmitter used to track a turtle can cost more than \$200, so donations are vital!

For more information, contact Dr. Ben Reed at benjamin.reed@washburn.edu.

To learn more about box turtles, visit www.wu-turtle.weebly.com.

APEIRON

WU 2023



Friday, April 21, 2023

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An event that showcases the research, scholarship, creativity and community engagement of Washburn students in a professional setting.

For more information, go to washburn.edu/apeiron or contact Courtney Sullivan courtney.sullivan@washburn.edu.

Department Highlights



Chemistry: Student Manish Bhatta earned one of 10 Outstanding Poster Presentation awards at K-INBRE. "Doing the research, preparing for and presenting at conferences like [K-INBRE] is a practical application of their education. This helps our students further prepare for their next steps after graduation," said Dr. Sam Leung, professor of chemistry and K-INBRE campus coordinator at Washburn University.



Computer Information Sciences: (from left to right) Students Skyler Saunders, Angelica Comahig, Brett Kulp and Edward Baker.

Art

Dr. Kelly Thor, associate professor and chair, published a chapter in the edited collection, *Written in Stone: Recovering the Magical Role of the Iocus sanctus in the Medieval Life of San Millán de la Cogolla*. Professor **Marguerite Perret**, associate professor **Michael Hager** and assistant professor **Kwok-Pong ("Bobby") Tso** cocurated the student exhibition *Metamorphosis: Transformation through the Arts* at the Arts Connect Gallery in December 2021 through March 2022. Additionally, **Perret, Hager** and **Tso** displayed their work in the mini-installation *Transmutation: Shipwreck*, also at the Arts Connect Gallery. In September 2021, **Tso** received a Juror's Merit award at the prestigious Clay Studio of Missoula at Missoula, Montana. Lecturer **Dr. Madeline Eschenburg** and her "Twentieth-Century Art" class curated the *Whose America?* exhibit at the Mulvane Art Museum in fall 2021. Assistant professor **Wonjae Lee** was asked to design materials, including the logo, booklet design and more, for the First Korean-American Adaptive Sports Festival in Kansas City.

Biology

Dr. Takrima Sadikot was promoted to professor; **Dr. Paul Wagner** and **Dr. Tracy Wagner** were both promoted to associate professor. Student **Abigail Fette**, mentored by associate professor **Dr. Susan Bjerke**, presented at the 21st Annual Kansas IDEA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (K-INBRE) Symposium on the *Isolation and Identification of Microbes from Commercial Kombucha*.

Chemistry

In January 2023, chemistry students presented their research at the 21st Annual Kansas IDEA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (K-INBRE) Symposium. Student **Manish Bhatta**, mentored by associate professor **Dr. Seid Adem**, earned one of 10 Outstanding Poster Presentation awards (*see photo, left*), and student **Avinash Dhimal**, mentored by assistant professor **Dr. Hoang Nguyen**, was chosen to give one of the eight undergraduate student oral presentations. Other students who presented included: **Alisha Bajracharya** and **Simran Shrestha**, both mentored by assistant professor **Dr. Allan Ayella**, and **Girish Paudyal**, mentored by **Nguyen**. The department is grateful to an anonymous donor who gifted an infrared spectrometer and an ultraviolet visible-range spectrometer for use in the chemistry labs.

Communication Studies

The debate team continued to accumulate awards at invitationals and national events, including fifth place at the 2022 National Forensics Tournament in Lincoln-Douglas policy debate. The mock trial team qualified to nationals in spring 2022. Assistant professor **Adebanke Adebayo** coauthored an article in the journal *Communication Education* and had two major conference presentations. Assistant professor **Dr. Carson Kay** coauthored articles in the *Journal of Human Trafficking* and *The Ohio Communication Journal* and had four major conference presentations or workshops. **Kay** also served as acting chair while professor **Dr. Jim Schnoebelen** was on a research sabbatical for the spring 2023 semester.

Computer Information Sciences

The CIS department welcomes new assistant professor **Dr. Joseph Kendall-Morwick**. Additionally, professor **Dr. Nan Sun** (also a Washburn grad!, *bs '94*) is now the CIS chair. Four of **Sun's** students traveled to Las Vegas in October 2022 to present papers at the International Association for Computer Information Systems conference. (*See photo, left.*) During the summer of 2023, professor **Dr. Bruce Mechtly** installed new hardware and software in the CIS computer lab, updating the equipment for teaching and projects.

Department Highlights



History: Congratulations to professor Dr. Rachel Goossen on her retirement and professor emeritus status.

English

Associate professor **Dr. Louise Krug** received the 2022 Arty Award for Literary Arts. **Dr. Vanessa Steinroetter** was promoted to professor. Professor **Dr. Danny Wade** was appointed to serve as Director of Faculty Development, and associate professor **Dr. Kara Kendall-Morwick** was appointed as the Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence and Learning (C-TEL). Senior lecturer **Karen Barron** published the novel *Thirst*. Senior Lecturer **Dennis Etzel Jr.** was awarded the John Doyle Klier Residency for the Writers Colony at Dairy Hollow, Eureka Springs, Arkansas. **Etzel** and associate professor **Dr. Jericho Hockett** (psychology) worked on collecting donations and submissions for a new collection, *Ichabods Speak Out: Poetry Against Domestic Violence*, featuring poets from Washburn and the Topeka area. The release party will be in October on Washburn's campus.

History & Geography

In March 2022, professor **Dr. Kerry Wynn** and professor **Dr. Courtney Sullivan** (modern languages) traveled to Paris and Normandy over spring break week with their "Women in World War II" students and lecturer **Hélène Perriguy-Keene**. (See article, pages 4-5.) The department congratulates professor **Dr. Kim Morse**, who received the 2022 Edwin Lieuwen Award for the Promotion of Excellence in the Teaching of Latin American Studies. **Morse** also celebrated a book launch for *The Americas: An Encyclopedia of Culture and Society*, which she edited. History students and faculty researched the experiences of students of color on the Washburn campus and presented their findings at the Michael Tilford Conference for Diversity and Multiculturalism. Professor **Dr. Alan Bearman** was promoted to Vice President of Strategic Enrollment Management and Dean of Student Success and Libraries.

Kinesiology

Fall 2022 was another successful semester for the WU Moves Community Wellness Program. Four student workers managed more than 80 client visits per week throughout the semester. The department congratulates student **Taylor Antonowich** (*bs, Exercise and Rehabilitation Science*), the 2022 Sibberson Award Winner. Congratulations also goes to senior lecturer **John Burns**, who was inducted into the Kansas Athletic Trainer's Hall of Fame.

Mathematics & Statistics

Student **Ryan Haller** was awarded top prize at the Kappa Mu Epsilon North Central Convention for his research presentation, *An Exploration of the Tutte Polynomial*. **Dr. Mike Mosier** retired in May 2022 after a distinguished 20-year career at Washburn. Professor **Dr. Jennifer Wagner** received the Kansas Mathematical Association of America award for University Teaching of Mathematics and the award for Meritorious Service. Professor and chair **Dr. Sarah Cook** gave the keynote address *Math, Mindset, Magic and Mayhem* at the Sonia Kovalevsky Day held at Emporia State University.

Mass Media

WIFI 2022 was again a successful event for the mass media department and Topeka community. The festival offered outstanding educational workshops — including *Truth From Women in Film* — brought director and Oscar award winner Kevin Willmott to campus, and hosted a free movie at Everyg Plaza attended by more than 200 people. Senior lecturer **Regina Cassell** took a Sweet Sabbatical in 2022 to attend Teachapalooza, a conference for faculty teaching university-level journalism courses. **Tracy Horachek** was promoted to the position of office coordinator for the College of Arts and Sciences, but continues to work primarily from the mass media office. Assistant professor **Kristen Grimmer** presented at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication conference.



Mass Media: Professor and chair Dr. Maria Stover spent summer 2022 visiting Bulgaria, Portugal and Greece, and presented at four conferences in fall 2021 through summer 2022.

Department Highlights

Modern Languages

Professor and chair **Dr. Miguel González-Abellás** published a chapter, "La narrativa de ciencia ficción en Paraguay (1954-2018)" [Science Fiction Narratives in Paraguay (1954-2018)], in *Historia de la ciencia ficción latinoamericana II*. Professor **Dr. Courtney Sullivan** successfully organized and led, with professor **Dr. Kerry Wynn** (history), a trip to Normandy and Paris as part of their "Women in World War II" course. (See article, pages 4-5.) They were accompanied by lecturer **Hélène Perriguy-Keene**. Additionally, **Sullivan** went to French Polynesia with a Sweet Sabbatical. **Sullivan** and **Perriguy-Keene** also led a group of French Club students to New Orleans in January 2022 to experience the French heritage in the area.

Music

The department is proud to announce the launch of VoxAura, an auditioned ensemble for soprano and alto voices. Lecturer **Bill McKemy** performed at The Ship in Kansas City with Latin Grammy winner Mireya Ramos, the founder and leader of the all-female mariachi group, Flor de Toloache. The department is thankful for the donation of a beautiful 9-rank, mechanical action organ.

Philosophy & Religious Studies

Assistant professor **Dr. Rik Hine** published a journal article, "Block's Paradox," in the *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*. **Dr. Chris Jones** was promoted to associate professor. **Jones** facilitated a workshop for C-TEL titled "Building Assignments for Intrinsic Motivation," and a three-session teaching circle, "Ungrading," based on a book of that same name. **Jones** also published a book chapter, "Bring Back the Trivium! Rhetoric and Anti-Authoritarianism in Biblical Studies," in *Teaching the Bible with Undergraduates*. Associate professor and chair **Dr. Ian Smith** published an edited volume (with Matt Ferkany), *Environmental Ethics in the Midwest: Interdisciplinary Approaches*. **Smith** also published a journal article, "Incalculable Instrumental Value in the Endangered Species Act," in the journal *Philosophia*.

Physics & Astronomy

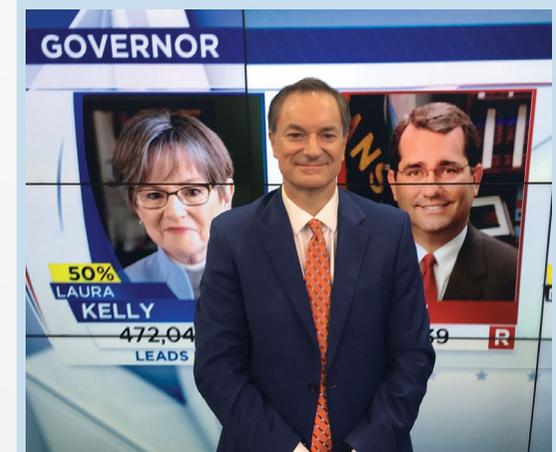
Student **Lauren Moore**, mentored by assistant professor **Dr. Vince Rossi**, presented at the 21st annual Kansas IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (K-INBRE) Symposium. Additionally, **Rossi** presented the paper "Digital Holographic Microscopy as a Tool for Non-invasive, Real-time Measurement of Cellular Dynamics." Chair **Dr. Karen Camarda** was promoted to professor. The Crane Observatory will be open this spring; check washburn.edu/observatory for the schedule.

Political Science

The department partnered with KTWU to produce four live TV candidate debates before the November 8, 2022, general election. Washburn political science faculty and students served as debate timekeepers and question screeners while professor and chair **Dr. Bob Beatty** moderated three of the debates. In 2022, 25 Washburn students interned in the Kansas legislature, the governor's office, lobbying firms and the Secretary of State's office. **Dr. Amber Dickinson** was promoted to associate professor. **Dickinson** also continued to be a cohost for the KTWU program *Inspire* and contributed political analysis during the 2022 election cycle to news outlets. In the summer of 2022 associate professor **Dr. Linsey Modellmog** led a group of 22 Washburn students on a two-week study abroad program to the United Kingdom, Belgium and the Netherlands.



Music: The Washburn University Faculty Woodwind Quintet performed at the 2023 Kansas Music Educators In-Service Workshop. Shown left to right are members Kelly Misko (horn), Dr. Larkin Sanders (clarinet), Austin Way (bassoon), Dr. Emily Foltz (oboe) and Dr. Rebecca Meador (flute).



Political Science: Professor and chair Dr. Bob Beatty was a sought-after analyst in 2022 during the Kansas elections, doing more than 150 interviews for TV, radio and newspapers, including a live appearance on CNN, election-night analysis for KSNT-TV and hosting duties for the KTWU TV show "I've Got Issues."

Department Highlights



Psychology

The department is happy to announce that former lecturers **Dr. Julie Boydston** and **Dr. Tucker Jones** are now tenure-track faculty, both as assistant professors. The Psychology Club has merged with Psi-Chi, the Psychology Honors Society. In fall 2022, Director of Clinical Training, **Dr. Dave Provorse**, along with second-year clinical graduate student **Jordan Jennings**, managed the Sport Performance Enhancement Team (SPET). Students in SPET learn about mental skills training and team cohesion skills and aid in the continued partnership with the athletic department. In March 2022, GAPS (Graduate Association for Psychology Students) leaders traveled to the Great Plains Psychology Conference in Emporia, Kansas. **Lydia Shontz**, **Nicole Miller** and **Holly Swearingen** presented research examining the use of Zoom to conduct a group-based prevention program addressing body image and eating disorders.

Sociology & Anthropology

In summer 2022, associate professor **Dr. Laura Murphy's** students in AN372/KS399 "Archaeological Field School" excavated at the *Brown v. Board of Education* National Historic site. (See article, pages 10-11.) **Murphy** also attended the American Society for Ethnohistory conference where she participated in the Kansas Association for Native American Educators workshop. Professor and chair **Dr. Mary Sundal** presented "Decolonizing Anthropology: Teaching Cultural Diversity through African Literature and Music" at the African Studies Association's annual meeting. The Sociology and Anthropology Club wrapped up the semester with a group trip to Kansas City Union Station for the Maya Exhibition that included 300 artifacts on loan from Guatemala. Associate professor **Dr. Alexandra Klales** was awarded federal funding from the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Justice as co-Primary Investigator on a three-year grant project "Sex Estimation in Forensic Anthropology: Taking a Legally-Informed Approach to Method Development."

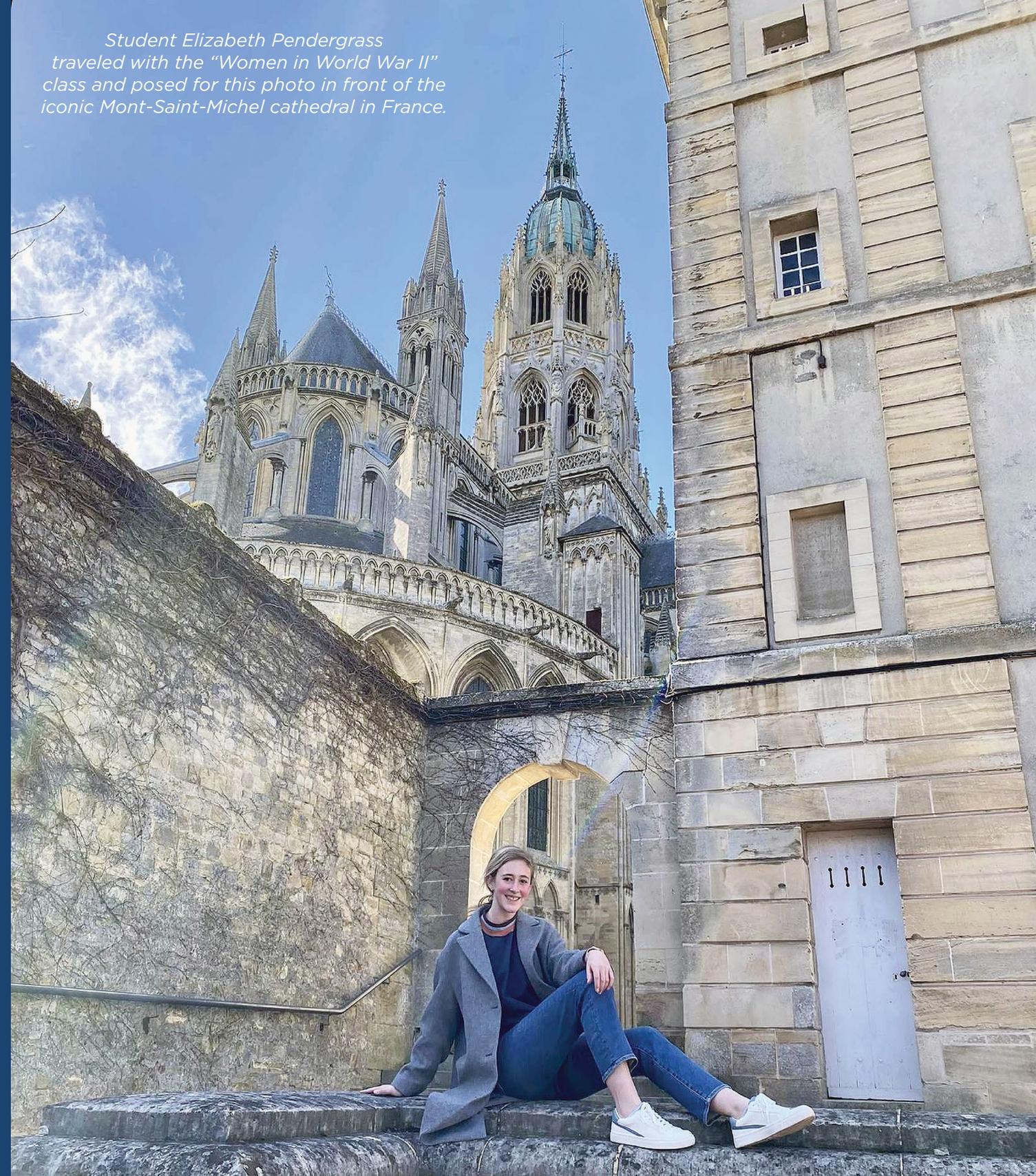
Theatre

Students and faculty finally got to take the long-awaited trip to Edinburgh, Scotland, where they performed an original play, *The Write Cinderella*. (See article, page 5.) The department also dove back into live, in-person events this year, with performances including *Anderson: A Fairy Tale Life* (October 2022); *Tiny Beautiful Things* (November 2022 and January 2023); and *Almost, Maine* (April 2023). The play *tick, tick... BOOM!* ran from February 23 to March 5 and was directed by **Tiffani Brooks Hagan**.

Psychology: A memorial bench for Del and Don Yelen was unveiled September 19, 2022 with a small ceremony. Shown (left) are Dr. Sara Tucker and her husband, Ron Evans, with Don's German shepherd, Pinky.



Student Elizabeth Pendergrass traveled with the "Women in World War II" class and posed for this photo in front of the iconic Mont-Saint-Michel cathedral in France.



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